

Haryana Bags 4 Awards For Successful Implementation Of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Programme

District Kurukshetra
for exemplary performance in implementation of PC-PNDT Act

District Karnal
for exemplary performance in the field of Women & Child Development

District Jhajjar
for exemplary performance in the field of Education

For overall implementation of **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** Programme

Gender Ratio Improved To
919
(July 2019)

MANOHAR SARKAR
VIKAS APAAR
Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in

RBI FUNDS TRANSFER

Govt member wanted more, Jalan panel said no

SUNNY VERMA & SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

EVEN AS the Reserve Bank of India Monday announced that it would transfer a record Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the government, the Central government's nominee member on the committee tasked with reviewing RBI's economic capital framework had sought additional funds to the tune of 1.5 percentage points of the RBI's balance sheet (or

roughly Rs 54,255 crore). This demand for adopting a higher risk tolerance range, which could have resulted in even higher transfer to the government, was turned down by the committee headed by former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan. As per the Committee's report released by the RBI Tuesday — a day after the RBI Central Board accepted all its recommendations — Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar had proposed that "the provision for monetary and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
E Playing it safe

THE GOVERNMENT nominee, Rajiv Kumar, said that risks flagged by the Jalan committee were unlikely. However, the committee played it safe. Citing the possibility of an adverse financial stability shock, it kept risk band at 4.5-5.5%.

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



Outlandish to doubt panel report: FM rebuts critics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday said any question on the credibility of the Bimal Jalan committee, whose report on a new economic capital framework for the apex bank was accepted by the RBI

Central Board Monday, was "outlandish". The RBI board decided to transfer a surplus of Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the government, nearly double the estimated Rs 90,000 crore in Budget 2019-20, based on the recommendations of the Jalan committee. Responding to criticism from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Chidambaram to SC: No account, property abroad, tell ED to show transcripts

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27



Fears ED may use coercive measures

SENIOR CONGRESS leader and former Union Minister P Chidambaram, currently in CBI custody in the INX Media case and seeking protection from arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged money laundering case, told the Supreme Court Tuesday that he has "no account or any property abroad, much less 17 accounts and 10 properties, as

alleged" by the ED. Claiming that investigating agencies were out to "humiliate" him, Chidambaram also urged the top court to direct the ED to produce transcripts of his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Solar energy slashes power bills



PAGE 8

Unable to reach players, J&K cricket turns to TV ticker ads

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

IN A desperate bid to reach out to domestic cricketers amid the communications clampdown, the J&K Cricket Association (JKCA) has turned to advertisement tickers on local TV channels. To start with, the association will use these tickers to inform their first-class cricketers, including India international Parvez Rasool, about the pre-season training camp starting in

PAK THREATENS AIRSPACE CLOSURE

PAKISTAN IS considering complete closure of its airspace to India and a ban on use of its land routes for Indian trade to Afghanistan. P10

Jammu Friday. The decision was taken at a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Ashis Nandy guest at Adda today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

ASHIS NANDY, one of the country's leading public intellectuals, represents many things to many people but it is universally agreed that his views challenge and provoke. He has survived the accusation of hurting sentiments by writing on the riots in Gujarat in 2002. And at the Jaipur Literature Festival, he weathered the hostility of Dalits, a group whose interests he has frequently championed, and among whose ranks he has too



His views challenge and provoke

many friends to count. On Wednesday, Nandy will be the guest at the Express Adda in New Delhi. A clinical psychologist and sociologist by training, and a political psychologist and futurist by imputation, Nandy brings the rigour of his disciplines to the study of Indian society, culture



and politics, in areas of interests ranging from Hindutva to modernity and utopia.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Kotla stadium renamed after Jaitley, not the ground: DDCA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

MINUTES AFTER renaming Feroz Shah Kotla as Arun Jaitley Stadium, the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) Tuesday issued a clarification to state that "the stadium has been named as Arun Jaitley Stadium. The ground will continue to be called Feroz Shah Kotla". DDCA president Rajat Sharma called it a misunderstanding. "It is called the Feroz

Shah Kotla ground and it will remain so. The stadium never had a name. So we have given the stadium a name, which is the Arun Jaitley Stadium. That was the original idea only. Since there seemed to be some misunderstanding (the way it was written in the DDCA tweet), I issued a clarification." A couple of years ago, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORT
PAGE 6

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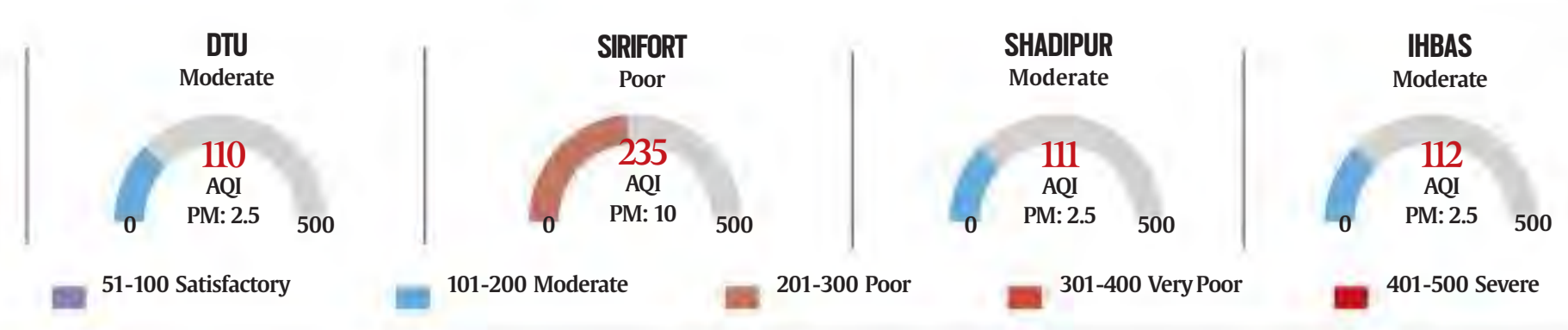
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5 THE CITY



CM ANNOUNCES NEW SCHEME, DEADLINE TO AVAIL IS NOVEMBER 30

Delhi govt opens sop tap, waives pending water bills

SHIVAMPATEL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

MORE THAN 14 lakh consumers in Delhi have been given the opportunity to clear pending water bills running into several crores after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a one-time scheme to waive arrears Tuesday.

The scheme comes months before the Assembly polls in the capital, slated for early next year. It is valid for bills up to March 31 this year and applies only to customers with a functional water meter. The deadline to avail the scheme is November 30. Those without a meter have also been given time until November 30 to install them.

Total arrears for domestic consumers till July 31 amount to more than Rs 6,000 crore, which includes a late payment surcharge (LPSC) of over Rs 3,500 crore. Arrears of commercial consumers amount to over Rs 10,000 crore, including around Rs 9,000 crore LPSC.

Announcing the scheme at the Delhi Secretariat, Kejriwal said arrears had accumulated for the last five to seven years and were reflected in bills after the collection system was "computerised" last year. "People were not able to pay these bills, as a result of which many stopped paying the current bill amount as well. There are some arrears which consumers may not have paid deliberately and some could have been created by our own fault too. But having this liability does not give any benefit," he said.

The scheme mainly offers a larger benefit to domestic customers but commercial consumers have been offered some relief too. The LPSC would be cleared completely for domestic customers, and a rebate of 25% to 100% on the principal component of the bill would be offered

SCHEME TO TOUCH OVER 14 LAKH CONSUMERS

WHO HAS ARREARS

- 13,07,896 domestic consumers
- 1,01,142 commercial consumers

MONEY INVOLVED

- For domestic consumers (under categories A-H) **₹ 2,399.8 cr** Principal component arrears
- ₹ 2,167.4 cr** Amount waived
- ₹ 3,525.16 cr** LPSC waived*
- ₹ 5,328.57 cr** Total arrears waived (*Includes uncategoryed colonies)

HOW THE REBATE WORKS

DOMESTIC CONSUMERS	Principal rebate	Late payment surcharge (LPSC) waiver	Commercial consumers
Category A	25%	100%	Principal rebate: 0%; LPSC 100%
Category B	25%	100%	(If principal component paid before Nov 30)
Category C	50%	100%	
Category D	75%	100%	
Categories E,F,G,H	100%	100%	

(Categories based on property tax)



I will personally write a letter to all consumers to encourage them to come forward, install meters and benefit from this scheme. We hope artificial arrears and wrong meter readings become a thing of the past"

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

based on the category of colony they live in. For commercial consumers, the LPSC would be cleared if they pay the principal component before the deadline.

"I will personally write a letter to all consumers to encourage them to come forward, install meters and benefit from this scheme. We hope artificial arrears and wrong meter readings become a thing of the past," the CM said.

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) hopes to recover Rs 600 crore through this scheme. Kejriwal,

who is the DJB chairman, said the board's billing efficiency was only 80% till a few years ago, and the remaining 20% of consumers were not getting a bill.

At present, the board's billing efficiency has increased to 95% and would reach 98% over the next few months, the CM said.

Last year, the DJB gave electronic tablets to all meter readers through which they take a photo of the meter and record the reading. This also records the reader's location and makes things more accurate, Kejriwal said.

Polls approaching, govt keeps focus on bijli-paani, throws transport in the mix

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal's announcement on Tuesday is the latest in a string of sops for Delhiites months before Assembly polls. The party, which came to power with the promise of waiving water bills and cutting power bills by half, has fallen back on these two key areas, while adding free bus and Metro rides for women in the mix.

The free public transport for women scheme, announced in June, will cost the government Rs 290 crore to begin with. The electricity bill waiver for those consuming up to 200 units of power per month, and rebates for others using more units, is expected to cost the Delhi government Rs 2,255 crore, up from the Rs 1,800 crore assigned for subsidies earlier.

Tuesday's arrear waiver bill is, however, a little different. A limited-time scheme, it offers to

waive bills people had not paid. "The amount looks massive on paper but the truth is this money was not coming back. The amount had been accumulating but no one bothered paying it. With the waiver, we expect to get at least a part of it back," said a senior government official.

The Delhi BJP, however, hit out at the government. "First, the DJB served hefty bills to harass people and when they refused to pay, the government is talking about waiving late fee... The Kejriwal

government should first solve the problem of scarcity of water," said Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari. The Delhi Congress also said the scheme was "an attempt by Kejriwal to buy votes before the Assembly polls".

Kejriwal, while announcing waivers in the past, has justified subsidies as spending people's money on them. A senior party official said, "The money we save, we give back to people. Why should any party have a problem with that?"

Power subsidy bill crosses Rs 2,200-cr mark

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE FREE electricity scheme for those consuming up to 200 units in Delhi has pushed up the Delhi government's power subsidy bill by Rs 535 crore, taking it past the Rs 2,200-crore mark.

The Delhi Assembly Monday passed the "cash supplementary grant" to meet expenditure to-

wards the power department's subsidies to consumers, through private distribution companies BSES and Tata Power. The amount was sanctioned after the department analysed data provided by discoms on consumption patterns over the last two years.

Announcing the scheme on August 1, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said the subsidy bill is not likely to register a substantial increase. Before the bill ex-

emption scheme for the 0-200 unit slab was announced, those consuming 0-200 units were charged Rs 1/unit instead of Rs 3; while consumers falling under the 201-400 category were paying Rs 2.5 instead of Rs 4.5.

Accordingly, the government had set aside Rs 1,720 crore for the scheme. Later, the power department had sought an additional Rs 130 crore as supplementary grant. Now, instead of Rs 130 crore, the

government has sanctioned an additional Rs 535 crore to fund the expanded subsidy scheme to cover the months between August 2019 to March 2020.

The total expenditure on power subsidy would now be Rs 2,255 crore for 2019-20. "The total subsidy bill is expected to rise in the next financial year as the exemption scheme was not applicable in April-July this year," a senior official said.

GB Pant Hospital to get electron microscope

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

DELHI GOVERNMENT'S GB Pant hospital is soon going to study several diseases at the cellular level with the help of an electron microscope. The machine will be inaugurated by Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Wednesday. The device, which will assist medical experts in research related to kidney, liver and muscular diseases, is so far available in only one government hospital—AIIMS.

The project is funded by the department of biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

"This is a national facility and researchers from across the country will have access to conduct their research," said a senior doctor from the hospital.

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MAT

SEPTEMBER 2019

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Online Registration ends: 08 Sept '19 | Test Date: 14 Sept '19

Online Registration ends: 16 Sept '19 | Test Date (Revised): 21 Sept '19

*PBT postponed from 1st Sept to 21st Sept 2019

Candidates may apply for both PBT and CBT

KISHORE VAIGYANIK PROTSAHAN YOJANA
किशोर वैज्ञानिक प्रोत्साहन योजना

KVPY

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN RESEARCH CAREERS

NOTIFICATION

IN VIEW OF THE GRIM FLOOD SITUATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY THE REGISTRATION PORTAL WILL BE AVAILABLE TILL 31ST AUGUST 2019.

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT:
<http://www.kvpy.iisc.ernet.in>

Convener, KVPY, IISc, Bengaluru - 560 012

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F. No. 10(01)/2019-R-I | ADVT. NO. 01/2019

Vacancy Notification

ASRB invites applications for filling up 72 Research Management Positions to be filled up on tenure basis for a period of five years in different locations at ICAR Research institutes and the ICAR Headquarters at New Delhi. Advertisement No. 1/2018 dated 5th March 2018 and Advertisement No. 3/2018 dated 3rd May 2018 are hereby withdrawn in view of the restructuring of ASRB vide Department of Agricultural Research & Education Notification No. 3158 dated 10th August 2018. Further details regarding the location, pay scale, eligibility conditions, ASRB Score Card 2019 and the specific application form for these positions may be accessed and downloaded from the websites of the Board www.asrb.org.in or <http://dare.nic.in> or www.icar.org.in.

Secretary, ASRB

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INDORE
Khandwa Road, Simrol, Indore-453552, India
Phone: +91 731 2438 700 Ext: 203/958/949

NIT No. - IITI/(MM)/EE/(PRJ)/1/1A/96/MK/19-20 | August 26, 2019

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online e-tender is invited by IIT Indore from OEM/ their Authorized Distributors / Accredited Indian Agents/ Sole Selling Agents for procurement of Maskless Lithography with UV Direct Laser Writer.

Interested bidders can see the tender details on the website link:
<http://www.iiti.ac.in/tender/mms.php> OR <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

PRE-MATRIC, POST-MATRIC AND MERIT-CUM-MEANS SCHOLARSHIP 2019-20

Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) provides an opportunity to the students belonging to six Minority communities notified by the Government of India (Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Zoroastrian (Parsis), Muslim and Christian) for availing scholarships under three scholarship schemes viz. Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship for the year 2019-20.

Timeline

Last Date for submission of online applications for fresh scholarship (first time applicant) and Renewal scholarship (applicant who has got scholarship during 2018-19) by students.

Pre-Matric Scholarship	15 th October 2019
i. Post-Matric Scholarship & ii. Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship	31 st October 2019

Eligibility

- The applicant should be the student of the notified minority communities (Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Zoroastrian (Parsis), Muslim and Christian).
- The applicant should be pursuing studies in India in Government or recognized Private University/ Institute/ College/ School.
- The course being pursued should be of Minimum one year duration.
- The applicant should have secured 50% marks in the last annual Board/Class examination.

Instructions

For Applicants

- Applicants are advised to apply online against any one of the scholarship schemes on the website of National Scholarship Portal at- www.scholarships.gov.in (a link to the site is also available at- www.minorityaffairs.gov.in) or Mobile App- National Scholarships (NSP).
- Detailed 'Instructions' for filling in online application and 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)' are available on the National Scholarship Portal homepage.
- Applicant is advised to give only that bank account details which remains in active mode or compliant as per bank's instructions so that payment of Scholarship does not fail.

For Universities/Institutes/Colleges/Schools

- All Universities/Institutes/Colleges/Schools, where a minority student is studying, should get themselves registered (if not done earlier) on National Scholarship Portal by 31st August, 2019.

For detailed information :
Visit the website of Ministry of Minority Affairs, i.e. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.
Samadhan Helpline (Toll Free) - 1800-11-2001
(Timing 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday, except holidays).

Madad Hamari, Manzil Aapki

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
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(An autonomous Institution under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

Pehla Satyagrahi

Writer : Ravindra Tripathy
Direction : PROF. SURESH SHARMA

31 August to 2 September, 2019 at 6.30 p.m.
Additional Shows
31 August & 1 September, 2019 at 3.30 p.m.

Sammukh Auditorium
Bahawalpur House, Bhagwandas Road,
New Delhi-110001

Tickets (Rs. 50/-) are available at NSD Repertory, Bahawalpur House, Bhagwandas Road from 29 August, 2019 onwards from 11 am to 1 pm & 2 pm to 4 pm and if available one hour before the show at the Auditorium. Children below 8 years are not allowed. Mobile, Cameras, Handbags and eatables are not permitted.

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MBBS Admission Notice 2019-20

For Residual / Vacant Seats (After Mop Up Round)

Reference to the official Information Booklet of NEET UG Medical and Dental Admission Counseling Board - 2019 & Notification dated 22.08.2019; College level Counseling is scheduled for all NEET UG 2019 Qualified candidates who have filled application form with NEET UG Counseling Board -2019 for filling up residual vacant seats (after Mop-Up) round.

SCHEDULE OF COUNSELING

- Date of Counseling: 30/08/2019
- College Level Registration and Document Verification: 30/08/2019 09:30AM to 12:30PM
- Admission and Seat Allotment: 30/08/2019 01:30PM to 05:00PM

- Candidates who have registered themselves on NEET UG Medical and Dental Admission Counseling Board - 2019 website till 27.08.2019 are eligible to apply for admission in MBBS course 2019-20 session.
- For further information regarding counseling, seat matrix and fee structure of Institute, please visit our website: www.pacificmedical.ac.in
- Selected candidates would be required to complete all formalities as mentioned in official information booklet of NEET UG Medical and Dental Admission Counseling Board - 2019.
- All admissions will be made as per norms mentioned by NEET UG Medical and Dental Admission Counseling Board - 2019, MCI and as per directions of Hon'ble High Court and Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- All disputes pertaining to the admission shall be subject to Rajasthan State Jurisdiction.

REGISTRAR
For details visit our website: www.pacificmedical.ac.in
Contact : +91-96492 98767, +91-96729 17868

Kotla: 14th Century fortress gave stadium its name

SOMYA LAKHANI NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

IN THE 14th Century, "Firoz Shah Tughlaq decided to build a new palace by the banks of the Jumna, where he could feel the cool breezes from the mountains and the river. So he built Firoz Shah Kotla and called it Firozabad," wrote English historian Percival Spear in his 1943 book, Delhi: Its monuments and history.

Close to the bustling press lane of Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg lies the monument, and next to it is one of the oldest cricket stadiums in India, named after it — Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium. This September, the stadium is set to be re-named after the late former finance minister Arun Jaitley.

"The name of the stadium is circumstantial, it's purely due to its geographical proximity to Feroz Shah Kotla that the sta-



The Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium is set to be renamed after late former finance minister Arun Jaitley in September. Abhinav Saha

dium was called that. But every time we change a name, we lose association," said historian Swapna Liddle. Historian

Narayani Gupta added, "The stadium happens to be near Kotla and that's how it got that name."

In his book, which was updated and annotated by historians Narayani Gupta and Laura Sykes, Spear writes about halls

of public and private audience, a deep baoli, a mosque, and Ashoka's pillar which was transported from Ambala to

Firozabad. City chronicler Rana Safvi said, "The palace was used as a prototype by the Mughals... Firozabad was the fifth city of Delhi. Sadly, Kotla is not given any importance now and mostly when people refer to Kotla, they mean the cricket stadium."

About the name change, history professor Shama Mitra Chenoy said Tughlaq holds a special place in the history of Delhi-NCR. "He built canals, inhabited so many areas, restored the Qutub Minar and Surajkund village. Without him, we would have lost all this. The stadium enjoys such a unique name, why change it?"

The cricket ground is believed to have been established in 1883, and in 1948, the stadium witnessed the first match ever played here. "The stadium is associated with the history of cricket in India, since it's one of the oldest here," said historian Sohail Hashmi.

AT GOVT SCHOOL IN PALAM

FIR against school teacher who broke child's tooth

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

A 16-YEAR-OLD student of a Delhi government school in South West Delhi's Palam was allegedly punched and slapped by his teacher, following which his tooth broke.

The boy, a student of Class XI, was allegedly hit by his teacher for talking in class. Police said an FIR has been registered but no arrest has been made yet.

DCP (South West) Devender Arya said, "We have registered an FIR under IPC section 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt) and section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act after the boy, a student of Shaheed Captain Sumit Roy Senior Secondary School, made a complaint against his teacher, alleging that he beat him up. We have registered an FIR and found that the teacher is absconding. He also applied for anticipatory bail, which was not granted by the court concerned. We are conducting raids to nab him."

The boy lives with his family in Raj Nagar, Palam Colony, and had filed a complaint with the school administration as well.

"The incident took place on August 23 when the boy was sitting in class... it was the last pe-

riod and English was being taught. The accused teacher, Shiv Kumar, had asked all students to remain quiet as he was checking their notebooks. In the meantime, the boy's classmate asked him what the time was and Kumar caught him responding to the student," a senior police officer said.

The boy, in his complaint, alleged that the teacher was irked and came towards him.

"The teacher asked him to get up and allegedly slapped him in front of 35 students... he also punched the boy's face. He stopped when the boy's tooth broke and started bleeding," the officer said.

The boy was taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and discharged after first aid. His parents were informed and the matter was reported to the vice-principal.

Police said they were not informed by the school administration and came to know about the incident after the boy's father made a PCR call.

"Before police arrived, the teacher escaped and is absconding," the officer said.

Police said the Delhi government's Directorate of Education was informed about the incident, and the department is conducting an inquiry before taking action against the teacher.

The school principal could not be reached for a comment.

Gurgaon's Bristol hotel provisionally attached by I-T dept



The hotel, as per the attachment order, is owned in the name of a company, Bright Star Hotel Private Ltd

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE DELHI Benami Prohibition Unit of the Income Tax Department has provisionally attached a five-star hotel worth Rs 150 crore in Gurgaon, claiming it to be the benami asset of former Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal's son and Congress leader Kuldeep Bishnoi, officials said Tuesday.

Officials said the attachment is one of the outcomes of the ongoing investigation, including

search and seizure operations, conducted in July during which "incriminating evidence regarding the ownership of Bristol hotel through a benami arrangement was recovered".

The hotel, as per the attachment order, is owned in the name of a company, Bright Star Hotel Private Ltd.

"Investigations revealed that the said entity and its assets are allegedly the benami assets of Kuldeep Bishnoi and Chander Mohan. The provisional order of attachment was issued under section 24(3) of the Prohibition

of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988," an official said.

Income Tax Department officials from Delhi had carried out searches at the residences and business offices of Kuldeep Bishnoi in July. Later, the CBDT in a statement, without naming Bishnoi, had said that undisclosed foreign assets of more than Rs 200 crore, domestic tax evasion of over Rs 30 crore, black money stashed abroad in the form of properties in tax havens were detected by the I-T Department.

I-T sources said their probe found that 34% shares in the

company are held in the name of a "front" company registered in British Virgin Islands and being operated from UAE.

Benami properties are those in which the real beneficiary is not the one in whose name the property has been purchased.

However, a source close to Bishnoi said: "The news is being blown out of proportion. One of the shareholders of Bright Star has been provisionally debarred from further selling or transferring its share to anyone till the completion of the assessment."

Advertisement for EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE, including details about the tender and contact information.

Advertisement for NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STORE DEPARTMENT E-AUCTION, including details about the auction and contact information.

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Advertisement for GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CENTRAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAM, including details about the tender and contact information.

Advertisement for GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU DIRECTORATE OF STATIONERY AND PRINTING CHENNAI-2, including details about the tender and contact information.

Advertisement for HOME (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 5, including details about the tender and contact information.

BRIEFLY

Premature retirement for 10 officials

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority has given premature retirement to 10 senior officials who were allegedly involved in corruption, a senior official said. "These officials were found involved in corrupt practices and were facing trial in criminal cases registered against them," said a DDA official.

Teacher found dead

New Delhi: A 27-year-old teacher died after he was assaulted, allegedly by two hawkers, near Old Delhi Railway Station. Police said Mohammad Owais was buying headphones from the hawkers when they got into a scuffle over its price.

'Break-in' at Vasant Kunj

New Delhi: A woman has alleged that three men broke into five houses in a residential colony in South West Delhi's Vasant Kunj on August 17. She alleged the accused allegedly stole money and valuables worth Rs 25 lakh from two houses and ransacked the others. Police said an FIR has been registered.

Two ex-Cong MPs move SC on temple

New Delhi: Two former Congress MPs have approached the Supreme Court with a plea to allow reconstruction of the Ravidas temple, demolished in the Tughlaqabad forest area following the top court's order. **ENS**

SOCIAL MEDIA ADDS TO HEADACHE

Western UP gripped by child kidnap rumours, police struggle to keep pace

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, AUGUST 27

AN ELDERLY woman strolling with her grandson was attacked by a group of people over suspicion of kidnapping a child in Ghaziabad Tuesday — the latest in a series of attacks based on false rumours that have police on their toes. According to officials, several such cases have been reported in Western Uttar Pradesh in the past week.

According to police, the woman was walking in Ghaziabad's Johripur area with her one-year-old grandson when some people started shouting that she was abducting the child. "The rumour had been spread on social media... When we investigated, we found that the woman had taken her grand-

son shopping. Certain anti-social elements assaulted her as well. We are in the process of filing an FIR against persons who spread the news online, as well as those who attacked her. The case will be registered against almost 25 people at Loni police station," said Neeraj Jadaun, SP Rural (Ghaziabad).

Dasna, August 22

A mentally challenged man traveling in a train was beaten up at Dasna railway station as the crowd suspected he was kidnapping a child. He was rescued by Railway Police officials but not before he sustained injuries.

Ghaziabad, August 25

Four people were arrested by police for disturbing peace in Ghaziabad's Akash Nagar after they allegedly spread a rumour

that two men had kidnapped a minor. The two were cornered by a mob and roughed up. Police said the arrests were made to send the message that such rumour mongering won't be tolerated. Police said fake WhatsApp messages and unconnected videos are often forwarded to rile the crowd in such cases.

Meerut, August 25

Eight people were arrested for allegedly thrashing a man on the suspicion of child kidnapping. The victim had come to sell herbs in Meerut's Shahjahanpur area, police said.

Kairana, August 26

Five women were attacked in a crowded market place as word spread that they were kidnapping and taking children to a different state. The assault was cap-

tured on videos which soon started doing the rounds online. According to police, the women, hailing from Gujarat, would travel city to city selling coir.

Muzaffarnagar, Aug 27

Two persons were challaned for spreading fake information after they accused two people of kidnapping a child. "They told villagers that two bike-borne men had kidnapped an eight-year-old, leading to confusion and panic. We found that the information was fake and took action against them," said an officer from Bhaura Kalan police station.

Over the last one week, police have been issuing advisories and appeals on social media, including WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter, asking people not to fall for fake news. Police said

such cases are tough to deal with because rumours spread like wildfire and people are willing to take the law into their own hands because they think a child is involved.

"We are holding meetings with gram pradhans and other village seniors, asking them to advise people not to believe rumours. In case they come across any information of a child being kidnapped, they are advised to dial 100 so the law can take its own course," said Neeraj Jadaun.

The Gautam Budh Nagar district also issued a statement clarifying that information of a suspected child kidnapping gang being active in the region was untrue. The hashtag #UPAgainstFakeNews is also being used by official police Twitter handles to provide information about fake news.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

A 49-YEAR-OLD man and his 22-year-old son, who had come to the capital from Tamil Nadu to buy a car, were allegedly robbed by eight men in Haryana's Nuh on August 23, said police.

According to police, V Muniyappan came to the city with his son, Vasu, after he saw an ad on OLX about the vehicle.

"The complainant informed us about the incident Monday. He alleged that one of the accused called him to the capital to sell a Toyota Innova Crysta. At the airport, the accused sent a car to pick him up from Terminal 2, following which he was taken to Haryana... The victim alleged the accused then called some other men, who threatened him and robbed him of Rs 60,000, a gold ring, mobile phones, two signed cheques and a watch. We are probing the matter," said Sanjay Bhatia, DCP, IGI Airport.

Muniyappan alleged he saw the ad and spoke to the accused over the phone, who told him that he would sell the car for Rs 8 lakh. "I was surprised when the seller told me that I could buy the car at this price. He told me that the car was bought from Tamil Nadu and that he didn't need it anymore," he said. In his complaint, Muniyappan alleged he met two men in front of a petrol pump in Mandi Khera, Nuh, at 2.30 pm. "We got inside a white Scorpio and after 15 minutes, six men entered the car. They demanded we give them all the money. I had Rs 10,000 in cash, but they demanded more. I called two of my friends who transferred Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 over Paytm and Google Pay to them," alleged the complainant. The accused then dropped the victims at Mandi Khera. Police said the accused men are absconding and that they have registered a case against unknown persons under IPC sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 384 (punishment for extortion) at IGI airport police station.

Woman files divorce plea against husband who 'fat shamed' her

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, AUGUST 27

A 27-YEAR-OLD woman has submitted a plea for divorce in a Ghaziabad court on the ground that her husband constantly shames her for being overweight.

According to the plea, the husband allegedly subjected her to mental torture by constantly calling her fat. The plea has been accepted by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate and statements of both sides will be recorded.

The woman hails from Bijnor and got married in 2014 in Meerut, from where her husband hails. The husband, who has a degree in software engineering from a private university,

works in an international firm in Noida. The couple shifted to a flat in Indirapuram in 2016, and have been residing there ever since.

According to the plea, initially, the husband did not make any humiliating remarks towards the woman. After shifting to Ghaziabad, the man started visiting social gatherings but would refuse to take his wife on the pretext that she was too "fat", the woman alleged. The husband would also prevent her from attending parties, said the woman.

The woman claimed he subjected her to mental torture over her weight and often made humiliating remarks about her fitness in front of other people. She also claimed he forced her to drink alcohol and beat her when she refused.



HOME DELIVERY

Fumigation to eradicate vector-borne diseases, at a house in Lajpat Nagar. *Abhinav Saha*

NSUI's manifesto for DU promises equality, and free movie tickets

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

IT IS NOT uncommon in Delhi University to hear of student organisations taking students to adventure parks and movies, and offering freebies, before student union elections. The National Students' Union of India (NSUI), however, has taken this a step further — by advertising free movie tickets on its manifesto for the DU Students' Union elections, launched Tuesday.

The organisation, the first to release its manifesto for polls to be held on September 12, has focussed its campaign around multiple "inequalities" on campus. While the slogan is called 'One University, Equal Opportunity', the campaign goes by 'Awaaz Uthao, Seeti Bajao'.

An advertisement on free movie tickets occupies the front page of the organisation's manifesto: "Tell us what equal oppor-

tunity means to you in DU and win movie tickets." Students can use #AwaazUthaoSeetiBajao and tag NSUI on social media platforms, along with filling in details such as their name, college, email ID, mobile number and writing what equal opportunity means for them.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge of NSUI, Ruchi Gupta, has previously spoken out against the ABVP's politics of "money and muscle power". In the DUSU elections last year, she had also said that NSUI ran an "issue-based and principled campaign".

Asked to comment on the apparent contradiction, Gupta said, "This is not money and muscle power. We are not using Jaguars to campaign like the ABVP. It is not luring voters, but incentivising feedback." NSUI national president Neeraj Kundan said the organisation has not narrowed down on the movie: "We have time to decide."

Man held for sexual assault of boy involved in 5 more cases: Police

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

DELHI POLICE has arrested a 48-year-old AC technician for allegedly kidnapping a teenage boy and sexually assaulting him in Central Delhi. The arrest was made early Tuesday morning and during questioning, the accused revealed he had sexually abused at least five other children. Police have so far found two previous FIRs against him.

According to police, the accused, Shahid, works as an AC repairman and lives in a rented accommodation. Police said his family abandoned him after he was arrested in a sexual assault case earlier. "Shahid was arrested after police started investigating a missing child case lodged on August 20. The victim left his home after his mother refused to give him money and scolded him. The accused met him out-

side an eatery and offered him food before taking him to his home," a senior officer said.

The victim alleged the accused was "normal" for the first two days, and even taught him basic repair work. But for three days afterwards, he allegedly sexually abused him, police said.

Police were approached by the victim's parents on August 20. "A team was formed and police started door-to-door verification after showing the victim's photo to people in the area. While the search was on, another team met children from the area and a boy told them the teenager had been seen at Shahid's home," an officer said, adding that a raid was conducted at 3.30 am Tuesday and the accused arrested. The victim was taken to a hospital where medical examination confirmed sexual assault, police said.

Police said the accused confessed to targeting five other children in the past.

Artefacts recovered from abroad go on display at Purana Qila this week

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

IN A first, a gallery dedicated to showcasing artefacts repatriated from abroad and confiscated by Indian authorities while being smuggled out will be inaugurated by Union Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Patel at Purana Qila Saturday. The gallery has been set up by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which functions under the Ministry of Culture and is the custodian of all such artefacts.

This is the first time more than 50 such items will be on public display, an ASI official told *The Indian Express*. The ASI has a repository of 3,000 antiques — confiscated by the Enforcement Directorate, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Customs Department (and handed over to the ASI after the



The gallery has been set up by Archaeological Survey of India

cases are disposed) — and several high-value sculptures that have been returned to India by foreign countries between 2014 and 2017.

In June 2018, *The Indian Express* had reported about the government's plan to create such a display at Purana Qila, a monument under ASI protection, which also had adequate security arrangements for these valuable artefacts. Subsequently, the agency got into extensive docu-

mentation of these artworks and a tender was floated to invite private partners for the gallery late last year: "We shall either expand the display after gauging the response, or make it a rotational display, since it involves priceless antiques and artefacts," said the ASI official.

The display is likely to include the 900-year-old Parrot Lady sculpture stolen from Khajuraho and returned by Canada in 2015; a bronze sculpture of Nataraja

(Lord Shiva) returned by Australia in 2014; a floral tile from Kashmir returned by the US in 2016; a Chola period Sri Devi returned by the US in 2016; and a stone sculpture of Brahma and Brahmani stolen from Gujarat and returned by the UK in 2017.

"The entire collection, including religious statues, bronzes and terracotta pieces, some dating back 2,000 years, were looted from some of India's most treasured religious sites and are estimated at over \$300 million," said another senior official from ASI, adding the mandate to showcase these treasures came from the PMO.

Currently, all antiquities returned to the government by foreign embassies and heads of state as part of diplomatic gestures, or those seized by Indian authorities while being transported illegally outside the country, are stored in a strongroom in Purana Qila.

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GREEN SOLUTION

MOS ENVIRONMENT Babul Supriyo is determined to get his neighbours — mostly officials from embassies and consulates — to switch to car pooling. At the curtain raiser for COP 14 announced by Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Tuesday, Supriyo said that as the only minister who lives in Moti Bagh, he faces long traffic snarls more than others. The reason, he is convinced, is because his colony largely houses diplomats. Pointing out that he can never reach any event on time, Supriyo said he is on a mission to try and get these officials to car pool, to lessen travel time as well as carbon footprint.

GROUND WORK

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) hasn't yet received any formal communication from the Home Ministry on delimitation of J&K. However, the poll panel has started doing some ground work for the same. It is learnt to have reached out to some former employees who have experience with delimiting seats. One of them, former principal secretary Shangara Ram, has been brought on board as consultant to assist the EC whenever the delimitation exercise begins. The Commission is expected to hold a meeting with another former employee this week.

PAY PEEVE

ALTHOUGH THE 16th Lok Sabha officially ceased to exist on May 24, former MPs and their staff are yet to get their salaries for the first 24 days of May. However, salaries for members of the 17th Lok Sabha and their staff have started being remitted with effect from May 25. The delay has left both former MPs and those who were re-elected to the current Lok Sabha flummoxed, especially as rules about overstay in official accommodation have been made more stringent. "One would expect the government to act with equal alacrity on pending dues," is how one former MP put it.

Chouhan courts arrest in MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, AUGUST 27

FORMER MADHYA Pradesh Chief Minister and BJP vice-president Shivraj Singh Chouhan courted arrest along with other party leaders in Pichhore town in Shivpuri district after addressing Aakrosh Rally in support of farmers.

Addressing the rally, Chouhan said he won't rest until loans of farmers are waived off as promised by the Congress in its manifesto ahead of the as-

sembly elections. He said the Congress party formed the government eight months ago but it has not kept its promise on waiver of loan up to Rs two lakh.

He said Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi and Chief Minister Kamal Nath had promised that loans will be waived off within 10 days. The government has also not kept its promise of providing relief in electricity bills.

He alleged that injustice was being done to BJP workers and the party won't bear it for long and will take to the streets.



PM'S CONDOLENCES

PM Narendra Modi with family members of former finance minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi on Tuesday. He paid condolences to the family and later tweeted: "Destiny took Arun Ji away from us too soon but the good work he has done for India will remain immortal." *PIB/PTI*

CHHATTISGARH

State panel says Jogi not tribal, may lose MLA seat

DIPANKAR GHOSE
RAIPUR, AUGUST 27

IN A new chapter to a political conflict that has lasted nearly two decades, a Chhattisgarh government high-powered committee has ruled that the state's first chief minister Ajit Jogi is not a tribal and has ordered the revocation of his tribal certificates.

The decision means Jogi, who is currently an MLA from Marwahi, a seat reserved for Scheduled Tribes, will lose his seat. However, this is not the first such decision by a high-powered committee and like before, the Jogis said that the committee was acting in a fraudulent and prejudiced manner and that they would approach the Chhattisgarh High Court and then the Supreme Court.



Ajit Jogi

Eighteen years ago, senior BJP tribal leader Nand Kumar Sai had challenged the tribal status of Ajit Jogi, who has always claimed that he and his family, who fight elections on ST reserved seats, are from the Kanwar tribe.

Ten years later, the Supreme Court in 2011 ordered a high-powered committee to determine the status. In 2017, a committee led by Reena Babasaheb Kangale had submitted a report stating that investigations found that Jogi was not a tribal. The Jogis had then gone to court alleging flouting of rules by the committee.

In 2017, Jogi had told *The Indian Express*, "In the case that

in proving that he is from the Kanwar tribe.

It has asked the Bilaspur district magistrate to take action under the Chhattisgarh Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes Rules, 2013, and has directed a DSP rank police officer to recover all tribal certificates from him.

Jogi, who broke away from the Congress in 2016 and formed the JCCJ which then won five seats in the Chhattisgarh Assembly, said, "Sonia Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi believe I am a tribal, but Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel doesn't. This was a committee run by Bhupesh Baghel which has listened to his word. My son Amit Jogi was held as a Kanwar in a court case, and I am not a tribal?"

Amit Jogi has said that he was confident that the courts would not allow this "injustice". "We had small demands that the proof that you allegedly have against us, whether they are physical or documented, should be shown to us so we can respond. They rejected that. The refused to take on record the gram sabha resolution passed in our favour. They refused to take on record an order of the High Court that held that I am from the Kanwar tribe," he said.

"This was a one-sided action. We will oppose this decision in the Chhattisgarh High Court and the Supreme Court of India and I have full confidence that no injustice will be done to us."

Kerala Cong chief seeks explanation from Tharoor, party backs state unit

MANOJ CGG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

ARGUING THAT lakhs of Congress workers in Kerala are "deeply distressed and agitated" by party MP Shashi Tharoor's remarks that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be praised "whenever he says or does the right thing", the party's Kerala unit chief Mullappally Ramachandran sought an explanation from the Thiruvananthapuram MP.

In a letter addressed to Tharoor, Ramachandran stated that his stand "does not auger well for the party", even as the Lok Sabha MP defended his stance and urged "fellow Congressmen" to respect his stand.

The high command also expressed its disapproval of the remarks made by Tharoor, Jairam Ramesh and Abhishek Singhvi.

At the party briefing on Tuesday, senior leader Anand Sharma said, "If the Opposition indulges in singing paeans (of the government), then it will spell doom for democracy." He said the party's Kerala unit has the right to make a statement and argued that it is not the Congress that is insulting the BJP leadership but the saffron party which has been demonising its leadership, including former Prime Ministers.

On Tuesday, Tharoor tweeted, "I've been a strong critic of the Modi government, & I hope a constructive one. My staunch defence of inclusive values and constitutional principles has won me 3 elections. I urge my fellow Congressmen to respect my approach even when they don't agree with it."

In his letter, Ramachandran



Shashi Tharoor

stated, "It has been widely reported in the media that you have sought to justify Prime Minister Narendra Modi — in spite of the Congress stand to the contrary which was reiterated by the Congress president [Sonia Gandhi]... India is facing the worst financial crisis after Independence and this has been declared by none other than the vice-chairman of NITI Aayog. The National Sample Survey Organisation has revealed that the country is witnessing acute unemployment — the worst in 45 years.

"It is needless to say that the Modi government has thoroughly failed on all fronts. Under the circumstances it is quite unfortunate that a person of your stature should attempt to justify Mr Modi."

Asked about Ramesh and Tharoor's remarks, Anand Sharma said Congress leaders have their views and opinion, unlike their counterparts in the BJP.

Ramachandran told *The Indian Express* that what Ramesh said was none of his business, but "Tharoor is an MP from Kerala, (and) as many as 10 MPs from Kerala have openly criticised him. Congress workers in the state are deeply distressed. Given that situation, it is my duty to seek an explanation from him."

WITH INPUTS FROM
ENS, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Engineers should research on Rama Setu, Gita and Ayurveda, find the truth, says HRD minister

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KHARAGPUR, AUGUST 27

HUMAN RESOURCE Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Tuesday asked the country's budding engineers to conduct fresh research on subjects like Rama Setu, Gita, Sanskrit language and Ayurveda to find the truth.

Speaking at the 65th annual convocation of IIT-Kharagpur, he said the country's scientific and technical progress has a strong foundation in spirituality.

Pokhriyal said the world was



Pokhriyal at the IIT event. PTI

taking account of Yoga, Vedas and Ayurveda. "Sanskrit is the oldest language in the world. Till date, no one could prove the existence of any other language before it. People make fun of us for saying this, so I urge the outgoing students to conduct fresh research and prove it," he said.

Lauding the efforts of ancient 'engineers' for Rama Setu, he

said, "When we look behind, we remember how our engineers built the Rama Setu. Our upcoming engineers must delve into its study. They must conduct fresh researches to find out the hidden truth about it," he said.

He questioned Archaeological Survey of India's view that there was no historical or scientific evidence to prove that Rama Setu was a man-made bridge.

"There should be research by new engineers to study and find out about different heritage marvels like Rama Setu to make the world aware about what we had built ages back," he said.

VIVEK YADAV, VIZIANAGARAM DC

AWARD CATEGORY: ENERGY

In hot, humid Andhra town, solar energy slashes power bills; govt offices, schools, colleges line up

SREENIVAS JANYALA
VIZIANAGARAM, AUGUST 27

IT WAS the steep electricity bills that the District Collectorate and municipal offices were running up in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh, which experiences hot and humid weather almost the whole year, that got District Collector Vivek Yadav thinking about alternative sources of energy. In the 18 months since he launched an initiative to harness solar power, the way government offices in the district are lit up has undergone a change.

Last January, a cluster of solar panels were put up over 5 acres on a small hillock near Dwarapudi village, some kilometres from Vizianagaram, under the public-private partnership model. Now these panels help generate 1 MW power, which is supplied to areas under Vizianagaram Municipal Corporation.

Yadav received award under the category 'Energy' at the first The Indian Express Excellence in Journalism Awards.

Officials of the Pollution Control Board claim that their research based on similar models



shows that carbon emission reduction due to one project like Dwarapudi alone could be 1008 MT per annum.

Collector Yadav said there was already a government scheme, NTR Jalasayam, to promote borewell connections for ir-



Abhinav Saha

Vivek Yadav receives the award from Minister of Law and Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad; (right) solar panels on a hillock near Dwarapudi village.



Sreenivas Janyala



rigation powered by solar energy. "In the case of government institutions, however, the challenge was space. Usually these offices are quite old and not equipped for solar panels on roof tops. On top of that, we were already generating 1 MW solar power exclusively for the municipal division. So, we identified government land on a hill and covered it with solar panels. We also installed solar panels on the Collectorate building. That inspired other institutions, like schools, colleges, to join in."

M Geetha, MLA from Vizianagaram, said, "Solar panels have been installed in 10 government buildings, including the District Collectorate and Municipal Corporation, and a couple of offices."

Besides, 43 social welfare government schools and 43 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas now have roof-top solar heaters, in an area where there was very little awareness about solar power earlier.

"Earlier we used to get a power bill of Rs 12,000 per month. It has fallen to Rs 6,000-7,000. People, especially government employees, are now very aware of solar power and its ben-

efits," said Bobbili Municipal Commissioner H Shankar.

The Project Director of District Rural Development Agency, K Subbarao, said the total power bill at the four mandal offices which were now solar-powered had come down by 50 per cent. "Farmers are asking about solar agriculture pumpsets and solar lanterns."

Yadav saw his primary job as achieving synergy and coordination between departments and schemes. "There are already a lot of schemes. At the district level, as a District Magistrate, our role is to integrate the departments and organisations and come with a plan to synergize the entire thing."

Some officials said what was coming in the way of more widespread acceptance of solar power was the high cost of installing and maintaining the panels. Said an official, "The Bobbili Municipal Corporation building could be solar-powered because, of the Rs 13 lakh needed, Vizianagaram MP P Ashok Gajapati Raju allocated Rs 10 lakh. Otherwise it would not have been possible to allocate such a large amount from municipal funds."

USCIRF expresses concern over NRC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE UNITED STATES Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has issued a statement against the National Register of Citizens in Assam and said it creates a "negative and potentially dangerous climate for the Muslim community" in northeastern India.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, it said the updated NRC could be used to disenfranchise Muslims in the region and is part of the government's ongoing efforts to introduce a "religious test" specifically aimed at clearing out Muslims.

USCIRF chair Tony Perkins and Commissioner Anurima Bhargava said in the statement issued in Washington DC, "Freedom of religion or belief for India's diverse faith communities and respect for religious pluralism have long been a bedrock of Indian society, values enshrined in the Indian constitution."

"However, we remain concerned with the potential abuse of the National Register of Citizens in Assam and the resulting introduction of a religious requirement for citizenship, which are contrary to the ideals of religious freedom in India." "The National Register of Citizens verification process must not become a means to target and render stateless the Muslim community in northeastern India. Proposed policies that suggest that Muslims — and Muslims alone — will face a higher burden for verification, along with worrisome rhetoric, create a negative and potentially dangerous climate for the Muslim community in northeastern India," said Bhargava.

How NRC intersects with existing citizenship determination processes

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 27

THE UPDATION of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which will be published on August 31, intersects with existing parallel mechanisms of citizenship determination in Assam.

The NRC is an independent, technology-driven process to ascertain citizenship, under the direct monitoring of the Supreme Court. But, according to updation rules, a person declared a foreigner by a Foreigners Tribunal (FT), a person marked as Doubtful Voter (D-Voter) by local election officials or a person whose case is pending at an FT (PFT) and their descendants who have drawn 'legacy' from such persons will be excluded from the updated NRC.

FTs are quasi-judicial bodies meant to "furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner within the meaning of Foreigner's Act, 1946". An FT sends notices to those against whom a reference has been made by Border Police or D-voters.

As notified by the MHA, those excluded from the final NRC have to appeal at an FT within 120 days of exclusion.

The stories of two soldiers who recently hit national headlines are illustrative of how this intersection stands to cause exclusion from the final NRC.

MOHAMMAD SANAUULLAH, 52

The Bengal-origin Muslim of Assam retired as subedar with Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) in August 2017 after serving the Army for 30 years. He hit headlines in May after being declared an "illegal foreigner" and put in a detention camp. He was granted



Officials check the documents ahead of release of the final draft of NRC at a Seva Kendra in Guwahati. PTI

NRC COUNTDOWN THREE DAYS TO AUGUST 31

bail days later by the Gauhati High Court.

After investigating him as a suspected illegal foreigner in 2008-09, the border wing of Assam Police lodged a "reference" case against him at an FT and he failed to prove his Indian citizenship. He said the investigation was fabricated. Even as the case continues at the High Court, Sanauullah's name will not be in the updated NRC — a "declared foreigner" cannot be included in the NRC.

"Had the FT case by border police not been there, I would have made it to the NRC. All my documents are in place," said Sanauullah.

According to state government data presented in an affidavit to the SC and in the Assembly this year, FTs declared 1,03,764 people foreigners between 1985 and August 2018.

GOVT, PARTIES OFFER LEGAL AID TO 'NEEDY'

Guwahati: The Assam government on Tuesday said it will provide free legal aid to "needy" people whose names do not figure in the NRC. It said it would make arrangements to provide legal aid to such people through District Legal Services Authorities. The ruling BJP and opposition Congress have also come forward to assist bonafide Indians who are kept out of the NRC. NGO Citizens for Justice and Peace has also volunteered to navigate the issue of citizenship after publication of the final NRC. PTI

MAZIBUR RAHMAN, 50

An Assamese Muslim of Golaghat district and a serving BSMF man posted in Punjab, Rahman and his wife were declared "illegal foreigners" in December 2018. He made news earlier this month when his family learned of the de-

velopment and hired a lawyer to appeal in the HC.

A Golaghat police officer said Rahman was "referred" to the FT as a suspected illegal foreigner based on a report by the local electoral registration officer (ERO), which was checked and referred as the same by the border police in 2008. "It is essentially a D-Voter case. A notice was issued by FT last year. Now the system of EROs marking people D is gone, but "references" of old cases still go to FT and notices are served," the officer said.

D-Voter category was introduced in Assam in 1997 to mark people in electoral rolls who were supposedly unable to prove citizenship during verification. Currently there are 1.2 lakh D-Voters in Assam.

"Rahman's family is indigenous Muslim. They have land patta documents dating back to 1935. He and his wife will not be included in the NRC on August 31. We are appealing in the HC," Nekibur Zaman, Rahman's lawyer, said.

Zaman pointed out another intricacy in Rahman's FT order: it was "ex-parte". Section 9 of the Foreigners Act says that the onus of proving that a person is not a foreigner lies on the person. Thus, the "accused" has to prove he was an Indian and when he/she does not appear, the member can proceed "ex-parte".

Earlier this year, MoS for Home G K Reddy told Parliament that FTs in Assam have declared 63,959 people foreigners through ex-parte proceedings between 1985 and February 28, 2019.

Politicians and community leaders accept that many exclusions from the final NRC will be due to the intersection with existing mechanisms.

POSTS VIDEO CLAIMING THREAT

'Harassed', girl goes missing, ex-MP booked

AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 27

AN FIR was filed against former BJP MP Swami Chinmayanand in Shahjahanpur on Tuesday after a law student, who had posted a video on Facebook alleging threat to her life by an "influential sant-politician who has destroyed lives of several girls", went missing two days ago.

While the girl did not name anyone in the video, which appears to be shot in a car, her father alleged that she was referring to Chinmayanand.

In his complaint to the police, the father alleged that the girl was sexually harassed. However, the FIR against the former MP has been registered under IPC section 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

ADG (Bareilly Zone) Avinash Chandra said the charge of sexual harassment has not been included in the FIR as the allegation is yet to be verified. He also claimed that the video appeared suspicious and said that two-three days ago they found CCTV footage showing the girl entering a Delhi hotel with a youth.

On Sunday, an FIR was registered based on a complaint lodged by Chinmayanand's lawyer, Om Singh, who alleged that Chinmayanand received an extortion threat on WhatsApp. The ADG said the number from which the message was sent belongs to the youth seen with the



Swami Chinmayanand

girl in the CCTV footage. The FIR registered against an unidentified person said that the WhatsApp message received by Chinmayanand on Thursday (August 22) made a demand of Rs 5 crore.

The girl is a student in a Shahjahanpur college of which Chinmayanand is the chairman and president of the management committee.

The girl's father told *The Indian Express* that they learned about the incident when she uploaded the video on Facebook on Saturday. "That day, after my relatives told us about the video, her mother went to her hostel but she was not there and both her cellphones were switched off. On Sunday, I went to the police station with a complaint that Chinmayanand and others have kidnapped my daughter," said the father.

ADG Avinash Chandra claimed the girl was safe and police were trying to trace her and the youth.

"The case will be investigated in an impartial way. This is our topmost priority case in Shahjahanpur," he said.

10 get dual life-term in honour killing of Kerala man

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 27

THE KOTTAYAM principal court on Tuesday awarded dual life imprisonment to ten persons involved in the honour killing of a Dalit Christian youth by his fiancée's upper caste Christian family last year.

Delivering the verdict, Judge C Jayachandran said that capital punishment for the convicted seemed appropriate but the court was giving them dual life imprisonment keeping in mind their age and the fact that this was their first conviction. The sentences would run concurrently. The court also asked the convicted to pay a fine of Rs 4.85 lakh.

On May 27, 2018, Kevin P Joseph, 24, a native of Kottayam, and his relative Aneesh Sebastian were kidnapped. The abduction was made by a gang led by the family of Kevin's fiancée Neenu Chacko. Neenu's family was against their marriage as Kevin was a Dalit. On May 28 last year, though Aneesh was let go by the gang, Kevin's body was fished out of a canal near Thenmala in Kollam district. The autopsy reports confirmed that Kevin was forcibly made to drown in the canal.

Last week, the court had observed that the case was an incident of honour killing.

Those who were given life

sentences included Neenu's brother Shynu Chacko, her relative Niyas and eight others.

Reacting to the verdict, Joseph said he had expected capital punishment for the accused. "I am not fully satisfied, yet I welcome the dual life sentences to the accused. The legal fight would continue to ensure punishment for Neenu's father Chacko, (who was acquitted by the trial court for want of evidence)," said Kevin's father.

Their marriage was not registered as Kevin was abducted two days after he moved a joint application for registering their marriage. After the murder of her fiancée, Neenu has been staying with his family in Kottayam. "Neenu is not keen to react to the issue now," Joseph added.

Special prosecutor CS Ajayan said the court did not award capital punishment to the convicted considering their young age and that they had not been punished in any criminal case in the past. By not imposing death penalty, the court has granted them a chance to mend their ways, he added.

The court imposed dual life sentences for charges of murder (IPC section 302) and kidnapping for ransom (section 364A). The convicted were also awarded three-year rigorous imprisonment. The fine to be paid by the convicted would be given to Neenu, Kevin's father Joseph and Aneesh.



Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar and Minister of State Babul Supriyo at a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday. Anil Sharma

50 lakh hectares of degraded land to be restored by 2030: Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

UNION MINISTER for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar on Tuesday announced that his ministry has targeted the restoration 50 lakh hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Speaking at the curtain raiser event for the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14), which India will host for the first time, Javadekar said India takes over from China as the president of COP 14 for two years. "This means that we are in a lead-

ership role in the global fight against desertification and other environmental challenges like climate change," he said.

The minister also announced that a Centre for Excellence would be set up in Dehradun for land degradation neutrality. The institute will not only research technology to combat land degradation, but will also function as a resource and training centre.

Ministers from 94 countries, as well as the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, is expected to attend COP 14 which will take place from September 2-13 in Greater Noida. The 12-day event is to be attended by 5,000 participants, including 3,000 international delegates

from 196 countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also expected to make an appearance.

"There are 30 decisions which will take place at the end of the conference and the New Delhi Declaration will be ratified. India is dedicated to ensure that the declaration is followed and will encourage partner countries to achieve their targets," said Javadekar.

Speaking about the challenges that India faces, Javadekar said, "Around one third of our land is affected by land degradation. India has 2.5 percent of the world's land but supports 18 percent of its population. We aim to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030..." said Javadekar.

JAY SHAH DEFAMATION CASE

Apex court allows news portal to withdraw plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE SUPREME COURT on Tuesday allowed news portal The Wire to withdraw its plea against proceedings in a defamation case filed by Home Minister Amit Shah's son Jay Shah, but strongly deprecated what it called the "culture" of the media giving only "10-12 hours notice" to people to reply before publishing reports.

"This is a civilised country. What is this culture we are developing that we give notice in the night and publish in the morning?" Justice Arun Mishra, sitting with Justices M R Shah and B R Gavai, remarked as Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, urged the court to allow them to withdraw the plea, saying they were ready to face trial before a court in Gujarat.

The petitioners had moved the Supreme Court after their plea against the trial court order summing them was rejected by the Gujarat High Court.

Initially the apex court bench appeared reluctant to allow the request and posed questions to Sibal. "Can this be happening in this civilised state that you give 10-12 hours notice?" Justice Mishra asked. "What is this kind of culture?"

"It's a very serious issue," he observed, "Can it happen?"

"This is happening," replied Senior Advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, appearing for Jay Shah.

"Why should we allow you to withdraw? What is this culture developing in this country? This institution has suffered... Why should we not take it up suo motu... We are worried as a judge of this court," Justice Mishra said. As the arguments went on, Justice Gavai remarked, "It's nothing short of yellow journalism. What kind of journalism is this?"

Sibal said the judges should see television news channels to see how they conduct media trials. "Fortunately we don't have the time to watch," said Justice Gavai.

The court then dictated the order allowing the withdrawal of the plea, and added that the issue of media giving short notice to people to reply before it runs a story should be decided at an appropriate time.

On Sibal's request, the bench clarified that whatever it had said in the order was not with regard to the merits of the case.

The exchanges did not, however, end there as Justice Mishra said "freedom of press is supreme, but it's not a one-way traffic".

"This is not the way. Yellow journalism should not take place in the country," Justice Mishra continued.

Advocate Kaul then raised the doubt that the petitioner

portal may file review. Justice Shah responded, "They are withdrawing unconditionally."

The court recorded Sibal's undertaking to this effect. The bench also directed that the trial in the case be completed in six months.

Sibal protested this: "The court may not say that."

Following a war of words between Kaul and Sibal, the bench asked Sibal if seven months would be fine. However, Sibal continued to protest, following which the court finally modified its order and said the trial be completed "as expeditiously as possible".

In a lighter vein, Justice Mishra told the two sides, "Now don't go out and fight."

As Sibal was leaving, Justice Gavai told Sibal that he should be happy with early disposal as "you will get acquittal in six months". Replied Sibal, "With the kind of observations, we might get a conviction."

At one point, Justice Mishra said, "We want to say many things but we would not say it." Sibal responded, "I also want to say many things but I would not say it." Jay Shah had filed the criminal defamation complaint in October 2017 over a report which claimed a big rise in his company's revenue after the BJP came to power at the Centre in 2014. He also filed a civil defamation suit, seeking Rs 100 crore in damages.

Cop warned for 'bribe' in pre-wedding video

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 27

RAJASTHAN POLICE has warned its officials against using their uniform in "pre-wedding video shoots" after a video emerged in which a sub-inspector, posted in Udaipur district, is seen accepting bribe from his fiancée.

The video uploaded on YouTube was removed on Tuesday. Sub-inspector Dhanpat Singh, who was seen in the video, has been issued a warning, senior officials from the police headquarters said.

A directive issued by the office of Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) said that officials learnt about the video in

which a policeman is seen taking bribe from his fiancée.

"Shooting such a video by newly appointed officials/personnel is unfortunate. This not only tarnishes the image of the police department but also puts negative influence on dignity of the uniform," the order states.

According to the directive, addressed to all SPs and DCPs, after taking into consideration the code of conduct of the uniform, in future it shouldn't be used in pre-wedding video shoots.

"After the matter came to our notice, we warned the policeman concerned. We have also asked personnel to maintain dignity of the uniform," Additional DCP (Law and Order) ML Lather told *The Indian Express*.

Nitish asks Centre to 'bear maximum costs' to fight Maoists

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, AUGUST 27

CITING THE spirit of the "federal structure", Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has asked the Centre to "bear maximum" costs in the fight against Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

He said the fight against Maoists was a "combined fight" of central and state governments, hence expenses should be shared in a manner that a state government does not have to bear additional burden.

At the CMs' conference chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday, Nitish suggested that the Centre not dis-

continue the Special Infrastructure Scheme and allow states to "make amendments in criteria of process of execution" of special initiatives in areas that need the most government attention. The JDU leader also asked the Centre not to recall two CRPF battalions posted in Maoist-hit areas and meet the state's long-pending demand of patrolling of such areas by choppers.

In his 10-point suggestions to the Centre, Nitish said: "Under the country's federal structure, the Centre cannot just play a supervisory or monitoring role by assigning states to take effective action against LWE organisations, which pose a challenge to internal security. The Centre does

not need to just talk to states but also take meaningful steps."

Nitish suggested the Centre continue schemes like Special Infrastructure Scheme and increase the Centre's share in police modernisation scheme. "Making states bear all expenses of central forces during their deputations is not fair," he said.

He said the Centre would often refer to states getting more funds after 14th Finance Commission recommendations whenever there was demand for extra funds to counter LWE. "But the fact remains that there has been a substantial dip in central grants to states."

Nitish wanted the Centre-state ratio of expenses for police

modernisation scheme to be made 90:10 instead of 60:40. He said that while Bihar got Rs 40 crore grant annually under the scheme from 2000-01 to 2014-15, the state was getting Rs 30 crore annually now.

About development schemes in LWE-hit areas, Nitish said, "There is need for special initiative. I would suggest the Centre allocate extra funds to take these schemes to the poorest in areas identified and state government be allowed to amend criteria and execution process as per needs of locals."

He suggested the Centre develop an institution system to study and analyse strategies and action against LWE.

Rape victim's newborn sold off, six booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUDHIANA, AUGUST 27

THE LUDHIANA police Tuesday booked six persons, including two employees of the Civil Hospital in the district, for allegedly selling the newborn baby of a 19-year-old rape victim.

The victim had delivered a baby boy at the Civil Hospital in July last week, police said. However, her family had not reported the rape incident. Refusing to accept the baby, they handed him over to one Surjit Singh, a class IV employee at the hospital.

However, on August 23, the victim's mother filed police complaint alleging that her daughter

was raped by her 32-year-old paternal uncle and now they want legal action against him. Sub-inspector Manjit Kaur, SHO Dehlon police station, said that mother claimed that they did not file a complaint earlier as their daughter was unmarried and they feared social boycott.

Police arrested the accused after which it was discovered that the baby delivered by the victim was sold off by Surjit Singh and Jasvir Singh - both sanitary workers at Civil Hospital. They too have been arrested.

However, police said that the main conspirators and dealers - Ajit, Karan and Raj — all three from Ludhiana and identified only by their first name — are still absconding.

THIS WORD MEANS

FEDOR THE ROBOT

Russia's humanoid robot has just reached International Space Station. What is he supposed to do?

ON TUESDAY, the humanoid robot Fedor, the first from Russia sent into orbit, reached the International Space Station. Short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, Fedor can be operated manually by ISS astronauts wearing robotic exoskeleton suits. The robot mirrors their movements.



In this photo taken on July 26 and distributed by Roscosmos Space Agency Press Service, the Fedor robot is displayed before being loaded into a Soyuz capsule. AP

Fedor stands 180 cm tall and weighs 160 kg. It copies human movements, which will enable it to perform tasks that are risky for astronauts strapped onto an exoskeleton.

In an interview on the website of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, Fedor developer Yevgeny Dudorov said space is the most important industry for using robots, a dangerous environment for humans. "The ideal option for an assistant, and in some cases a complete replacement for a person, is an anthropomorphic robot," Dudorov said.

Fedor has his own Instagram and Twitter accounts. He was sent in an unmanned Soyuz capsule, which failed to dock at the ISS on Saturday. After another attempt on Tuesday was successful, Fedor tweeted: "Sorry for the delay. Got stuck in traffic. Am ready to carry on with work."

Fedor, who will copy human movements, will help with high-risk tasks at the ISS until September 7, when he is scheduled to return. Roscosmos head Dmitry Rogozin was quoted as telling Interfax news agency that Fedor could help in tests on Russia's new manned transport ship under development, the Federatsiya, or a spacewalk to work on the outside of the ISS. "That's what he's being created for. We don't really need him inside the station," Rogozin was quoted as saying.

While Fedor is Russia's first robot in space, other countries have previously sent theirs. In 2011, NASA sent up Robonaut 2, a humanoid developed with General Motors that had a similar aim of working in high-risk environments, AFP reported. Robonaut 2 was flown back to Earth in 2018 after experiencing technical problems. In 2013, Japan sent up a small

robot called Kirobo, developed with Toyota. It was able to hold conversations in Japanese.

Soyuz capsules are normally manned, but this time no humans were travelling in order to test a new emergency rescue system. The spacecraft blasted off last Thursday from a Russian spaceport in southern Kazakhstan, with Fedor in the commander's seat. AFP reported that the robot was heard saying "Let's go. Let's go," during the launch, repeating the phrase used by the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin.

The ship was carrying scientific and medical equipment, and components for the space station's life-support system, as well as food, medicines and personal hygiene products for crew members.

RBI transfers to govt: how, why

Bank's Central Board has decided on a record transfer of Rs 1.76 lakh crore. On what basis are such transfers made? Why has it been sometimes contentious, and how was the amount settled this time?

SHAJI VIKRAMAN
CHENNAI, AUGUST 27

ON MONDAY, the RBI Central Board decided to transfer a record surplus — Rs 1.76 lakh crore — to the government.

The issue of transfer of surplus or profits has often been contentious. The government often pitches for a higher payout, arguing it needs to spend to deliver on promises and to keep the economic momentum going, while a conservative central bank, which has medium- and long-term perspectives, prefers to salt away a good portion of the profits for a rainy day. Seldom has this battle been as bitter as it was last year when Urjit Patel was the RBI Governor and Subhash Garg was the Secretary, Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry. At stake was the level of reserves the RBI should hold or maintain and the quantum of profits to be distributed. On Monday, the issue was settled.

The RBI transfers its surplus to the government every year. So what is special about the payout this time?

Yes, the RBI does transfer its surplus annually to the government, the owner of the institution, after making adequate provisions for contingencies or potential losses. The profit that is distributed has varied, averaging over Rs 50,000 crore over the last few years.

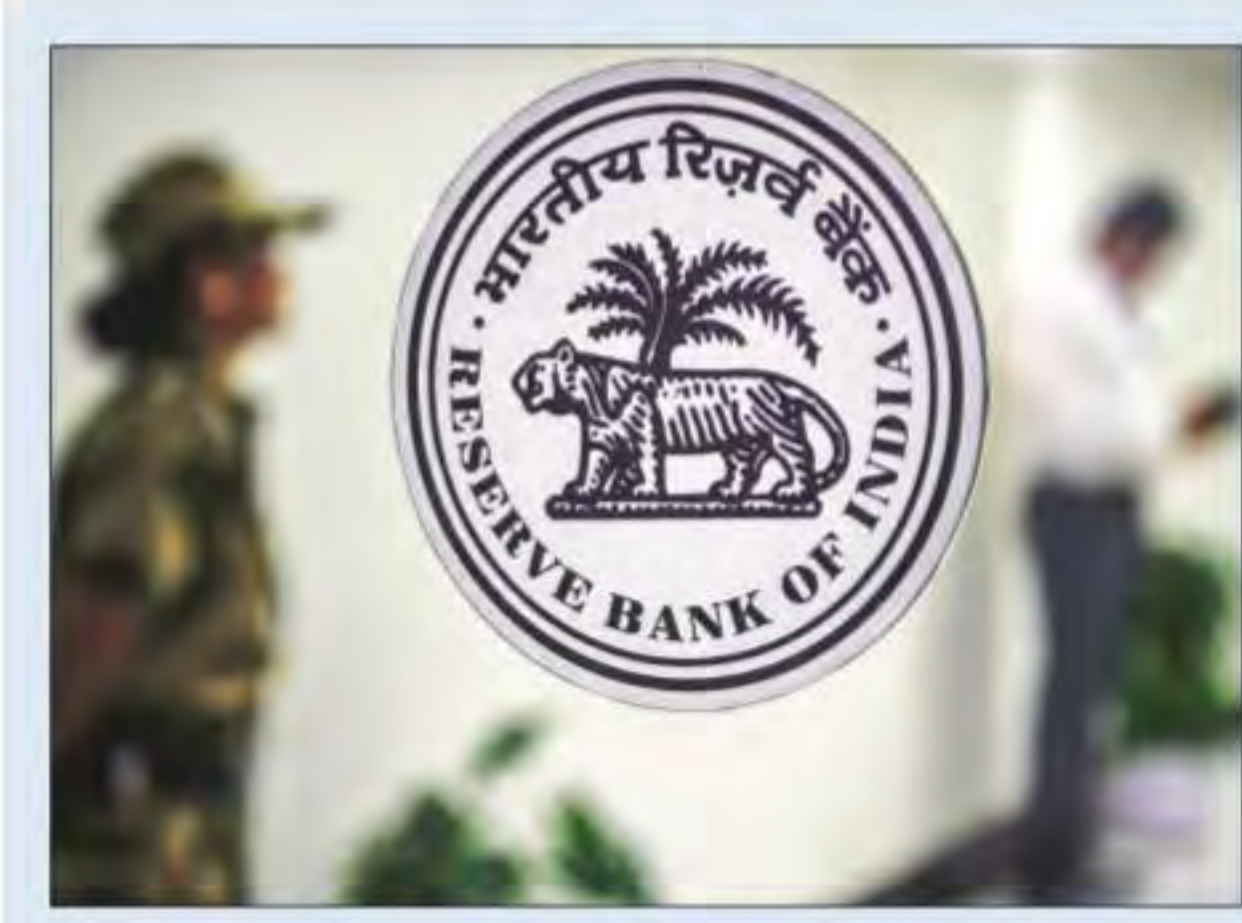
On Monday, the RBI board accepted the recommendations of a committee headed by former Governor Bimal Jalan on transfer of excess capital. Based on the panel's report, the Central Board decided to transfer a surplus of Rs 1.23 lakh crore and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions made over the years. This marks the first time the RBI will be paying out such a huge amount, a one-off transfer. Earlier, the government had budgeted for Rs 90,000 crore from the RBI as dividend for this fiscal year.

On what rationale was such a huge payout approved?

The level of surplus or profits the RBI pays to the government has been an issue of conflict two for long. Over the last decade or more, the government had sought higher payouts saying the RBI was maintaining reserves or capital buffers that were much higher than many other global central banks' buffers. The government has argued that such relatively lower transfers cramped public spending for infrastructure projects and social sector programmes, considering the pressure to meet deficit targets and to provide space for private firms to borrow. With the government amplifying its demand for a higher transfer, the Jalan committee reviewed the capital structure, statutory provisions and other issues relating to the RBI balance sheet. After making a distinction on the RBI's capital structure especially on unrealised gains (which are essentially gains not booked) and taking into account the role of the central bank in ensuring financial stability, potential risks and global standards, the committee suggested a total transfer of Rs.1.76 lakh crore.

How does the RBI generate surplus?

A significant part comes from RBI's operations in financial markets, when it intervenes for instance to buy or sell foreign exchange; Open Market operations, when it attempts to prevent the rupee from appreciating; as income from government securities it holds; as returns from its foreign currency assets that are investments in the bonds of foreign central banks or top-rated securities; from deposits with other central banks or the Bank for International Settlement or BIS; besides lending to banks for very short tenures and management commission on handling the borrowings of state governments and the central



WHAT RBI HAS SAID ON TRANSFERS

DR Y V REDDY
GOVERNOR,
2003-08

"There is no doubt that in the ultimate analysis, the government as the owner has a claim over the reserves, but the way it exercises gives signals to the market and influences public opinion. There is merit in keeping at least the central bank's balance sheet strong if the government's fiscal balance sheet is weak. But substantively, it is the judgment of the government that prevails on the adequacy issues, though procedurally that of the board."

D SUBBARAO
GOVERNOR,
2008-13

"In India even as the autonomy of the Reserve Bank is an issue, the amount of surplus transfer or the capital requirement of the RBI have never been variables in defining the government-central bank relationship."

RAGHURAM RAJAN
GOVERNOR,
2013-16

"There are no creative ways of extracting more money from the RBI — there is no free lunch! Instead, the government should acknowledge its substantial equity position in the RBI and subtract it from its outstanding debt when it announces its net debt position. That would satisfy all concerned without monetary damage."

VIRAL ACHARYA
DEPUTY GOVERNOR,
2017-19

"Governments that do not respect central bank independence will sooner or later incur the wrath of financial markets, ignite economic fire, and come to rue the day they undermined an important regulatory institution. Their wiser counterparts who invest in central bank independence will enjoy lower costs of borrowing, the love of international investors and longer life spans."

government. RBI buys these financial assets against its fixed liabilities such as currency held by the public and deposits issued to commercial banks on which it does not pay interest.

The RBI's expenditure is mainly on printing of currency notes, on staff, besides commission to banks for undertaking transactions on behalf of the government and to primary dealers that include banks for underwriting some of these borrowings. The central bank's total costs, which includes expenditure on printing and commissions forms, is only about 1/7th of its total net interest income.

Why are these called transfers to the government, rather than dividends?

That is because the RBI is not a commercial organisation like banks and other companies owned or controlled by the government to pay a dividend to the owner out of the profit generated. Though it was promoted as a private shareholders' bank in 1935 with a paid-up cap-

ital of Rs 5 crore, the government nationalised it in January 1949, making the sovereign the "owner". What the RBI does is transfer the surplus — excess of income over expenditure — to the government. Under Section 47 of the RBI Act, "after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contributions to staff and superannuation funds and for all other matters for which provision is to be made by or under this Act or which are usually provided for by bankers, the balance of the profits shall be paid to the Central Government". This is done in early August by the Central Board.

Globally, what are the rules relating to payment of dividends by central banks?

In many top central banks — US Federal Reserve, Bank of England, German Bundesbank, Bank of Japan — the laws make it clear that profits have to be transferred to the government or the treasury. The quantum of profits or percentage to be distributed is also

specified in the laws.

So, what is the difference in India now and compared to the past?

The quantum is discussed and decided between the government and RBI. Periodically, this has been guided by policies set out internally, as last time when a committee headed by YH Malegam recommended distributing 100% of the profits made during Raghuram Rajan's time. The difference now is that the Jalan committee's recommendation on a profit distribution policy has been endorsed by the Central Board. That will mean a more transparent and rule-based payout from next year, as in many other central banks, which could help narrow differences between the government and RBI.

What can the government do with this huge surplus?

Normally, the money is transferred to the Consolidated Fund of India from which salaries and pensions to government employees are paid and interest payments done, besides spending on government programmes. The large payout can help the government cut back on planned borrowings and keep interest rates relatively low. Besides, it will provide space for private companies to raise money from markets. And if it manages to meet its revenue targets, the windfall gain can lead to a lower fiscal deficit. The other option is to earmark these funds for public spending or specific projects, which could lead to a revival in demand in certain sectors and boost economic activity.

What are the potential issues relating to a higher payout?

That has been articulated by former Governor Rajan. According to him, much of the surplus the RBI generates comes from the interest on government assets (securities or bonds) or from capital gains made off other market participants. When this is paid to the government, the RBI is putting back into the system the money it made from it; there is no additional money-printing or reserve creation involved, he says. But when the RBI pays additional dividend, it has to create additional permanent reserves or, more colloquially, print money. So, to accommodate the special dividend, the RBI will have to withdraw an equivalent amount of money from the public by selling government bonds in its portfolio, he says.

Why do central banks hold back on transferring large amounts?

Especially after the global financial crisis when central banks had to resort to unconventional means to revive their economies, the approach has been to build adequate buffers in the form of higher capital, reserves and other funds as a potential insurance against future risks or losses. A higher buffer enhances the credibility of a central bank during a crisis and helps avoid approaching the government for fresh capital and thus maintain financial autonomy.

Given conflict in the past, how was the distribution of profits settled this time?

In his memoir, former RBI Governor D Subbarao had written how arguments on this would go on year after year but a settlement would be reached with some flexibility shown by both sides. "Even though contentious, (it) has never turned acrimonious," he wrote a couple of years ago. That wasn't the case last year and in the first half of this year. As the government's nominee on the Jalan committee, Garg had submitted a dissent note. His exit from the Finance Ministry and the entry of the new Governor, Shaktikanta Das, and Garg's successor Atanu Chakraborty and backroom talks, may have led to the flexibility of approach that Subbarao indicated in his book, and the resultant decision on a record payout.

TIP FOR READING LIST

KEY FIGURES IN PARIS LIBERATION

THE LIBERATION of Paris, the military battle which freed the city after over four years of Nazi rule, is well documented as one of the key events of the Second World War. Political scientist Jean Edward Smith of Marshall University has now examined the three military figures who held the fate of Paris in their hands.



The *Liberation of Paris: How Eisenhower, de Gaulle, and von Choltitz Saved the City of Light* explores two sets of events in the critical moments before Paris's recapture. First is the discarding of the original American plan of heading towards Germany by-passing Paris, and turning towards the city itself instead. This was after French

general Charles de Gaulle convinced American military leader Dwight Eisenhower, Smith writes; this helped de Gaulle's ascendancy to the top political office in France after the War, while at the same time denying French communists the chance to arrive on the scene before him.

The second event is the defiance of Hitler's orders to turn Paris into a "field of ruins" by the German general Dietrich von Choltitz. Von Choltitz was a trusted aide deputed to Paris by Hitler himself. Through careful sabotage of the Third Reich's orders, and disregarding a very real threat to his family, von Choltitz secured a bloodless handover of Paris to the Allies, Smith writes.

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Pig organs in human body: an old controversy over transplantation returns

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

LAST WEEK, pioneering transplant surgeon Sir Terence English, who had performed the first heart transplant in the United Kingdom in 1979, declared that his team would this year transplant a pig's kidney into a human's body. And in three years, he claimed, a heart transplant can be achieved.

The statements reopened an old controversy around xenotransplantation, or the transplanting of organs from one species to another. There is a precedent from years ago — 1997 — with an attempted pig-to-human heart transplant in India.

The doctor in Assam was held guilty of an unethical procedure, and imprisoned for 40 days. Yet, many see hope in the potential of xenotransplantation to save lives.

Animal-to-human transplants

The first attempts at animal-to-human transplants were made in 1838, when the cornea of a pig was transplanted into a human. Between 1902 and 1923, organs from pigs, goats, sheep, and monkeys were used

in unsuccessful transplantation attempts. From 1963 onward, researchers attempted organ transplantation from chimpanzees, baboons and pigs. In 1984, a two-week-old baby in the United States received a baboon's heart, but died within three weeks.

For fear of transmission of viruses from animals to humans, xenotransplantation has for long been an area that governments and doctors have treated with caution. Researchers are now trying to genetically alter pigs to enable organ transplantation in humans.

Need to look at animal organs

The need for organ donation is rising globally alongside the rise in kidney, liver and heart ailments. "Several die while waiting for an organ donation," said Dr Astrid Lobo Gajiwala, director of Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, Western India.

India's national registry shows 1,945 liver and 7,936 kidney transplants were conducted in 2018. This is when India needs 1.8 lakh-2 lakh kidney transplants every year, as per Ministry of Health and Family Welfare data. With lack of human cadavers

as donors, researchers are looking at animal organs as an alternative.

"In India, this is a distant dream, since animal rights laws do not allow us to even experiment," said heart transplant surgeon Dr Anvay Mulay.

Why pigs in particular?

A pig's genetic make-up and internal organs are similar to a human's. Its weight, the tendency to become obese, lipids, arterial pressure, heart rate, renal function, electrolyte balance, and digestive system match those in the human body.

The problem is that the rejection rate is higher in a pig-to-human transplant than in a human-to-human transplant. 'Rejection' is what happens when the human body's immune system starts working against any foreign organ. In a human-to-human transplant, immunosuppressants help trick the body into accepting the foreign organ as its own. But immunosuppressants have failed to work in animal-to-human transplants.

Kidney transplant expert Dr Prashant Rajput said there are certain enzymes, proteins and amino acids in pigs that are dif-

ferent from those in humans. "These are substances against which the human body will produce antibodies and reject the organ. It is called antigenicity. The lower the antigenicity, the better," Dr Rajput said.

The 1997 attempt in Assam

In 1997, heart surgeon Dr Dhani Ram Baruah, along with Hong Kong surgeon Dr Jonathan Ho Kei-Shing, conducted a pig-to-human heart and lung transplant in Baruah's clinic in Sonapur on the outskirts of Guwahati. It was a first in India.

In an email, Baruah told *The Indian Express* that he "developed new anti-hyperacute rejection biochemical solution to treat donor's heart and lung and blind its immune system to avoid rejection".

After 102 experimental studies in Baruah's institute, the transplant was conducted on 32-year-old farmer Purno Saikia on January 1. Saikia died a week later; the autopsy showed an infection. The transplant caused an international flutter. Baruah and Kei-Shing were arrested within a fortnight for culpable homicide and under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, and imprisoned for 40 days. The

Assam government instituted an inquiry and found the procedure unethical.

Recent research, procedures

Researchers have been trying to replace pig's kidney proteins with human proteins, so that the human body does not reject the organ.

In the University of São Paulo's Biosciences Institute, experiments are on to genetically modify pigs. In February this year, geneticist Mayana Zatz said at a symposium that there are three genes in pigs that provoke rejection when transplanted into a human body; genetic modification of these could solve the problem.

In the United States, pigs' hearts were transplanted in baboons, which survived for two years with the pig hearts beating alongside their own. In Massachusetts General Hospital, gene modification techniques are being used in pigs before transplanting their organs in monkeys, in the hope that these techniques can be tried in humans later. Countries such as Germany, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Russia, Ukraine, and Mexico are conducting similar research.

Indian Council of Medical Research guidelines allow only animal-to-animal transplants. Kochi-based hand transplant surgeon Dr Subramania Iyer said the scope of xenotransplantation will be discussed in the Congress of the Asian Society of Transplantation Conference in New Delhi next month.

What can be expected now

Sir Terence English made his comments on the 40th anniversary of the UK's first heart transplant. *The Sunday Telegraph* quoted him as saying that his protegee during the 1979 operation is preparing to perform the world's first pig-to-human kidney transplant before the end of this year.

"If it works with a kidney, it will work with a heart. That will transform the issue," Sir Terence, 87, told the newspaper.

Back in Assam, Baruah, a fellow of Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians, maintains that he had achieved a breakthrough, and that it was suppressed by the international fraternity.

Asked about the UK's renewed attempts, he said, "This news published recently is same old wine filled in a new bottle. I said all this 24 years ago."



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

USE WINDFALL WELL

Government should lead from the front, ensure that capital spending kickstarts growth-enhancing economic activity

THE DECISION OF the RBI's central board on Monday to accept the recommendations of the Bimal Jalan Committee and transfer Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the government this fiscal year should signal a welcome end to the conflict between the finance ministry and India's central bank on at least the issue of quantum of transfers to the exchequer. The souring of ties between the two had led to the exit of former governor, Urjit Patel, and his deputy, Viral Acharya, and a face-off later between the Jalan Committee and the secretary, economic affairs, the government's nominee on the panel.

With the RBI board endorsing the Committee's suggestions, the central bank will pay out a little over Rs 1.23 lakh crore of surplus and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions on its books in FY 20. This effectively means a windfall of Rs 86,000 crore for the government considering that it has already budgeted for a surplus or dividend of Rs 90,000 crore from the RBI this fiscal. Now that the debate on transfer of excess capital has been settled, the government should quickly get down to sequestering or earmarking this one-time payout, distinct from the Consolidated Fund of India, for public investment or spending on projects. There is a compelling case for that now. With India's growth engine sputtering, reflected in a decline in private investment, little or no risk-taking by industry or businessmen and now, worryingly, a fall in demand — with consumers worried about incomes and jobs loath to spend — and no leeway for a fiscal stimulus, it is only the government which can make up for the slack. That's why it is important not to lose the opportunity to utilise the windfall gain unlike in the past when receipts from spectrum auctions of over Rs 1 lakh crore on two occasions were used for revenue expenditure and to pare the fiscal deficit. Instead of putting away these funds for recapitalisation of banks, as has been suggested by some, including the former chief economic advisor, Arvind Subramanian, the government should productively approve these funds by identifying projects where land acquisition and other statutory approvals have been obtained. These could feature even projects helmed by the private sector.

A close monitoring of projects which lead to creation of durable assets and where the government or one of its arms invests these funds, including in equity, can help kickstart growth enhancing economic activity and also help generate good returns down the line. The timing, too, is opportune with the RBI having lowered interest rates by 110 basis points starting from February this year. With other headwinds, such as the threat of a global downturn and limited tools in the hands of central banks to provide another boost this time around, it is the government which should lead from the front. Like transmission of interest rates, the impact of such capital spending will be felt only after a few quarters, which is why policymakers should move fast on this.

WRIT IN FLAME

Fires in Brazil's rainforests are a warning Brazil's climate-sceptic president must heed

FOREST FIRES ARE not exceptional in the Amazon. Flames are used routinely to clear overgrown pastures, crop residues, and roadside vegetation. But this year, fires in the rainforests have assumed alarming proportions. Brazil's National Institute of Space Research (INPE) has reported nearly 72,000 fires in the Amazon this year, more than 9,000 of them over the past 10 days. Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro, an outspoken sceptic of environmental concerns, initially dismissed the severity of the outbreak: He called the INPE data a "big lie", sacked the agency's head, and claimed that "NGOs had started the fires in order to discredit his government". However, faced with international criticism, Bolsonaro has deployed the army to contain the blaze.

Stretching across 5.5 million sq km, the Amazon is home to more than 30 million people, about two million of them belong to the region's 400-odd indigenous communities. The rainforests contain more than 10 per cent of the Earth's biodiversity. They produce nearly 20 per cent of the oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere and play a major role in many of the processes that make the planet habitable. The forests are a buffer against climate change. According to a paper published in 2007 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, the Amazon can absorb 9-14 decades of human-induced carbon dioxide emissions. Deforestation will put all these ecosystem services of the rainforests in peril.

Brazil, which controls a lion's share of the Amazon, is the world's largest exporter of beef — last year, the country exported a record 1.64 million tonnes. Brazil also exported a record 83.3 million tonnes of soya in 2018, up 22.2 per cent from 2017. The US-China trade war has led to Beijing increasing its soya imports from Brazil. Environmental groups allege that the surge in Brazil's beef and soya exports has come at the cost of the Amazon. Such links could be tenuous. But there is no doubt that Bolsonaro's government has thrown its weight behind the commercial exploitation of the rainforest. He has cut the budget of the country's environmental protection agency, IBAMA, by 24 per cent and made FUNAI, the agency responsible for supporting indigenous people, subordinate to the country's agriculture ministry. Brazil has lost nearly 3,000 sq km of forest cover since Bolsonaro assumed office in January, according to INPE data. The Amazon fires should be a warning the president must heed.

10,000 HOURS

Turns out no amount of practice can make up for a lack of natural talent. But there are easier routes to living your dreams

IF YOU DREAM big and work hard," millionaire celebrities are fond of saying, "nothing can stop you". It is precisely this kind of naive optimism that lies at the core of the 10,000-hour rule, articulated by Malcolm Gladwell in *Outliers* (2008). The crux of this theory is that more than talent, interest or even natural ability, "10,000 hours is the magic number for greatness". A new study by psychologists at the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, has confirmed what most people — those who could not become Tendulkar or Beethoven or Picasso — already know. While practice is important, if you don't have it in you to begin with, it doesn't make perfect.

The basis for Gladwell's now clichéd formulation was research conducted among violinists in 1993 that found the difference between "good" and "great" is clocking in the "magic number". The new study finds that the best violinists (and by extension, practitioners of any skill) often don't practise as much as their less talented counterparts and yet, excel to a greater degree. The nub of the new findings is twofold: First, no matter how much time most people spend on the basketball court, they aren't going to become Michael Jordan. Second, there are indeed people born with it.

However, this need not cause despondency. In the era of celebrity and social media, there are other ways to live all your dreams. Every *Bigg Boss* contestant has managed to get rich and/or famous by being publicly obnoxious. Then there's the fact that being good at one thing allows you to indulge your hobbies and get paid for it — TV channels insist on subjecting viewers to Bollywood celebrities playing sports. A good PR agent and the right connections can take you a lot further than 10,000 hours.



RAJU RAMACHANDRAN AND CHANDER UDAY SINGH

Historians may pay keen attention to this period in Supreme Court. Is it facing an ADM Jabalpur moment?

WAY BACK IN 1952, the Supreme Court said in no uncertain terms that when it came to fundamental rights, the Constitution had assigned it the role of "a sentinel on the *qui vive*". As the Court turns 70 in a few months, is the sentinel sufficiently alert, or is it in danger of losing the plot?

The Emergency years are acknowledged as the Court's most forgettable period, with the Court touching the nadir in the *ADM Jabalpur* case. Four judges out of five (with the honourable exception of Justice H R Khanna) accepted the government's contention that the right to life and personal liberty did not exist under a proclamation of Emergency. Apart from accepting such an outrageous legal submission, there were naive observations including an expression of "a diamond-bright, diamond-hard hope" that the fears of the detenus would never come to pass and that care for them was "almost maternal". The renowned jurist, H M Seervai, wryly noted that even before the SC had handed out these good conduct certificates to the Central and state governments, P Rajan, an engineering college student in Kerala, had been murdered by torture with iron and wooden rollers.

Many years later in 2017, in the right to privacy case (*KS Puttaswamy v. Union of India*), the Supreme Court overruled *ADM Jabalpur*. One judge went so far as to say that the *ADM Jabalpur* case was an aberration in the constitutional jurisprudence of the country and felt that the majority opinion deserved to be buried "ten fathoms deep" with "no chance of resurrection". Yet, just two years after *Puttaswamy*, questions have now been raised on whether the Court is reverting to an *ADM Jabalpur* phase.

The *New York Times*, in its August 23 edition, reported that more than 2,000 Indian citizens in Kashmir have been detained without authority of law, and without recourse. Many have been unconstitutionally flown out in military aircraft and incarcerated without due process in Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi. Included amongst them are the president of the J&K High Court Bar Association, a leading businessman, an anti-corruption activist and journalists, university professors, Arabic scholars, and even children as young as 14 years.

The *NYT* reiterated what has been reported in some independent Indian media

Untold human suffering has been visited upon a 1.25 crore populace as a 'preventive' measure, and continues with little or no let-up three weeks later. But two different benches of the SC have taken at face value the stand of the government on the need for such a drastic clampdown and suspension of not just civil liberties, but the very right to life and liberty that is guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Showing complete faith in the words of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, each of those benches asked the petitioners to wait for some time, as the law officers informed the Court (without giving any details or particulars), that "normalcy" would soon be restored. It was this same enduring faith in the government's word that made eminent SC judges accept the word of the government in 'ADM Jabalpur'.

that the entire Kashmir Valley's 68 lakh people, and parts of Jammu's 54 lakh people, have been under "lock-down" for almost three weeks since the midnight of August 5, with all mobile networks and even telephone landlines disabled, complete curfew, and shutdown of schools and colleges.

Days earlier, Shah Faesal, the first Kashmiri to top the IAS examinations, who cut short a distinguished career to form a political party, was detained without charge at Delhi Airport. He was then flown out without transit remand to Srinagar, as he could not be legally detained in Delhi. This was a sequel to the incarceration or house arrest of all mainstream leaders of registered political parties in Kashmir.

Untold human suffering has been visited upon a 1.25 crore populace as a "preventive" measure, and continues with little or no let-up three weeks later. But two different benches of the SC have taken at face value the stand of the government on the need for such a drastic clampdown and suspension of not just civil liberties, but the very right to life and liberty that is guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Showing complete faith in the words of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, each of those benches asked the petitioners to wait for some time, as the law officers informed the Court (without giving any details or particulars), that "normalcy" would soon be restored. It was this same enduring faith in the government's word that made eminent SC judges accept the word of the government in *ADM Jabalpur*, that the government would never misuse its powers merely because it had suspended the right to life and liberty during the Emergency.

While these events unfold, a SC-mandated exercise hurtles towards a potentially horrific denouement in Assam. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) process of identifying non-Indian citizens has been directed by the Court to be completed by August 31. The Court is not oblivious to the fact that nearly 40 lakh persons who have either been born in India, or have lived in the country for several decades, risk being declared stateless because of a deeply flawed process. Section 3(1)(a) of the Citizens Act, 1955 mandates that every person born in India between Republic Day 1950 and June 30, 1987 shall be a citizen of India by birth, but despite this, the

Coordinator is excluding from the NRC all persons born in India prior to June 30, 1987 on the ground that one parent of such person is either a "doubtful voter (DV)", or a "declared foreigner (DF)", or a "person whose claim for citizenship is pending before a Foreigner's Tribunal (PFT)".

Startlingly, after categorically stating in open court on August 9, that there was no question of excluding persons born in India before June 30, 1987 from the NRC, and that applicants and interveners need not address the Court any further on this aspect, the SC in its order of August 13 upheld the Coordinator's recommendation to *exclude* the lakhs of persons born in Assam from 1950 to 1987. And the primary reason given by the Court for this mass exclusion of lakhs of Indian citizens is that "the entire NRC exercise having been done on the aforesaid basis, the same cannot now be reopened.". In sum, the SC puts administrative convenience above the humanitarian disaster that will be created for lakhs of Indian citizens who may face separation from their families and incarceration in hellish internment camps. All this despite the view expressed by the judges just four days before passing their order that such exclusion would be contrary to the provisions of the Citizenship Act.

On the independence of the judiciary again, the Court has failed to be assertive. The entire basis for the judgment striking down the National Judicial Appointment Commission was that the collegium system is essential to the independence of the judiciary, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. And yet, a collegium recommendation of May 10 for the elevation of a particular judge as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court remains unimplemented. The case questioning the non-elevation is now to be listed "on such date that Hon'ble the Chief Justice on the administrative side may fix". The lack of urgency on the judicial side is distressing.

Judicial historians are likely to pay keen attention to this period in the Court's history. Will this leave a future generation of SC judges as embarrassed as their brethren from the past?

The writers are senior advocates in the Supreme Court



RAJESH AGARWAL

THE APPRENTICE, REBOOTED

India's apprenticeship structure has been revived. Industry must help take it further

THE MOST CELEBRATED employer of apprentices is undoubtedly Donald Trump, who as the host of *The Apprentice* put contestants through a selection process culminating in the famous words, "You're hired!" As president, Trump set up a task force that calls for US education providers and employers to learn from the German apprenticeship model, which "helped lower unemployment rates and contributed to the country's economic success".

The Indian apprenticeship system has neither the celebrity employer nor the cultural moorings of the German system. However, the "guru shishya parampara" has existed for centuries. Making a clean break from the past in 1961, the government ushered in the Apprentices Act, which was applicable to engineering, non-engineering, technology, and vocational courses. It constituted apprenticeship councils and advisors, and placed a statutory obligation on employers to engage apprentices with a stipend and in the ratio prescribed for designated trades. It also imposed a penalty of six months of imprisonment or a fine or both on the employer in case of non-compliance. Until 2014, when the Act was majorly amended, three significant transitions took place in the labour force.

First, employment in the primary sector (largely, agriculture) reduced from 76 per cent to 46 per cent, while increasing in the second-

ary sector from 11 per cent to 23 per cent and most significantly, in the tertiary sector from 13 per cent to 31 per cent. Second, the 1991 economic reforms brought in a golden age for the private sector which led to the number of companies increasing from 0.2 million in 1991 to nearly 0.9 million in 2014, with an estimated employment of 30 million. Finally, MSMEs grew exponentially from 10 million enterprises in 2003 to 46 million in 2014.

By 2014, the apprenticeship model had run out of steam. Its transformation was kick-started by a large-scale amendment of the Act in December 2014, followed by the introduction of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) in 2016. The Central Apprenticeship Council also carried out reforms in July 2019 to expand apprenticeship opportunities.

Today, apprenticeship is a valid path for youth educated beyond grade five to acquire a skill. Their base stipend has been increased, technology has made contractual paperwork and processes seamless and opportunities in the service sector have been opened by making apprenticeships obligatory.

The prescriptive quota regime has made way for a percentage band of 2.5 per cent to 15 per cent, within which employers can decide the number of apprentices. Opportunities have been opened for the SME sector also,

with units having four or more employees now being eligible to keep apprentices either on their own or as a group of employers.

The results have been encouraging. More than 1.1 million candidates and 70,000 companies are now registered on the apprenticeship portal; annual apprenticeships have increased by 60 per cent.

However, challenges remain, which industry can support to address. First, government and industry stakeholders need to promote apprenticeships as a powerful learning tool. Second, MSMEs should leverage third party aggregators to create tailored apprenticeships. Third, although the regulations protect the apprentice's rights, the spirit of the law can only be upheld by the employer by creating a learning experience during the apprenticeship. Finally, the challenges of the new system need to be conveyed to the government periodically, so it does not suffer fossilisation again.

The time has come for India to have its own "celebrity employers" and model of apprenticeship — one which is dynamic, flexible, futuristic, inclusive, convenient, self-regulated and rooted in Indian socio-cultural and economic realities.

The writer is Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Views are personal



AUGUST 28, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

UP GOVT PRECARIOUS THE BATTLE LINES have been drawn for the crucial showdown on the floor of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, which would decide the fate of the six-month-old Banarasi Das Ministry of the Janata (Secular). The Congress (I) has decided to vote against the government. A joint meeting of the state parliamentary board and the executive council was held in Lucknow under the presidency of Mohna Kidwai and taking stock of the political situation, directed its legislature party to topple the Banarasi Das Ministry. Later, the Congress (I) Legislature Party meeting under the presidency of ND Tiwari finalised its strategy.

NAM STRATEGY AT THE HAVANA non-aligned summit, India will go along with the line that representatives of neither the ousted Pol Pot regime nor the Heng Samrin regime now in control in Phnom Penh should be seated at the conference, despite the fact that, technically, the UN still recognises Pol Pot. This was the consensus that emerged at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee for Political Affairs, before External Affairs Minister S N Mishra left for Havana. On the question of the radical Arab demand for Egypt's suspension from NAM, Mishra's brief is to pursue the line that the Palestinian question was the crux of the problem and must be solved for peace in the region.

MOUNTBATTEN KILLED LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN was killed in an accident and immediately the provisional Irish Republican Army took responsibility for his death. The 79-year-old uncle jolt the Duke of Edinburgh was in his yacht, which was cruising off the Irish coast. Suddenly there was an explosion. The yacht was torn into pieces and Lord Mountbatten and others who were with him were thrown overboard. Along with Lord Mountbatten were killed his grandson and a friend. His daughter was seriously injured along with another friend and both are under intensive care in a hospital. The queen said she is shocked.

15 THE IDEAS PAGE

So that Jack can play

Why we need more facilities like Delhi's Siri Fort Sports Complex



CITIES AT CROSSROADS
BY ISHER JUDGE
AHLUWALIA AND
AYUSH KHARE

SIX YEARS AGO, one of us wrote about the Siri Fort Sports Complex in Delhi and the difference it was making to the quality of life of people residing in the city. We decided to revisit the complex to see how it has changed over the years and how it has coped with the fast growing demand for the facilities it offers. Our findings are very encouraging.

There are 14 sports complexes offering facilities for more than 30 sports which were established by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Delhi over the years. They provide space, infrastructure, coaching and "pay and play" facilities at modest charges with discounts for school students and senior citizens. The three largest ones are the Yamuna Complex, the Commonwealth Games Complex and the Siri Fort Complex. From skating rinks and basketball courts to swimming pools and tennis courts, from squash, badminton and golf at Siri Fort to archery and table tennis at Yamuna, and of course, cricket fields, walking/jogging tracks, fitness centres, and yoga facilities — they provide an invaluable environment for recreation and exercise for Delhiites.

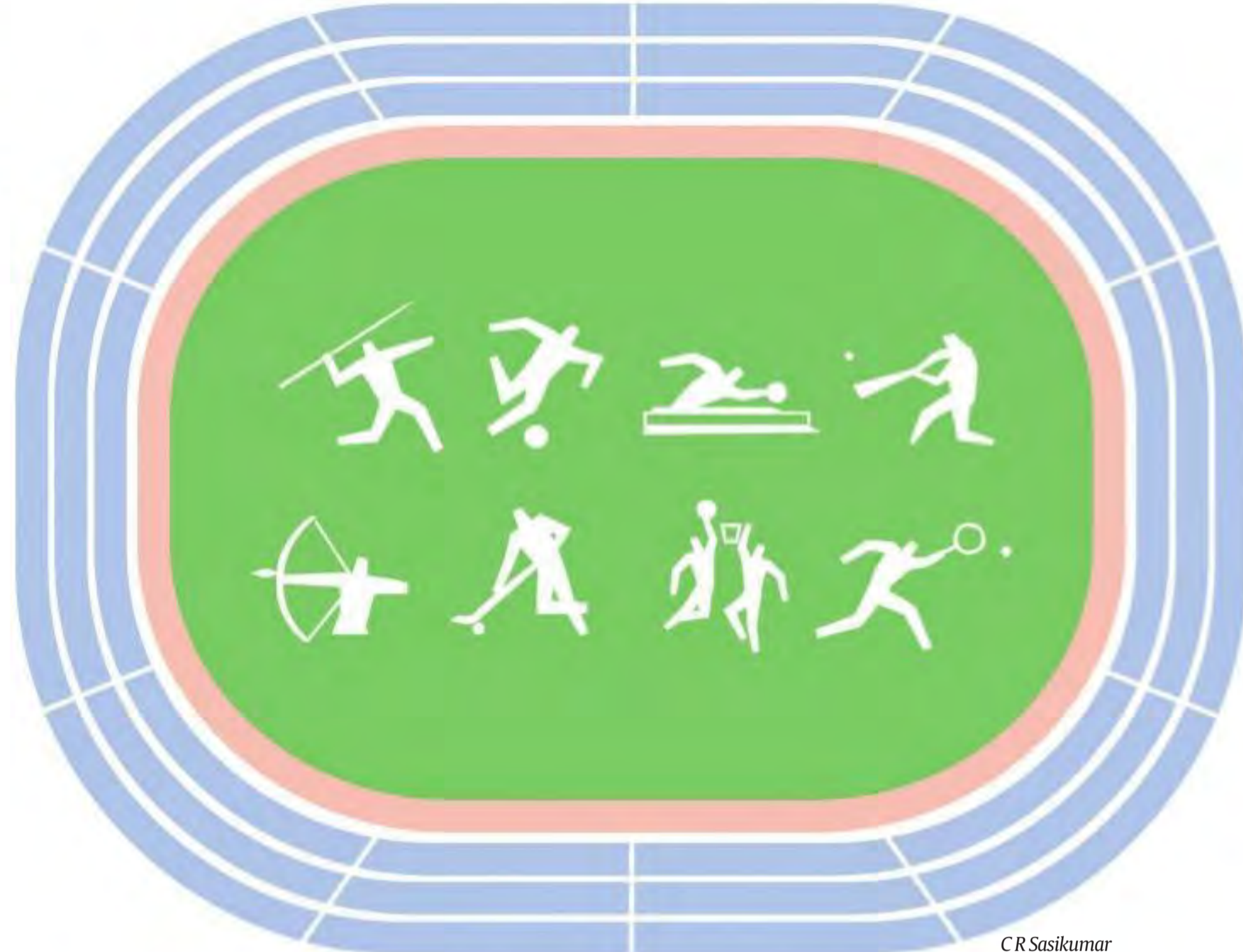
During our visit to the Siri Fort Complex, we found a large number of kids playing after school hours. We saw young parents bringing their toddlers to run around in the children's park next to the swimming pool or families coming together to play their favourite sport. In the evenings, office-goers stopped by for a few games of tennis, while senior citizens, pacing along the walking track, were a common sight.

On the cricket ground, we saw many young ones busy bowling and batting diligently at the nets. Some possibly harbour dreams of playing for India someday. Others have done it before them. The person showing us around pointed out, with some sense of pride, that Virat Kohli started his cricket with his coach Rajkumar Sharma at a similar but much smaller DDA facility at Hari Nagar.

The absolutely state-of-the-art squash and badminton stadium built by the DDA during the Commonwealth Games was there when we visited Siri Fort six years ago, but the growing enthusiasm for badminton in recent years could be seen in the much more lively environment we found inside the stadium. The 30 or so indoor badminton courts were all occupied. The stadium hosts several international tournaments such as the Thomas and Uber Cup and the Indian Open.

About 150-200 students come to the stadium for coaching and many more come for "pay and play". The tennis courts are some of the best in the city and the coach told us how he loved coaching the enthusiastic kids here even though he had to travel from another corner of the city. Siri Fort is also the only complex that hosts a golf driving range. The football ground is well maintained where kids dribbled and showed off their futsal skills.

The Siri Fort complex has blossomed with the years and seems to be meeting a crucial need of the residents of South Delhi for a place to walk, play, swim and to engage with



CR Sasikumar

each other. It is well maintained, well managed and has succeeded in creating a sense of pride in those who use it regularly — members and non-members, the young and old. The footfall in the last six years has increased by about 50 per cent. The complex will soon start its parking facility to accommodate nearly 850 cars. We were told that the senior officials responsible for managing the complex are themselves regulars and therefore have their eyes and ears to the ground.

We met with D Sarkar, commissioner (sports) of the DDA and were surprised to learn that he is a black belt in taekwondo and in his youth had worked as a junior instructor at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute when Tenzing Norgay (the first man to scale the Everest) was the director of field training. Sarkar has been using his knowledge of sports to improve the infrastructure facilities at the sports complexes of the DDA and is also encouraging the youth to use these facilities. It is rare in government to find the right person for the right job, but Sarkar is one.

We also visited the other two large Sports complexes of the DDA — the Yamuna Complex and the Commonwealth Games Complex, to compare. The Yamuna Sports Complex in East Delhi is located in a busy residential area and is nearly twice the size of Siri Fort complex. There being less public parks as well as fewer private clubs in East Delhi, the footfall in the Yamuna Complex is about three times as much as in the Siri complex, although the number of members seems to be fewer. This renders its infrastructure inadequate, which in any case has suffered from disruptions in the course of its development. There was a visible difference in the maintenance of the facilities at the Yamuna complex. The badminton and squash courts looked worn out and we could spot puddles on the football field. The archery and table tennis stadia, which came up for the Commonwealth Games 2010, were a refreshing change. Some of the country's best archers come to practice in this fa-

The Siri Fort complex has blossomed with the years and seems to be meeting a crucial need of the residents of South Delhi for a place to walk, play, swim and to engage with each other. It is well maintained, well managed and has succeeded in creating a sense of pride in those who use it regularly — members and non-members, the young and old. The footfall in the last six years has increased by about 50 per cent.

ciety. Some of the areas which were not required for the Commonwealth Games were left out at that time. There are now plans to develop the first proper skatepark of Delhi and a basketball centre within the complex.

The sports complex at the Commonwealth Games Village in East Delhi is the latest, having come up during the Commonwealth Games 2010. The Olympic size swimming pool and the running tracks were used by the athletes to practise and are some of DDA's best sports facilities. However, the complex could not be completed because of the order of the National Green Tribunal for no further building along the Yamuna floodplains. The Village has facilities only for athletics, badminton, swimming, football, taekwondo and table tennis — far fewer than all other sports complexes. Sadly, during the recent Lok Sabha elections, the facilities were shut and the complex was taken over by Election Commission officials for two months during the summer vacations.

We need more sports facilities like Siri Fort. But, to take full advantage of these facilities, we also need good quality air. Thanks to the windy weather and intermittent downpour, Delhi has been experiencing some of its best (or shall we say least bad) air quality in the last two months. The Air Quality Index (AQI) has dipped to the range of 50-75, labelled as "satisfactory" by the Central Pollution Control Board. A stroll on the walking tracks or a game of tennis, badminton, or football now would do a world of good. Let us hope that the powers that be do not become complacent about the quality of air because the downpour shall pass and winter will be back again. If only we can all work together to improve the quality of air, DDA Sports complexes like Siri Fort will help us breathe.

Ahluwalia is chairperson, ICRIER, Delhi, and former chairperson of the high-powered expert committee on urban infrastructure and services. Khare is a research assistant at ICRIER

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The West has shed no tears for Iraq, Syria and Ukraine, which had gone through similar hardships. Now, it is turning Hong Kong into the forefront of the struggle with China, and, as usual, they will shed no tears for the city's misery." — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

When his heartbeat dropped

In Srinagar lockdown, how a reporter gets news of his sister's miscarriage



ADIL AKHZER

LAL DED, THE Kashmir Valley's main maternity hospital, is just across the river from *The Indian Express* office. And yet, it took nearly eight hours for my family to reach out to me to try and break the shattering news — but they couldn't.

On Tuesday, August 20, my younger sister Aieman (26), an expectant mother, was admitted at Lal Ded hospital. She was expecting her first baby. The mood at our home in Umarabad, 10 km from the city centre, was ecstatic; the wardrobe in her room was filled with baby clothes, diapers and milk powder. Everyone was waiting for August 26, the day doctors had planned a caesarean.

From August 5, Kashmir was under a clampdown — an unprecedented information blackout meant that I had to travel to hospital every night to check on her. After finishing my work in office, a rush to the Media Facilitation Centre and jostling for space on one of the four desktop computers to send out my stories, I would dash to Lal Ded.

On Thursday night, August 22, as per my routine, I hurried to the hospital from the Media Facilitation Centre. My sister was undergoing some medical investigations. I was told that Aieman is doing well but there are some issues with the heartbeat rate of the child. I was assured it is normal. "Doctors have told me that everything is going well and the heartbeat rate is not a big concern," Aieman told me before I left, relieved, for office Thursday midnight.

August 23 was Friday — a strict curfew was back, the roads were blocked with spools of concertina wire and metallic barricades and the movement of civilians was restricted. I went out for stories.

At around 10.30 in the night, after filing my stories, I went for the customary visit to my sister. As I entered the room inside the hospital, I sensed all is not well. In the corner of the room, my father was sitting on the cement floor sobbing, and my sister's father-in-law, a heart patient in his late 60s, was trying to console him. "What has happened?" I asked them. There was complete silence broken by my father's whisper. "Doctors say there is something wrong with the baby," he murmured.

By reflex, I reached into my pocket, brought out my cell phone and tried to dial the number before I realised it is dead. I rushed to the office of the Resident Medical Officer (RMO). I asked her what has happened to the baby, she shook her head and said "sorry" — a word enough to draw the

life out of my legs.

Aieman was upstairs. I couldn't summon the courage to see her. I rushed back to my younger brother and he told me the story of the baby's death and his struggle to reach me during the day.

"Papa, at around 2.30 pm, doctors informed us that there is no movement of the baby. They told us that it means the baby is no more," Tabish told me in the corridor. Tabish lovingly calls me Papa instead of Bhaiya. "Papa, I walked to your office twice but it was locked. I didn't know where and how to find you. When I was tired, I gave up and came back to the hospital, to wait for you to come".

When the doctors broke the news to Tabish, my mother and father were at home. With no access to information and all communication blocked, Tabish travelled home to inform them. He later travelled to my sister's home at Humhama, on the outskirts of Srinagar city, to break the news.

The drop in the heartbeat of my sister's baby couldn't be communicated, on time, to the senior doctor as the cell phones were dead. My brother told me that the hospital had to send a vehicle to fetch her and when she arrived in the evening, she could only re-confirm that the baby is no more.

The doctors at the hospital regret that the ban on communication prevented them from real time communication to the senior gynaecologist that could have saved the baby. My sister and her husband too have a regret — if the phones worked, maybe a single call could have saved their baby.

On Saturday, August 24, the distraught doctors administered medicine to my sister for induced labour pain. It worked. The baby came out, lifeless.

Our case was not the only one at the hospital. Every patient has his or her own story. One has been trying desperately to reach his family members in Pulwama because he has run out of money; an attendant from Bandipore, who had to send a message to her family about the critical condition of the baby through an ambulance driver. Tabish, who stayed in the hospital all these days and nights, told me many more stories — of despair, agony and helplessness.

I took the lifeless body of the baby boy in my lap, we boarded the vehicle and went to Humhama. As the parents of my brother-in-law and my parents had a last glimpse, we lowered him into the grave with moist eyes.

From the graveyard, I drove to the Media Facilitation Centre to attend the official press briefing, where the J&K government spokesman, Rohit Kansal, said that the "situation is improving".

Postscript: It has been five days since my sister's miscarriage. Most of our close relatives, my uncles and aunts, don't know about it. They might still be waiting for good news.

The writer is a senior correspondent with The Indian Express's Srinagar bureau. adil.akhzer@expressindia.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PCI'S FAILURES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The wrong counsel' (IE, August 27). It is regrettable that the Press Council of India is dictating terms to the local media in Jammu and Kashmir. Unbiased media is reliable source of news, especially in an area like J&K. People rely on legitimate and independent sources of information, not government press releases. Freedom of speech and expression is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution which can only be suspended when an Emergency is declared. By taking the side of the government, the PCI has failed its mandate.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

CLIMATE CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The last window' (IE, August 27). India must, in order to keep up with the global phenomenon of climate change, shift its focus to deal with rising temperatures. One of the alarming effects of global warming is rising water levels which will, in the long term, result in the loss of land. This poses a major threat for all coastal cities and will trigger migration. India has a large coastline and it is in India's interest to take steps toward sustainable development to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Stuti Srivastava via e-mail

TOKYO BECKONS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The champion' (IE, August 27). Two years ago, P V Sindhu and Nozomi Okuhara had battled in a World Badminton Championship final for 110 minutes, the longest final in the tournament's his-

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

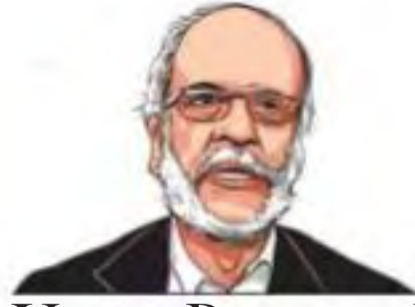
THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

FOR ASIA'S SAKE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Asian cats, Western monkeys' (IE, August 27). India and China together can check Western powers dictating matters on Asian affairs. That at the current juncture would be akin to placing two sharp swords in one sheath. However, geopolitical demands should bring the two Asian powers together.

Suraj Bhadoriya Delhi



VINAY BHARAT-RAM

Learning from Keynes

Revive the animal spirits, investment will follow

NOW THAT THE euphoria over the projected \$5-trillion GDP number has calmed down, let us look at some ground realities. These could not be better summed up than by Harish Damodaran ('Death of enterprise', IE, June 29). To quote: "Since around October, even the big guns have been feeling the heat, with sales of everything — from cars, two-wheelers and trucks to consumer staples — slowing down. Worse, nobody knows when growth is returning. The slowdown, now clearly visible, could be the cumulative result of an extended investment famine, which, together with demonetisation, GST, agrarian distress and high real interest rates, has taken a toll on incomes and spending."

There is a little doubt that we are on the downward slope of a business cycle. While no two business cycles are identical in terms of their cause and duration, there are important lessons to be learnt from how they began and how they were tackled. The Great Depression of the 1930s began with the collapse of the stock market on the New York Stock Exchange in 1929 and well over a decade. Since then we thought we had learnt to tame such a depression thanks to the General Theory of John Maynard Keynes, who propagated that the basic cause of a downturn was the absence of aggregate effective demand. This was a consequence of people's preference to hold on to

money at a time of uncertainty. It followed that there would be a fall in the rate of saving and investment.

After the start of World War II, which presaged the recovery on account of the massive demand for armaments, Keynesian theory became the accepted wisdom in the developed world. There was, however, this rider: Fiscal conservatism is not desirable during a downturn in the economy and some deficit financing may be required even if it leads to a little temporary inflation. This was ridiculed specially by the Chicago monetarists, who claimed that a little inflation is like a little pregnancy which cannot remain "little".

Keynesian wisdom prevailed well into the Seventies with a further rider that there is a trade off between inflation and full employment. In other words, if full employment is the goal of policy makers, they should tolerate some inflation in the interim. If zero inflation is the goal, then full employment is unlikely. There was empirical evidence for this.

Keynesian theory was jolted during the Seventies. The first oil shock with a 400 per cent rise in oil prices halted growth in the industrial world, which gave rise to a phenomenon known as stagflation. Keynesian wisdom was in question, although Paul Samuelson vigorously defended Keynes saying that stagflation — a combination of stagnation and

inflation — was the consequence of a supply shock and quite consistent with Keynesian theory. However, the tide turned against Keynes with the second oil shock of 1978.

In the meantime, redemption came to Friedrich von Hayek, Keynes's lifelong rival, who was dead set against monetary measures to tame the business cycle. He gained traction in the Eighties when Margaret Thatcher in the UK and Ronald Reagan in the US adopted his ideas, which led to prosperity. Milton Friedman, Hayek's protégé, became the leading light of the monetarist school at the University of Chicago. Consequently, the economics profession got divided between the salt water (those economists associated with the universities on the eastern or western seaboard of the US) and the fresh water ones (associated with Chicago and the universities around Lake Michigan). The former called themselves the New Keynesians and the latter, the New Classics. The New Classics, who had their say from 1978 onwards, faced the Great Recession in 2008.

The Great Recession was unquestionably a financial crisis beginning with irresponsible housing loans in America, which spread to the entire banking system in the Western world. So, comparing the two downturns, what lessons can we learn for India? One important point brought out by Thomas Piketty's num-

bers is that high growth and low-income inequality prevailed during the Keynesian years (1945-75) compared to the periods before and after that.

In India, income uncertainty and the desire to hold on to the money was in all probability triggered by demonetisation and later, by initial hiccups of the GST plan. Macroeconomic policy, however, was more in tune with the Chicago school. That is, zero tolerance for inflation without concern for the possible impact on employment. The consequences are before us. India has managed low levels of inflation and achieved targeted budget deficits, but look at the state of employment. Never have we had such high levels of joblessness. And with no concern about Piketty's numbers, we are trying to control the disparity between the rich and the poor through taxing the upper layer without a care about declining growth numbers.

What we need is low real interest rates and greater liquidity in the system to revive the animal spirits of businessmen. Only then can greater investment follow. This is a time to take some lessons from Keynes and possibly retain some advisors from the "salt water" school of thought.

Bharat-Ram is the author of Evolution of Economic Ideas

16 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



PAKISTAN

Court summons counter-terror official on Hafiz Saeed's petition

Lahore: A Pakistani court on Tuesday summoned an official of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police on a petition filed by Mumbai attack mastermind and JuD chief Hafiz Saeed challenging his arrest in the terror financing cases. The Lahore High Court held the hearing after Saeed and 67 other leaders of Jammat-ud-Dawah (JuD) and Falah-i-Insaniat (FIF) filed a fresh petition removing the objection of the Registrar office. The LHC Registrar office earlier had raised an objection on the petition of Saeed and others that they attached pictures of mosques with it (petition) which were built on the occupied land in order to give it a "religious colour".

WEST ASIA

'Hezbollah plans calculated strike against Israel'

Beirut: Hezbollah is preparing a "calculated strike" against its enemy Israel after suspected Israeli drones crashed in Beirut but it aims to avoid a new war, two sources allied to Hezbollah told Reuters on Tuesday. A reaction "is being arranged in a way which wouldn't lead to a war" that Hezbollah does not want, one of the sources said. "The direction now is for a calculated strike, but how matters develop, that's another thing." Lebanon has characterised the drone incident as a declaration of war by Israel.

SPACE STATION

Spacecraft with humanoid robot docks at ISS

Moscow: It was second time lucky on Tuesday as an unmanned spacecraft carrying Russia's first humanoid robot into orbit docked at the International Space Station following a failed attempt over the weekend. "Sorry for the delay. Got stuck in traffic. Am ready to carry on with work," the robot's Twitter account said in a jokey first tweet from space. Copying human movements and designed to help with high-risk tasks, the lifelike robot named Fedor is due to stay on the ISS until September 7.

USA

2 children dead as stolen police car crashes

TWO CHILDREN were killed and at least 10 people injured, including other children, on Monday in a multi-vehicle crash involving a stolen police car in Dayton, Ohio, police said. The crash began with a reported stabbing in Dayton, police said, and a pickup truck accident in the suburb of Riverside at about 7.30 pm. Apparently, the suspect in the reported stabbing fled that scene and then crashed the pickup, police said. While Riverside police were looking for the driver of the crashed truck, the suspect stole a police vehicle. He then crashed the police car onto two other vehicles.

AFTER TRUMP EXPRESSES WILLINGNESS TO MEET ROUHANI

Iran: No US talks till sanctions lifted

Washington should take the first step, Iran's President says

PARISA HAFEZI
DUBAI, AUGUST 27

IRAN WILL not talk to the United States until all sanctions imposed on Tehran are lifted, President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday, a day after President Donald Trump said he would meet his Iranian counterpart to try to end a nuclear standoff.

Trump said on Monday he would meet Iran's president under the right circumstances to end a confrontation that began when Washington pulled out of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with six powers and reimposed sanctions on the country. Trump also said talks were under way to see how countries could open credit lines to help Iran's economy afloat. Rouhani said Iran was always ready to hold talks. "But first the US should act by lifting all illegal, unjust and unfair sanctions imposed on Iran," he said in a speech broadcast live on state TV. Speaking at a G-7 summit in



Rouhani at an event in Tehran on Monday. Reuters

the French resort of Biarritz, Trump ruled out lifting economic sanctions to compensate for losses suffered by Iran. "Washington has the key for positive change... So take the first step... Without this step, this lock will not be unlocked," Rouhani said. European parties to the deal have struggled to calm the deepening confrontation between Iran and the US since Trump pulled Washington out last year. French President Emmanuel Macron has led efforts to defuse tensions and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif flew in to the Biarritz G7 meeting unexpectedly on Sunday for side talks with French officials. Since ditching the deal last year, Trump has pursued a policy of "maximum pressure" to try to force Iran into broader talks to restrict its ballistic missile programme and end its support for proxy forces. **REUTERS**

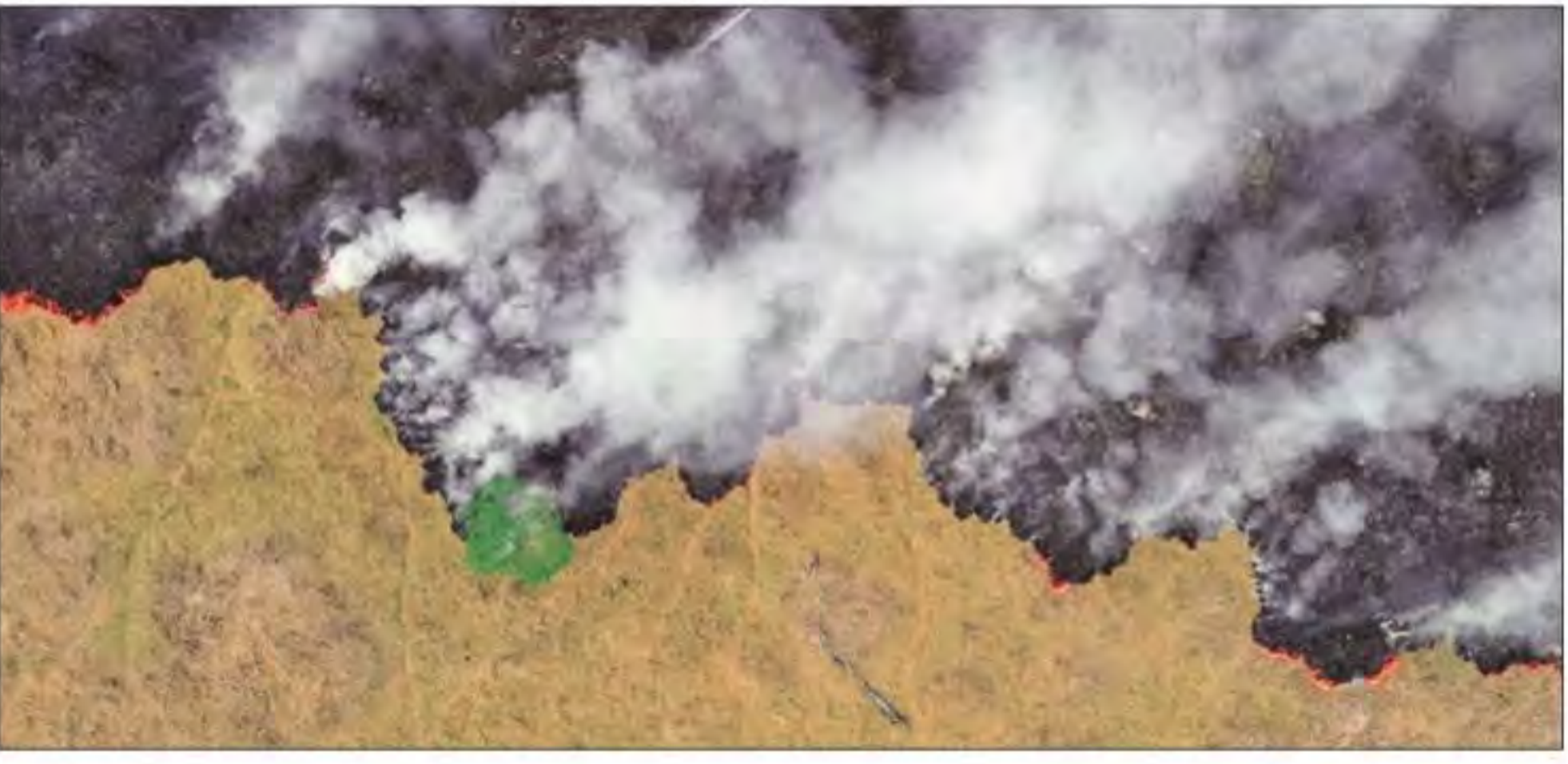
US-Indian former Trump hotel partner held for 'stealing luggage' from airport

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 27

DINESH CHAWLA, a prominent Indian-origin hotelier in the US, who previously partnered with President Donald Trump's family on four hotels, has been arrested on charges of stealing bags from the Memphis airport for the "thrill and excitement," according to media reports.

According to police records, airport security footage recorded Chawla, the CEO of Chawla Hotels, on August 18 removing another passenger's suitcase from a baggage claim carousel at the Memphis International Airport in the US state of Tennessee and putting it in his car before taking a flight. The airport police said they searched the car and discovered the suitcase and another piece of luggage that had been taken from the airport a month earlier, *The New York Times* reported. Chawla, 56, was arrested when he returned to Memphis on Thursday and admitted to stealing the two bags and their contents. He was later released on bail. The records also said Chawla had confessed to stealing other luggage "over a long period of time".

Chawla told an officer "that he knows stealing luggage is wrong, but he does it for the thrill and excitement," the *NYT* quoted the records as saying. Chawla and his brother Suresh Chawla operate 17 hotels in Mississippi and are constructing a luxury hotel in Cleveland, an undertaking that until February was a joint venture with the Trump Organisation. The Trump brothers, Donald Trump Jr and Eric, withdrew from the undertaking, saying that "harassment" from Democrats led to that decision, but praising the Chawlas. **PTI**



An aerial view shows deforestation caused by fires in the Amazon jungle in Porto Velho, Rondonia State, Brazil. Reuters

Bolsonaro says Brazil will only accept G-7 Amazon aid if Macron withdraws 'insults'

LISANDRA PARAGUASSU & JAMIE MCGEEVER
BRASILIA, AUGUST 27

BRAZIL PRESIDENT Jair Bolsonaro said Tuesday he wants French President Emmanuel Macron to retract "insults" against him before he considers accepting aid from the G-7 nations who offered \$20 million to help fight forest fires in the Amazon.

The two leaders have become embroiled in a war of words in recent days, with Bolsonaro mocking Macron's wife on Facebook



JAIR BOLSONARO
Brazil President

and accusing the French leader of disrespecting Brazil's sovereignty. Macron called Bolsonaro a liar, and said Brazilian women are proba-

bly ashamed of their President. The Amazon fires have created a major crisis for the far-right government of Bolsonaro, who is losing popularity at home and finding himself increasingly isolated on the global stage. Initially, Bolsonaro said Brazil did not have the resources to tackle the blazes. Then, in the wake of the G-7 offer, his Environment Minister Ricardo Salles called the aid "welcome." Speaking to reporters in Brasilia on Tuesday, Bolsonaro said: "First of all, Macron has to withdraw his insults. He called me a liar. Before we talk or accept anything from France... he must withdraw these words then we can talk," Bolsonaro said. **REUTERS**

Epstein victims testify weeks after his death

BRENDAN PIERSON
NEW YORK, AUGUST 27

WOMEN WHO say Jeffrey Epstein sexually abused them voiced anger and defiance in a packed New York courtroom on Tuesday during a dramatic hearing less than three weeks after the finan-

cialer killed himself while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. "I feel very angry and sad that justice has never been served in this case," Courtney Wild, one of the women, told the hearing before US District Judge Richard Berman. "I will not let him win in death," another woman, Chauntae Davies, told the court.

Federal prosecutors appeared at the hearing to ask the judge to formally dismiss their case against Epstein. Berman explained why he gave the women and their lawyers an opportunity to address the court. "The victims have been included in the proceeding today

CZECH REPUBLIC

BRAIN-DEAD WOMAN GIVES BIRTH

A Czech clinic says a baby girl has been born to a brain-dead woman kept on life support for nearly three months to allow her pregnancy to go ahead. The University Hospital in the second-largest Czech city of Brno said Tuesday the 2.1-kg baby was born by caesarean section when the mother was 34 weeks pregnant. The hospital did not provide details on the baby's health.

China's Communist Party mobilises against Hong Kong protests

ANDREW HIGGINS
HONG KONG, AUGUST 27

ACROSS THE border from Hong Kong, the Chinese Communist Party screams its presence with banners and slogans on nearly every street. Yet in the former British colony, where China's ruling party confronts what it calls a "life and death" struggle against a turbulent protest movement, it is invisible: It is not registered and has no publicly declared local members.

But in Hong Kong, this officially nonexistent organisation is in the vanguard of defending Chinese rule in the face of its biggest public resistance since Xi Jinping came to power in 2012. The party, operating in the shadows through individuals and organisations, is driving an increasingly firm pushback against the anti-government protests, now in their 13th week.

Parrotting slogans scripted by the Communist Party on the mainland, activists in a host of local pro-China organisations have mobilised to discredit the protesters as violent hooligans bent on wrecking the city. It is a message supported by the party's main proxy in the territory, the Central Liaison Office in Hong Kong, which formally represents the Chinese government.

They mostly ignore the huge peaceful protests and focus instead on the periodic clashes between small bands of protesters and police officers, who this weekend fired rounds of teargas and used water cannon trucks for the first time against brick-throwing demonstrators.

Representatives of 15 pro-Beijing business groups and associations linked to Chinese provinces gathered recently in a Hong Kong office block to take turns reciting pledges of support for China. They then stood together, pumping their fists and

AUSTRALIAN WRITER HELD IN CHINA FACES ESPIONAGE CHARGE

Canberra: A Chinese-born Australian writer held in China since January has been formally arrested on suspicion of espionage, the Australian and Chinese governments said on Tuesday, amid growing diplomatic tension between Canberra and Beijing.

Yang Hengjun, a former Chinese diplomat turned online journalist and blogger, was detained in the southern city of Guangzhou while waiting for a transfer to Shanghai, after flying in from New York. He was later moved to the capital Beijing. **REUTERS**

chanting in unison: "Stop the violence, end the turmoil."

The event was organised by the Fujian Hometown Association, which represents immigrants to Hong Kong from Fujian, an eastern Chinese province, and their descendants.

The association has no formal links to the Communist Party, which in Hong Kong has operated covertly since it put down roots with just seven members nearly a century ago, under British rule. Colonial authorities outlawed the party, which took power in Beijing in 1949, but tolerated its existence, so long as it stayed out of sight.

By the time China took back the city in 1997, the underground party apparatus had grown to include thousands of members and many thousands of supporters outside its formal ranks. Mobilisation efforts have increased since, reaching a fever pitch in recent days as groups like the Fujian association have plunged into politics, rallying members to denounce the protest movement. **NYT**

Bangladesh court orders 'virgin' removed from marriage certificates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, AUGUST 27

THE WORD "virgin" must be removed from Muslim marriage certificates in Bangladesh, the country's top court has said, a landmark verdict after campaigners challenged the "humiliating and discriminatory" term. Under the South Asian country's Muslim marriage laws, a bride has to select one of three options on the certificate — whether she is a *kumari* (virgin), a widow or divorced.

In a brief verdict on Sunday, the court ordered the government to remove the term and replace it with "unmarried", deputy attorney general Amit Talukder said.

The court is expected to publish its full verdict by October, with the changes to the certificate expected to come into effect then.

"It is a landmark verdict," Aynun Nahar Siddiqua, a lawyer for the groups which filed the

Under the country's Muslim marriage laws, a bride has to select one of three options on the certificate — whether she is a kumari (virgin), a widow or divorced

case challenging the term in 2014, said on Monday.

Rights groups have long criticised the term — used in certificates since they were introduced in 1961 — saying it is "humiliating and discriminatory", and that it breaches the privacy of the woman getting married.

The judgement also ordered authorities to introduce the options "unmarried, widower or divorced" for the groom on the certificate.

Bangladesh is the world's third-largest Muslim majority nation and nearly 90 per cent of its 168 million population are Muslims.

THE CITY-STATE INTENDS TO ROLL OUT AUTONOMOUS BUS SERVICES IN 2022

Automated buses dodge peacocks, tourists in Singapore test

JOHN GEDDIE
SINGAPORE, AUGUST 27

ROAMING PEACOCKS, meandering tourists and curbside bushes were all causing headaches this week for operators of one of the first autonomous bus shuttle services to hit public roads in Singapore. Passengers found themselves almost outnumbered by bus stewards checking their seatbelts were tightly fastened as ST Engineering began testing four vehicles in the coastal district of Sentosa.

Singapore, ranked second behind the United States in its preparedness for wide-scale driverless transport in a recent

KPMG report, plans to deploy autonomous buses in three districts of the island from 2022.

The latest trial, due to run until November 15, is being closely watched by tech firms and automakers around the world following a series of mishaps.

"Public safety is our top priority," Singapore's transport ministry said in a joint statement with ST Engineering. Tan Kai Kwan, chief robotics engineer at ST Engineering's Land Systems arm, said the test was "nerve-wracking", but stressed the safety precautions taken.

Those included a human driver hovering over the self-rotating steering wheel, ready to



The latest trial of automatic buses is due to run until November 15. Reuters

snatch back control in an instant.

On the first day of the trial on Monday, roadside bushes lightly buffeted by the wind and wandering beachgoers were enough to trigger the bus' many sensors, bringing it to a juddering halt as it trundled along quiet roads.

Tan said the most "dangerous beasts" encountered so far were the roaming peacocks which fly unexpectedly into the road.

A similar test is underway on roads around a university campus in the centre of the island. Tan said with advances in technology, the plan is for safety drivers to eventually retreat to remote control centers although he did not put a timeframe on

that happening.

In 2016, a self-driving car being tested in the island state collided with a truck as it was changing lanes. The were no injuries but similar accidents in the US have been fatal.

Still, the few intrepid tourists who managed to navigate the on-demand service on the trial's first day in Singapore did not seem fazed by their robotic navigator.

"It's pretty cool but at the same time it feels similar to a normal bus," said Stephen Byrne, a 20-year old student from Ireland. "I suppose that is a good thing, it's not too much of a shock. It's probably more safe than being in some human's hands." **REUTERS**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Charan Gopal Shriyani, F/O Dishan R/O C2/1604, Supertech Livingstone, Crossing Republic, Ghaziabad have changed minor son name Dishan Charan Shriyani. 0040506339-5

It is for general notice that I, Astha Madhotra, D/O Sh. Ranjan Madhotra, resident of D-11 Street Number-5, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 inform that name of mine has been wrongly written as Aastha Madhotra in my passport. The actual name of mine is Astha Madhotra respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040509579-1

I, Himanshu Dhankar, S/O Virender Singh, R/O-C-14, Vijay-Vihar, Ph-2, Rohini, N. Delhi-110085, confirm that in my educational documents my father name wrongly mentioned as Virendra Singh instead of Virender Singh. 0040509568-7

I, hitherto known as Puran Singh S/O Sh. Jagdish Singh, Village Chitauli, Post-Upper Bangur, Teh & Distt. -Hapur, U.P. -245101, have changed my name to 'Ajay Singhaniya' for all future purposes. 0040509581-1

I, Zaiat Uddin S/O Abdul Latif R/O, 5020 Gali Baghchichi Wali Kucha Rehman Chandni Chowk Delhi -110006, have changed my name to Jalaluddin, Permanently. 0070671883-1

I, Vipin Walia S/O Harmesh Chand R/O A-9, Sector-27, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name from Vipin Walia to Vipin Walia for all future purposes. 0040509603-2

I, Vikas Yadav S/O Vijay Vir Singh R/O A-304, Nanda Devi Apartment, Plot No-19, Sector-10, Dwarka Delhi-110075, have changed my minor son name from Vansh Singh alias Vansh Yadav aged 13 years to Vansh Yadav forever 0070671878-1

I, Vijay Kumar Suman S/O-Kedar Sah R/O-H.No.1010, G.F., Gali No.32, Kh.No.66, Jafraabad Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Vijay Sah, for all purposes. 0040509665-2

I, Vijay Kumar Kinger S/O Bhagwan Dass R/O-E/2247, Shastri-Nagar, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Vijay Kumar for all future purposes. 0040509592-3

I, Vijay Chauhan S/O Daya Nidhan Mahto R/O RZ-112/344, Street-1C, Shivpuri, West Sagarpur, New Delhi-46, have changed my name from Vijay to Vijay Chauhan for all purpose in future. 0040509631-1

I, Sweta Chack D/O Munna Lal R/O-Flat-16, Rainbow Apartments, Pocket-6, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi have changed my name to Shweta Chack. 0040509606-7

I, Satyen Kumar Vaghela S/O Madanlal Vaghela R/O-GC CRPF, Greater Noida (UP), have changed my Son's Name from Ayush kumar vaghela to all future purposes. 0040509568-5

I, Satish Kumar S/O Kanhiya Lal R/O 84 Triveni Apartments, Vikas Puri Delhi have changed name to Satish Kumar Sapra for all purposes. 0040509422-1

I, Sanchita Dubey D/O Shri J.P. Dubey R/O F-73, Sector-20, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name to Sanchita Pandey for all future purposes. 0040509555-1

I, S.T. Daniel Haokip, S/O Lethkohao Haokip R/O-D-5 N.I.H.F.W Campus-Munirka New Delhi-110067, have changed my name to Daniel Tilminlun Haokip, for all purposes. 0040509654-4

I, S.M. Onesima Haokip son of Lethkohao Haokip R/O-D-5 N.I.H.F.W Campus Munirka New Delhi-110067 have changed my name to Onesima Manglemsang Haokip, for all purposes. 0040509654-3

I, Ramvati W/O No.13807984 Ex. Sep. Narain Singh R/O-Vill. Bajitpur, Nangal-Thakran, Delhi, have changed my name to Ramrati, for all future Purposes. 0040509592-4

I, Rakesh Kumar Garg S/O-Bishan Lal Garg R/O-1064/3 St.No.7, Bholanath Nagar, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Rakesh Garg, for all purposes. 0040509592-10

I, Rajesh Kumar S/O Ram Sewak R/O-G-132, Shubh-Enclave, Parwana-Road, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, Changed My Name To Rajesh Kumar Bhaskar. 0040509616-7

I, Rajendra Singh S/O Bhup Singh R/O 42, Nagla Khanji, Soron, Uttar Pradesh-207403, that name of my father has been wrongly written as Bhupal in my Pan Card. The actual name of my father is Bhup Singh 0070671880-1

I, Rajendra Prasad S/O Ram Narayan R/O-C-64, 2nd-Floor, C-Block Sector-8, Dwarka New Delhi-110075, have wrongly-written my name Rajendra Prasad instead of Rajinder Prasad, both are same persons. 0040509639-2

I, Iram D/O Hafiz Mohd Haleem R/O-123 Gali No-2 Ziyadeen-Pur New Mustafabad Delhi-110094 Have Changed My Name To Iram Jhan. 0040509606-6

I, Mohan Lal Batra S/O Bhajan Dass Batra R/O 246, Sainik Vihar, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Mohan Batra. 0040509568-8

I, Sunil Kumar S/O Shri Jogender Kumar Sahni doing self employed and R/O GH14/28, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110087, I shall hereafter be known as Sunil Kumar Sahni for all future purpose, intimates that my correct DOB is 06.10.1978 instead of 06.10.1977. 0040509594-1

I, Sunder Vathi Devi, spouse of Balwant Singh Dahiya (S.No. 282807) resident of RZ 5, X 1 Block, New Roshanpura, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, have changed my Name from Sunder Vathi Devi to Sunder Vathi for all future purposes (Wife Affidavit dated 17/08/2019 at New Delhi). 0040509549-1

I, Sunaina Sethi., H.No-5802, Street No-12, Balbir-Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my minor Daughter's name from Vanisha Gill to Vanisha Sethi, for all future Purposes 0040509592-2

I, Soni W/O, Chandrajeet Kumar R/O H.No. 130, Gali No- 3, Surya Vihar Part-2, Seharpur, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003, have changed my name to Smita Sinha for all purposes. 0040509630-1

I, Sneha Yadav D/O Praveen Yadav R/O 174, Punjabibagh Apartments, Rohtak Road, New Delhi-110063. Changed My Name To Sneha Rao. 0040509639-5

I, Rohini Rahate mother of minor daughter, Navvya Rahate R/O-10/201, Orange-County, Adhinsakhand, Part-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad inform that my name is wrongly-written as Rohini S. Rahate in her birth-certificate. My actual name is Rohini Rahate. 0040509606-2

I, Ritu w/o Tarun Sharma R/O TC-9/6, New Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Ritu Sharma. 0040509596-1

I, Siddhartha Tomar S/O Narender Singh Tomar R/O QTR No.118, Type-2, Police Colony, Shakar Pur, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Siddharth Tomar for all future purposes. 0040509580-1

I, Ravinder Dutt Joshi S/O Vagambar Dutt Joshi R/O E269A, Sector-22, Noida have changed my name to Ravindra Joshi S/O Bagamber Dutt Joshi for all future purposes. 0040509603-1

I, Shyam Lal S/O, Kishan Lal Sharma R/O-H.No.G-52, Adhyapak Nagar, Nangli, N.Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Shyam Lal Sharma permanently. 0040509616-4

I, Ranpal Rajput S/O Amar Singh R/O-775-B, Pocket-2, Paschimpuri, N.Delhi-110063 that my minor son's name has been wrongly-written as Arush Rajput aged-16 years in his 10th-Class certificate. But his correct name is Aarush Rajput. 0040509616-5

I, Shubham S/O Pradeep Burman R/O RZ-58 J/8, Tughlakabad Extn, Delhi-110019. Changed My Name To Shubham Burman. 0040509639-6

I, Shisir Kumar Banerjee S/O Sh. Sailesh Chandra Barari R/O I-1759, Ground Floor, Chitrataranjan Park, Delhi-110019, Inform that Shisir Kumar Banerjee and Shishir Kumar Banerjee is one and the same person, that is myself. 0040509623-1

I, Shilpi Agarwal D/O Surinder Narain Puri R/O-C-39/A3, 2nd-Floor, Ardee City, Gurgaon-123003, have changed my name to Shilpi Puri, permanently. 0040509654-2

I, Sharma Gaurav Taradutt S/O Tara Datt Sharma R/O-215 Rampura Patwari Lekh, Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand, have Changed my Name to Gaurav Sharma for all Purposes. 0040509568-2

I, Sesw Mohd Ismail Ghani Sadayan Ebrams, R/O C4/202, 2nd Floor, Bharat City Phase 1, Indraprastha Yojna, Near Tilla Mor, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, have changed my name to Sadayan Ebramsah Ismail Ghani for all purposes. 0070671837-1

I, Savita Malik, have changed my name to Shweta Malik W/O Vivek kadiyav R/O-D-1501, Gusek Homes, Techzone 4, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. I am known by this name at personal and shall be known in future. 0040509473-1

I, Saurabh S/O Ashok Kumar Srivastava R/O-B-603, Mud Apartments, Plot.No.61, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Saurabh Kumar Permanently. 0040509568-3

I, Gunjan Kumari W/O Kumar Umashankar R/O H.No. B 300, Gali No-15, Jai Vihar II, Nangli Road, Najafgarh, New Delhi-43, have changed my name Gunjan Kumari to Gunjan Singh for all purposes. 0070671879-1

I, Km Shayba Saifi D/O Sahabuddin R/O-Amka Road Mohalla Brahmapur Dabri G.B.Nagar U.P. Have Changed My Name To Sahiba Saifi. 0040509665-1

I, Raj Rani D/O Ranjeet Singh W/O Ramesh Dangi, R/O H.No.50, Gali No.B10, Ashok-Vihar Phase-3 Extension, Gurgaon(Haryana), have changed my name to Rani Devi. 0040509606-8

I, R.VIJAYA KUMAR S/O Late Sh. G. Ramachandran R/O H-3/20, Bengali Colony, Mahavir Enclave Part-I, New Delhi-110045 have changed my name to R M VIJAYA KUMAR for all purposes. 0040509570-1

I, Munish Chand Rekbar S/O Deep Chand R/O Qr.no.1, Sector-1, Sadiq Nagar, New Delhi-49, have changed my name to Manish Baghel for all purposes. 0040509595-1

I, Priyanksh Tanwar D/O Kishan Chand Tanwar R/O A-152, Pandav Nagar, New Patel Nagar, Delhi, have changed my name to Priyanksh Tanwar permanently. 0040509572-1

I, Pradeep Pratap Krishnabai Bahadur S/O Krishnabai Singh R/O-PB-2,655/C 40, Block Road, Gangotri Colony, Bhusawal, Jalgaon, Mahatashtra-425201, have changed my name to Pradeep Pratap Krishnabai Singh for all purposes. 0040509485-1

I, Paramjit Singh Grewal S/O Teja Singh R/O A-52, Sector-56, Noida, have changed my name to Paramjit Grewal for all purposes in future (as per affidavit-37AA 849214) 0040509568-4

I, Neetu Wadhwa Mother Of Bhumika Narang R/O 128, G.F, Chander Lok Pitampura Delhi-34, Have Changed My Daughter Name Bhumika Narang To Bhumika. 0040509654-7

I, Nanda Madhab Bhattacharya S/O Indu Madhav Bhattacharya R/O C1/C2 Flat No-110 First Floor, Om Vihar Uttam Nagar, Delhi, have changed my name to Nanda Madhav Bhattacharya permanently. 0040509606-3

I, Avinash S/O Sikander Sharma R/O 563 Near Pradhan Chakki Bijwasan, ND-61, have changed my name to Avinash Sharma for all purposes. 0040509561-1

I, Arvind Kumar S/O, Rajendra Prasad R/O-A-5A/54, Janta-Flats, Janakpuri, N.Delhi-110058 that Neha Verma and Neha both names of one and the same person i.e. my wife. 0040509616-2

I, Ariba Saif W/O Mohammad Rais R/O-3390, Gali Jangli Kuan, Kucha-Pandit, Lal-Kuan, Delhi-110006., changed My Name To Ariba. 0040509639-4

I, Anupam W/O Harish Kumar Gupta R/O-C-204, Sector-1, Avantika, Rohini, New Delhi-110085, have changed my name as Anupama for all future purposes. 0040509552-1

I, Kanchan Kandpal D/O B.D.Kandpal W/O Ramesh Chander R/O-B-334, Dakshinpuri, Pushpa-Bhawan, South-Delhi, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Kanchan Maswal, for all purposes. 0040509639-3

I, Jitendra Chaubey R/O-NZ/104 Royal Nest, plot No-Gh-8b, Tech-Zone-4, Greater Noida(West) UP-201306, have changed my minor daughter's name from Pooja Kumari to Pooja Chaubey. 0040509639-1

I, Jatinder Pal Khurana S/O Ram Prakash Khurana, R/O 44, Goodwill Apartments, Plot No-48, Sector-13Rohini, Delhi-110085, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Jatender Pal in my minor Son Ronit Khurana aged 16 years School Records. The actual name of mine is Jatinder Pal Khurana 0070671876-1

I, Jasleen Gandhi W/O Pawanjit Singh Gandhi R/O-Side No-11, Plot No-5, Third-Floor West Patel-Nagar Delhi-110008, Have Changed My Name To Jasleen Kaur. 0040509616-1

I, Jaskamal Mann, daughter of Shri Kamal Jit Singh Mann, Residence of Flat.no.783, South-Delhi Apartments, Sector-4, Plot.No.8, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078. Having passport bearing no. 52435000 in which my name is mentioned as "Jaskamal Kaur Mann" instead of "Jaskamal Mann" and Jaskamal Kaur Mann and Jaskamal Mann is the name of one and the same person. 0040509654-1

I, Gurjit Singh Sethi S/O Hardarshan Singh Sethi R/O-H.No.11/5975 Kabool-Nagar, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Gurjeet Singh Sethi for all purposes. 0040509592-9

I, Dinesh Kumar S/O Shri Pheran Chand Barsainya, R/O 4/10, Railway Colony, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi-110003, is also known as Dinesh Gupta. Dinesh Kumar and Dinesh Gupta is one and the same person. 0040509567-1

I, Deepal Kumar Mallick S/O Deepak Kumar Mallick R/O.H.No.1418, Tower-C,11th Avenue,Gaur City-2, Greater Noida,G.B.Nagar, U.P.-201009, have changed my name to Deepal Mallick. 0040509568-1

I, Davinder Singh Janjuha S/O Manohar Singh R/O-WZ-110/5 Guru-Nank Nagar Street No.15 Tilak-Nagar Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Davinder Singh. 0040509592-5

I, DESH RAJ S/O GOPAL DASS R/O C-158, FIRST FLOOR, SUSHANT LOK -01, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 have changed my name from DESH RAJ to DESH RAJ KUMAR for all future purposes. 0040509547-1

I, Ajay Keshav Patle S/O, Keshav Patle R/O G-502, Skytech Matrot, Sector-7/6, Noida, have changed my name to Ajay Patle for all purposes. 0040509663-1

I, Kishan Chand S/O Ami Chand R/O A-152 Pandav Nagar, New Patel Nagar, Delhi, have changed my name to Kishan Chand Tanwar permanently. 0040509572-2

I, Khaml Karan S/O Phool Singh R/O H.No-3208/B, Mahindra Park, Shakur Basti Delhi-110034 have Changed My Name Pappu, For All Purposes. 0040509568-6

I, Karuna D/O Vinod Kumar Gurung R/O Vill.Kehla, Tehsil-Bhatiyat, WardNo.4, Kakirajaraal-(160) Chamba, HP-176313 have changed my name to Karuna Gurung. 0040509616-3

I, Kareem Akhtar Mohammed Yaseen S/O Mohammed yaseen Manzoor Ahmed R/O 302, Alankar APT.Block No: A-4 ,R.NO: 24, ULHASNAGAR, THANE 421001 Passport Holder of M 4453402, have changed my name to Kareem Akhtar S/O Mohammed Yaseen and changed permanent address to F-154, 1st Floor, Abu Fazal Enclave part -2, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025, for all purpose. 0040509610-1

I, Charanjeet Kaur W/O Jyot Singh R/o 3/18 Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014 have changed my minor daughter's name from Channur Kaur to Channoor Kaur for all purposes. 0040509557-1

I, Bhogendra Ram S/O Channu Ram R/O-A-67 Vijay-Vihar Phase-2, Sector-4, Rohini Delhi-85, inform that my and my minor son name wrongly-written as Virender Yadav and Krishna Yadav aged 15 years in his school record the actual name of mine and my son is Bhogendra Ram and Krishna Ram. 0040509606-3

I, Avinash S/O Sikander Sharma R/O 563 Near Pradhan Chakki Bijwasan, ND-61, have changed my name to Avinash Sharma for all purposes. 0040509561-1

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I, Anu Kumari W/O Niroj Kumar Pathak R/O H.No.65, Block-F, Kh. No. 21/12/1, Qutub Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi, have changed my name to Anupma Pathak for all future purposes. 0040509614-1

I, Anshu Rani W/O Vinod Singh & D/O Dharamveer Singh born on 23-Aug-1991 R/O 245, Gali-6b/4,K-block, Mahipalpur Extn, Delhi-37, have changed my name to Anshu Singh for all purposes on behalf of affidavit IN-DL45137811956638R. 0040509562-1

I, Ambrish Kant Verma S/O Rama Kant Verma R/O-B-115A, Vikas Nagar Extn., Uttam-Nagar, NewDelhi-59 inform that Ambrishkant Verma and Ambrish Kant Verma are One and the Same Person. 0040509606-4

I, Akankasha Jain D/O Jinenadra Jain. R/O-C-1/401, P.No-72, IV/F, Milan-Vihar, Cghs-Indra Prastha-Extn, Patparganj, Delhi-110092., changed My Name To Akankasha. 0040509616-6

I, Abhinav Sood R/O L-12 Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048 have changed my minor daughter's name from Ayishani Sood to Ayeshni Sood 0070671885-1

I, Suman Rani W/O Suresh Kumar Gulati R/O A-44, 1st-Floor Vikaspuri Delhi-110018. Have changed my Name to Suman Rani Gulati. 0040509592-8

I, Sanjeev Kumar Taneja S/O Brij Lal Taneja R/O-F-1-U-35, Pitampura Delhi-110034., Have Changed My Name To Sanjiv Kumar Taneja. 0040509606-9

I, Rajani Kumari, D/O- Mahender Prasad Sah, R/O- E-1/1/1088, Ground Floor 25 Ft Main Road , Sonia Vihar 4.5 Pusta, Near Sani Bazar Chowk, Karawal Nagar Post, North East Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Rajni Kumari 0070671882-1

I, Maninder Kaur Sardarni Chhatwal W/O Underjeet Singh R/O-S-1/91 Plot No-78 First-Floor Old Mahavir-Nagar Tilak-Nagar Delhi-110018. Have changed my name to Maninder Kaur. 0040509654-6

I, Mandeeep Singh Viridi S/O Kuldip Singh Virdi R/O-H-246 Vikaspuri New Delhi-110018., have changed the name of my minor son Dharam Pratap Singh aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as Dharam Pratap Singh Virdi. 0040509654-5

I, Ashwani Kumar Kanolja S/O Vinod Kumar R/O-RZ-7-10/274, Street No.-5A, Geetanjali-Park, Sagarpur, Nangal-Raya, New Delhi-110046., have changed my name to Ashwani Kanolja. 0040509606-10

Be it known to all that I, Muskan Sharma, D/O Shri Balram Sharma & Mrs. Geeta Sharma R/O-WP-215, Wazirpur-Village, Ashok-Vihar, Delhi-110052 have changed my name from Muskan to Muskan Sharma, for all intents and purposes. 0040509592-7

I, Hemanshu Chopra son of Shri. Jagdish Chopra R/O-Flat No.71 Pocket-3 Sector-8 Chanderpriya-Apartments Near-Ganesh Diagnostics-Laboratory Rohini Delhi-85 have lost my 10th-class certificate Roll No.8187065 year-2017 issued by CBSE Delhi Contact-9968269853. 0040509654-8

I, Sapna Kumari Resident of O-107, Amrapali Zodiac, Sector-120 Noida, have lost original MarkSheets of Class 10th Roll No.2128932, Year 2001 and Class 12th Roll No.2230223, Year 2003, issued by CBSE. FINDER call: 7757042550. 0040509421-1

I, Neelam Raj W/O Bhagat Raj R/O-B-44, LIG-Flat B-Pocket GTB-Enclave Delhi-110093. have lost my original concrete Deed wide-file No-15543 dated-28/9/2015 of above address. 0040509616-10

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate and Marksheets of Main Higher Secondary Examination of Year 1977 and Roll No. 57171 issued by CBSE has been actually destroyed. Name of the Candidate: Naved Akhtar, S/O Shamin Akhtar, R/O J-1861, Ground Floor, Chitaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019, Mobile No. 9818091824 0040509548-1

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Year 2007, Roll No.6423842 and Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2009, Roll No.6703048 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate: Khushmuda, R/O B-201, Nehru Camp, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, Contact-9540965619. 0040509554-1

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2004 and Roll No: 6228562 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Contact: Mansi Malhotra, F-94, Bali Nagar, New Delhi-110015. # 9535159976 0040509634-1

SITUATION VACANT

Urgently Required
Marketing Executive
0-3 years' experience in the Field of Environment, Health & Safety (EHS), Compliance Management & Safety Trainings.
Education: Graduate / Post Graduate/ BBA / MBA (in Marketing).
Location: Delhi & Neerama (Ra).
Salary: Based on Knowledge and Experience.
Interested Candidate: Send their Updated CV at waino@elserveits.in, elserveits01@gmail.com
Walk-in-interview: for more details--Please contact at: 011-45007110 / 8076557072 / 9811086201
Address: EL Services
101-C, 1st Floor, Kundan Vatika Harinagar; Ashram, behind NAFED Building, New Delhi-110014

MACHINERY FOR SALE

MACHINERY for sale-Brand new packed jyoti make Vertical Machining Centre- M1580 (2018) Travel- X1500 x Y810 x Z810 Siemens Control 828D Spindle BT40 800RPM for details contact No. 0998712773 Email-ID- omingeniers@yahoo.com 0070671831-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Jageshwar S/O Bhagwan Din residing at H. No. 892, H Block, Gali No. 16, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110062 declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as CHANDRAWATI in my service Record. The actual name of my wife is Sunita, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040509244-12

सर्वजनिक सूचना

मेरे पुत्रिकर्तव्य विवेक नि

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Ambala Cantt on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open tenders from interested candidates for appointment of Station Ticket Booking Agent for a period of three years for under noted 13 stations over Ambala Division. The details are as under:-

1. NIT No. & Date	C-37/Bkg/STBA/UMB/2014-15
2. Railway Website	www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
3. Tender document download start date	01.08.2019 at 10.00 Hrs.
4. Tender document download end date	29.09.2019 at 15.00 Hrs.
5. Tender bid submission date	30.09.2019 at 15.00 Hrs. in Commercial Branch, DRM Office, Ambala Cantt.
6. Tender bid opening date	30.09.2019 at 15.10 Hrs. in Commercial Branch, DRM Office, Ambala Cantt.
7. Name of Stations	Alal, Bharatgarh Chawapail, Himmatnagar, Hadyaya, KUP, Manpur, Dukhri, Pitkhan, Solan, Barwala, Bhuchchu and Hindumaitok.

Tender form and other related information is also available on the website of Northern Railway and the same can be downloaded from above website. The instructions for prospective tenderer can be obtained from the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Ambala Cantt on payment of tender cost of Rs. 1000/- in cash plus 18% GST (Total Rs. 1180/-). Interest free earnest money of Rs. 2000/- (Two Thousands) and tender cost Rs. 1180/- including GST (One Thousand One Hundred Eighty only) in favour of Sr. Divisional Finance Manager, N. Ry Ambala in shape of Demand Draft / Bankers Cheque is required, if downloaded from website.

2758/19
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SBI REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Payments & Special Projects Department, Corporate Centre, 1st Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Towers, Mumbai - 400 021.

State Bank of India has issued a 'Request For Proposal' for Procuring, Processing and Personalisation of Cards and Services. Please refer <https://tender.sbi> or 'Procurement News' at SBI website www.bank.sbi

Place: Mumbai
Date: 28/08/2019

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager (CFPT-Cards)

Indian Bank

Information Technology Department, 254-260 Arval Shantigram, Sector 14, Gurgaon, Haryana 122002.

Indian Bank, a leading Public Sector Bank, is interested in:

- Procurement of Managed Software Testing Services
- Availing VSAT Connectivity Services to Branches and ATMs under OPEX Model.

Interested parties may refer Bank's Website: www.indianbank.in/tenders for details.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

Sealed (Open) tenders are invited by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/CMB for and on behalf of President of India on the prescribed form with the following details:

a) Name of work: Trenching, cable laying, erection & wiring of signals, relays, wiring, & part supply of power supply equipments, signals post, signal units, location box and commissioning & testing of Signalling wiring in connection with interlocking of balance signal level Crossing Gates on Maraudar Division. b) Approximate Cost: Rs. 3943658.32 Earnest Money: Rs. 789000/- Last date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: 23.09.2019 up to 14.00 hrs. and 23.09.2019 at 15.00 hrs. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: www.reps.gov.in Tender documents only be available at reps.gov.in, EMD and tender cost will be submitted on same website. Tender No. S&T/Signal/C/MB-Div/144/2019-20/RT-1/Dater: 23.09.2019

Serving Customers With A Smile

पारचमाल वित्तु वितरण निगम लि. तिथि विस्तार सूचना

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमतौर पर गुरु अल्कालीन ई-निविदा संख्या 29/ वि. कार्यशाला मं./ मेरठ/ 2019-20, जो विस्तारित दिनांक 26.08.2019 को खोली जानी प्रस्तावित थी, की तिथि किन्हीं अपरिहार्य कारणों से दिनांक 05.09.2019 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें अपरिवर्तनीय रहेंगी। अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत कार्यशाला मेरठ, प.वि.वि.नि.लि. मेरठ, पत्रांक 1328/ वि. कार्यशाला मं./ मेरठ, दिनांक 26.8.2019

UJVN LTD.

H.O.: 'UJWAL', Maharanji Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones : 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax : 0135-2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025868

"e" Procurement Notice

Short Term Tender No: 08/EE(E&M)/PB/2019-20

1. Name of Work :- Annual Routine Trash Rack Cleaning Work at Virbhadra Barrage.

2. Estimate Cost :- Rs. 2755359.00 (GST Extra)

3. Period of Completion :- Twelve months.

4. Earnest Money :- Rs. 55110.00

5. Tender Cost :- Rs. 2360/- (inclusive of 18% GST)

6. Date/Time of availability of bid document in the portal :- 27.08.2019 from 17:00 Hrs. to 12:09.2019 upto 16:00 Hrs.

7. Last date/Time of receipt of bid in the portal :- 12.09.2019 upto 16:00 Hrs.

8. Date/Time of opening of the bid on website :- 13.09.2019 from 11:00 Hrs.

9. Name & address of the officer inviting the bid :- EE(E&M), Pashulok Barrage, Rishikesh.

10. Detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website.

11. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer (E&M), Virbhadra barrage.
Letter No. 474 Dated 27.08.2019

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

झारखंड सरकार ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामकाठमा) मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय

102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, रांची

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
दिनांक :- 26.08.2019

ई-निविदा संख्या:- 110/2019-20/RDD(RWA)/KHUNTI

मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्रामकाठमा), झारखंड, रांची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईटेंड्री फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्रामाणित राशि (रुपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
			अंक में	अक्षर में	
1.	RDD(RWA)/KHUNTI/07/2019-20	किरादा पंजाब रोड से पहाड़ीतला माया डब्लू तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (सम्बाई-3000 किग्रा/मी)	2,11,32,200.00	दो करोड़ म्याक लाख बीस हजार दो ली. सौ मात्र	12 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 06.09.2019
3. ई-निविदा प्रणति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 18.09.2019 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
4. जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, रांची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रपत्र की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि:- 19.09.2019 पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.30 बजे तक।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 20.09.2019 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले परामर्शकार का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्राम काठमा), झारखंड, रांची, 102 द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, रांची।
7. ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया का दूरभाष सं-0651-2207819
8. निविदा शुल्क भारतीय स्टेट बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्राम काठमा), कार्य प्रमंडल, रांची के पत्र में भुगतान होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jarkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
9. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले परामर्शकार का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्राम काठमा), झारखंड, रांची, 102 द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, रांची।
10. ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया का दूरभाष सं-0651-2207819
11. निविदा शुल्क भारतीय स्टेट बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्रामकाठमा), कार्य प्रमंडल, रांची के पत्र में भुगतान होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jarkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
12. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले परामर्शकार का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्राम काठमा), झारखंड, रांची, 102 द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, रांची।

PR 215373 (Rural Work Department)19-20#D सूचना - सूचना नहीं बदलेंगे तो सूचना को तस्खी ई-प्रोक्युमेंट सेल

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi- 110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of G.A. NO.154/2019 DRT-III

BANK OF BARODA Vs M/S SHEEL ENTERPRISES

To, (Applicant) (Defendants)

D-1 M/s Sheel Enterprises Through its Proprietor Mr. Dharmender Kumar G1/41, Lawrence Road Industrial Area, Delhi - 110 035 Also at: Mr. Dharmender Kumar D-282/32, Block - D (283-284) Sudarshan Park, Delhi - 110 015.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way, Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 06/09/2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 23rd day of July 2019

By Order of the Tribunal ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, DRT-III, New Delhi.

INTERLOCKING OF TRAFFIC LG GATE AND PROVISION OF SIGNALING MOVEMENT

E-Tender Notice No. N-2019-20-TSK-NIT-09; Dated: 23-08-2019. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: E-Tender No.: N-2019-20-TSK-T-13. Brief Description of Item: Interlocking of Traffic LG gate FM/53 with Jorhat Town station and provision of signaling movement towards Jorhat Town Goods Yards. Tender Value: ₹ 58,91,104/- Earnest Money: ₹ 1,17,800/- E-tenders will be closed at 15:00 hrs on 18-09-2019 and Opened at 15:30 hrs on 18-09-2019. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.reps.gov.in. DSTe, Tinsukia

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile.

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग

उत्तराखण्ड मंत्रालय, विस्तार-249404, मो: 7060020210
website: www.ukpsc.gov.in

संख्या - 202/25-E-2/CJ/JD/2018-19 दिनांक - 27 अगस्त, 2019

शुद्धि पत्र

एसएमआर सुचित किया जाता है कि विज्ञापन संख्या A-3/E-2/CJ/JD/2018-19 दिनांक 01 जून 2019 द्वारा उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल जज (गुडिडि) परीक्षा-2019 के अन्तर्गत कुल 15 पदों (01 अनुसूचित जाति, 07 अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग एवं 01 आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग) को विज्ञापित किया गया था। उत्तराखण्ड शासन कार्यालय एवं सचिवालय अनुभाग-4 की पत्र संख्या - 254/XXX(4)/2019-04(2)/2016 दिनांक 21 अगस्त 2019 के माध्यम से 15 पदों का न्यायपालक द्वारा अपील संख्या 1867/2006 में याचिका आदेशों के अनुपालन में प्रश्नगत परीक्षा हेतु 13 नवीन पदों को शोचनित करने हेतु कुल 28 पदों (02 अनुसूचित जाति, 07 अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग एवं 03 आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग) पर बचत हेतु शोचनित अध्यायन उपलब्ध कराया गया है। इस उक्त के क्रम में विज्ञापन संख्या A-3/E-2/CJ/JD/2018-19 दिनांक 01 जून 2019 द्वारा विज्ञापित 16 पदों में सुद्धि करते हुए कुल पदों की संख्या 28 हो गयी है। पदों का शोचनित विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

क्र.सं.	श्रेणी	पद	शैक्षिक आरक्षण
1	अनारक्षित	16	04
2	अनुसूचित जाति	02	02
3	अनुसूचित जाति	-	-
4	अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग	07	02
5	आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग	03	-
	कुल पद	28	06

तदनुसार विज्ञापन संख्या A-3/E-2/CJ/JD/2018-19 दिनांक 01 जून 2019 में विज्ञापित पदों की संख्या में उक्त सौगा तक संशोधन किया जाता है। विज्ञापन की शेष शर्तें बरकरार रहेंगी। उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल जज (गुडिडि) परीक्षा-2019 का आयोजन दिनांक 01 नवम्बर 2019 को पूर्व निर्धारित कार्यक्रम के अनुसार किया जाएगा।

(राजेश कुमार) सचिव।

झारखंड सरकार ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामकाठमा) मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय

102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, रांची

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
दिनांक :- 26.08.2019

ई-निविदा संख्या:- 117/2019-20/RDD(RWA)/PAKUR

मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्रामकाठमा), झारखंड, रांची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईटेंड्री फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्रामाणित राशि (रुपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
			अंक में	अक्षर में	
1.	RDD(RWA)/PAKUR/08/2019-20	आर्यापुर पंचसूत्रीय रोड से सिमलापुरी माया निम्न: बुद्धिन तक पथ का निर्माण कार्य (सम्बाई-4800 किग्रा/मी)	1,24,31,700.00	एक करोड़ चौबीस लाख इय्याक हजार लक्ष से अधिक मात्र	09 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 06.09.2019
3. ई-निविदा प्रणति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 18.09.2019 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
4. जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, रांची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रपत्र की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि:- 19.09.2019 पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.30 बजे तक।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 20.09.2019 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले परामर्शकार का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्रामकाठमा), झारखंड, रांची, 102 द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, रांची।
7. ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया का दूरभाष सं-0651-2207819
8. निविदा शुल्क भारतीय स्टेट बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्रामकाठमा), कार्य प्रमंडल, रांची के पत्र में भुगतान होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jarkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
9. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले परामर्शकार का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्राम काठमा), झारखंड, रांची, 102 द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, रांची।

PR 215347 (Rural Work Department)19-20#D सूचना - सूचना नहीं बदलेंगे तो सूचना को तस्खी ई-प्रोक्युमेंट सेल

झारखंड सरकार ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामकाठमा) मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय

102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, रांची

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
दिनांक :- 26.08.2019

ई-निविदा संख्या:- 111/2019-20/RDD(RWA)/RANCHI

मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्रामकाठमा), झारखंड, रांची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईटेंड्री फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्रामाणित राशि (रुपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
			अंक में	अक्षर में	
1.	RDD(RWA)/RANCHI/17/2019-20	एम्बेसडे-33 किरादा जैमिक उद्यान से बाट बगीचा माया सिलवेरी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (सं-3,020 किग्रा/मी)	2,96,14,300.00	दो करोड़ छियास लाख बीस हजार तीन सौ मात्र	15 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 06.09.2019
3. ई-निविदा प्रणति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 18.09.2019 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
4. जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, रांची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रपत्र की राशि, शपथ पत्र के मूल प्रति एवं अपलोड किये गये तकनीकी योग्यता दस्तावेज की एक प्रति जमा करने की तिथि:- 19.09.2019 पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.30 बजे तक।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 20.09.2019 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले परामर्शकार का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्राम काठमा), झारखंड, रांची, 102 द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, रांची।
7. ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया का दूरभाष सं-0651-2207819
8. निविदा शुल्क भारतीय स्टेट बैंक द्वारा निर्गत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्राम काठमा), कार्य प्रमंडल, रांची के पत्र में भुगतान होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jarkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
9. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले परामर्शकार का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विभाग(ग्राम काठमा), झारखंड, रांची, 102 द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, रांची।

PR 215343 (Rural Work Department)19-20#D सूचना - सूचना नहीं बदलेंगे तो सूचना को तस्खी ई-प्रोक्युमेंट सेल

Lady Hardinge Medical College

100 Glorious Years of Excellence

Tender NO. HSSC/Main/LHMC/2019
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS (LHMC) SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH MARG, NEW DELHI

Dated: 23.08.19

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Director, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals, New Delhi, through HSSC(I) Ltd. invites Bids from eligible contractors/firms for the following works:

Name & description of work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Period of work (months)	Last date of submission of Bids	Bid Security amount (In Rs.)
Tender for providing Operation & Maintenance Services at LHMC Residential buildings & UG Hostel constructed under phase-1 of redevelopment works at New Delhi.	3,20,00,000/-	12 Months	11:09:19 upto 15:00 hrs Opening at 15:30 hrs.	6,40,000/-

The bid document is available online from 28.08.2019. For details in regard of eligibility, bid security, purchase & submission of bid document, please refer to HSSC website <http://www.hssccltd.co.in> or e-tender portal <http://www.tenderwizard.com/HSSC> or CPP portal www.cpp.nic.in. LHMC/HSSC reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason or incurring any liability whatsoever. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly scan through HSSC website as corrigendum/amendments etc. if any, will be notified on the company's website and separate advertisement will not be made for this.

Director,
Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals,
New Delhi
dasp 17148/11/0007/1920

Office of SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 1ST CIRCLE

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department, Mandi-175001
Ph. 01905-224129, Fax: 01905-221576, E-mail: hp-man1@nic.in

"NOTICE INVITING TENDER-CORRIGENDUM THEREOF"

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, HPPWD, Mandi on behalf of Governor of H.P. the item rate bids were invited in 1st call vide letter No. PW-SE-I-Tender-107-PMGYS-NCK-KSG-MDI-B-I-18-19-1st Call/ Publication/19-9581-9630 dated 25.07.2019 & No. PW-SE-I-Tender-107-PMGYS-MDI-B-I-18-19-1st Call/ Publication/19-4456-4505 dated 11.06.2019 and technical bids were opened online on 19.08.2019 and 23.08.2019 but no bid/single bid received for these works and the committee decided to re-invite/recall the tenders. Now the item rate bids for these works are re-invited in 2nd call and may be read as under:-

Sr. No.	District	Package No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs./Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of Completion (In Days)	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh)	Eligible Class of Contractor/ Firm
				Construction	Maintenance				
1	Mandi	HP-08-506	Up-gradation of Gharaur Tansal Dewahan road KM 0/0 to 6/0 under PMGYS/RRP-II Batch-II for the year 2018-19 (SH- Metalling and Tarring, ROPD for improvement of narrow curves, missing R/Walls, B/Wall, V-shape drain, Parapet and Logo Board and routine maintenance of five year) HP-08-506.	251.91	30.96	282.87	547	5.86	Class-A
2	Mandi	HP-08-132	Construction of Padhar Bhadwahan via Chaman-Patrun-Sakanah road Km. 0/0 to 6/5/10 under regular PMGYS (Batch-II, 2018-19) Stage-I Distt. Mandi (H.P.). (Sub-Head: C/o Formation cutting 57 metre wide, C/o R/Walls and B/Walls, C/o road side unlined surface drain, C/o essential parapets, C/o cross drainage works and providing road sign board, Km. Stone and 200 mtr. stone and C/o wire crane B/Wall for dumping site in Km. 0/0 to 6/5/10. Package No. HP-08-132.	468.43	0.00	468.43	365	9.37	Class-A
3	Mandi	HP-08-512	Construction of Choura to Kumharada road Km. 0/0 to 5/9/0 under regular PMGYS (Batch-II, 2018-19) Stage-I Distt. Mandi (H.P.) (SH- C/o Clearing and grubbing, formation cutting, C/o retaining structure, P.I. GSB in essential reaches, C/o side drain, C/o parapet, road side furniture and muck disposal in KM 0/0 to 5/9/0) Package No. HP-08-512.	303.06	0.00	303.06	365	6.06	Class-A

Note: All duties, taxes, royalties and other levies payable by the Contractor under the Contract, or for any other cause, but excluding GST shall be included in the rates, prices, and total Bid price submitted by the Bidder and GST at prevalent rates will be added to the value offered by the bidder separately.

- Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 28.08.2019
- Cost of Bid Form: Rs. 5000/- (non-refundable) only (Sr. No.1) in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No.II, HPPWD, Mandi & Rs. 5000/- (non-refundable) only (Sr. No.2 & 3) in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No.I, HPPWD, Mandi .
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgystenders.gov.in. The bidder will be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGYS may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgystenders.gov.in" Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
- Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 of ITB with of Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No.II, HPPWD, Mandi (Sr. No.1) & Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No.I, HPPWD, Mandi (Sr. No.2 & 3) upon or before the time and date of submission of bids. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.
- Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 11.09.2019 upto 1030 Hours.
- The site for the work is available.
- Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website: www.pmgystenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 1100 Hours on 11.09.2019, by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same IFB, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.
- If there is hike in bitumen prices during the execution of work the hike will be borne by the State Govt. If there is decrease in prices of bitumen during the execution of work, Government shall be entitled to deduct from dues of the contractors. The bidders are requested to see the attached file with the tender document as standard form of Part B Agreement.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons thereof.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
1st Circle, HPPWD., Mandi.
Telephone No. 01905-224129.
For Chief Engineer (M2), HPPWD., Mandi.

जाहिरात

गोदावरी मराठवाडा पाटबंधारे विभाग महामंडळ, औरंगाबाद-४३१००१

करारतत्त्वावर वकिलांची नियुक्ती

गोदावरी मराठवाडा पाटबंधारे विकास महामंडळ, औरंगाबाद यांच्या वतीने (१) सर्वोच्च न्यायालय, दिल्ली, (२) उच्च न्यायालय, मुंबई/ खंडपेट, औरंगाबाद आणि नागपूर, (३) महाराष्ट्र प्रशासकीय न्यायाधिकरण, मुंबई/ खंडपेट, औरंगाबाद तसेच औरंगाबाद/ जालना/ नांदेड/ बीड/ लातूर/ उस्मानाबाद/ परभणी/ हिंगोली/ नाशिक/ अहमदनगर/ यवतमाळ या जिल्ह्यांतली न्यायालये व मोटार अपघात प्राधिकरण/ कामगार न्यायालये, औद्योगिक न्यायालये तसेच लवाच/ MWRRA/ NGT/ भूसंपादन प्राधिकरणे इत्यादीमध्ये न्यायालयीन प्रकरण दाखल करणे असे व चालविण्याकरिता वकिलांची करारतत्त्वावर नियुक्ती करणे आहे.

पदासाठी आवश्यक पात्रता, इतर अटी व शर्ती तसेच शुल्क अर्जांचा विविध नमुना इत्यादी बाबतची सविस्तर माहिती www.wrd.maharashtra.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर प्रसिद्ध करण्यात आली आहे.

इच्छुक व पात्र वकिलांनी दिनांक २९/०८/२०१९ ते दिनांक १९/०९/२०१९ या कालावधीमध्ये ई-मेलद्वारे seacadaabad@gmail.com या ई-मेल पत्त्यावर आपले अर्ज पाठवावेत. सध्या महामंडळाच्या फॅब्रिकर कार्यात असलेल्या वकिलांनी मुदतवाढीसाठी अर्ज सादर करणे गरजेचे आहे.

अर्ज केवळ ई-मेलद्वारे स्वीकारले जातील. त्याबाबत कुठलाही पत्रव्यवहार केला जाणार नाही. पुढील सर्व सूचना उपरोक्त संकेतस्थळावर (www.wrd.maharashtra.gov.in) प्रसिद्ध करण्यात येतील. परिपूर्ण नसलेल्या अर्जांचा विचार केला जाणार नाही.

- कार्यकारी अभियंता,
(अर्जांच्यासाठी २०१९-२०२०/२२१२२)

औरंगाबाद पाटबंधारे विभाग, औरंगाबाद

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

Madurai (Construction & Maintenance) Circle

TENDER NOTICE

T.N.No. 2 / 2019-20 / HDO / Dt. 28.08.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 01.10.2019 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Madurai Circle, for CRIDP 2019-20 (Package No.3 to 9) pertaining Theni (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 30.08.2019 onwards in the Government website <http://tenders.tn.gov.in>. If any changes / corrections / in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Madurai Circle.

DIPR/2914/Tender/2019

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

Madurai (Construction & Maintenance) Circle

TENDER NOTICE

T.N.No. 1 / 2019-20 / HDO / Dt. 21.08.2019

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 01.10.2019 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Madurai Circle, for CRIDP 2019-20 (Package No.1 to 2) pertaining Theni (H) C&M Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 30.08.2019 onwards in the Government website <http://tenders.tn.gov.in>. If any changes / corrections / in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Madurai Circle.

DIPR/2912/Tender/2019

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD

NO.5, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600005, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

REQUEST

SECTOR WATCH AUTOMOBILES

Contracts of 3,000 temporary workers not renewed, says Maruti chairman

'It's time states also partner to help the manufacturing sector grow'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

MARUTI SUZUKI has not renewed the contracts of 3,000 temporary employees across its manufacturing plants, chairman RC Bhargava said on Tuesday, as the automobile manufacturer has been cutting production since February this year to control inventory pile-up amid a slowdown in demand.

Bhargava said over the past year, multiple factors led to a rise in final cost of cars, affecting their affordability. "Safety norms, increase in insurance prices and higher taxes have added substantially to the cost of cars," the Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) chairman told shareholders at the company's 38th annual general meeting.

He blamed state governments for the current slowdown in auto sales, saying that growth of the manufacturing sector and the economy is not entirely the responsibility of the Centre.

Bhargava said while the new safety norms and insurance costs impacted demand, a significant impact was due to nine states increasing road taxes by a substantial amount.

"In all these nine states, there was a sharper dip in sales compared to others," he said, adding that state governments have a lot more to do with the increase in a vehicle's cost of ownership.

"It's time states also partner to help the manufacturing sector grow... and achieve 25 per cent contribution from sector," he told shareholders, adding the central government has partly done what it could do to revive demand.

The Centre on Friday announced lifting the ban on purchase of new vehicles by government departments and allowed auto buyers en-

"For an individual customer, who is a low-cost small car user, availability of affordable electric car which meets his requirement of range and charging is not likely to happen in the next few years"

RC BHARGAVA
CHAIRMAN, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

hanced depreciation of 30 per cent. A proposed hike in one-time registration fee was also deferred to June 2020, which industry executives said will propel demand.

On electric vehicles, Bhargava said he believes that low cost or affordable electric cars for individual customers cannot be made available in the next few years as the technology to counter range anxiety and inadequate charging infrastructure will remain a barrier in the near term.

He said the advancement of technology for electric mobility for electric cars is not as rapid as one would have thought it to be. "For an individual customer, who is a low-cost small car user, availability of affordable electric car which meets his requirement of range and charging is not likely to happen in the next few years."

Stating that the number of electric vehicles (EVs) in the market are minute, Bhargava said even government officials using them currently are finding limited acceptance.

His comments came after several government officials using EVs from Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra complained of lower range and poor performance.

The officials said while the firms claimed a range of 130 km when fully charged, they were able to do just about 85 km. FE

'FAULT LINES IN MUTUAL FUND INDUSTRY EXPOSED'

Sebi: Investment safety cannot be compromised for higher yields

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

MARKETS REGULATOR Sebi has told the mutual fund (MF) industry that safety of investment cannot be compromised for higher yields. Speaking at the Association of Mutual in India (AMFI) members' summit in Mumbai on Tuesday, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Chairman Ajay Tyagi also added that, the industry as a whole needs to do its own analysis on a regular basis to avoid such situations in future.

In the last one year, debt funds have seen several mark downs due to the default or downgrades of various debt papers impacting the returns. "Such an impact was not just restricted to a few mutual fund schemes but led to a general erosion of trust of investors in debt schemes. Meanwhile, during the turmoil, concerns were also raised with regard to mutual fund exposure in debt and money market instruments having structured obligations or credit enhancements in various forms and complex structures," said Tyagi.

AMFI, an association of asset management companies (AMCs) of all mutual funds in the country, on Tuesday discussed how the next phase of growth in the mutual funds segment could be achieved, implementing a seven-

Mutual fund industry eyes ₹100 lakh crore AUM, 10 crore investor base in 10 years

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

THE MUTUAL fund industry is eyeing a four-fold rise in assets under management (AUM) to Rs 100 lakh crore from the existing level Rs 25 lakh crore and an increase in investor base to 10 crore from the current level of two crore over the next decade, according to AMFI-BCG vision document.

The document, targeting penetration in B30 (beyond the top) cities, was released in Mumbai in the presence of Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi and mutual fund industry officials.

Diversifying the distribution outreach by leveraging the wide network of banks, post offices across the country,

significantly augmenting the distribution base by another 4 lakh, strengthening direct and digital channels and offering simple savings solutions would be key to Indian mutual fund industry adding 80 million new investors and accomplishing the Rs 100 lakh crore AUM opportunity, AMFI said.

According to the latest edition of the AMFI-CRISIL fact book, between April 2016 — when the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) started disclosing monthly SIP contributions — and July 2019, the SIP (systematic investment plans) mode has helped rake in a significant Rs 2.30 lakh crore, nearly 23 per cent of the increase of Rs 10 lakh crore in assets under management of the industry, AMFI said. This is

also reflective of almost three times growth in the number of SIP accounts to 27.3 million from 10 million over this period, AMFI said.

Besides, annual contribution through SIP witnessed increase in contribution by individual investors from Rs 44,000 crore in fiscal 2016-17 to nearly Rs 93,000 crore in 2018-19.

Nimesh Shah, Chairman, AMFI said: "The Rs 100 trillion MF AUM opportunity would ride on the government's ambitious objective of transforming India into a \$5 trillion economy, which is also now increasingly finding rising global resonance and support, in addition to inherent robust self-propelled growth prospects."

point agenda for the MF industry and through market expansion.

Tyagi also said that the events in the last year, however, exposed the fault lines in the industry and showed that a credit event in even one issuer/group could have a contagion effect leading to liquidity risk across the market.

"There is a clear distinction between lending and investing. A mutual fund's investment strategy needs to have required elements of safety as well as returns. While making an investment, the mutual funds have to necessarily take into account their mandate and organisational structure.

Mutual funds do not have risk capital and are essentially pass through vehicles wherein NAV ought to reflect the correct value of assets held at any time. This is an important aspect which mutual funds should keep in mind while making debt investments," added Tyagi. FE

'No quick turnaround in India's growth momentum likely'

India's economic growth momentum is expected to slip further as there is no quick fix solution for the structural issues that the economy is facing, according to Dun & Bradstreet's Economy Observer report

2.5-3%
Projected growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in July, as manufacturing sector faces multiple challenges

3.2-3.4%
Expected range of consumer price index (CPI) inflation in August

1.1-1.3%
Expected range of wholesale price index (WPI) inflation in August

BENIGN INFLATION:
Lower economic activity along with subdued demand conditions and low commodity prices globally are likely to keep inflation benign



POSSIBLE RESPITE FOR CORPORATES:
Fiscal stimulus by government and policy rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India, along with other initiatives are likely to offer some respite to corporates

MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY GOVT TO BOOST ECONOMIC GROWTH:

- Rollback of enhanced super-rich tax on foreign and domestic equity investors
- Exemption of startups from 'angel tax'
- Package to address distress in the auto sector
- Upfront infusion of ₹70,000 crore to PSBs

FACTORS DRAGGING BACKING CONSUMPTION:

- Lack of gainful employment opportunities
- Skewed distribution of income
- Dependence of majority of population on vagaries of monsoon

Guj moves against firms violating local workforce norms

AVINASH NAIR
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 27

THE GUJARAT government has initiated action against industrial units — including Suzuki Motors Gujarat Pvt Ltd (SMG) — for violating its norms related to employment of "locals" in the workforce. These norms make it mandatory even for private entities to enroll locals as 85 per cent of their employee workforce.

"We keep writing to companies (flouting the norms) which are taking government subsidy. We can stop the subsidy of companies who do not follow the norms. We have written to the Industries Department about a couple of cases and Maruti Suzuki is one of them. They have a low percentage of locals and we keep telling them... Maruti is having some difficulty (to hire locals) at

Hansalpur," Vipul Mitra, Additional Chief Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, told *The Indian Express* on the sidelines of an event at the Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute Thursday.

SMG, a subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corporation, operates the car manufacturing plant at Hansalpur which produces 5,00,000 units of Baleno and Swift cars annually in the two plants that it currently operates.

Mitra said that the Industries Department has been advised by his department to stop subsidies for firms flouting the state government norms. Government sources said that SMG has been asked to submit an action plan about how it will sort out the issue of employment of locals.

According to the March 1995 Government Resolution (GR) of the state government's labour and employment department, "mini-

NO SUBSIDIES FOR ERRANT FIRMS

■ Vipul Mitra, additional chief secretary, Labour and Employment Department, said the Industries Department has been advised to stop subsidies for firms flouting norms

■ A report tabled showed 570 firms that flouted employment norms from 2013-17

mum 85 per cent of the recruitments to the posts in the cadre of employees, workers and artisans and minimum 60 per cent to managerial and supervisory posts

in all the undertakings of the state government, as well as all the industries being provided with incentives by the state government situated in the state should be made from among the local residents." As per the 1995 resolution, industries seeking subsidy in taxes, electricity, water, land, etc have been asked to employ 'locals' as 85 per cent of the workforce in exchange to the assistance the state government was providing.

A questionnaire sent to SMG asking about the percentage of locals employed at Hansalpur plant remained unanswered. However, SMG is not the only firm violating the norms for employing local youths in their workforce. *The Indian Express* had earlier reported that there are 570 firms — both private and public sector — in 14 districts of the state that flouted the employment norms between 2013 and 2017. This set of data

from the government was also tabled in the Gujarat Assembly in September last and shows that SMG had violated the provisions at the Hansalpur plant in 2017. However, there are other automobile firms in Ahmedabad — including Tata Motors and Ford Motor — that violated the provisions repeatedly in this five year period.

Honda Motorcycles and Scooters India along with Tata Motors and Ford Motor violated the norms in 2017, while Ford was found violating the norm every year. Tata Motors was found erring in 2013 and 2016 as well. Tata Motors wrote to *The Indian Express* that it has been "fulfilling the criteria set by the Gujarat government for employment of locals in its Sanand facility, since inception" and in most categories the company "exceeded the compliance norms set by the state government".

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, AUGUST 27

TATA MOTORS has decided to observe a 'block closure' at its Pimpri-Chinchwad plant from August 28 to 31. As many as 4,500 workers will sit at home during the four-day closure period.

This is the second block closure this August, which could affect small scale industries employing 2,000 workers. However, company officials said there was nothing to worry as it would soon return to its "top gear".

The auto maker had earlier observed a block closure from August 5 to 10. It also plans another 'block closure' between September 3 and 6.

"This is a phenomenon common to all the auto makers as

RBI TRANSFER OF ₹1.76L CR SURPLUS RESERVES

Analysts: ₹52,637 cr 'one-time windfall' below expectations

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

THE IDENTIFIED 'excess' capital of Rs 52,637 crore transferred by the Reserve Bank of India to the government, as proposed by the Jalan committee, is much lower than expectations and the future payouts are now formula driven and subject to some constraints with respect to the maintenance of a minimum CRB (Contingent Risk Buffer), analysts said on Tuesday. Some research houses also raised concerns that the fund may end up getting utilised to offset the government's weak tax collections, which may weaken further as the economy slows.

The "one-time windfall" is way lower than the initial estimate touted around Rs 2-3 lakh crore, said Arvind Chari, Head of Fixed Income, Quantum Advisors. "But (it) allows the government an extra source of revenue to bridge its revenue shortfall and be able to meet its fiscal deficit target. This is positive for the bond market as fiscal worries ease and also liquidity positive as it will add to the core liquidity," he said.

However, this disappointment is blunted owing to a much higher than expected normal dividend transfer for the current year which, if used judiciously, can be invaluable in making the budget math sound more credible, said Suyash Choudhary, Head - Fixed Income, IDFC AMC.

The RBI board accepted the recommendations of the Bimal Jalan committee and has decided to transfer Rs 176,051 crores to the government — Rs 123,414 crore as surplus for year 2018-19 and another Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified by the committee as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF). "This is against an expectation of normal budgeted dividend of Rs 90,000 crore (assumed RBI dividend component of the Rs 1,06,042 crore budget number)," Choudhary said.

Of this total sum, an amount of Rs 28,000 crore has already been paid as interim dividend and already been accounted by the budget in the previous financial year. The net liquidity injection from RBI as a result of this exercise will amount to Rs 148,051 crore.

"The government will gain around Rs 58,000 crore from the RBI compared to FY2020 budget estimates. This will help to some extent in bridging an estimated Rs 1.5 lakh crore of shortfall in GST

EXPLAINED
Unlikely to help a large stimulus

MARKET ANALYSTS argue that the windfall the Centre will receive from the RBI through surplus transfer will help it in containing the fiscal deficit target, but it is unlikely to provide a large stimulus that can arrest the slowdown. The government will get Rs 58,000 crore extra this fiscal, which is expected to be spent on capital expenditure.

revenues even as the fiscal continues to be strained due to weak tax revenues," Kotak Economic Research said. IDFC AMC said that any hope of meeting the budget targets rests on a similar expenditure compression as that undertaken last year including via moving some items of spending 'below the line'. Any temptation to use this amount towards a 'fiscal stimulus' risks generating worries around the quality and effectiveness towards meeting the deficit targets.

In a report released Tuesday, Bank of America Merrill Lynch also said that the effective budgetary surplus / new spending power might be smaller than expected and that it "might lead to consumption stimulus, infra spending or lower disinvestment pressure". A Nomura report also said that contrary to widely held expectations of a large fiscal windfall over multiple years, the excess capital for transfer to the Centre as a special dividend remains limited to Rs 526 billion. Though the government stands to receive a net dividend of Rs 1.48 trillion, which is 0.7 per cent of the GDP, the report also raised concerns over the scope for usage of funds for fiscal stimulus.

"In our view, the dividend transfer will help the government achieve this target, while leading to reserve money creation..." the Nomura report said. Analysts also pointed that the future payouts could be less. With Rs 52,600 crore of excess provision transfers, the CRB was brought down to 5.5 per cent from 6.8 per cent in 2018-19. The RBI, henceforth, needs to maintain a CRB of least 5.5 per cent of balance sheet.

Second 'block closure' at Tata Motors' Pimpri-Chinchwad plant in August

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, AUGUST 27

TATA MOTORS has decided to observe a 'block closure' at its Pimpri-Chinchwad plant from August 28 to 31. As many as 4,500 workers will sit at home during the four-day closure period.

This is the second block closure this August, which could affect small scale industries employing 2,000 workers. However, company officials said there was nothing to worry as it would soon return to its "top gear".

The auto maker had earlier observed a block closure from August 5 to 10. It also plans another 'block closure' between September 3 and 6.

"This is a phenomenon common to all the auto makers as

well as two-wheeler manufacturer," a Tata Motors spokesperson said, adding that this is not the first time a block closure has taken place.

"The government has announced a slew of measures which will help the auto sector revive production. Also, the festive season is coming during which time generally people buy new vehicles. We are expecting the demand to shoot up during this period," the spokesperson said.

However, the person said that the entire Pimpri-Chinchwad plant will not be shut. "Other blocks and departments will function as usual. The maintenance department, design section and a few other will be in operation."

During a block closure, work-

ers are paid half day's pay. Besides 4,500 workers who will sit at home, over 5,000 staffers will also be on forced leave. "Some of them will certainly be available in the company premises. The staffers will however not get any salary like the workers who will get half day's wage," a source said.

Another source said that five-six modes of cars and seven-eight models of trucks are manufactured at the company premises.

Abhay Bhor, president, Forum of Small Scale Industries Association, said at least 5,000 vendors and sub vendors have been affected due to crisis at Tata Motors. "There are at least 20,000 workers alone in Pimpri-Chinchwad who have been affected," he said.

INTERGLOBE AVIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All related-party transactions executed at arm's length: CEO

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE ANNUAL general meeting (AGM) of InterGlobe Aviation, which runs the low-cost carrier, IndiGo, took place on Tuesday, but minus any fireworks, in which the co-promoters — Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia — have been indulging in for the past one-and-a-half months.

Gangwal, who has raised issues related to corporate governance at the airline and had written to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and the

Ministry of Corporate Affairs, was not present during the meet as he was in the US. Another absentee was independent director Anupam Khanna. The firm's CEO, Ronojoy Dutta, told the shareholders categorically that all related-party transactions (RPTs) have been executed at an arm's length.

He said the value of RPTs that the company has signed is about Rs 156 crore, which is less than 1 per cent of the company's total revenues of Rs 30,000 crore. Dutta also said no whistleblower has ever complained on violations of corporate governance norms.

On his part, Bhatia said he feels

IndiGo co-promoters have been engaged in a tussle over corporate governance issues, related party transactions and composition of board

that Gangwal is trying to make peace. "In a recent statement he (Gangwal) has talked about mending fences. I think his actions will speak louder than his words (website) over time," Bhatia said.

The reference was to Gangwal starting a website — governanceindia.com — earlier this month to issue his statements.

On the future expansion, Dutta said the company plans to grow by about 30 per cent a year for the next few years and would look at planes like Airbus A321XLR and wide-body aircraft. "We expect that half of that growth (in capacity) will go international, half will go domestic," he added. IndiGo board chairman M Damodaran said he is optimistic that the two promoters will resolve their differences soon.

On August 23, Gangwal had

said since IndiGo had approved a new RPT policy and resolved the earlier issues he would now vote in favour of the proposed changes to the articles of association. While Gangwal, his wife and his family trust own 37.02 per cent shares in the airline, Bhatia's IGE group controls 37.92 per cent and the remainder is with the public. On July 8, Gangwal had accused Bhatia's InterGlobe Enterprises of corporate misgovernance along with executing illegal RPTs with the airline. Bhatia has refuted all allegations and called it an attempt to dilute the controlling rights of the IGE group over IndiGo. FE

NCLAT allows GE to sell stake in Baker Hughes with riders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE NATIONAL Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Tuesday allowed General Electric (GE) to sell a controlling stake in its step-down subsidiary Baker Hughes LLC, but said the sale will be subject to the final order on the petitions filed by the global conglomerate's Indian JV partner Triveni Turbine Ltd.

A three-member bench headed by Chairperson Justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya also said that such sales should not affect the business of Triveni Turbine Ltd and its JV firm GE Triveni Ltd (GETL). GETL is a partnership between GE and Triveni Turbine formed in the year 2010. The appellate tribunal said it allows Baker Hughes and GE to transfer the title of all the shares to any party without affecting the business of appellant Triveni Turbine and the JV firm GETL. It further said that such sale "should not affect all the five agreements entered into among parties".

Long-standing issues not 'resolved', Jharkhand industry highlights govt 'insensitivity'

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, AUGUST 27

LAST WEEK, the Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FJCCI) put up several hoardings in parts of Ranchi targeted at the state government's "insensitivity" towards businesses, with the words: "Vyapariyon ki maamlik pukaar; ab to sudh lo sarkaar" (moving call from business people, hear us now, government).

FJCCI, which has over 80 trade and industries associations affiliated to it, said this was done to remind the government of the problems faced by businesses in the last few years, which include failure of single window clearances for businesses, red tapism, electricity shortages among others.

"In the last 11 months, we had several correspondence with the government on various issues concerning us. Things were delayed due to elections. However, there was no resolve to solve the issues even after elections and we had to resort to putting our views in the hoardings... We are not in confrontation with the government, but we just want them to listen," Deepak Maroo, president, FJCCI told *The Indian Express*.

He added that the claims of hassle-free business after the 'Momentum Jharkhand' summit "is a farce". "The policy declaration followed by Momentum Jharkhand was to promote investment in the state, especially through promotion of local entrepreneurship. This was the whole idea... a contributing factor in Make in India call of PM. However, the sense one is getting on the ground is entirely different."

According to a FJCCI correspondence sent to Jharkhand industries secretary K Ravi Kumar, dated June 29, one Ravi Kumar Bunnwal of Arindam Fashion, who had set up garment unit and had successfully bid for another plot, is being "harassed", although he had proposed to invest Rs 3 crore.

'CCI to assess media sector'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE COMPETITION Commission of India (CCI) plans to conduct an assessment of the country's media and broadcasting sector to ensure that any competition concerns are identified and resolved swiftly, a government document seen by Reuters showed.

The study, which a source with direct knowledge of the matter said is not linked to any ongoing investigation, will examine the competition landscape in the sector. "This (study) would ensure that new practices and technologies in this dynamic sector, which may be affecting competition adversely, are identified quickly and remedial measures... are adopted fast," the CCI said in the document.

The CCI did not respond to a request for comment. The watchdog is in the process of choosing an independent agency to conduct the study on its behalf, the source said.

BOARD IS SET TO MEET ON AUGUST 30

DHFL loans may be converted to equity

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

DEWAN HOUSING Finance Corporation (DHFL) on Tuesday said it would consider converting loans into equity. The NBFC's board is set to meet on August 30 to discuss the proposal.

The resolution plan, awaiting a sign-off from a few categories of lenders, has reportedly pencilled in a new management team. Bankers, it is understood, want Kapil Wadhawan to step down as chairman and managing director of DHFL; moreover, they want him to reduce his stake to below 10 per cent. The promoter, bankers familiar with the plan said, would also be required to pledge a part of their remaining stake to lenders (which would be below 10 per cent). The promoter group holding in DHFL is 39.21 per cent.

Other terms of the resolution plan include the transfer of bad debt into a fresh entity or a conversion into a new instrument. This so-called 'bad' debt

- Slum Rehabilitation Authority loans and developer loans could get converted to an equity, or semi-equity instrument like Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares (CRPS). Thereafter, part of the good debt within DHFL could also further get converted to equity from debt.

An exchange notice by the company said, "We wish to inform that a meeting of the board of directors of the company is scheduled to be held on Friday, 30th August, 2019, inter alia, to consider and approve the proposal for issuance of equity shares and/or other securities of the Company including by way of preferential issue, pursuant to a conversion of debt to equity under the proposed resolution plan, or any other permissible mode or a combination thereof through issue of prospectus and/or placement document and/or letter of offer and/or any other permissible/requisite offer document, and/or alteration of terms of existing securities of the company." **FE**

54 PAISE SURGE

At 71.49/\$, rupee posts biggest single-day gain in five months

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

THE RUPEE on Tuesday surged 54 paise to close at 71.49 against the dollar following the Reserve Bank of India's decision to transfer Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the government. This is the biggest single-day gain seen by the currency in five months.

Dealers said the decision by RBI to transfer capital to the government has provided comfort to a market that was concerned over a potential increase in government borrowings that could have impacted the fiscal deficit.

The central bank's transfer includes Rs 1.23 lakh crore of surplus for 2018-19 and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per revised Economic Capital Framework. The Union Budget had targeted Rs 90,000 crore as surplus transfer from the RBI. With the

Sensex, Nifty end higher

Mumbai: The stock markets rallied for the third straight session on Tuesday as concerns on the country's macro situation eased after the Reserve Bank of India said it would transfer surplus capital to the government. Moreover, the growth measures announced last Friday continued to cheer the sentiment.

The BSE benchmark Sensex ended 147.15 points,

or 0.39 per cent, higher at 37,641.27 — a near three-week high level. During the day, the index hit a high of 37,731.51 and low of 37,449.69.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 47.50 points, or 0.43 per cent, to 11,105.35. The gauge touched an intraday peak of 11,141.75 and low of 11,049.50. Sensex has gained 940 points or 2.6 per cent in two sessions. **FE&PTI**

amount now rising to Rs 1.76 lakh crore, there would be a surplus of about ₹86,000 crore, a Care Ratings report said.

It is noteworthy that the Rupee closed near its intraday high of 71.45 against the greenback, indicating a potential strength in upcoming days.

This comes after the currency closed below the 72-mark on Monday to touch a nine-month low.

MS Gopikrishnan, independent currency expert, said traders were worried about the additional capital requirement of the government as they an-

'Auto component industry may see single-digit growth'

₹3.5 LAKH CR INDUSTRY

The industry's topline growth is likely to recede to half in the next two fiscals, though tighter safety and emission norms for original equipment makers (OEMs) could give partial relief to the Rs 3.5 lakh crore industry

■ An analysis of around 300 Crisil-rated component firms, which account for almost 40% of the industry's revenues, reveals that capex spend will be discretionary and could be around 15% lower at Rs 12,000 crore in

Auto component industry is projected to register a lower 5-7% compounded annual growth rate over the fiscals 2020 & 2021 as against 12% in preceding two fiscals amid slump in vehicle sales, Crisil said



fiscals 2020 and 2021, compared with the preceding two fiscals.

■ Production volume of OEMs is estimated to either de-grow or log low single-digit growth at best in the next two years. Higher insurance costs, lower availability of finance and low growth in rural wages is affecting off-take in FY20

■ Vehicle demand is also likely to be impacted by the new safety norms applicable in FY20, and the BS-VI emission norms, which come into effect from April 2020

Not looking at any capitalisation right now: SBI

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

DAYS AFTER Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an upfront capital infusion of Rs 70,000 crore to boost lending at public sector banks (PSBs), Arijit Basu, MD (commercial clients group), State Bank of India (SBI), said on Tuesday the bank does not need capital from the government.

"For SBI, we are not looking at any capitalisation right now as we are well capitalised and

"For SBI, we are not looking at any capitalisation right now as we are well capitalised and we have been able to raise from the market. We have announced our programme for both tier I and tier II bonds"

ARIJIT BASU, MD (COMMERCIAL CLIENTS GROUP) STATE BANK OF INDIA

we have been able to raise from the market. We have announced our programme for both tier I and tier II bonds," Basu said on the sidelines of an event organised by industry body Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

He added the fund infusion is meant for banks which may

in the economy.

To that extent, Basu said the announcement of revival measures by the government was a timely one as it comes ahead of the festive season when consumption typically picks up.

The Centre on Friday had announced a clutch of measures for liquidity-starved micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including immediate release of Rs 30,000 crore or half of the Rs 60,000-crore dues held up by public sector units (PSUs), 75 per cent of arbitration awards and pending GST refunds within 30 days. **FE**

PNB, Allahabad Bank launch loan products linked to repo rate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

LEADING STATE-OWNED lender Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Allahabad Bank on Tuesday announced linking of their retail loans with the Reserve Bank's repo rate, which will make loans cheaper.

PNB launched the PNB Advantage, a retail lending scheme linked with the repo rate effective Tuesday.

"In the new schemes rate of

interest will be 0.25 per cent less than the existing applicable rates based on MCLR. The new rates will vary from 8.25 per cent to 8.35 per cent for housing loan borrowers and 8.65 per cent for car loan borrowers," PNB said in a statement.

Existing customers of the bank will also have an option to switch over to new Repo Linked Lending Rates (RLLR) with minimal charges, it said.

Allahabad Bank said it has benchmarked its loans up to Rs 75 lakh with the external bench-

mark linked rates (EBLR), comprising the repo rate as one of its constituents.

To ensure quicker transmission of policy rate adjustments, the bank has decided to price its housing loans up to Rs 75 lakh and Mudra loans sanctioned with effect from September 1, 2019, with reference to EBLR, Allahabad Bank said in a regulatory filing.

The EBLR is made up of RBI's repo rate — at which the banking regulator gives short term loans to banks — an average of last ten years net interest margin of the

bank rounded off to the nearest 5 basis points and credit risk premium on internal credit risk rating. "However, the borrowers shall have the option for either marginal cost of funds based lending rates (MCLR) linked loan or EBLR linked loan at mutually acceptable terms," the bank said in the filing.

Also, all the saving bank deposits of Rs 40 lakh and above will be linked with external benchmark with effect from October 1, 2019, it added.

The announcements come

BRIEFLY

Bid for 3 assets: SAIL extends deadline again

New Delhi: Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has extended the deadline to submit bids for stake sale in its three assets to September 10. The last date for submission of EoIs for its three plants was August 1, which was later extended to August 20. The date for submission of expression of interests (EoIs) physically for the three SAIL assets has been extended to September 10, the firm said.

Amazon deal to help payments side: Biyani

Mumbai: Future Group founder Kishore Biyani said Amazon's investment in the firm is not just to raise money but also to become a part of the ecosystem. "We had subscription warrants of our company and we had to raise money, so the deal was struck. Moreover, the investment by Amazon is strategic to become a part of the ecosystem," Biyani said.

Harley launches BS-VI norm compliant bike

New Delhi: American cult bike maker Harley Davidson on Tuesday launched its first BS-VI emission norm compliant bike, Street 750, in India priced at Rs 5.47 lakh.

Sandbox: Irdai sets up single point of contact

New Delhi: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has set up a single point contact for its regulatory sandbox (RS) initiative, wherein FinTech firms can seek permission to experiment with innovative approaches for the growth of the sector. **PTI**

Google job search tool under EU lens

Brussels: EU regulators are checking Google for jobs to see if the firm unfairly favours its fast-growing tool for searching job listings, Europe's antitrust chief said on Tuesday. **REUTERS**

Oklahoma opioid trial: J&J liable for \$572 mn

HEIDE BRANDES & NATE RAYMOND
NORMAN, OKLA./BOSTON, AUGUST 27

AN OKLAHOMA judge on Monday ordered Johnson & Johnson (J&J) to pay \$572.1 million to the state for its part in fuelling an opioid epidemic by deceptively marketing addictive painkillers, a sum that was substantially less than investors had expected, driving up J&J's shares.

The state's attorney general had filed the lawsuit, seeking \$17 billion to address the impact of the drug crisis on Oklahoma. It had been considered a bellwether for other litigation nationwide over the opioid epidemic.

"The expectation was this was going to be a \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion fine," said Jared Holz, healthcare strategist for Jefferies & Co. "\$572 million is a much lower number than had been feared." Johnson & Johnson said it

would appeal the decision. Shares of J&J were up 2 per cent in extended trading following the decision, after an initial gain of more than 5 per cent.

Other drugmakers that sell opioid painkillers and are defending against similar lawsuits also rose after-hours, including Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd up 2.6 per cent, and Endo International Plc, up 1.4 per cent higher.

Opioids were involved in almost 400,000 overdose deaths from 1999 to 2017, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since 2000, some 6,000 Oklahomans have died from opioid overdoses, according to the state's lawyers.

Roughly 2,500 lawsuits have been brought by states, counties and municipalities nationally seeking to hold drugmakers responsible for opioid abuse nationwide. Oklahoma's case was the first to go to trial. Some drugmakers have chosen to settle cases. **REUTERS**

'E-comm norms to be mandatory under Consumer Protection law'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to make the draft e-commerce guidelines mandatory under the new Consumer Protection Act, in which stringent action has been prescribed against violators. The proposed guidelines for e-commerce firms entail a 14-day deadline to effect refund request, mandate e-tailers to display details of sellers supplying goods and services on their websites, and moot the procedure to resolve consumer complaints.

As per the draft guidelines on e-commerce, the companies are required to submit a self-declaration to the Consumer Affairs Ministry stating that they are conforming with the guidelines. Among other key guidelines, the companies will also be required to ensure that personally identifiable information of customers are protected and should not directly

"The draft guidelines on e-commerce will be made part of the rules under the new Consumer Protection law. Once included under rules, the guidelines become mandatory"

RAM VILAS PASWAN
CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER

or indirectly influence the price of the goods or services and 'maintain a level playing field.'

"The draft guidelines on e-commerce will be made part of the rules under the new Consumer Protection law. Once included under rules, the guidelines become mandatory," Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan told reporters. He discussed the guidelines with some MPs to address their concerns as his Ministry officials are currently in the process of drafting the rules to implement the

law. The Ministry has targeted to implement the Act by December and already sought feedback from stakeholders by September 15 on the draft guidelines. "Every MP's view was that e-commerce guidelines should be incorporated as part of the rules under the new law. We are accepting their suggestion," Paswan said.

According to Consumer Affairs Secretary Avinash K Srivastava, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) — which will be established to promote, protect and enforce consumer rights under the new law — will take action against violating e-commerce firms. "Consumer courts too have powers," he said.

The Consumer Protection Bill 2019, passed recently in Parliament, seeks to establish CCPA and also envisages simplified dispute resolution process, deals with 'product liability' and provides for stiff punishment to check misleading ads and adulteration. **FE**

Ferdinand Piech, architect of Volkswagen's global expansion, dies aged 82

REUTERS
NORMAN, OKLA./BOSTON, AUGUST 27

FERDINAND KARL Piech, Volkswagen AG's former chairman and chief executive, who transformed the German company from a struggling midsize carmaker into a global automotive powerhouse, has died, his wife said in a statement.

Piech, 82, who had 13 children by four different women, died suddenly on Sunday, his wife Ursula said. A brilliant engineer, Piech turned around VW after betting on a modular construction technique which allowed Audi, Skoda and VW brands to share up to 65 per cent common parts, helping Volkswagen Group, the world's largest carmaker by sales, to attain greater economies of scale.

"The life of Ferdinand Piech was shaped by his passion for au-

tomobiles and for the employees that create them. He remained an enthusiast engineer and car lover until the end," Ursula Piech said in the statement.

Under Piech's leadership, VW emphasised engineering brilliance ahead of profits, and went on an expansion spree, acquiring high-margin luxury marques Bentley, Bugatti and Lamborghini in a single year.

"First and foremost I always saw myself as a product person, and relied on gut instinct for market demand. Business and politics never distracted me from the core of our mission: to develop and make attractive cars," Piech wrote in his autobiography.

For his entire career Piech took huge risks as a way to eclipse his grandfather, Ferdinand Porsche, the father of the iconic Volkswagen Beetle as well as the founder of the sports-car manufacturer which still bears his name.

BIG BUSINESS, SHAREHOLDERS AND SOCIETY

What companies are for

Competition, not corporatism, is the answer to capitalism's problems



Last week more than 180 American signatories, including the chiefs of Walmart and JPMorgan Chase, overturned three decades of orthodoxy to pledge that their firms' purpose was no longer to serve their owners alone, but customers, staff, suppliers and communities, too. Reuters

ACROSS THE West, capitalism is not working as well as it should. Jobs are plentiful, but growth is sluggish, inequality is too high and the environment is suffering. You might hope that governments would enact reforms to deal with this, but politics in many places is gridlocked or unstable. Who, then, is going to ride to the rescue? A growing number of people think the answer is to call on big business to help fix economic and social problems. Even America's famously ruthless bosses agree. This week more than 180 of them, including the chiefs of Walmart and JPMorgan Chase, overturned three decades of orthodoxy to pledge that their firms' purpose was no longer to serve their owners alone, but customers, staff, suppliers and communities, too.

The CEOs' motives are partly tactical. They hope to pre-empt attacks on big business from the left of the Democratic Party. But the shift is also part of an upheaval in attitudes towards business happening on both sides of the Atlantic. Younger staff want to work for firms that take a stand on the moral and political questions of the day. Politicians of various hues want firms to bring jobs and investment home.

However well-meaning, this new form of collective capitalism will end up doing more harm than good. It risks entrenching a class of unaccountable CEOs who lack legitimacy. And it is a threat to long-term prosperity, which is the basic condition for capitalism to succeed.

Ever since businesses were granted limited liability in Britain and France in the 19th century, there have been arguments about what society can expect in return. In the 1950s and 1960s America and Europe experimented with managerial capitalism, in which giant firms worked with the government and unions and offered workers job security and perks. But after the stagnation of the 1970s shareholder value took hold, as firms sought to maximise the wealth of their owners and, in theory, thereby maximised efficiency. Unions declined, and shareholder value conquered America, then Europe and Japan, where it is still gaining ground. Judged by profits, it has triumphed: in America they have risen from 5% of GDP in 1989 to 8% now.

It is this framework that is under assault. Part of the attack is about a perceived decline in business ethics, from bankers demanding bonuses and bail-outs both at the same time, to the sale of billions of opioid pills to addicts. But the main complaint is that shareholder value produces bad economic outcomes. Publicly listed firms are accused of a list of sins, from obsessing about short-term earnings to neglecting investment, exploiting staff, depressing wages and failing to pay for the catastrophic externalities they create, in particular pollution.

Not all these criticisms are accurate. Investment in America is in line with historical levels relative to GDP, and higher than in the 1960s. The time-horizon of America's

stockmarket is as long as it has ever been, judged by the share of its value derived from long-term profits. Jam-tomorrow firms like Amazon and Netflix are all the rage. But some of the criticism rings true. Workers' share of the value firms create has indeed fallen. Consumers often get a lousy deal and social mobility has sunk.

Regardless, the popular and intellectual backlash against shareholder value is already altering corporate decision-making. Bosses are endorsing social causes that are popular with customers and staff. Firms are deploying capital for reasons other than efficiency: Microsoft is financing \$500m of new housing in Seattle. President Donald Trump boasts of jawboning bosses on where to build factories. Some politicians hope to go further. Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic contender for the White House, wants firms to be federally chartered so that, if they abuse the interests of staff, customers or communities, their licences can be revoked. All this portends a system in which big business sets and pursues broad social goals, not its narrow self-interest.

That sounds nice, but collective capital-

ism suffers from two pitfalls: a lack of accountability and a lack of dynamism. Consider accountability first. It is not clear how CEOs should know what "society" wants from their companies. The chances are that politicians, campaigning groups and the CEOs themselves will decide — and that ordinary people will not have a voice. Over the past 20 years industry and finance have become dominated by large firms, so a small number of unrepresentative business leaders will end up with immense power to set goals for society that range far beyond the immediate interests of their company.

The second problem is dynamism. Collective capitalism leans away from change. In a dynamic system firms have to forsake at least some stakeholders: a number need to shrink in order to reallocate capital and workers from obsolete industries to new ones. If, say, climate change is to be tackled, oil firms will face huge job cuts. Fans of the corporate giants of the managerial era in the 1960s often forget that AT&T ripped off consumers and that General Motors made out-of-date, unsafe cars. Both firms embodied social values that, even at the time, were

uptight. They were sheltered partly because they performed broader social goals, whether jobs-for-life, world-class science or supporting the fabric of Detroit.

The way to make capitalism work better for all is not to limit accountability and dynamism, but to enhance them both. This requires that the purpose of companies should be set by their owners, not executives or campaigners. Some may obsess about short-term targets and quarterly results but that is usually because they are badly run. Some may select charitable objectives, and good luck to them. But most owners and firms will opt to maximise long-term value, as that is good business.

It also requires firms to adapt to society's changing preferences. If consumers want fair-trade coffee, they should get it. If university graduates shun unethical companies, employers will have to shape up. A good way of making firms more responsive and accountable would be to broaden ownership. The proportion of American households with exposure to the stockmarket (directly or through funds) is only 50%, and holdings are heavily skewed towards the rich. The tax system ought to encourage more share ownership. The ultimate beneficiaries of pension schemes and investment funds should be able to vote in company elections; this power ought not to be outsourced to a few barons in the asset-management industry.

Accountability works only if there is competition. This lowers prices, boosts pro-

ductivity and ensures that firms cannot long sustain abnormally high profits. Moreover it encourages companies to anticipate the changing preferences of customers, workers and regulators — for fear that a rival will get there first.

Unfortunately, since the 1990s, consolidation has left two-thirds of industries in America more concentrated. The digital economy, meanwhile, seems to tend towards monopoly. Were profits at historically normal levels, and private-sector workers to get the benefit, wages would be 6% higher. If you cast your eye down the list of the 180 American signatories this week, many are in industries that are oligopolies, including credit cards, cable TV, drug retailing and airlines, which overcharge consumers and have abysmal reputations for customer service. Unsurprisingly, none is keen on lowering barriers to entry.

Of course a healthy, competitive economy requires an effective government — to enforce antitrust rules, to stamp out today's excessive lobbying and cronyism, to tackle climate change. That well-functioning polity does not exist today, but empowering the bosses of big businesses to act as an expedient substitute is not the answer. The Western world needs innovation, widely spread ownership and diverse firms that adapt fast to society's needs. That is the really enlightened kind of capitalism.

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The way to make capitalism work better for all is not to limit accountability and dynamism, but to enhance them both. This requires that the purpose of companies should be set by their owners, not executives or campaigners

BRITAIN

On a wing and a prayer

Young people love fried chicken but find a government campaign targeting chicken shops distasteful

IF YOU look up from your two-piece and chips, you can set your watch to the rhythm of the fried-chicken shop. Noon brings school kids wolfing down a few wings. At 3pm come the pram-pushers, searching for an affordable dinner. Then it's the end-of-school crush, commuters home from work and finally the drunk, craving stodge to soak up the booze.

None are so devoted as the young. In his teenage years, Yinka Ibrahim would spend "unreasonable amounts of time" in his local branch of Morley's, a south London chain, chewing the fat with his mates. Three or four times a week he would go straight after school, always ordering four wings and chips, for no more than £2 (\$2.40). If you ran out of money, you could always try petitioning the owner. Bossman would look after you.

Such loyalty explains the Home Office's decision to target chicken shops in its latest campaign to curb knife crime, which has risen sharply since 2014. On August 14th it announced a plan to distribute 321,000 takeaway boxes to chicken shops, emblazoned with anti-knife-crime messages and case studies of young people who have handed

in their blades.

The launch went down about as well as a dodgy drumstick. David Lammy, a Labour MP, accused the government of perpetuating a racist stereotype that black people — who are disproportionately likely to be victims of knife crime — love fried chicken. Mr Ibrahim had the same reaction when his friends shared the story. Some sent chicken boxes to the Home Office, with scrawled suggestions of how else to tackle crime. Elijah Quashie, a

Chicken shops are also in the right places. They are concentrated in deprived areas, which are also home to gangs, says Simon Harding of the University of West London. When the Home Office trialled the idea in March, it picked 15 branches in knife-crime hotspots

Youtuber known as the Chicken Connoisseur for his reviews of shops, was unimpressed.

Yet focusing on chicken shops is not completely bird-brained. The Home Office insists that its marketing campaign — which launched last year and has also run at music festivals and in community centres — is aimed at ten- to 21-year-olds of any ethnicity. If so, it is not hard to see why such joints were picked. Shift, a charity, found fried chicken was the most popular fast food for young people in Newham, a London borough. All City Media Solutions, which worked with the Home Office on the campaign, built its business on teenagers' love of wings, selling advertising on screens in the shops. It says two-thirds of chicken-shop customers are aged 16-24.

The shops score highly on two other elements of a marketer's wish-list: "dwell time" and positive association, since customers feel loyal to their branch. More than a third of customers Shift monitored spent over five minutes in a shop after receiving their food, and one in eight stuck around for more than 20. Mr Ibrahim, now 21, still goes about once a



A Home Office campaign to combat knife crime with slogans on fried chicken boxes has come under fire. (Picture: Home Office)

week to the shop he frequented as a child. He feels guilty if he orders chicken elsewhere, because he thinks of it as the "hub of the community". And a lifetime's experience tells him he can trust the food: "I know they don't sell pigeon."

Chicken shops are also in the right places. They are concentrated in deprived areas, which are also home to gangs, says Simon Harding of the University of West London. When the Home Office trialled the idea in

March, it picked 15 branches in knife-crime hotspots. Shan Selvendran, boss of Morley's, was keen on the campaign because a 15-year-old boy was stabbed to death outside one of his branches last year. And gangs sometimes groom new recruits by buying them fried chicken and then making them repay the debt, for example by running drugs. "There is a logic there," says Mr Harding. "It's just the execution has been pretty clunky."

Even so, the campaign seems unlikely to

work. Research suggests people who carry knives do so to protect themselves in areas they perceive to be unsafe, points out James Densley, an expert on British gangs. Inspirational stories alone are unlikely to alter that perception. The boxes will be split between 210 shops, or about 1,500 per branch. Since a branch can go through 1,000 in a day, it is all rather small fry.

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23 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



ROLE PLAY
Oscar-winning actor Viola Davis (pictured) is stepping into the shoes of former First Lady Michelle Obama in the upcoming TV series *First Ladies*. The series, written by novelist Aaron Cooley, will tell stories of Eleanor Roosevelt and Betty Ford, among others.

SNAP SHOTS

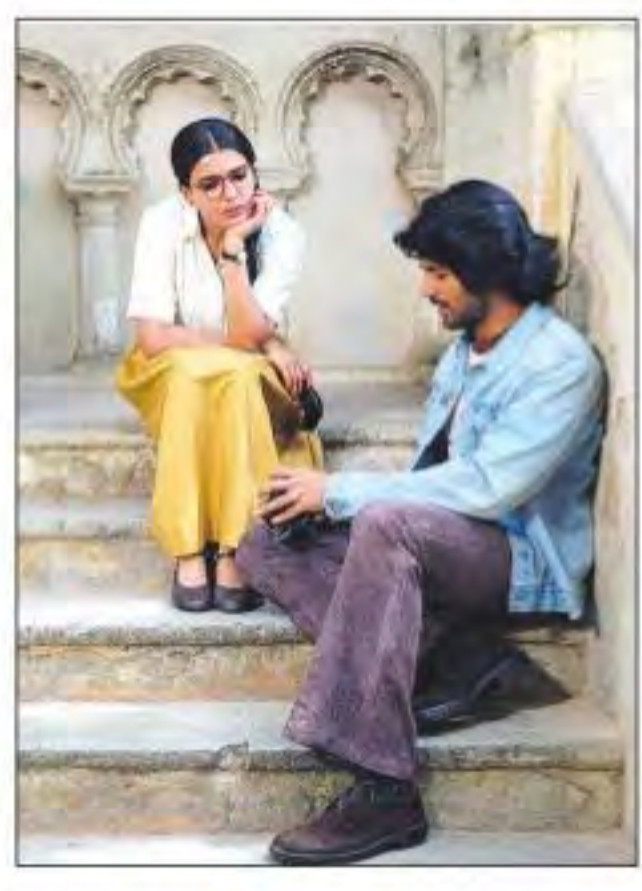


Queen of the Land

THE TALE of Kota Rani, Kashmir's last Hindu queen who ruled the land during 13th century AD, is heading to the big screen. Phantom Films and Reliance Entertainment are producing the film that traces the life of the Hindu ruler of Lohara dynasty. Having fought against many invaders, Rani was an important figure in the construction of the Kute Kol canal that saved Kashmir from recurring flooding. Madhu Mantena of Phantom Films says, "We don't know enough about a personality like Kota Rani. Her life was extremely dramatic and she is perhaps one of the most able woman rulers that India produced."



Mahanati is the story of Savitri Ganesan, the first female superstar of south Indian cinema film stills: Abhinav Kodam; Indrakshi Pattanaik Malik Mahadev Krishna (below)



POOJA PILLAI

AT THE recent National Film Awards, perhaps one of the least surprising wins was the award given to the Telugu-Tamil biopic *Mahanati*. The movie tells the story of Savitri Ganesan, who is believed to be the first female superstar of south Indian cinema. The title role of Savitri, the Mahanati (great actress), is played by Keerthy Suresh — who won the Best Actress National Award for it — while Dulquer Salmaan, Samantha Akkineni and Vijay Deverakonda play the other three leads. The costumes put together by the team — comprising designers Gaurang Shah and Archana Rao, and stylist Indrakshi Pattanaik Malik — were key to reconstructing the settings in which Savitri's rise and fall took place. For Delhi-based Pattanaik Malik, sourcing and styling costumes for an entire film was a new challenge. She had previously styled looks only for lead roles, including Chiranjeevi for the 2017 Telugu action film *Khaidi No. 150*. The 29 year old, who has most recently completed the costume design for the upcoming Priyadarshan period epic *Marakkar: Arabikkadalinte Simham*, explains how the team drew on interviews, research and a crowd-sourced library of visual references to establish the narrative for *Mahanati*'s costume design.

Real-life References

Interviews with people who had known or worked with Savitri or her husband Gemini Ganesan — producers, crew mem-

Costume designer and stylist Indrakshi Pattanaik Malik on what went into the National Award-winning costume design for the Telugu-Tamil biopic Mahanati

bers, journalists — were an important resource. A major challenge, for example, was imagining what the various characters would have worn in their everyday lives. Most of the reference images available for the lead characters, for example, were from publicity or film stills, or from public appearances. This was where inputs from Vijaya Chamundeshwari, Savitri's daughter, became an invaluable. "There were so many things that only she could have told us. For example, she told us that her father (Ganesan) liked to see her mother in dark colours, so in the scenes depicting their married life, we've put Savitri in dark shades," says Pattanaik Malik.

Crowdsourced Costumes

Since the team didn't have much to work with in terms of image references, Pattanaik Malik put out a public appeal on social media, asking for photographs from family albums, which would be relevant to the period and the region in which the movie was set. "People sent in photos from the 1940s to the 1980s, and while we couldn't use everything for the leads, they became good references when we styled the background characters," she says. This, says Pattanaik Malik, was necessary for authenticity. "One of the things that I learned from watching period movies and shows from outside India, like *The Crown*, is that the



One of the things that I learned is that the story is far more convincing if the background characters also look like they belong to the setting
INDRAKSHI PATTANAIAK MALIK

story is far more convincing if the background characters also look like they belong to the setting. In a movie like *Mahanati*, costume occupies prime real estate on the screen, so we could not afford to be careless," she says. This is why, for example, in

the film shooting scenes, the crew members are wearing either white or khaki. "This was the rule for a long time on film sets, and hierarchy decided whether you would wear white or khaki," reveals Pattanaik Malik.

Made to Order

Shah, a Hyderabad-based textile revivalist, dedicated a year to designing and then creating the handloom saris worn by Suresh — the heavy Kanjeevaram and Banarasi silks as well as the simple Mangalagiri cottons. Most of the other costumes (including accessories) for *Mahanati* were either made from material picked up in various cities, including Mumbai and Hyderabad, or were actual vintage sourced from old markets in India, as well as thrift stores in the US.

Pattanaik Malik says, "While Gaurang (Shah) and Archana (Rao) designed the clothes, I was on the sets every day, co-ordinating everything and making sure that they had all the resources they needed." Thanks to the scale of the project, the costume department was further divided into sections. One, for example, focused on accessories, while another ensured that, despite multiple shots and retakes, there was continuity in the costumes. "We couldn't have a shirt collar from the 1950s end up in a shot set in the 1940s," says Pattanaik Malik.

Story Told in Style

Pattanaik Malik says, "Costumes add essential information to the moment of a scene, of a story, to help achieve the visual and narrative goal of the filmmaker. And that's honestly where colour becomes our tool." Since Gemini Ganesan's favourite colour was red, Savitri's clothes feature that colour during the early stages of their romance. "In fact, the first time that the colour red appears in her clothes is when we're introduced to Gemini Ganesan. Savitri is wearing a polka-dotted sari with a red stripe at the border," says Pattanaik Malik.

The love between the two begins to wane towards the middle of the film and red slowly begins to fade from the palette, to be replaced, increasingly, with green. "As Savitri becomes more successful, her husband starts to grow jealous. During this part of the film, she's also wearing saris with more gold in them, along with elaborate jewellery, hairstyles and more make-up. All of this is to reflect her growing stature as a 'Mahanati'," says Pattanaik Malik.

Sweating the Small Stuff

To achieve visual authenticity, details matter. "There were small things, which are generally overlooked but which we had to pay close attention to. For example, in the 1940s, hairclips and rubberbands were not widely used, so we could only use ribbons to tie hair in the scenes set during that period. There were no stick-on bindis at the time, and nail polish wasn't available in India, so we couldn't use either," says Pattanaik Malik.

Designer Isabel Toledo no more

RENOWNED CUBAN-AMERICAN designer Isabel Toledo (pictured above), the face behind Michelle Obama's lemon grass-coloured dress that she wore for Barack Obama's presidential inauguration ceremony in 2009, has passed away at a hospital in Manhattan. She was 59 and succumbed to breast cancer. A revered designer among actors such as Demi Moore and Debi Mazar, Toledo studied at Fashion Institute of Technology and Parsons School of Design, and interned at the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She mostly stayed away from the lime-light and let her designs speak for themselves. In *Roots of Style: Weaving Together Life, Love, and Fashion*, her 2012 autobiography, she revealed how the famous wool and lace dress for Michelle came into being.



On Top of their Game

TABLA MAESTRO Guru Harmohan Khuntia and Odissi exponent Guru Durga Charan Ranbir (pictured) will be bestowed with the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award this year for their immense contribution in the field of dance and music. The award of Rs 1 lakh will be conferred during the seven-day-long Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival in Bhubaneswar, beginning from September 5. The annual award will also be given to noted dance critics and authors Sunil Kothari and Leela Venkataraman and well-known art photographer Avinash Pasricha.

Ladakh on the Ramp

A young Ladakhi designer is bringing designs from the newest Union Territory to mainstream Indian fashion

EKTAA MALIK

STANZING PALMO was quite nervous as she walked the ramp with her debut showcase on the first day of the Lakme Fashion Week, recently held in Mumbai. The 26 year old even fumbled on her cue to exit. "I was really nervous. We had rehearsed this just once, but under the arclights, everything is magnified," says Palmo, who has invoked everything Ladakhi in her creations. Her collection "Between the Earth and Sky", which was part of the Lakme Gen Next Programme, has received rave reviews. She was mentored by fashion designer and style scout Sabina Chopra with five other young designers. The Gen Next Showcase is something that the fashion fraternity watches out for; it gave us people like Aneeth Arora, Rahul Mishra and Masaba Gupta. The past few weeks have been quite hectic for Palmo, what with the work for her collection and her native Ladakh being given the status of a Union Territory. "It's high time. Ladakh has always received funding for skill development, but everything would get routed through Jammu and Kashmir, and we would get lost in the translation," says the soft-spoken designer. "We have a very important place in the geo-political strategy of the region."

A graduate of Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer, Palmo was on the fast track to be a doctor. She even dropped a year to prepare for the medical entrances, courtesy her parents — a business man father and a school teacher mother. "But as a fluke, I also applied to NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Design) and I got through — 6th rank — because of the Scheduled Tribes slot. I used to paint, and I just thrived at NIFT. I guess I was always cre-

ative. But I am aware of how easily some things have come to me, though it took some time convincing my parents. In Ladakh there are no jobs, and everyone wants their children to be either doctors or engineers or have government jobs," says the Delhi-based designer.

Palmo was not always aware and proud of the rich history of Ladakhi textiles and weaves. It was a serendipitous encounter. "In 2016, the government of Ladakh had invited me to train some women's groups to market and brand their wares. I was shocked that they were selling handspun, handmade socks, sweaters and other woollens made of pure wool for peanuts. That also made me embark on this journey of discovering the weaves and textiles of the region," says Palmo, who then created the label Zilzom, meaning "something very beautiful" in Ladakhi.

Palmo has used everything around her that she had seen while growing up in the hilly region. Apricot and sea-buckthorn trees have found their way into her clothes and so has Nambu, the fabric made from sheep wool. The highlight of her collection was a silk-brocade cape, which is draped around the shoulders. "That is the Bok, the traditional ceremonial attire of the region. We also wear it for our weddings," says Palmo.

Having worked with designers like Sonal Verma of Rara Avis, Looms of Ladakh and Supreme Overseas, Palmo is now keen to carry forward the legacy of Ladakh, both on and off the ramp. "I want to use camel, yak and sheep wool for my creations. Ladakh doesn't have embroidery, but we have a strong weaving tradition. I also want to use pashmina. All of Kashmir's pashmina comes from Ladakh, we have never been acknowledged or even mentioned. And Kashmir gets the Geographical Indicator tag, and here we in Ladakh are just an afterthought," says Palmo, who hopes that the new status of Ladakh will help draw attention to the region.



Stanzing Palmo (left); one of her designs at LFW

The Anger Within

Actors on the psychological thriller *Posham Pa*, and working with director Suman Mukhopadhyay

PARTH KHATAU

THE DARK and gloomy interiors of the juvenile prison in Matunga, Mumbai, houses minors who face punishment for their crimes and are undergoing rehabilitation. It is also one of the locations where the cast and crew of Zee 5's psychological thriller, *Posham Pa*, shot parts of the film. Mahie Gill plays the role of Prajakta Deshpande, a woman who got sucked into a life of crime, cornering her two daughters into living the same reality. The film is based on a true story of the first two women in India who received a death penalty in 2014 for committing a series of murders. "I initially couldn't believe someone could murder children. Why would anyone do that? Playing that character, too, was emotionally draining but I had to find a way to switch on and off. The gloomy setting really helped to play the dark character," she says.

Despite the barbarity of the crime, as an actor, she had to think like a serial killer. "My character has a lot of shades. From the age of 25 to 55 she donned various avatars, from a maid to a beggar to a sex worker. There is a lot of anger inside her," says Gill. "There is a sense of fear that exists before a person commits a murder but that fear sort of diminishes with each murder. It's kind of like the TV show, *Breaking Bad*." *Posham Pa* released on August 21 on Zee 5. Sayani Gupta, who was last seen in *Article 15* (2019), says that the character of a serial killer was too good to turn down. "It isn't a role that comes around too often and working with Suman da, too, was something I have been planning for a while," she says. She plays the character of Regha, the elder daughter who has faced a rough and abusive childhood. Her circumstances have turned her into someone she never wanted to be. Unlike Gill, however, Gupta says she wasn't surprised when she read the script. "I follow the news and people do all sorts of horrific things so it wasn't surprising for me. Some things that people do are so in-



Mahie Gill (top); Sayani Gupta and Ragini Khanna in the film

explicable, gruesome and completely remorseless and heartless that it's no surprise anymore," she says.

Gupta also feels that the look of the characters played an instrumental role in telling the story. "There were scenes where we had absolutely no make-up at all. Our hair had to look dishevelled and all of that helped," she says. Shivani Raghuvanshi plays the role of a documentary filmmaker alongside Imaad Shah, who is a Sikh boy, Gundeep Singh Sagar. He works with her on uncovering the mysteries behind the crimes committed in the 75-minute film.

"This is obviously a way more serious kind of character and set that I walked into after playing *Jazz in Made in Heaven*," says Raghuvanshi. "My character is trying to make sense of the events and realise how complex they all are. It was nice to play a serious character in such an intense thriller."

Collapse series

The present Windies batting line-up is a manifestation of a long-term talent drought which has not been addressed by powers that be



EXPRESS IN WEST INDIES

SANDIP G
NORTH SOUND, ANTIGUA, AUGUST 27

ASKEMAR Roach and Miguel Cummins free-wheeled to an entertaining last-wicket stand, the highest of the West Indies second innings, providing comic relief, the crowd began chanting: "Roach, Roach, Roach, he's our best bowler. Roach, Roach, Roach, he's our best batsman. Roach, Roach, Roach, he takes the new ball. Roach, Roach, Roach, he's our opener."

Though West Indies wouldn't embrace such outlandish measures — Roach once hung around with Shivnarine Chanderpaul for a famous win against New Zealand in Kingston, his Test best — their batting line-up prompts as much investigation as revision. Though the skipper and all those associated with their cricket swear by the potential of their young batsmen, some of their choices have been questionable.

For instance, debutant Shamarh Brooks at No 3. Though the 30-year-old is a seasoned domestic hand, having collected 73 caps for Barbados, he seemed utterly out of sorts against India's new-ball fury. It was, to an extent, understandable in the first innings, but in the second when Jasprit Bumrah and Ishant Sharma had provided ample proof that they were raging hot, the hapless Brooks was again thrust into the middle. There were others, like Roston Chase and Shai Hope, more experienced and in better touch. Brooks made 11 and 2, and probably had his confidence shattered.

The case of Chase and Hope is even more baffling. The pair, who famously battled out a draw against India in Jamaica in 2016, is considered their best Test players, alongside opener Kraigg Brathwaite. Both are technically organised batsmen who can dig in, see off attacks and lay the foundation for a competitive total.

Instead, Chase batted at Nos. 5 and No 6, Hope came in at 6 and 7. Too low to influence a Test match. It could be that Chase had bowled a combined 54 overs in the match and Hope kept wickets for nearly 210 overs. But to protect the batsmen best equipped to deal with the demands of a Test match, and push a debutant with a first-class average of 32 is as suicidal as it is farcical.

Then the case of skipper Jason Holder, West Indies's last double centurion. He peeled it out on his home ground of Kensington Oval against England early this year, and soon after the match, announced that he would like to bat higher up the order. And in this West Indies team, sans the Laras and Chanderpauls and Sarwans, he has looked more assured and adequate than most of their top-order batsmen. But is he, like Chase and Hope, too exhausted from the toil on the field and the unenviable demands of leading his side? Tough as leading a bunch of islands with different cultures and dialects is, and he has led them admirably, self-promotion in the batting line-up wouldn't have been considered selfish, rather it could have magnified his aura and lent more stability to the side.

The top order could not escape blame either, and Holder did point a finger in their direction after the first-innings capitulation. "Extremely disappointed. It's been a common thing for our batsmen now. We have not been able to step up as a top order, the middle and lower order have done an exceptional job," he had said. If the top order is flaky, barring Brathwaite, blaming them is deflecting attention from the real issues plaguing West Indies cricket.



West Indies opener John Campbell averages 29.42 in first-class cricket, with just three hundreds in 114 innings. AP

What then is at the bottom of the batting collapses? Is it technical or temperamental? Is it a question of will or motivation? Is it a question of talent? Are their techniques conditioned by T20 cricket (any discussion on batting anywhere in the world, and this thread will pop up). Most of the former players, including batting consultant Ramnaresh Sarwan, swear by their potential. "Talent has never been an issue with West Indies cricket. We keep producing them. It's a case of applying themselves out in the middle," he had told this newspaper before the start of the series.

But West Indies churning out good batsmen in bounty has always been a myth. Barring their glorious years of the 3Ws and the Lloyddean bunch of Desmond Haynes, Gordon Greenidge, Viv Richards and Richie Richardson, their batting had revolved around the feats of a few great batsmen. Rohan Kanhai, Alvin Kallicharan and Roy Fredericks during different phases in the 70s, and then largely Brian Lara, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Ramnaresh Sarwan, lending respectability and sometimes conjuring the magical to amplify the batting riches in the Caribbean.

In between, there were a lot of mediocre batsmen or those who failed to maximise their potential, Marlon Samuels, Wavell Hinds and even Chris Gayle, in this format. There have been eye-catching batsmen, no doubt, but few of genuine Test mettle. The incumbent batting line-up betrays a lack of

West Indies churning out good batsmen in bounty has always been a myth. Barring their glorious years of the 3Ws and the Lloyddean bunch of Desmond Haynes, Gordon Greenidge, Viv Richards and Richie Richardson, their batting had revolved around the feats of a few great batsmen.

quality at this level, even first-class level, on surfaces that have supposedly slowed down.

Just look at some of their first-class figures: John Campbell, their opener, averages 29.42 with just three hundreds in 114 innings. Brathwaite's is a notch better, 38.72 with 21 centuries in 256 innings; Brooks has just five hundreds from 125 innings, his runs coming at 32.90. Just for perspective, compare them to India's top three: KL Rahul averages 47; Mayank Agarwal 49 and Cheteshwar Pujara 54.2. This illustrated not just the gulf in batting quality between the sides but also the reality that West Indies batting, even at first-class level, is modest.

Even Chase and Hope don't have numbers that flatter them: Chase scores 39 runs in an innings; Hope 38. The profusely talented Shimron Hetmyer belts it at 33. Observes for-

mer wicketkeeper Jeffrey Dujon: "When we were playing, there were a lot of them who averaged in the mid-40s who had to sit out because the national side was full. There was competition, but it's no longer the case now," he says.

The regional four-day competition's run-chart only validates his observation on the talent drought. In the most recent edition, only one batsman managed a 50-plus average among the top-10 run-getters, Anthony Bramble of Guyana. Four others managed 40 or thereabouts. And when you delve a bit deeper, it was more a case of one breakout season than sustained run-making. Bramble, for instance, averages 31. So rather than shoving the blame around, the powers that be need to install a system to spot and groom talent, and ensure they don't drift. Then crash batting-clinics, pep talks and batting order shuffles can be organised.

But as it is now such a middling bunch, expecting them to negotiate the versatile Indian bowling is merely wishful thinking. It's not to tarnish them — they showed lot of courage and stickability against England early this year. They are not entirely bereft of talent — in Hetmyer, Chase, Hope and Holder, they have promise — but there's a genuine paucity of batting talent in the Caribbean. It has been blowing in the wind for ages, only that they have yet to fully comprehend it. Or rather, they have let romance blur the reality and find little joys in a No. 9 freewheeling.

I try not to get affected by criticism: Rahane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NORTH SOUND, ANTIGUA, AUGUST 27

INDIA'S TEST vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane, who withstood intense pressure to score match-winning knocks in the first Test against the West Indies, said he made a conscious effort to ignore criticism directed at him for not reaching three figures in the last two years.

Coming into the Test series, Rahane's form was a subject of widespread debate but he silenced his critics with scores of 81 and 102 in India's 318-run win over the West Indies here on Sunday.

"I try not to get affected by criticism as it is unwanted and I can't control it. You are always happy when you make a hundred," Rahane told fellow Mumbaiikar Rohit Sharma in a chat aired on 'bcci.tv'.

"It was satisfying as I had to grind a lot. Needed to put the team in a good position before getting to the hundred," he added.

Despite the dip in his performance, the Indian team management persisted with Rahane and it paid off.

Skipper Virat Kohli has also backed him to do well for the team and persistently defended the batsman's credentials in the face of questions over his form.

The second and final Test between the two sides begins in Jamaica on Friday. The series is part of the inaugural World Test Championships, in which India are currently on top in the points table.

Bumrah enters top 10

India captain Virat Kohli maintained his slender six-point lead over Steve Smith while speedster Jasprit Bumrah made his maiden entry into the top-10 of the latest ICC Test rankings released on Tuesday.

The biggest gainer, however, was all-rounder Ben Stokes following his stupendous effort in the third Test against Australia at Headingley. It has helped him reach career-best positions among batsmen and all-rounders. He is now 13th among batsmen and second among all-rounders.

The top-ranked Kohli has 910 points while Smith, with 904, is placed second. Kane Williamson and Cheteshwar Pujara are distant third and fourth respectively.

Viv's classmate DJ'ing in the stands, rodents running riot in press boxes

SANDIP G
NORTH SOUND, ANTIGUA, AUGUST 27

CHICKIE BAPTISTE is back in the stands. The famous DJ, a classmate of Viv Richards and a quirky feature of the Antigua Recreation Ground, returned to the ground to rev up the music for the weekend crowd. He's 64, his health is failing, so his public appearances have become increasingly rare. But sometimes, he can't simply resist the pull of a cricket match, and fusing it with a concoction of disco and dance. "If I'm not there, who will play the music. These boys (the DJ) are new and they lose Antiguan flavour. It's all chic-chic music, not the racy ones. Back in the day, it was all different," he says.

Back in the day, he repeats in his conversations. Back in the day, he would mount his giant speakers in the shabby Double Decker Stand of the rumbling ARG and blare out his disco tunes. "Once I started cranking up the music, then entire stand would start dancing. And I thought the (wooden) stands would fall down. It would go on for the entire day and much after, all five days," he says. Spicing up his music was his good friend Labon Benjamin, famously known as Gravy, who cross-dressed and played the clown. Gravy had long retired — marked his retirement in 2000 by parading across the ARG outfield during an interval

dressed in a fully-accessorised bridal gown. Then, there were Papie the bugler and comedian Mayfield, with whom his best friend Gravy always fought.

He just shuts his eyes and the mind transports him back to the "Rec days". "I can see it all in front of my eyes, everything so bright and beautiful." These, though, are memories that energise as much as depress him. "Every time I think of those days, I feel very energetic, but the memories make me sad as well, because of the way the West Indies team is playing. There's no life. No fight. No joy. There's no character in this team I could dedicate a song to. Maybe, Jason and Kemar," says Chickie, perhaps the only non-cricketer ever to be adjudged man of the match, as the match between India and West Indies in 1997 was washed out.

Chickie — his original name is Nigel, but barely anyone knows it, had once famously stopped the Antiguan traffic — apparently the first the city island had ever witnessed — to watch good friend score the then fastest hundred, off 56 balls, against England in 1986. "I was attending a wedding, my nephew's and then the news began to spread that Viv is on 90. I left the wedding and ran for my life. I think he deliberately slowed it down, seeing I was not there. If I were there, he could have scored it in less than 50 balls. But boy, I broke all the rules of road traffic



Chickie Baptiste is perhaps the only non-cricketer ever to be adjudged man of the match, as the match between India and West Indies in 1997 was washed out.

and got there just in time to see him go from 95 to 100. If it were to happen today, I would have lost 300 EC," he says, chuckling.

But he knew exactly which song to play. He always had a sense of occasion. He started playing Captain, the Ship is Sinking, sung by Gypsy. "Captain, this ship is sinking/Captain, these seas are rough (oh yes) We gas tank al-

most empty No electricity, we oil pressure reading low. Shall we abandon ship?..." he begins to hum the tune. It immediately struck a chord with elderly gathering behind him and they broke into an impromptu orchestra.

More reminiscing follows: "It's my favourite, and Viv also liked it. The song came

instinctively to my mind. I had barely time to settle, but a DJ knows his songs. Even the English crowd couldn't stop dancing. Those days man, it used to be a carnival every match day." The crowd too has changed. They've become sanitised and formal, he feels. This is what hurts him more than his team's decline. "They're shy, their feet have no rhythm. They just and munch the popcorn, and I'm without an audience. My music has fallen on deaf ears," he says.

Age though hasn't dimmed his penchant for flashy colours or showmanship. He wore a fluorescent green t-shirt, the collar crowded with sparkling gold chains. As he poses for the picture, he strikes a Usain Bolt pose. "I am a naughty man still. I can't go down like the West Indies team. I will dance myself to my death. There are plenty more years," he says.

He then starts piping his favourite song again: "Captain, this ship is sinking/Captain, these seas are rough (oh yes) We gas tank almost empty, No electricity, we oil pressure reading low. Shall we abandon ship?..." But the context is different. It's sung in an elegiac, depressed tone, and he quips: "It's the perfect song for our team and times."

Mousetrap

Modern-day press-boxes have squeaky and swanky interiors — if at times gaudy

paints and over-decorated walls — and amenities. The one at Sir Viv Richards Stadium is clean and spacious and fitted with everything a hack would need, even a large and well-stocked pantry room. It also has mousetraps beneath the table, you gotta be careful to not get entrapped.

Apparently, the entire island is going paranoid over the rising rodent population in the country, after a teenager, who was diagnosed with rat fever, died. Every now and again, the radio gives alerts and warning on rat fever. They have tried all the popular elimination methods, from cakes to chinks, but the mousetrap, she says, is still the most trusted and efficient method.

Power Velocity Sindhu

She has combined her tall frame with agility, as was evident in her display in the Badminton World Championships at Basel. As former shuttler **ANUP SRIDHAR** tells **SHIVANI NAIK**, the next few years could be dominated by the Indian shuttler

AUGUST 27

IN PV Sindhu's Avenger version of the World Championships — 2017 to 2019, the instructions were simple: Hulk, Smash. Power Velocity 'PV' Sindhu rocked the smash unlike anyone seen in women's singles. This was pure power-play with no pause and no skittishness. Another world champion had been peppered with smashes by an Indian in 2006 when Taufik Hidayat was beaten by Anup Sridhar. The Olympian from 2008 was also a tall hulking shuttler with a Big Smash. Sridhar lists the specs of the massive weapon that was centrestage in the Sunday final against Nozomi Okuhara, and explains the anatomy of the Sindhu Smash.

Excerpts from his analysis:

Angles plus pace

It's the biggest weapon in her game. But it's not just the angle. She's worked so hard on her core. Even the power of the smash is fantastic. Many tall players have that huge advantage in getting a steep angle. She's paired that with a really hard smash. 350-360 kmph is a considerably powerful men's singles smash. In terms of power, you could tell even when the smash was in Okuhara's range, she was not able to return it because she was beaten for pace most of the times. Angle paired with pace becomes lethal.

Start of the Sindhu era

I think touch wood, if Sindhu can take care of her body, for the next 3-4 years she will literally dominate women's badminton. Because I don't see anyone potentially apart from Tai Tzu-Ying who'll apparently retire after Tokyo next year or (Carolina) Marin, though it remains to be seen how she recovers from her ACL injury. But I can't see anyone coming extremely close to Sindhu for a while now. This could be the start of the Sindhu era in world badminton.

I think touch wood, if Sindhu can take care of her body, for the next 3-4 years she will literally dominate women's badminton. Because I don't see anyone potentially apart from Tai Tzu-Ying... This could be the start of the Sindhu era in world badminton.

Agility and ability

There's two parts to being tall. There is an advantage of the angle. But you are a little bit less agile, less quick with getting your feet back behind the shuttle and into position. Shorter players are much quicker on their feet. This is something tall players have to work on in terms of a lot of agility and strength training. And it's evident she has done a lot of training on agility.

At the core of it all

Physically, she is at a different level from even a year ago. That's a good change. You can tell she's physically looking very powerful on court. It's the core mainly. The first movement to any part of the court comes from the core, not from the legs or the upper body. She's clearly done a lot of core work. And that power is definitely core and her legs, arms and back are all a lot stronger, that's where all the power is coming from. Actually core and lower body contributes more to the power of the smash than the upper body. Because it's the push-off with the legs behind the shuttle and you use that momentum and weight of that body behind the power of the smash. Variation was there even 4-5 years ago. Power has improved.

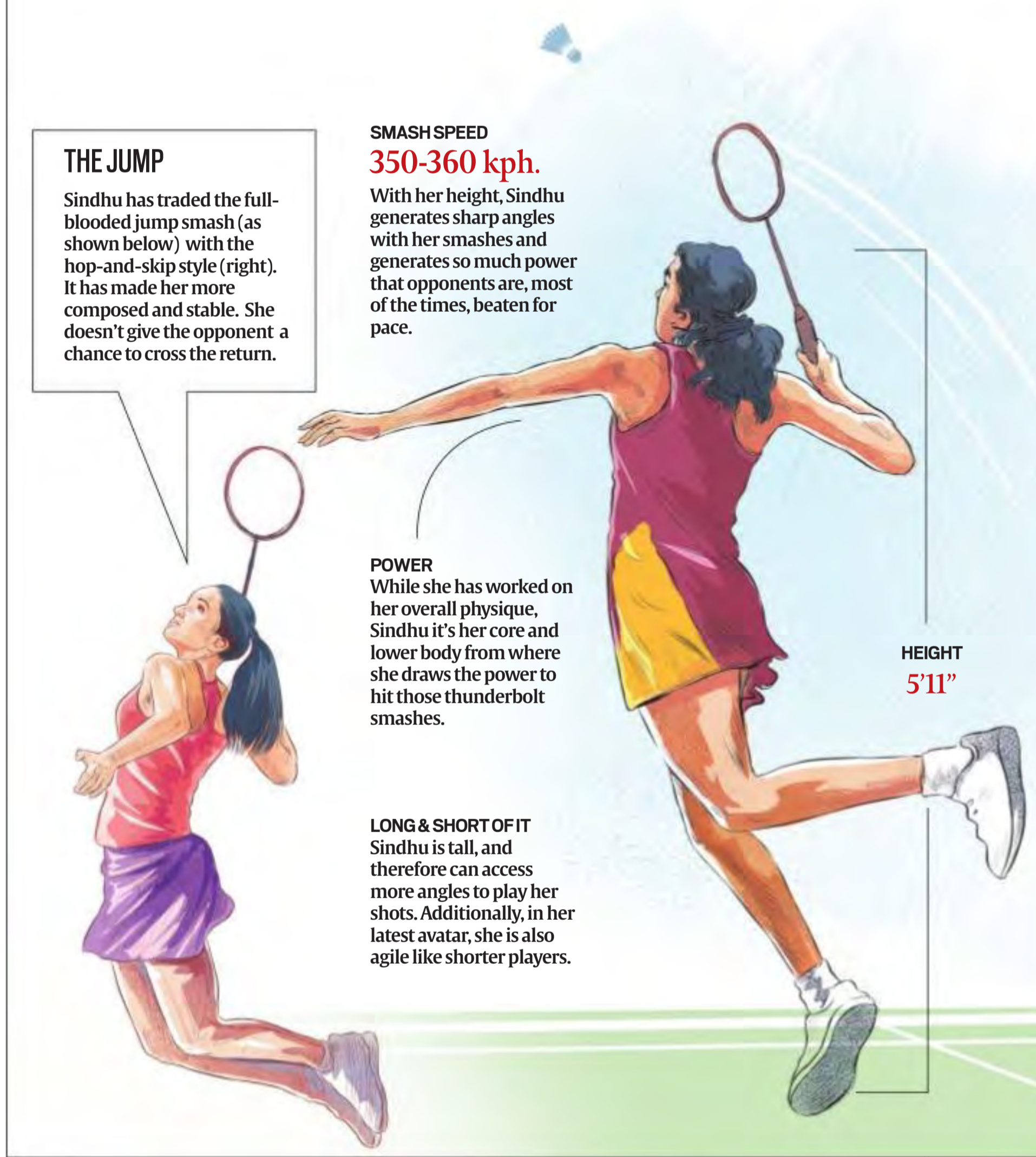
Getting behind & under shuttle

Getting behind the shuttle consistently puts her in a position where she can use her height. A lot of the time in the past, even against Okuhara in the match two years ago, particularly on the forehand corner, you could see her taking the shuttle low and behind her. There weren't many



PV Sindhu arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday after her World Championship victory in Basel on Sunday. PTI

One shot, two frames: Smash deconstructed



THE JUMP

Sindhu has traded the full-blooded jump smash (as shown below) with the hop-and-skip style (right). It has made her more composed and stable. She doesn't give the opponent a chance to cross the return.

SMASH SPEED

350-360 kph.

With her height, Sindhu generates sharp angles with her smashes and generates so much power that opponents are, most of the times, beaten for pace.

POWER

While she has worked on her overall physique, Sindhu it's her core and lower body from where she draws the power to hit those thunderbolt smashes.

HEIGHT

5'11"

LONG & SHORT OF IT

Sindhu is tall, and therefore can access more angles to play her shots. Additionally, in her latest avatar, she is also agile like shorter players.

Illustration: Sivajit Dey

occasions like that on Sunday when that happened. She was always behind the shuttle and contacting it in front of her body. From there, she can use her weapons. Her flat clears, drops, smashes. She has all the shots. But now, she's strong enough to get behind the shuttle and actually use all of them. Ideally, you want to be under and behind the shuttle. You want to be contact-

ing the shuttle a little bit towards your right. That's again depending on the variations you have, the options you have. You need to contact the shuttle just a little bit in front of you. If you can do that, you have the entire range in front of you — straight / cross clears, straight / cross drops, straight / cross half-smash, and obviously straight and cross smash. And getting behind the

shuttle is actually a huge variation. She used to have all these strokes before but is able to use them better now because she has the power to get behind the shuttle.

Means and the end

The big smash typically has to be for the kill. Because if it comes back, after hitting such a powerful stroke, you are a little off-

balance. She sets it up. She's always been good at the net, has got some good spins at the net, getting up at the net, getting behind the shuttle and using drops and attacking clears also very good... all these set up the rally, give her the opening. And then she sort of kills it. I don't want to put a bet here, but I don't know anyone who hits the smash as hard as her. There must be someone somewhere. She's still pretty young. Not too old to improve physically. So who knows.

She's rewriting what a women's singles player can do all the time. And I hope she can continue doing that hopefully. I've never heard of a 21-7, 21-7 World championship women's singles final. But then I've also never heard of a 21-9, 21-3 men's singles final! Momota is short, he actually doesn't have a six pack or stuff like that. But he's unbelievably agile and fit. These are unbelievable people in sport.

Hop, skip, don't-jump-smash

The full-blooded jump smash, as was seen in Rio, was kind of a finish from her if there's a really poor lift or clear from the opponent which gives her the time to get behind the shuttle. The full-blooded jump smash, I also think, gets her a little bit off-balance. If she hits a smash and is less than accurate with it, it gives the opponent the chance to cross the return and really get her into trouble. Without the full-blooded jump smash and by getting that hop-and-skip smash in, she seems a lot more composed and stable. Even if it isn't towards the lines and the opponent crosses, she's still stable and balanced enough to get it. That might be the reason we haven't seen the double-leg-off-the-ground smash.

Riffing off men's singles

The smash is obviously akin to the men's singles game. On the opponent's smashes, we did see a few cross-drives in return instead of just the simple blocks. So she's sometimes driving the shuttle back on return. It's again because the core is really strong and

She's rewriting what a women's singles player can do all the time. And I hope she can continue doing that hopefully. I've never heard of a 21-7, 21-7 World championship women's singles final.

she reacts quickly and, of course, she is powerful and has fantastic reach. So we see smashes and she drives it cross-court from where she returns the shuttle. That is again a men's singles stroke and we haven't seen too much of it in women's singles. Tai Tzu-Ying and Marin are also playing these shots that used to be seen in men's singles. They're unbelievably fit. I don't know how they're able to produce that much power and quick movements and explosion. But they are constantly pushing the level higher and higher. Sindhu's taken it to a whole new level; let's hope she keeps going.

The high of a smash

When your strings initiate a fine smash and it hits right in the sweet spot, and you win the point, for the person who wins the point, it is more than just a point. It's like a slap in the face of the opponent. You get only one point but mentally you take away more than one point from the opponent. Because the opponent is so scared to lift the shuttle again. For the person receiving the smash starts doubting everything. If you have lifted the shuttle back, and it's come back as a smash, what are you supposed to do. You lift the shuttle and you still lose a point. You'll have to figure it out. For example, Okuhara tried to play it down on Sunday - and play attacking. But that's not her game. She's forced to do something that she isn't used to doing, and then mistakes creep in. Which wouldn't have happened if Sindhu wasn't smashing the way she was.

Staying grounded

It's easy to get satisfied. But she has the right team behind her. There is Gopi to ground her and remind her that you should enjoy this. But there's a bigger battle in 11 months.

Can you reconsider Rana's award snub, HC asks govt

PRITAMPAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday asked the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs whether its decision to exclude junior national shooting coach Jaspal Rana from this year's Dronacharya Award winners' list can be revisited by the selection committee. Justice Navin Chawla, however, made it clear that this won't impact this year's awards ceremony, which takes place on National Sports Day (August 29).

Rana, a multiple Commonwealth Games and Asian Games gold medalist, was passed over by the panel despite having groomed the likes of Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary and Anish Bhanuwal, all of whom have won multiple international medals in recent times.

The selection panel nominated Vimal Kumar (badminton), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis) and Mohinder Singh Dhillion (athletics) for the annual Dronacharya Award category while Mezban Patel (hockey), Rambir Singh Khokhar (kabaddi) and Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket) were picked for the Dronacharya Award in the lifetime category.

The judge asked Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Maninder Acharya to take instruction on revisiting Rana's application after it was pointed by lawyer Rahul Mehra, while referring to the ministry's records, that one Sandeep Gupta was considered for the awards, despite lacking 180 days of coaching to individual sportspersons.

Kabaddi elections stayed

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday stayed the election for office-bearers of the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) that was to be held on September 1. Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva passed the interim order and sought response of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and AKFI on the petition, saying the process can only be initiated by the High Court-appointed administrator, if it holds the poll in compliance of its August 3, 2018 order on age and tenure guidelines. The court listed the matter for further hearing on September 17.

The petition filed by A C Thangavel, a former kabaddi player from Tamil Nadu, has challenged the AKFI's three orders of August 7, 16 and 17 by which elections were notified by the administrator, electoral roll published and objections raised by him dismissed without assigning any reasons. The petitioner, represented through advocates Rahul Mehra and R Arunadhari Iyer, said these orders were issued contrary to the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 and the electoral roll had members who were not qualified to be a part of the electoral college.

AFI HIGH-PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR INTERVIEW

'Athletes rely too much on supplements, need better diet at SAI centres'

NIHAL KOSHIE
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 27

INDIAN ATHLETES consume way too many supplements to meet their nutritional requirements as compared to world-class athletes, which 'in most cases is not helpful', Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) high-performance director Volker Herrmann told *The Indian Express* on Tuesday.

To wean athletes away from the habit of loading up on supplements, there is a pressing need for a 'better diet' at training centres of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Herrmann, a former high-performance manager at the Olympic Training Centre in Cologne, Germany, said.

"We want to reduce the number of supplements our athletes are taking because it is a bit of an issue right now. In comparison to most of the world-class athletes, I have to say that our athletes are relying too much on supplements, which in most cases are not even helpful. (Supplements can be reduced) if you follow a decent diet, because a natural prod-

uct is always better than an artificial product. We need a better diet for them at the different national training centres," he said.

The 34-year-old took over as AFI's high-performance director in July and is based at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala. He has also visited SAI centres in Bangalore, where middle and long-distance runners train, and Thiruvananthapuram, which is where the elite jumpers are stationed.

The German said that Indian athletes had got into the habit of taking supplements because of a 'misconception' about their benefits and added that the need of the hour was for AFI and the coaches to persuade them to make a change.

"Athletes must rely less on supplements and develop an understanding of the food they need," he said.

Herrmann added that SAI has been 'willing to listen' when it came to improving the diet for elite athletes.

"We are in discussions with SAI because we have to improve the food at the training centres. I think it's a problem which SAI has realised and now they have announced a cou-



Volker Herrmann. Express Photo

ple of job opportunities for chefs. SAI is willing to listen and adjust a few things. We are going to introduce fresh fruit juices at the (training) camps and we (will) get organic eggs. In general, the world diet is based on proper levels of carbohydrates and proteins, and we need to educate the athletes as well about what is the healthy stuff and what is the stuff they better avoid," Herrmann added.

When asked if he feared that excessive use of supplements could also result in inadvertent doping by athletes, Herrmann said: "I do not disagree."

Indian athletes fall back on supplements to aid them in recovery between training sessions but must realise that there is no substitute for natural nutritious food, the high-performance director said.

"The most important aspect of training is recovery, because if you have better recovery you can have more intense training sessions. The two biggest factors for recovery are actually sleep and nutrition. And we have to definitely improve the diet for our top athletes. And we need to ensure decent amount of vitamins, carbohydrates, proteins from

natural sources, because the best way is to get nutrition from natural sources."

AFI and SAI are in discussions with nutritionists and once they come on board, it is equally important for athletes to understand the importance of a healthy diet.

"We are trying to increase the diet-related education level of our athletes because in the end, the athlete is the one responsible for training and recovery and that includes diet as well. We have to improve the understanding of our athletes on how to improve (in terms of) recovery and, in particular, diet."

Earlier this month, SAI announced vacancies for nutritionists, chefs, assistant chefs and mess managers for 15 centres spread across India to provide personalised diet to athletes based on the needs of their respective disciplines. Sports minister Kiren Rijiju had admitted to shortcomings in diet at SAI centres. "Different athletes have different diet requirements and deciding on their food intake purely on the basis of whether they are senior or junior was not the right way. It had to be corrected and we have done it," he had said in a statement.

DHARUN RETURNS, ARCHANA WINS GOLD

Lucknow: No athlete met the qualification norms for the world championships on the first day of the inter-state athletics meet, but among the gold medalists Archana Suseendran clocked 23.39 seconds to continue an impressive run of form. Archana's time was off the qualifying standard of 23.03s and was also below her personal best of 23.18s clocked at the 5th Indian Grand Prix earlier this month. The heats and the final of the 200 metres were held on the same day and the Tamil Nadu athlete suggested that she could have done much better if there was a day's gap.

Dharun Ayyasamy, the Asian Games silver medalist in the 400 metre hurdles, made a comeback from an injury lay-off by clocking a modest 48.40s in the 400m heats. **ENS**

On Slam debut, Nagal gives glimpse of a 'solid' future

22-year-old gives Federer a scare but loses in four sets; 20-time major champion impressed by the world no. 190, says he has a solid career ahead

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

BEFORE EMERGING onto the Arthur Ashe court, Sumit Nagal told veteran coach and former world no. 4 Brad Gilbert that he wants to "enjoy the moment." But once he stepped out on the largest tennis stadium in the world, Nagal had his game face on.

This was the moment Nagal, just 22, had been dreaming of. His first ever main draw match in a Grand Slam. And the prospect of marking this moment with a contest against Roger Federer, the holder of 20 Grand Slam titles, the most endearing personality in the sport and arguably the greatest tennis player of all time, made the deal all the more sweeter. If this was to be a baptism by fire, Nagal was prepared to battle through the flames.

And battle he did, even taking the first set - forcing some people to consider the prospect of a massive upset - before the five-time champion restored order with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 win in two-and-a-half hours. The match clock read 36 minutes as Nagal lined up another serve. Federer received it with an inside-out forehand, and the line-umpire called it out. Nagal's expression gave nothing away as he walked back to his chair after winning the first set.

This was the fourth time an Indian had squared up against the Swiss. Rohan Bopanna played Federer in Halle in 2006. Somdev Devvarman played him twice - first at the Dubai Open in 2011 and then in the second round of the French Open in 2013. But Nagal became the first to win a set against the current world no 3.

Federer, till that point, had not quite settled into the match. He did strike 10 winners, but was guilty of three double faults and 19 unforced errors - including the one that gave Nagal the set, and Nagal was happy to take advantage. Federer was impressed.

Legend surprised

"I guess (I was surprised at) maybe how he handled the moment. Never easy to come out and play your best. Even though it's kind of what you live for, you dream about, playing on the big stage. So I think he did that very well," Federer said about Nagal after the match. "I think his game is based on being really consistent, moving well, moving the ball around well. I think he knows what he can bring. That's why I think he's going to have a very solid career. But, of course, it's not the game that comes out with the biggest surprises. It's really consistent. I think he did it very well tonight."

An early lead against Federer, especially in a best-of-five-sets Grand Slam match, means very little; you know that the Swiss will come back. He did that against a hapless Lloyd Harris of South Africa at Wimbledon in July. Nagal walked into the trap, let his energy drop after winning the first set.

"When I won the first set, instead of focusing on what I did well in the first set, I started thinking too much about other things. But it's an experience and all of us learn from our mistakes," he said. "You start thinking 'Oh! I am a set up.' Then you get nervous and the energy levels are not the same. Boom! And things change in a second."

Still rusty, Federer started clawing his way back. He was finding his range, stacking up more winners, keeping a lid on the errors. He took the second set 6-1. But Nagal simply wouldn't go away. He put in all that he had against the veteran, putting on a solid display of defence and firing forehand groundstrokes when he saw an opening. "He actually does a really good job, especially on the inside-out, how he gets around. That was impressive," Federer said.

There was not much the Indian could do once Federer started firing, but he did make sure the Swiss earned every point. With Federer serving for the third set at 5-2, he needed a seventh set point to finally convert. In the fourth set, Nagal pushed harder, but Federer was well on his way to winning his 86th match at the US Open. Eventually, Federer fired in a serve on



Roger Federer beat Sumit Nagal 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 in two-and-a-half hours on the Indian's Grand Slam debut. USA TODAY Sports

'I played a little like my beard, rusty

No. For you guys & social media, it is
—FEDERER'S WITTY REPLY WHEN ASKED IF HE FELT IT WAS NADAL AND NOT NAGAL FOR A SECOND.

It was a tough first set for me. He played pretty strong so credit to him. I was missing a lot of balls so I was trying to cut down the unforced errors. Hopefully it will get better. I was rusty, I will shake it off.
—ON HIS FIRST-SET LOSS

I think he knows what he can bring. That's why I think he's going to have a very solid career. But, of course it's not the game that comes out with the biggest surprises. It's really consistent. I think he did it very well tonight.
—ON NAGAL'S FUTURE

Never easy to come out and play your best. Even though it's kind of what you live for, you dream about, playing on the big stage. So I think he did that very well
—ON NAGAL'S TEMPERAMENT



I think his game is based on being really consistent, moving well, moving the ball around well. Sort of very much a clay-courtier. That's also the surface he's basically played the entire year almost.
—ON NAGAL'S GAME

I played a little bit like my beard today. Rusty. I'm going to shake it off for the next match, that's better
—WHEN ASKED IF HE WAS GOING TO LET HIS UNCHARACTERISTIC STUBBLE GROW

match point that caught the bottom of Nagal's racquet.

First big break

Nagal had first made his mark on Indian tennis by winning the Junior Wimbledon doubles crown back in 2015. Since then though, recurring shoulder problems have hampered his growth, his ranking diving low. When he did get back to the tour full-time this year, he struggled to find tournaments where his ranking was good enough to enter. But once he did, he started winning matches and ranking points. From starting the year at 361, he's at a career high 190 at the moment. But in his match against the man who has been world no 1 for more weeks than any other player, the Jhajar native showed the heart for a fight.

"I know he didn't win, but he showed the country and more importantly himself that he could be playing at a very high level if he continues to work," explained former India no 1 Devvarman. "He showed signs of composure playing on Centre Court, in front of a packed stadium against Roger - never easy in a Grand Slam. The way he competed and fought, how

composed he was in the match because he was never really fazed when Roger hit great shots. All of this comes down to really being prepared coming into the match and I think Sumit did a great job of that."

Nagal's rank is sure to go up this week, as he adds a cool \$58,000 to his total prize money of \$153,687. But the onus is now on the youngster to build on what he has achieved at the US Open, coming up from the qualifiers to push the world no. 3. "Staying at this level is not an option for Sumit," Devvarman added. "He's 22, and needs to start looking to getting into the top 100 as soon as possible. He's a smaller guy who has to work for his points. That means he has to work on his fitness, which is something he's done a great job of in the last year. And continue to work on all aspects of his game, the most important aspect being his serve and point construction after the serve. If he does these things, I'm sure he will get a lot better very soon." After the high of the US Open, Nagal will be back on the Challenger circuit, back to the grind. But now that he's had the taste of what it's like to be up, front and centre, he will want more of it.

Twisted ankle makes Prajnesh's life tougher

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK, AUGUST 27

PRAJNESH GUNNESWARAN says he "did hit" world number five Daniil Medvedev with his game in the US Open first round but a twisted ankle did not allow him to be consistently aggressive. Competing in his fourth straight Grand Slam singles main draw this season, Prajnesh lost 4-6 1-6 2-6 to the Russian on Monday. Long rallies featured from the world go though Prajnesh took sometime to find his range. The Indian left-hander began aggressively but could not maintain intensity after losing a well-fought first set at the Louis Armstrong Stadium.

"He is very consistent. He does not make many errors. But I did feel I was able to hit him

Competing in his fourth straight Grand Slam singles main draw this season, Prajnesh lost 4-6 1-6 2-6 to Russia's Daniil Medvedev.

with my game. I needed to do it consistently and for that I needed to move well, but I twisted my ankle and it made it a bit difficult," Prajnesh said. "He is very good on the backhand corner. Even if he goes on the run, he was good with his cross court, so that was one of the shots he used to neutralise my forehand even when I hit it well. But, overall, a good experience," added the 29-year-old from Chennai. The Indian dropped his serve in the first game of the

match but broke back Medvedev in the fourth with a crushing inside-out forehand winner after serving at love.

The Russian broke back immediately when he placed a cross-court forehand from baseline in the open court. It was a dogfight out there but Medvedev nosed ahead again with another break of serve and consolidated it with a hold. Prajnesh mixed it up nicely by striking hard from the baseline with his free-flowing forehand and played some deft drop shots to set up points.

Prajnesh's body language was aggressive while Medvedev largely remained calm as he served big and his solid returns in long rallies helped him take those extra points. Unforced errors from Prajnesh when Medvedev served for the opening set made the job easy for the world number five.

Open & shut: Serena wins under 60 mins

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, AUGUST 27

PLAYING HER first match at the US Open since last year's loss in a chaotic, controversial final, Serena Williams played nearly perfect tennis and beat Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-1 in a contest devoid of drama on Monday night. Williams stretched her winning streak to 19 matches against Sharapova and now leads their head-to-head series 20-2. "Every time I come up against her," Williams said, "I just bring out some of my best tennis." Sure did this time; the whole thing lasted all of 59 minutes. Williams won twice as many points, 56-28. She saved all five break points she faced and lashed serves at up to 115 mph. She broke five times.

Few players would have stood a chance against Williams the way she performed - and certainly not a diminished Sharapova, who is ranked just 87th after missing much of this season with a bad right shoulder.

"She would win the title, playing like this," 18-time major champion Chris Evert said about Williams on ESPN's telecast.

Williams arrived at Flushing Meadows, where she's won six titles, accompanied by questions about her back, because spasms that flared up earlier this month forced her to stop playing during the final of one hard-court tune-up tournament and pull out of another one entirely. Didn't seem to be an issue against Sharapova.

Not one bit. "The body's good. I feel good," Williams said. "My back's a lot better. So I'm excited. This is going to be fun."

A year ago, she was beaten by Naomi Osaka in straight sets in a US Open title match that devolved after a back-and-forth between Williams and chair umpire Carlos Ramos. He warned her for receiving coaching signals, which isn't allowed in Grand Slam play; when she later broke a racquet, he docked her a point; when she argued with him and called him a "thief" and a "liar," he docked her a game. The US Tennis Association decided that Ramos would not officiate any match involving Serena Williams or her older sister, Venus, at this year's tournament.

Williams was calm and cool as can be against Sharapova, only rarely showing the slightest hint of emotion with a cry of "Come on!" or by raising a clenched left fist after the shot of the night, a backhand passing winner that saved a break point early in the second set.

"That was definitely a big point for me," Williams said. "She's the kind of player that



Serena Williams thrashed old foe Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-1. USA TODAY Sports

gets momentum and she starts going. I was really excited that I hit that winner."

It shined up, at least, as far and away the most intriguing match-up on Day 1 at the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Few athletes in any sport have been as popular in recent decades.

Williams owns 23 major singles title, Sharapova five. Both have a career Grand Slam. Both have been ranked No. 1.

So, yes, there were plenty of other matches around the grounds on Monday, with No. 1 Novak Djokovic opening the defence of his title with a 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Roberto Carballes Baena, and 21-year-old American Reilly Opelka providing the biggest upset of the afternoon in his US Open debut by eliminating No. 11 Fabio Fognini of Italy 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3. And, sure, 2016 champion Angelique Kerber continued her rough Grand Slam year with a first-round exit against Kristina Mladenovic by a 7-5, 0-6, 6-4 score, while 2016 runner-up Karolina Pliskova and reigning French Open title winner Ash Barty both struggled through rough starts before emerging to win. The Williams family only dropped a total of three games in two matches on Monday, because Venus beat Zheng Saisai 6-1, 6-0 earlier.

'Best chance to unseat 'Big 3'

Defending champion Novak Djokovic said the timing of the US Open makes it the most unpredictable of the Grand Slams as the Serb made a promising start in his quest for a fourth title in New York.

The world number one, who has won four of the past five majors, brushed past Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 in the opening round Monday.

He is attempting to become the first

back-to-back men's US Open winner since Roger Federer lifted the trophy five years running from 2004 to 2008.

Djokovic, Federer and Rafael Nadal have combined to capture 11 successive and 54 of the last 65 Grand Slams, although success at Flushing Meadows has proved more accessible to those outside the "Big Three" than any other event.

Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka, Marin Cilic, Juan Martin del Potro and Andy Roddick have all triumphed in New York, whereas only six titles have eluded tennis' most successful trio elsewhere dating back to Federer's 2003 Wimbledon victory.

"Well, maybe what I would point out is this Grand Slam is the last Grand Slam of the year. So some players maybe might have been more exhausted, less freshness in the legs, so to say, than is the case, for example, in Australia is the beginning of the season," said Djokovic.

"Because it's a long season, it's a lot of surfaces that you have to change and it takes a toll on your body."

MONDAY'S KEY RESULTS

Men's first round: No. 1 Novak Djokovic beat Roberto Carballes Baena 6-4, 6-1, 6-4; No. 5 Daniil Medvedev beat Prajnesh Gunneswaran 6-4, 6-1, 6-2; No. 7 Kei Nishikori beat Marco Tringelliti 6-1, 4-1 (retired); Reilly Opelka beat No. 11 Fabio Fognini 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (8), 6-3. Women's first round: No. 2 Ash Barty beat Zarina Diyas 1-6, 6-3, 6-2; No. 3 Karolina Pliskova beat Tereza Martinicova 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3); No. 5 Elina Svitolina beat Whitney Osuigwe 6-1, 7-5; No. 8 Serena Williams beat Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-1; Kristina Mladenovic beat No. 14 Angelique Kerber 7-5, 0-6, 6-4; Venus Williams beat Zheng Saisai 6-1, 6-0.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS
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WHEN STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY STREAMLINES STATE AFFAIRS.

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