

# The Indian EXPRESS

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## JAMMU & KASHMIR

# Sajad freed, party says can't go out; Mufti's detention extended

'Five days short of a year, have been informed that I am a free man'



People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone after his release from house arrest, in Srinagar on Friday. Express

NAVEED IQBAL  
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

NEARLY A year after he was detained amidst a clampdown on the political leadership in Jammu and Kashmir at the time of the abrogation of Article 370, People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone was on Friday officially "released" from house arrest. However, he has been told not to step out or speak to the media.

As soon as his release was announced, Lone took to Twitter to say, "Finally 5 days short of a year I have been officially informed that I am a free man. So much

has changed. So have I. Jail was not a new experience. Earlier ones were harsh with usual doses of physical torture. But this

was psychologically draining. Much to share hopefully soon." Around 1.15 pm, authorities

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## Mehbooba still held under PSA, some raise questions



Mehbooba Mufti

BASHAARAT MASOOD & P VAIDYANATHAN IYER  
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

THE J&K ADMINISTRATION on Friday extended the detention of former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti by three months for the second time under the Public Safety Act (PSA) even as a section of officials in the administration said they were not sure of the need to continue with her detention. She is the only political leader still detained under PSA.

An order issued by Home Secretary Shaleen Kabra said the Home Department considered it necessary to extend the detention following recommendations by law-enforcing agencies to that effect. Mehbooba Mufti's detention under PSA was scheduled to expire on August 5.

But some senior officials told *The Indian Express* they were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Police was afraid to take on the mob: Palghar lynching case chargesheet

SRINATH RAO  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE POLICEMEN in whose presence a mob in Palghar lynched two *sadhus* and their driver in April had chosen not to intervene for fear that they too would be killed, the most senior officer present at the spot has told investigators.

The 21-strong squad including Riot Control Police (RCP) personnel at Gadchinchle village on April 16 night, was carrying rifles, rubber bullets, tear gas shells, and stun grenades — but they did not use their considerable arsenal to prevent the murders.

After a four-month investigation into the killings, the Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department (CID) filed two chargesheets against 126 people earlier this month at a

magistrate's court in Dahanu town — a 4,955-page chargesheet against villagers for attempting to murder the policemen, and a 5,291-page chargesheet against the same men for murdering the *sadhus* and their driver.

The first chargesheet includes the statements of the 21 policemen, who were led by Assistant Police Inspector Anandrao Kale.

Several of these men, including Kale, had only 48 hours previously rescued two doctors and their driver from another mob in another village in the same area. The two *sadhus*, Mahant Kalpavruksha Giri (70) and Sushilgiri Maharaj (35), and their driver Nilesh Telgade (30), were travelling to Surat from Mumbai, and had gone off the main highway to get past lockdown barricading. The area, in Dahanu

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Will attend House if party issues whip: MLA in Pilot camp

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, JULY 31

AT LEAST one of the rebel MLAs in Rajasthan loyal to former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot has said that if the Congress party issues a whip, he and the other MLAs will attend the upcoming Assembly session that is set to be convened on August 14.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Friday, Gajendra Singh Shaktawat, MLA from Vallabh Nagar in Udaipur and one of the 18 legislators in the Pilot camp, said, "We are with Sachin Pilot and will abide by whatever decision he takes. We have never spoken about leaving the Congress party. If the Congress issues a whip, I will definitely attend the Assembly session. We will raise our voice from within by being inside the party."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Sushant suicide: Maharashtra, Bihar now in top court, ED files case



Sushant Singh Rajput, Rhea Chakraborty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, PATNA, JULY 31

THE SUICIDE of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput a month ago has now become a Maharashtra vs Bihar issue, with both states in the Supreme Court to be heard before any decision is taken on an FIR filed in the matter.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Friday demanded a CBI probe in the actor's death, while the Enforcement Directorate registered a money laundering case. Joining the issue, Maharashtra CM attacked the opposition BJP for criticising the Mumbai Police over its probe.

The Mumbai Police has so far recorded statements of more than 40 people in the case, from producer-director Sanjeev Leela Bhansali to film critic Rajeev Masand. Earlier this week, Rajput's father K K Singh filed an FIR of abetment to suicide against Rajput's friend and budding TV and film actor Rhea Chakraborty, 28, and her family members.

After Chakraborty, who was dating Rajput, moved the Supreme Court seeking transfer of the case to Mumbai, the Bihar government and Rajput's father Thursday filed a caveat in the top court seeking to be heard first.

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## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

### NEP: TRICK OR TREAT?

BY PRATAP BHANU MEHTA  
PAGE 12

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



## EXPLAINED Testing as strategy

ANDHRA PRADESH is hoping that as it steps up testing, and identifies and isolates infected people, it will be able to slow down the spread of the infection. The strategy has worked well in Delhi. But not so much in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu or Uttar Pradesh.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Online open, 3.7 lakh get domicile in a month, 78% of them in Jammu

DEEPTIMANTIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

IN THE month following the launch of the online mode for applying for domicile certificates in the Union Territory under the new rules, over thrice as many people from Jammu have been granted the same as compared to Kashmir.

While the majority of the 3.7

**J&K**  
**ONE YEAR AFTER**  
**AUGUST 5**  
AN EXPRESS SERIES

lakh-odd granted domicile certificates are already permanent residents of the Union Territory, a significant proportion have

been given out to those who despite living or serving in the state for years were not considered residents of the state due to provisions of Article 35A, which now stands repealed.

Sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said that between June 22, when the online facility was launched, and last week, over 2.9 lakh people were granted domicile certificates in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Amid surge, Andhra ramps up tests, says won't shut down

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JULY 31

AMIDST A record surge in the number of novel coronavirus cases, Andhra Pradesh has ruled out the re-imposition of a lockdown and is insisting that a focus on testing will help contain further spread of the disease.

The number of those infected in the state has increased over 10 times from a month ago — from 14,595 on June 30 to 1,40,933 on July 31. With that, it has overtaken Delhi's tally to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

151 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN  
**CASES: 16,38,870**  
**RECOVERED: 10,57,805**  
**DEATHS: 35,747**  
TESTS: 1,88,32,970 | DOUBLING RATE: 20.56\*\*



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	4,11,798	11,147	2.45%	29.33
■ Tamil Nadu	2,39,978	5,864	3.16%	22.76
■ Delhi	1,34,403	1,093	0.77%	93.33
■ Andhra	1,30,557	10,167	8.72%	8.26
■ Karnataka	1,18,632	6,128	5.63%	12.79

\* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days \*\* Calculated over 7-day growth

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 2.38 NOW: 2.18	7 DAYS EARLIER: 8.35 NOW: 8.70	DETECTED TODAY: 55,078 RECOVERED TODAY: 37,222
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths	Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on July 30, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive

# Indian-descent Birmingham man leads a common(wealth) cause

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MIHIR VASAVDA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

A FORTNIGHT ago, a British-Indian entrepreneur in Birmingham launched a public campaign against the 2022 Commonwealth Games over "perceived institutionalised racism". Over just a weekend, he galvanised support from heads of local churches, mosques and temples, Labour and Tory Members of Parliament, influ-

ential media and business persons from different backgrounds including Pakistani and Indian, besides both black and white Britons.

In the couple of weeks that followed, the campaign led to the president of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Louis Martin, stepping down from the board of the organising committee, a revamp of important decision-making bodies, and promises to address issues of 'colonial injustice', among others. The Birmingham Games have

come under heavy criticism in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, with some academics in the United Kingdom even questioning the relevance of the CWG as a concept.

The man who started it all was Ammo Talwar, who runs a music agency in Birmingham. He says he had the idea of a public campaign after reading a local news report on "systemic racism and an almost entirely white executive board of the 2022 CWG organising committee".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



During the 2018 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony at Gold Coast, Australia. AP file

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**HINDI USER GUIDE, FILM WITH BARCODE: HERE'S HOW GITHUB IS ARCHIVING CODE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS**

The Github Archive Program at the Arctic Vault in Norway has just been loaded with a backup of the open source software repository to last at least 1,000 years.



**VIDEO OF THE DAY**

**SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT CASE**

Rhea Chakraborty in trouble; will the case go to CBI?



**EXPLAINED**

**HOW APPLE GREW IN MIDDLE OF PANDEMIC**

Its growth can be attributed primarily to the launch of iPhone SE

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**Was the Indian Premier League too big to get cancelled?**

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In the latest episode of the Express sports podcast, we talk about why the BCCI could not afford to postpone IPL and why it has picked UAE as its destination.

**FROM PAGE ONE**

**J&K domicile**

Jammu against 79,300 in the Valley. Apprehensions had been expressed by some quarters that the change in domicile rules for J&K, stripped of its special status on August 5 last year, was meant to force a demographic change in the Union territory by allowing entry to outsiders.

Sources said the domicile certificates issued are proportionate to the applications received. "There is no region-specific delay. More applications have been received from Jammu so more certificates have been issued there," a J&K administration official said.

The domicile certificates make people eligible to apply for jobs and admission into educational institutions in the Union territory, and officials believe a majority of applicants aim for the same.

Among those who have received domicile certificates are West Pakistan refugees, numbering over 20,000, nearly all of whom are reportedly covered now, and 2,000-odd sanitation workers brought and settled in the state but never accorded basic rights like voting. "They were denied citizenship and hence access to education and jobs," an MHA official said, adding that 700 Gurkhas too have been provided domicile certificates.

As per the new rules that came into force in May this year, people who have been living in J&K for 15 years, those who have studied in the Union territory for seven years, or appeared in Class 10 or 12 examination from an educational institution in the region, as well as their children, are eligible for domicile. Also eligible are children of officials of the Central government, all India services, banks and PSUs, statutory bodies and Central universities, who have served in J&K for 10 years.

Besides, all Permanent Resident Certificate holders are automatically eligible.

Despite the setback due to Covid-19, sources said, domicile certificates were not the only matter on which the government has kept its promise. "The most significant change has been the amendment extending the benefits of reservation to many deserving categories. Paharis had been demanding it for decades, and are now eligible for 4% reservation. Economically Weaker Sections will get 10%, the income ceiling for backward classes has been increased from Rs 4.5 lakh per annum to Rs 8 lakh, and benefits have been extended to residents along the International Border. Also reservation in the Assembly has been extended to Scheduled Tribes," the MHA official said, adding that the government had also begun disbursing Rs 5 lakh financial assistance to West Pakistan refugees.

The official claimed there had been a 262% increase in minority scholarships, with over 4.76 lakh beneficiaries since August last year, a 100% jump in SC/ST pre-matric scholarships, and 20% increase in OBC post-matric scholarships with over 7.42 lakh beneficiaries overall (including minorities).

On the job front — a key concern among locals post Article 35 A, that empowered the J&K legislature to define its permanent residents and their special rights and privileges — the progress has been more tardy. At the time of the abrogation of Article 370, the administration had announced that 50,000 posts would be filled up soon. But, with over 84,000 vacancies, the government has only just begun recruitment for the first phase, for 10,000 posts.

**Troops in Ladakh**

The Chinese ambassador claimed that disengagement has been completed at most locations, but the Indian side has clarified

that disengagement has still not been completed at Patrolling Point 17A and Pangong Tso.

The Army officer said additional deployment of troops in Ladakh, estimated to be around 35,000 soldiers, is directly linked to restoration of status quo ante as of April which remains the Army's goal, as stated by the Northern Army Commander, Lt General YK Joshi in an interview to CNN-News18.

Restoration of status quo ante involves reduction of additional troops deployed by both sides on the border, removal of new infrastructure constructed in contentious areas and restoration of patrolling rights as exercised before the current standoff began in early May. "We are prepared for all contingencies. Logistics preparations are underway to support additional deployment in winters, if so required," the officer said, without getting into details of the exact number of additional troops that will continue to be deployed in Ladakh.

A second officer, however, said that at least one additional division can be expected to stay back in Ladakh to be prepared for any eventuality, but did not rule out greater numbers depending on the situation on the Chinese side. The numbers could be higher this winter, eventually stabilizing to a slightly lower permanent deployment thereafter, the officer said.

The Chinese ambassador's statement that clarification of the LAC will lead to more disputes also indicates that no solution to the tensions on the border is in the offing, which will warrant a higher degree of alertness by Indian troops.

The Army has been demanding delineation of the LAC by the two sides to avoid faceoffs between soldiers on both sides — these have increased as the Indian side has started patrolling with greater intent and frequency in the last 15 years. Meanwhile, former Army chief General (ret'd) VP Malik, in a Twitter post, said: "By his statement yesterday, Ambassador Sun Weidong of China has virtually ended any possible progress in LAC talks between military commanders".

One of the Army officers, who had a different take, said, "the next round of talks will happen in the next few days, most probably after August 1".

**Pilot camp**

He added that a whip is only effective inside the House and can't be issued for other meetings.

The rebel MLAs had skipped two meetings of the Congress Legislature Party, one of the reasons that Mahesh Joshi, the Congress chief whip in the Assembly, cited in his petition to Speaker C Joshi, seeking the disqualification of Pilot and the other 18 legislators.

"All we wanted was a change in leadership. A person who worked hard for six years to form the government in Rajasthan, you abuse him by calling him nikamma... This is a battle of self-respect. You are abusing your own family members. We have never spoken with anybody from the BJP. We don't want to leave the Congress," said Shaktawat, whose father, late Gulab Singh Shaktawat, was a key Congress leader who was elected multiple times from the Vallabnagar Assembly seat.

Another Pilot loyalist and MLA from Ladnun, Mukesh Bhakar, told *The Indian Express* that he believes in the Congress ideology and won't leave the party for the BJP.

**Palghar case**

taluka of Maharashtra's tribal-dominated Palghar district, had been agog over the previous several days with rumours about childlifters and organ harvesters.

The sadhus and their driver were attacked, but were rescued by a police team — however, a 300-400-strong mob had then snatched the men off a police ve-

**Sajad freed, Mufti detention extended**

conveyed to Lone that he was no longer under detention. Two hours later, when he tried to step out of his Church Lane, Srinagar, residence, sources in the party said, "it was verbally conveyed to him that he cannot address the media or step out of his house till August 5". Members of the People's Conference, including party general secretary Imran Ansari, were, however, allowed to meet Lone.

The government spokesperson, Rohit Kansal, could not be reached for a comment.

Ansari told *The Indian Express*, "This is a happy moment. We were not expecting the news of the release." He added, "We prefer that he (Lone) make his own statements, and that will happen after August 5".

People's Conference spokesperson Adnan Ashraf said, "It is a happy moment for our workers and supporters who were eagerly waiting for his

release." Just as the special status of J&K was scrapped on August 5 last year, Lone was picked up and put under detention at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre along with 30 senior party leaders from different political parties. He was then moved to Srinagar's MLA hostel and, in February, put under house arrest.

Welcoming Lone's release, former chief minister Omar Abdullah, who was released

from detention in March, said, "I hope others under similar illegal detention will also be released without delay."

While Abdullah Gani Vakil now remains the sole People's Conference party leader still confined, several members of the National Conference and other parties continue to be under detention at their homes. On July 13, the NC filed a petition in the J&K HC seeking release of 16 of its members.

Just like the special status is a political decision and not a judicial one, I think, the release of detainees here is also a political decision. It is obvious they don't want any kind of normalcy, they want their own version of normalcy, they want their own narrative and they want people here just to keep talking about statehood".

Ittija said the third PSA against her mother wouldn't deter her and she would speak up when she is free. "Obviously she is going to talk about what they have done. It is not only an onslaught on dignity but also on our constitutional rights. These rights were guaranteed by the constitution and they were taken away," she said.

While Abdullah was released March 24, Mufti continued to serve detention. On April 7, she was shifted to her official residence that was declared as a subsidiary jail by the government. When her first PSA expired on May 5, it was extended for another three months.

Mufti's daughter Ittija told *The Indian Express* that she was hoping her mother would be re-

leased on Eid. "Because everybody was gradually being released, I also heard that everybody would be released by Eid. But today, in an Eid gift, they (government) have given us this new PSA order," Ittija said.

In its first PSA dossier against Mufti, the administration had referred to the green colour of her party flag, the resemblance of her party's election symbol with that of Muslim United Front (MUF) — a conglomerate of Valley parties that contested elections in 1987 — and her refusal to sign a bond that she would not talk about the scrapping of Article 370 as the reasons for slapping PSA against her.

Mehbooba Mufti, 61, was arrested on August 5 last year, the day the Central government abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and downgraded the state into two Union Territories. While Mufti was lodged under preventive detention for six months, she was

and six weeks, respectively, ahead of the expiry of their detention under PSA.

In fact, Mufti's daughter Ittija Mufti has termed the third PSA against her mother as an "Eid Gift" from the government saying this would not deter her mother from expressing her outrage against the "onslaught on our dignity and constitutional rights". This is the second time the Home Department has extended the detention period. "...the period of detention of Ms Mehbooba Mufti... be extended for a period of three months and she may be lodged at Subsidiary Jail Fairview Gupkar road Srinagar," the order said.

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**Mehbooba still held under PSA, some raise questions**

waiting for a signal from New Delhi to release Mehbooba Mufti. "No political leader is under PSA... We do not expect any trouble upon her release," said an official, who did not wish to be named.

When asked why she was being kept in custody, the official said: "That's a question more apt for New Delhi than Srinagar."

Another official said that Mufti's continued detention has to do more with politics than security. The official said releasing her ahead of completion of a year since the abrogation and coinciding with Eid, would have sent a positive signal to all political parties and other stakeholders.

Some officials said the extension was routine, and doesn't mean she would be necessarily kept under detention for three more months. Both Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah of National Conference were released about two weeks

and six weeks, respectively, ahead of the expiry of their detention under PSA.

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decided to swing into action.

Talwar drafted an open letter to the organising committee, which was signed by 53 individuals. Britain's Shadow Minister of Sport, Alison McGovern, forwarded it to Sports Minister Nigel Huddleston. Days after the letter was published, Martin, the CGF head, resigned, and in an interview to the BBC, Huddleston said "more changes" were likely to follow. A CGF spokesperson told *The Indian Express* on Thursday that they were seeking to address several other — much wider — issues as well.

"Over the past decade the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Sport have transformed into a movement representing social change and seeking to build peaceful, sustainable and prosperous communities across the Commonwealth. The CGF and Games organisers have sought to address issues surrounding colonial injustice, truth and reconciliation, human rights and broader issues addressing inequality," the spokesperson said.

Talwar, whose roots are in Punjab, said there "were a number of frustrations among the citizens of Birmingham, especially among the black and Asian communities, who have been more affected because of Covid-19 than our white counterparts".

"We felt that some of the work they were doing was perhaps lazy, disrespectful and sometimes shameful," Talwar said. "Around 46 per cent of Birmingham's population is non-white British. There is a very big Pakistani and Indian community. The main site of the Commonwealth Games, at Perry Barr in north Birmingham, is super diverse. It is around 70-80 per cent non-white British," he added.

Given this demography, the fact that 19 out of the 20 members on crucial decision-making bodies were white Britons did not sit well with the local people, Talwar said. The executive management team had five white men and two white women, and the board of directors had seven white men, five white women, and one black man.

While Talwar's campaign focussed on the absence of diversity, Kehinde Andrews, professor of Black Studies at Birmingham University, said the Games were "problematic" because of their association with Britain's colonial past. "It should be a time to revisit this because the Commonwealth is all about Britain trying to maintain some kind of symbolic link back to its imperial past. The empire is still there in some ways," Andrews has been quoted as saying by Birmingham Live, the digital channel of the local tabloid, *The Birmingham Mail*. "The city has embraced it (the Games) because it is money, which is quite a good metaphor because the empire is one of the things that built Birmingham. We shouldn't be surprised the city embraced it," Prof Andrews said.

Talwar acknowledged the CWG's "connection to the empire", and concedes that the "Commonwealth doesn't mean much to a lot of people" in Birmingham.

But he insists there is excitement about the Games because it is seen by the community as a "catalyst of change". "This is why the tone of our letter is collaborative. We want to solve the issue, so our letter was based on that rather than just bashing you over the head," Talwar said.

But he insists there is excitement about the Games because it is seen by the community as a "catalyst of change". "This is why the tone of our letter is collaborative. We want to solve the issue, so our letter was based on that rather than just bashing you over the head," Talwar said.

**Sushant**

On Friday, Maharashtra did the same.

The Enforcement Directorate announced Friday registration of a case of money laundering against Chakraborty and her relatives, reportedly based on the Bihar Police's FIR. Officials said the FIR showed prima facie siphoning off of "over Rs 15 crore" belonging to Rajput, allegedly by Chakraborty and others, into "bank accounts not known to the

FULL REPORTSON  
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# BMC announces 20% cut in water supply from August 5

**SANJANA BHALEROO**  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

WITH SCANT rainfall in the catchment areas of the seven lakes that supply drinking water to the city, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has announced a 20 per cent cut in water supply from August 5.

While the BMC had decided to impose water cuts from August 1, the decision was deferred due to Eid al-Adha, officials said.

"The supply cut is imposed so that the water stock lasts in the city for the remaining part of the year. We are monitoring the situation/water stock in the lakes. We can review the decision once the water stock rises," said Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects), P Velasu, who is also the in-charge of the Hydraulics department.

The city requires 4,200 million litres of water daily (MLD) of which the BMC supplies 3,800 MLD. On Friday, the total water stock in the seven lakes was recorded at 4.99 lakh million litres, which is 34.49 per cent of the full capacity of the reservoirs. Last year, the total water stock was recorded at 85.68 per cent on the same day.

The seven lakes should have a cumulative 14.5 lakh million litres stock by October 1 for the city to

go without a water cut for the rest of the year, officials said.

Mumbai draws water from Bhatsa, Middle Vaitarna, Upper Vaitarna, Tansa and Modak Sagar, which are in Thane and Nashik districts. Though the city received heavy showers in July, rainfall in the catchment areas of these five lakes was very poor. Of the two lakes located within city limits in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Tuls lake had overflowed on July 28. At least three lakes had started to overflow by July 30 last year, officials said.

Bhatsa lake, a major supplier of water to the city, is at 38.38 per cent (2,77,351 million litres) of its capacity. The lake also supplies water to neighbouring Thane and Bhiwandi. In the 24 hours, ending at 6 am Friday, Bhatsa lake received 2 mm of rain. Between June 1 and July 31, it has received a total of 1,082 mm rain.

In November 2018, BMC had ordered 10 per cent cut in water supply volume and another 15 per cent cut in supply timings when the total stock in the seven lakes stood at 76 per cent of the total capacity. The civic body had then announced that the cut would remain in place till monsoon next year. After a good rain, the cut was revoked in July 2019.



Holes fitted with gloves on either side of the chamber will allow JJ hospital staffers contactless access to a patient. Express

## BMC invites EOI on acquisition of land for 5,000-bed hospital

Mumbai: The BMC has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) on acquisition of land for the construction of a 5,000-bed hospital in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The civic body will acquire around 20 acres land for the proposed hospital, which should be close to the Western Express Highway and Eastern Express Highway, and should have a 90-foot wide accessible development road plan.

BMC has invited land owners and developers who have a clear title and dispute-free land. The hospital will be set up in the suburbs, which may aid the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), which has poor health infrastructure. "For dealing with Covid-19, the availability of large and well-

equipped health care facilities is of utmost importance," a civic official said. "In a Covid task-force meeting, which was attended by the Chief Minister and the BMC Commissioner, it was decided to have a 5,000-bedded and well-equipped hospital, which will cater to a large number of patients during the pandemic."

However, BJP leaders have targeted the civic administration on the proposal. "The civic body has already set up jumbo Covid care facilities in NESCO, Goregaon, NSCI Dome and Race Course. What is the need of the new 5,000-bed hospital, that too when all other facilities are vacant?" asked Pravin Chhedra, BJP leader from Chatkopar. **ENS**

## INVITATION FOR NOMINATIONS: SUN PHARMA RESEARCH AWARDS & SUN PHARMA SCIENCE SCHOLAR AWARDS

Sun Pharma Science Foundation invites nominations for Sun Pharma Research Awards and Sun Pharma Science Scholar Awards for the year 2020 from August 01, 2020. The last date of receiving nomination is September 30, 2020. The nomination procedures of both the awards are available at [www.sunpharmasciencefoundation.net](http://www.sunpharmasciencefoundation.net).

The Sun Pharma Research Awards are for excellence in original research work in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, by Indian scientists working in India or abroad. There are three awards – one each in Medical Sciences-Basic Research, Medical Sciences-Clinical Research and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Each award carries a Trophy, Citation and a Cash Prize of Rs. 2,50,000/- (Rupees two lakh fifty thousand). To apply for Sun Pharma Research Awards, please visit <http://www.sunpharmasciencefoundation.net/psfn/> (open in chrome).

The Sun Pharma Science Scholar Awards are for upcoming brilliant and young Indian researchers under the age of thirty, for their research projects. There are four awards; two each in Bio-Medical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Each award carries a Citation and a Cash Prize of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) and a lump sum grant of Rs. 50,000/- to present posters / abstracts in an international conference. To apply for Sun Pharma Science Scholar Awards, please visit <http://www.sunpharmasciencefoundation.net/SSAN/> (open in chrome).

## RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS 14,527 of BMC's SWM dept staffers tested, 0.8% infected

**LAXMAN SINGH**  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

ONLY 0.8% of frontline workers from the Solid Waste Management (SWM) department have tested positive for Covid-19 in the rapid antigen tests conducted by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation since July 24.

A total of 14,527 staffers from the department, most of whom are from the conservancy workers involved in garbage collection and waste management, besides supervisory staff have undergone rapid antigen tests, civic officials said. Of the total, 14,410 workers tested negative for the virus.

Only four of the 117 staffers who were found positive are symptomatic and they have been shifted to Covid Care Centres, officials added.

The maximum number of rapid antigen tests, on 1,652 staffers, were conducted in P North (Malad) ward, followed by 1,625 at D ward (Malabar Hill, Grant Road). Fifteen positive cases were reported from D ward, while G North ward (Dadar, Dharavi) had 13 cases. Rapid antigen detection tests are quicker and take up to 30 minutes as compared to RT-PCR tests which typically take at least 24 hours to provide results. As per ICMR guidelines, symptomatic persons who test negative for Covid-19 in the rapid antigen tests should be followed up with an RT-PCR test.

Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani said if a staffer, who has tested negative for Covid-19 in the rapid antigen test, develops symptoms of the infection later then they can go for RT-PCR tests. "We have developed a mechanism under which if any staffer shows symptoms then the junior overseer, who is in-charge of labourers, will inform the respective Assistant Engineers so that they can undergo RT-PCR tests. The positive thing is that so far very few staffers, who have already undergone antigen tests, have shown symptoms for the viral disease," Kakani said.

A total of 27,000 labourers and 4,000 NGO workers in the SWM department are engaged in waste management, while there are around 3,500 supervisory staff. The BMC plans to test all the department staffers and has procured one lakh test kits in the first week of July from a South Korean firm. "The drive will go on and all the frontline workers will be tested. We are conducting special testing camps in schools and near SWM chowkies," an official from the SWM department said.

# TATA MOTORS LIMITED

Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai - 400001.  
Tel: +91 22 6665 8282 Fax: +91 22 66657799  
Email: [inv\\_rel@tatomotors.com](mailto:inv_rel@tatomotors.com) Website: [www.tatomotors.com](http://www.tatomotors.com)  
CIN - L28920MH1945PLC004520

### EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
	June 30, 2020	March 31, 2020	June 30, 2019	March 31, 2020
	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited
Revenue from operations	31,983.06	62,492.96	61,466.99	261,067.97
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	(6,186.95)	(6,512.30)	(3,129.36)	(7,708.54)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	(6,183.73)	(9,312.95)	(3,238.18)	(10,579.98)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	(8,384.22)	(9,671.25)	(3,434.25)	(10,975.23)
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax, share of Profit/(Loss) of joint ventures and associates	(8,443.98)	(9,863.75)	(3,679.66)	(11,975.23)
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the period	(15,883.58)	(3,665.64)	(5,077.87)	(470.76)
Paid-up equity share capital (face value of ₹2 each)	719.54	719.54	679.22	719.54
Reserves excluding revaluation reserve (as per balance sheet of previous accounting year)				62,358.99
Earnings/(loss) per share (EPS)				
A. Ordinary shares (face value of ₹2 each)				
(a) Basic EPS	₹ (23.46)	(27.50)	(10.89)	(34.88)
(b) Diluted EPS	₹ (23.46)	(27.50)	(10.89)	(34.88)
B. 'A' Ordinary shares (face value of ₹2 each)				
(a) Basic EPS	₹ (23.46)	(27.50)	(10.89)	(34.88)
(b) Diluted EPS	₹ (23.46)	(27.50)	(10.89)	(34.88)
	Not annualised			

### EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
	June 30, 2020	March 31, 2020	June 30, 2019	March 31, 2020
	Audited			
Revenue from operations	2,686.87	9,732.87	13,351.91	43,928.17
Net Loss for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	(2,141.38)	(2,215.06)	(39.74)	(4,616.42)
Net Loss for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	(2,190.26)	(4,785.83)	(47.67)	(7,127.34)
Net Loss for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	(2,190.64)	(4,871.05)	(97.10)	(7,289.63)
Total Comprehensive Loss for the period	(2,154.24)	(5,183.01)	(147.45)	(7,668.35)
Paid-up equity share capital (face value of ₹2 each)	719.54	719.54	679.22	719.54
Reserves excluding revaluation reserve (as per balance sheet of previous accounting year)				17,668.11
Earnings/(loss) per share (EPS)				
A. Ordinary shares (face value of ₹2 each)				
(a) Basic EPS	₹ (6.09)	(13.54)	(0.29)	(21.06)
(b) Diluted EPS	₹ (6.09)	(13.54)	(0.29)	(21.06)
B. 'A' Ordinary shares (face value of ₹2 each)				
(a) Basic EPS	₹ (6.09)	(13.54)	(0.29)	(21.06)
(b) Diluted EPS	₹ (6.09)	(13.54)	(0.29)	(21.06)
	Not annualised			

The above Standalone results include the Company's proportionate share of income and expenditure in its two Joint Operations, namely Tata Cummins Private Limited and Fiat India Automobiles Private Limited. Below are supplementary details of Tata Motors Limited on standalone basis excluding interest in the aforesaid two Joint Operations:

### DETAILS OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS EXCLUDING INTEREST IN JOINT OPERATIONS

Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended	
	June 30, 2020	March 31, 2020	June 30, 2019	March 31, 2020
	Audited			
Revenue from operations	2,478.29	9,553.49	12,980.18	42,963.03
Loss before tax	(2,238.45)	(4,798.76)	(128.49)	(7,313.57)
Loss after tax	(2,236.23)	(4,905.78)	(148.16)	(7,453.98)

Note:

- The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on July 31, 2020. The Statutory Auditors have carried out an audit of the standalone results and a limited review of the consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarter and year ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly Financial Results are available on the Company's website at [www.tatomotors.com/investor/results-press-releases/](http://www.tatomotors.com/investor/results-press-releases/), as well as on the website of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and BSE Ltd at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

Tata Motors Limited  
Guenther Butschek  
CEO & Managing Director

Austria, July 31, 2020

## JJ hospital improvises 'Covid transport kawach' for contactless transfer of patients

Mumbai: To minimise the risk of transmission of virus from a Covid-19 patient, JJ hospital has improvised a 'Covid transport kawach', a glass-covered protective chamber (photograph on left) with positive and negative pressure, to wheel patients to different departments for X-ray, CT scan, intubation or sonography. Holes fitted with gloves on either side of the chamber will allow hospital staff contactless access to a patient. It has been fashioned at the cost of Rs 40,000.

Dr Ajay Bhandarwar, head of

surgery department in the hospital, said, "We were coming across increasing cases where healthcare workers are getting infected from patients. We reached out to a few engineers to create a chamber that could be used to transfer a patient from one department to another. This is being used in Africa, Mexico, and the US, but importing such a chamber would cost Rs 2-3 lakh."

The hospital authorities said the model would be replicated to use for not just Covid-19 cases, but also tuberculosis and meningitis patients. **ENS**

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान तिरुचिरापल्ली  
Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli  
Pudukkottai Main Road, Chinnai Sooriyur Village,  
Tiruchirappalli - 620 024, Tamil Nadu

**Recruitment of Non-Teaching Staff On-contract /Regular Advertisement No.: EST-II/A-02/2020/002**

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli invites applications for the following Non-Teaching positions On-contract / Regular basis on or before **21.08.2020**:

- Chief Administrative Officer (On-contract)
- Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer (Regular)
- Manager (EEC) (On-contract)

For full details regarding qualification, experience, job profile, terms & conditions and other requirements, please visit our website:  
<https://www.iimtrichy.ac.in/careers-non-teaching>

**SML ISUZU LIMITED**

CIN : L50101PB1983PLC005516

Regd Office & Works: Village Aaron, Dist. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (NewsShahar) Punjab -144 533. Phone : 01881- 270255; Fax : 01881-270223  
Corporate Office: SCO 204-205, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh-160 135  
Phone: 0172- 2647700-10; Fax: 0172-2615111  
Email: [investors@smlisuzu.com](mailto:investors@smlisuzu.com), Website: [www.smlisuzu.com](http://www.smlisuzu.com)

**NOTICE OF 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE**  
Notice is hereby given that the 36th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held on **Monday, 24th August, 2020 at 11:30 A.M.** through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) to transact the business as set out in the Notice of AGM.

In compliance with the General Circular No. 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020 read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated 8th April, 2020 and General Circular No. 17/2020 dated 13th April, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the Companies are allowed to hold AGM through VC / OAVM, without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue. Hence, the 36th AGM of the Company is being held through VC / OAVM. Members attending the 36th AGM through VC / OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

In accordance with the aforementioned Circulars, electronic copies of the Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2019-20 have been sent on 31st July, 2020, to all the Members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company / Depository Participants / RTA. The Annual Report including Notice of AGM is also available on the website of the Company [www.smlisuzu.com](http://www.smlisuzu.com), on the website of BSE Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), on the website of National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and also on the website of NSDL [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

In compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 including Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is providing to its Members the facility to exercise their right to vote at 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM) by electronic means (remote e-voting). The facility for voting through electronic means shall also be made available during the AGM, for those Members who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting. The facility of remote e-voting and voting through electronic means during the AGM will be provided by National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL"). For details relating to remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM, please refer to the Notes forming part of the Notice of AGM. All the Members are informed that:

- The business as set forth in the Notice of AGM may be transacted through voting by electronic means.
- The remote e-voting facility shall commence on **20th August, 2020 (9:00 AM)**.
- The remote e-voting shall end on **23rd August, 2020 (5:00 PM)**.
- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by remote e-voting or voting through electronic means during the AGM is **17th August, 2020**.
- The remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, it cannot be changed subsequently.
- The members attending AGM who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be eligible to cast their vote through e-voting during the AGM. Members who will cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the AGM but shall not be eligible to vote at the AGM. The instructions for joining the AGM through VC / OAVM are provided in the Notes forming part of the Notice of AGM.
- A person, whose name appears in the Register of Members/Beneficial Owners as on the cut-off date i.e. 17th August, 2020 only shall be entitled to vote, either through remote e-voting or through e-voting during the AGM.
- Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes member after dispatch of the Notice and holding shares as on cut-off date i.e. 17th August, 2020, may obtain User ID and password by sending a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent at [helpdesk@delhi@scsregistrars.com](mailto:helpdesk@delhi@scsregistrars.com). If the member is already registered with NSDL for e-voting, then he/she can use his/her existing user ID and password for casting the vote through remote e-voting.
- In case of any queries relating to voting by electronic means, members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and e-voting user manual at the downloads section of NSDL's website [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) or may contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Manager, NSDL, Trade World, A wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Kamala Mills Compound, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400 013, Phone No. 022-24994545, Toll free No. 1800-222-990, e-mail: [pallavid@nsdl.co.in](mailto:pallavid@nsdl.co.in)
- Members holding shares in physical mode and have not updated their e-mail addresses with the Company are requested to update their email addresses by sending copy of the following documents by e-mail to [investors@smlisuzu.com](mailto:investors@smlisuzu.com):
  - a signed request letter mentioning your name, folio number and complete address;
  - scanned copy of Share Certificate (front and back);
  - self-attested scanned copy of PAN card.
 Members holding shares in dematerialized mode, are requested to register their e-mail addresses with their Depository.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the Act read with Rules made thereunder and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, the Register of Members and Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from **14th August, 2020 to 24th August, 2020 (both days inclusive)** for the purpose of AGM.

For SML ISUZU LIMITED (PARVESH MADAN)  
Company Secretary  
Place: Chandigarh  
Dated: 31st July, 2020  
ACS-31266



# 4 MAHARASHTRA

## Congress questions process followed to appoint state CEO

Baldev Singh says allegations false & mischievous

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE CONGRESS on Friday questioned the process followed in the appointment of Maharashtra's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), mounting yet another offensive in a controversy pertaining to the advertising agency hired by the latter for publicity just before 2019 Assembly polls.

In a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner, state Congress general secretary and party's spokesperson, Sachin Sawant, said: "There are serious questions with regards to the procedures followed for the appointment."

Baldev Singh, a Maharashtra cadre IAS officer of the 1989 batch, is currently occupying the post. He was appointed last July, which was three months before the Assembly polls were due in the state. The appointment came almost immediately after his repatriation to the state cadre.

Sawant alleged that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has ordered an investigation into allegations of misuse of power and position against Singh on May 11, 2018, when he was the development commissioner of the Union Commerce Ministry's Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone in Mumbai.

"There is a pending vigilance inquiry ordered by the CVC in this regard," said Sawant.

He added that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had also passed strictures against senior officials at SEEPZ in the same matter, which dealt with the award of a capital works contract and additional expenditure sanctioned for the same, in alleged deviation from norms.

Singh, when contacted, refuted Congress' allegations as being "sad, mischievous and misleading".

Taking to twitter to rubbish the accusations, he wrote, "These are absolutely false, untrue and in-

correct allegations. The capital works being referred were allotted to the contractor before the present CEO had joined as Development Commissioner, SEEPZ. All the payments to the contractor were also released by the predecessor. All details in this regard have been shared with the competent authorities."

The CEO's office pointed to an official document by Union Ministry of Commerce dated July 3, 2020, which was also released by the Congress, stating that the name of the CEO was not mentioned in the case.

As per norms, the Election Commission of India (ECI) appoints a serving civil servant from a panel recommended by the state government.

Last July, when Singh was appointed, the BJP was still in power in the state.

Raising questions over the process employed, the Congress has asked if then state government was aware of the pending inquiry in the matter and had informed the ECI about it. It has also asked whether the ECI had consulted the CVC in the matter. Singh's office had earlier refused allegations of appointing an agency allegedly associated with the BJP for publicity work before the Assembly polls, even as the Congress asked the ECI to probe the charge.

The ECI had sought an explanation in the matter from Singh's office in wake of RTI activist Saket Gokhale alleging on Twitter that the Maharashtra CEO had "hired the BJP IT Cell for handling their social media" before the election.

Gokhale had said that the government-empowered agency, Signpost India, employed by the CEO, shared its registered address with another agency that was owned by Dave - the national convener of IT and social media of BJP's youth wing. Singh had last week denied any "direct or indirect connection" with Devang Dave and his agency.

Taking off from Gokhale's allegation, the Congress has alleged that the "voter databases and demographics were made available to the BJP through the social media agency," a charge that had been denied by Singh.



4,22,118

TOTAL POSITIVE CASES IN MAHARASHTRA

Active Cases	1,50,662
New Cases	10,320
Total Deaths	14,994
New Deaths	265
Quarantined	9,39,092
Tested	21.30 lakh

1,14,284

TOTAL POSITIVE CASES IN MUMBAI

New Cases	1,085
Total Deaths	6,353
New Deaths	53

Navi Mumbai civic staffers conduct door-to-door screening on Friday.

Amrit Chakravarty

## DHARAVI REDEVELOPMENT

# To push project, state to ask Centre for immediate release of 46-acre Railways land

SANDEEP ASHAR  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE STATE government on Friday decided to approach the Centre for an immediate handing over of a 46-acre plot at Matunga in Mumbai, which is to be used for setting up transit shelters for the relocation of the slum dwellers affected by the Dharavi Redevelopment project.

The decision was taken during a review meeting attended by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad and senior bureaucrats.

When contacted, Awhad said that Uddhav will personally speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal to expedite the handover.

In a letter previously written to the CM, Awhad had said, "You won't get a more opportune time to push for the redevelopment of the slum. A major factor behind the spread of the infection in the area was the high density of population and the lack of quality healthcare," he added.

In a letter previously written to the CM, Awhad had said, "You won't get a more opportune time to push for the redevelopment of the slum. A major factor behind the spread of the infection in the area was the high density of population and the lack of quality healthcare," he added.

CM to personally speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal to expedite the handover

tening the curve and reported only five new cases on Friday. According to the local ward office, Dharavi has 77 active cases as of now.

Awhad said that there cannot be a more opportune time to push for the redevelopment of the slum. "A major factor behind the spread of the infection in the area was the high density of population and the lack of quality healthcare," he added.

In a letter previously written to the CM, Awhad had said, "You won't get a more opportune time to push for the redevelopment of the slum. A major factor behind the spread of the infection in the area was the high density of population and the lack of quality healthcare," he added.

The state government has already paid Rs 800 crore to the Railways for the Matunga land. Located barely a stone's throw away from India's richest business district, the Bandra Kurla Complex, Dharavi sits on a prime land. Its revamp has been on every political party's agenda since 2004, but it has failed to take off so far.

In November 2018, then Devendra Fadnis government, too, had approved a new model for the slum's redevelopment.

In the global bidding process that following, Dubai-based infrastructure firm SECLINK Technologies Corporation (STC) had emerged as the top bidder, having committed to an upfront capital investment of Rs 7,100 crore for the Rs 26,000 crore revamp plan.

On March 8, 2019, the Dharavi Redevelopment Project Authority, a state-run SPV, had even issued a Letter of Intimation recognising STC as the topmost bidder and declared the government's intention of awarding the

contract to the firm.

But there has been little progress since then, with the government seeking legal opinion on whether the tendering process for the revamp itself had been vitiated due to the subsequent development where the Railways land was to be taken over. The only other bidder in the tender was the Adani Group.

Meanwhile, in a meeting of the executive board of the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA), Uddhav gave a go-ahead to the creation of a stress fund to provide an alternative funding route for stuck and ongoing slum redevelopment projects. This will now come up for the state Cabinet's approval.

Various concessions that could be extended to developers to expedite redevelopment of slums were discussed.

The board also cleared a proposal to replicate Mumbai's SRA model to other parts of the Mumbai Metropolitan Area and major cities.

## Govt to train Muslims in only 14 districts for police entrance exams

Activists say scheme should cover entire state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE DECISION by the government to provide pre-recruitment training to students of the minority community to help them clear police entrance exams in only 14 districts of Maharashtra has been questioned by activists, who have demanded that the scheme should cover the entire state.

"All districts should provide coaching to minority students. However, of the 36 districts, training will be provided this year only in 14 districts where the Muslim population is less," said former minority commission chairman Naseem Siddiqui.

The said scheme has been in operation in Maharashtra since 2009 and was implemented as part of the Prime Minister's 15-point programme for minorities. The scheme entails providing training to youth from the minority community to crack the written and physical examinations of police entrance exams.

These training programmes are run by NGOs identified by the government, which spends a cu-

mulative Rs 1.5 crore every year to run such centres in all the 36 districts.

For the year 2020-21, however, only 14 such training centres will be set up in Wardha, Gadchiroli, Amravati, Nanded, Jalna, Pune, Yavatmal, Parbhani, Solapur, Aurangabad, Buldhana, Nashik, Beed and Akola. For the year 2019-20, too, 12 districts had been identified.

"Most NGOs that have been tasked with running these programmes are not run by members of the minority community. The state needs to ensure that NGOs run by minorities are given a chance to run these programmes to increase their efficiency," social activist MA Khalid said.

State minority development department officials said that the districts were selected based on the interest shown by NGOs to run the programme. "An advertisement was issued and those who responded and met the requisite requirements were asked to run this programme. All norms were followed while identifying these NGOs," a senior official said.

While the government has stopped providing data on the religious composition of the police force since 2014, the National Crime Records Bureau records for 2014 shows that Muslims make up only 3.81 per cent of Maharashtra's police force.



Migrant workers wait outside Bandra Terminus in Mumbai on Friday. Pradip Das

## Stuck in Mumbai for 4 months without work, labourer finally boards train home

SADAF MODAK  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

ALI HUSSAIN Ansari finally managed to board a Shramik Special train on Friday evening for his hometown Hazaribagh in Jharkhand after over four months of being stranded without work in Mumbai.

The last Shramik train that had left the city was on June 30, to Manipur. Ansari neither had money to board the other trains that had started operations nor could he manage to find a job despite the gradual opening up of the city.

Ansari worked as a loader in a garment factory's godown in south Mumbai. The godown was also his home, as was the case for five others from Hazaribagh, all of whom had come to Mumbai together in January.

The job paid him Rs 9,000, but he had barely worked for two-and-a-half months when Mumbai started shutting down from the second week of March, followed by the lockdown on March 22. He counts himself fortunate that he could continue

sleeping in the godown. For food, he had to depend on ration and food distributed by social groups in the area.

During the lockdown, his attempts to return to Jharkhand remained unsuccessful. But this Thursday, he received the call he had been waiting for all these days - he had been listed for the Shramik train that would take 70 other passengers like him from Bandra Terminus to Giridih in Jharkhand. The five others in his group are also returning with him.

Just before the lockdown was imposed, they had tried to return home by train. A part of a larger group of women and senior citizens, they could not board the crowded train. "Hiring private vehicles were also not an option as we did not have enough money," Ansari said. Even as many migrant workers have begun returning to the state for work, staying back is not an option for Ansari. "We continued to stay in the godown without earning any money, our savings dwindling. We would have stayed back if there was any hope of work resuming soon but the employer does not have any clarity on the matter," he said.

## EID-AL-ADHA TODAY

# No fresh SOPs from state govt leave Muslim leaders disappointed, urge people to keep celebrations low key

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

MUMBAI IS set for a subdued Eid-al-Adha on Saturday after Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray refused to provide any relaxation for the festival in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

On Friday, several Muslim leaders, including elected representatives, expressed disappointment for failing to get a fresh set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) from the state government for ferrying animals for the ritualistic sacrifice.

"While the state government

had directed that goats be purchased online, for the sacrifice, animals had to be brought to Mumbai. However, over the last few days vehicles carrying animals were stopped at various places by the police, who expressed their helplessness. We tried to reach out to all leaders, but without success. I would apologise to the people for not being able to make the government see our point of view," Congress MLA from Bandra East, Zeeshan Siddiqui, said.

Former MLA Yusuf Abrahami Friday staged a protest outside Azad Maidan after the state government refused to grant any re-

laxations for the festival.

In a host of guidelines, issued for the festival, the state government had earlier urged the people to offer symbolic sacrifices this year in view of the Covid-19 outbreak, but had allowed sale of animals on the Internet or through calls. It had also cancelled sale of animals at the prominent Deonar market. Over the last week, several trucks ferrying animals for sale into the city were stopped by the police and turned away. Traders alleged it had led to the death of several animals.

Wishing people for Eid-al-Adha, Samajwadi Party leader and Mankhurd MLA Abu Asim Azmi

said, "The inconvenience caused to the people for Eid celebration as the Maharashtra government backtracked on its promise will not go waste."

Meanwhile, Congress MLA from Mumbai, Amin Patel, said, "We had tried our best but have been let down by the state government." Congress is a part of the three-party alliance government in the state. Patel said he has urged the people to celebrate Eid in a low-key manner with proper disposal of garbage "for which dustbins have been provided at all locations in Mumbai constituency".

On Friday, the city police urged

the Quresh community to ensure that no animal sacrifice took place in the open and social-distancing norms were strictly adhered to. To avoid mass congregation, the state government has also urged people to offer namaz at their home.

According to Gulrez Qureshi, city president of All Jamaitul Quresh, people have been issued a token based on which only two members from a family will come with their animals for performing the sacrifice. "We have urged all people to ensure strict social distancing and wear their mask even while distributing meat among their friends and family," said Gulrez.

The Bombay High Court had also directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to issue a circular, by Friday evening, indicating regulatory steps and procedures to be followed at Deonar Abattoir for Eid. The BMC subsequently allowed the sacrifice of 150 water buffaloes at the abattoir between 6 am and 6 pm with strict social-distancing and hygiene standards. This will be allowed between August 1 and 3.

The court, while hearing a plea filed by Al-Qureshi Human Welfare Association, had said, "The celebrations have to be on a lower scale this time due to the pandemic situation."

## AMID LOCKDOWN

# Osmanabad man's intrepid journey towards Pakistan for love

SAGARRAJPUT  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE ONLY thing that 20-year-old Zeeshan Siddiqui has to show for his intrepid journey from Osmanabad to the borders of Pakistan is a broken tooth and a bruised ego.

Siddiqui had undertaken a 1,200-km trip during the lockdown, first on a bicycle and then on a bike, from Osmanabad in Maharashtra to Kutch in Gujarat in an attempt to cross over to Pakistan to meet his alleged Pakistani girlfriend before he was apprehended by the Border Security Force (BSF) on July 16.

After a debriefing from both the Gujarat Police and the

Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), Siddiqui returned to Osmanabad earlier this week and vowed never again to reach out to the 20-year-old Pakistani woman, whom he had allegedly connected with on social media because of their love for an Indian TV serial.

"I was in love with her and couldn't think of anything else apart from seeing her," Siddiqui said on why with just Rs 8,000 in his pocket and a bicycle, he abruptly decided to leave for Karachi.

He got in touch with the woman on Facebook in 2015. "I had cleared Class X and was new to Facebook then. While discussing a daily soap in a group, we got in touch. A few days later, I sent

her a friend request and we became friends," he said.

As the two chatted more often, they shared contact numbers and went on to make both audio and video calls. "After a few months, we fell in love. This went on till 2017. She had even told her parents about our relationship. She demanded the same from me, but as we were too young to discuss such things with parents, I did not," said Siddiqui on why their two-year-old relationship ended.

However, early this year, when he was in Hyderabad, the romance was rekindled. The woman is said to have told him about her parents' insistence on getting her married, following which he decided to embark on a

"rescue mission".

Siddiqui had planned to leave for Pakistan in March, but the nationwide lockdown was announced and all international flights were cancelled. "I didn't even have a passport. Due to the pandemic, no passports were also being issued. I wanted to go to Karachi legally and thus was waiting for the lockdown to get over," he said.

But as the lockdown kept getting extended and there was a fear that the woman might get married, Siddiqui decided to leave for Karachi. He had initially planned to work in Karachi for a few months before asking the woman's parents for her hand.

He scrolled through Google for a day and ascertained how to en-

ter Pakistan. On July 9, he bought a bicycle for Rs 1,500. Two days later, he left his house.

He reached Ahmednagar the next day, when he realised that cycling till the border would be difficult, and hence bought a second-hand bike for Rs 3,000. "The bike was in a bad shape... on the first evening, its spark plug got damaged and it slipped," said Siddiqui, who lost his tooth in the accident and sustained bruises on the face and hands. "Still I did not stop," he said. "Mere andar ek junoon sawaar tha."

After having his meals in dhabas and resting overnight on footpaths and bus stops for four days, he reached Rann of Kutch on July 16. "I was in touch with the girl all this while. She knew I was

coming and she always opposed it," he said.

After walking for over 10 hours in the desert, BSF jawans stopped him just 1.5 km before the India-Pakistan border. He was then handed over to the Kutch police. Siddiqui was booked for violating lockdown norms and under Criminal Amendment Act for illegally entering prohibited areas.

"I spent two-and-a-half days in jail and five days in police custody," he said. He was then brought to Osmanabad and after being questioned by the local police for two days, he was handed over to his family. His father Salim said, "I am relieved that by God's grace, my son is back with us... I will see to it that he doesn't chat with her ever again."



Best Wishes to all on the occasion of  
**MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
58<sup>th</sup> Annual Day

# MAGNETIC MAHARASHTRA 2.0, ATTRACTS FDI

14 MoUs  
SIGNED BY GOVERNMENT OF  
MAHARASHTRA DURING LOCKDOWN

INR 25,000 CR.  
WORTH OF INVESTMENT  
INTENTIONS HAVE BEEN FORMALISED

“ Under the Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0, we aim to enhance policy and investment atmosphere in the state to attract investments and generate employment. The policy initiatives undertaken by the Government such as Maha Parwana, Maha Jobs, Plug and Play Infrastructure etc. will add to the ease of doing business and investors shall have our full support. ”

- **Shri Uddhav Thackeray**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra

We understand the difficulties being faced by industry due to the pandemic and hence we in addition to the existing infrastructure are also working to provide you with the right kind of policy ecosystem, land options with better connectivity, Plug and Play infrastructure, Rental Spaces, Quick Permission to establish and operate and so on. With these policy measures, we are confident that the economy and industries will bounce back and achieve unprecedented growth.

**Shri Subhash Desai**  
Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Maharashtra

“ Govt of Maharashtra has initiated several measures to reduce the economic impact caused due to pandemic while also balancing healthcare and safety. These policy measures are the beginning of many more measures to come. This is aimed to attract more investment and to create maximum employment. Economic revival after COVID-19 outbreak has been the key focus of the government by  
i) Boosting the priority sectors like manufacturing, service sector, real estate, tourism and others; and,  
ii) Taking measures - Ease of Doing Business, GST tax reliefs, penalty relief, ease in filling of returns ”

**Shri Ajit Pawar**  
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra

## TURBOCHARGING INVESTMENT



14 Investment Intentions were signed recently by investors from countries such as USA, Singapore, Japan, South Korea and Indian companies. These Investment Intentions amount to over **Rs. 25,000 Crores** across sectors such as **Oil & Gas, Logistics, Food Processing, Automobiles, Chemicals, Data Centres and Engineering.** Also formalised were bilateral investment relationships with global think tanks like World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) and US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

## PLUG AND PLAY INFRASTRUCTURE



Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) will offer a **ready-to-move-in factory environment** complete with **advanced utilities and affordable pricing structure** to be made available with sectoral tailoring. It will act as Industrial Cluster in the future, hosting a diverse base of entrepreneurs, local suppliers and anchor units. MIDC is allocating over **40,000 acres** of land for this and MIDC will also allocate **land for housing/hostel** for companies employing more than **1000 persons.** Additionally, MIDC will also provide **Industrial Shed Spaces** on a rental basis to enable quick setting up of Industries without a major cashflow impact on the investor. This will help a new investor immediately **start operations from the day one** while offsetting the company's risk appetite and liquidity crunch especially in a post COVID scenario.

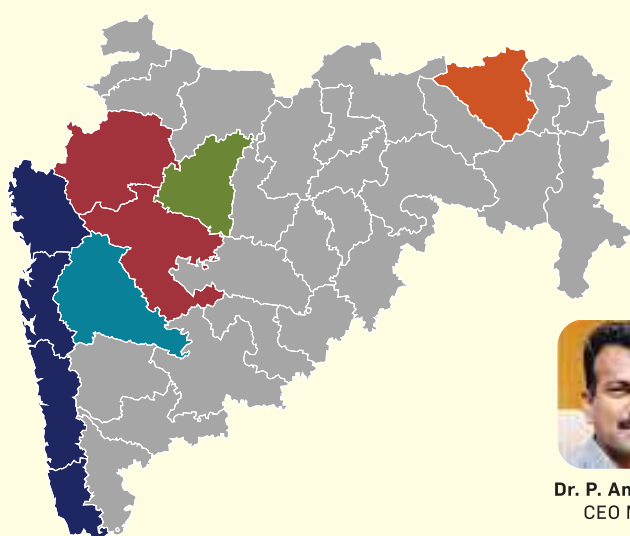
**Mumbai-Thane-Palghar-Rajgad-Ratnagiri - Sindhudurg | 22,500 Acres**  
Engineering | Food Processing | Auto & Components | Chemicals | Pharmaceutical |

**Pune-Chakan-Talegaon-Satara | 6,100 Acres**  
Data Centre | Gems & Jewelry | Engineering | Food Processing | Auto & Components | ESDM | Logistics

**Nashik Malegaon - Ahmednagar | 3,600 Acres**  
Food Processing | Medical Equipment | ESDM | Engineering

**Aurangabad (AURIC, DMIC) - Jalna | 7,000 Acres**  
Food Processing | Auto & Components | ESDM | Textile

**Nagpur - Amravati | 3,500 Acres**  
Aerospace & Defence | Engineering | Textiles | Food Processing



MIDC's vast network of 289 Industrial complexes, a land bank of over 2,25,000 acres and value added features such as plug and play infrastructure will ensure investors have ready access to world class manufacturing ecosystems.

**Dr. P. Anbalagan**  
CEO MIDC

## MAHA PARWANA



The state is all set to roll out the red carpet to attract investment with 'Maha Parwana', a mega single permission system for new industrial units so that they need no other permission and can start construction and operation on the site immediately. 'Maha Parwana' will not only fast track industrial permissions as quickly as **48 hours**, but also facilitate investors to get all the permissions through a single-window clearance system. **All FDI and Investment Proposals exceeding INR 50 Crores** will receive an assurance letter from the government to start construction and production **without seeking certain permits.**

## MAHA JOBS PORTAL



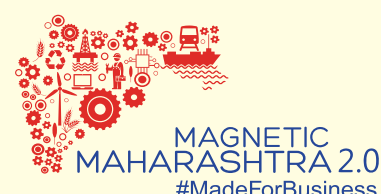
Designed by the state to act as an Industry employment bureau, the portal will be launched in the next few days. Maha Jobs will have a dual role. It will help industries meet the talent shortfall that they have been facing in recent months with ready access to unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled talent. On the other hand, it will allow youth of the state to list his/her talent on the portal across **17 sectors and 950+ job roles.** This matchmaking of talent will help the state achieve an optimal mix of utilization and boost manufacturing productivity.



**Ms. Aditi Tatkare**  
Hon'ble Minister of State for Industries, Maharashtra  
Under Magnetic Maharashtra 2.0 we aim to establish the state as the world's most attractive investment destination with availability of land, infrastructure, suitable policy environment and skilled labour. The government shall strive for industrial growth and support investors through various schemes.



**Shri B. Venugopal Reddy**  
Principal Secretary Industries, Maharashtra  
With policy reforms initiated to support new investments and the existing packaged scheme of incentives, Maharashtra is the perfect investment destination for domestic as well as FDI. The Industries department will pro-actively engage with stakeholders to appraise them of the reforms and ensure smooth execution.





# IMD predicts heavy rain in Mumbai tomorrow; orange alert for August 5

**SANJANA BHALERAO**  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

RAINFALL ACTIVITY in Mumbai and its adjoining areas is likely to increase from Sunday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said.

A district forecast issued by the IMD said heavy rain at isolated places was very likely in Mumbai on Sunday, while an orange alert with a forecast of heavy to very heavy rain at few places has also been issued for the city, Thane and Palghar from August 3. Konkan region is also set to receive heavy rain from Saturday.

"There could be an enhancement of rain over the west coast from today (Friday) onwards for south Konkan, North Konkan, including Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai, is likely to get heavy rain from Sunday. The trend is likely to continue with further increase in rainfall activity," KS Hosalkar, Deputy Director General (western region), IMD, said.

A bulletin issued by IMD stated: "Due to convergence of strong lower-level winds over the west coast, widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls are most likely along the west coast during the next five days. Extremely heavy rainfall is also likely over Konkan and Goa on August 4."

In 24 hours, ending at 8.30 am on Friday, IMD's Santacruz observatory has recorded "light" rain at 8.5 mm, while Colaba station recorded "moderate" rain at 45 mm. While rainfall in June was deficient, Mumbai recorded 78.73 per cent above average rainfall in July. The average rainfall for July is 840.7 mm. With a total 1,502.6 mm rainfall, July was the wettest in the last 76 years. In 2014, 1,468.5 mm rain was recorded for July.

From June 1, the city has recorded 1897.6 mm rain, which is 565.1 mm excess rainfall, a departure of 42 per cent from the normal. IMD classifies 15.6-64.4 mm as moderate rain, 64.5-115.5 mm as heavy, 115.6-204.4 mm as very heavy, and over 204.5 mm as extremely heavy rain for a period of 24-hours. The city witnessed five "very heavy" rain days through the month so far with maximum rain recorded between July 4 and 5 at 200.8 mm followed by 191.2 mm on July 15-16.

Apart from July 22, the city has received rainfall every day of the month. The rain deficient districts in the state include Nandurbar (-33 per cent), Satara (-28 per cent), Palghar (-29 per cent).



Apart from July 22, the city has received rainfall every day of the month. Pradip Das

coast during the next five days. Extremely heavy rainfall is also likely over Konkan and Goa on August 4."

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# HC orders BMC to provide video conference facilities for RTI appeal hearings

**OMKARGOKHALE**  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE BOMBAY High Court on Friday directed the BMC to provide facilities at its ward offices for hearing appeals filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act through virtual platform to appellants, who wish to argue their appeals through video conference.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Sarang V Kotwal was hearing a PIL filed by advocate Mayur Faria, who had sought directions to BMC for online hearing of RTI appeals while contending that the civic body was asking appellants to physically appear and argue before the competent authority. The bench had asked the BMC to reply to the plea on Tuesday.

After perusing the reply, the court on Friday observed, "Although the respondent is willing to hear the petitioner through video conferencing, there is no statement as to how the BMC proposes to extend opportunity of hearing to other

persons, who have carried appeals under section 19(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 against the orders of rejection of their requests for information passed by the relevant State Public Information Officers."

The court added that the PIL has been instituted not only to safeguard the interest of the petitioner, but also to ensure that facilities are made available to other information-seekers like him, who could not appear in person to prosecute their appeals before the first appellate authority.

Advocate Yamuna Parekh for BMC sought two weeks to take instructions and respond to the query. The bench, while granting the same, observed: "We make it clear that within this period, the competent authority of the BMC shall take appropriate decision for extending facilities of hearing through the virtual platform so that maximum number of appellants, who wish to argue their appeals through video-conferencing, may be covered." The court posted the matter for further hearing on August 14.

# ELGAAR PARISHAD CASE

# HC directs state government to inform Teltumbde's family about his Covid test results

Vernon Gonsalves back in Taloja jail after testing negative

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE BOMBAY High Court on Friday directed the Maharashtra government to inform the family of professor and activist Anand Teltumbde, an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, about the results of the Covid-19 test performed on him on Thursday.

A division bench of Justice R Dhanuka and Justice V G Bisht was hearing a plea by activist Vernon Gonsalves (61) and Teltumbde (68) — activist Varavara Rao's (80) co-inmates at Taloja Central Jail in Navi Mumbai — seeking that they also be tested for Covid-19, as they had been in close contact with Rao, who had tested positive on July 16. All are accused in the Elgaar Parishad case.

Rao had been undergoing treatment at the state-run St George Hospital since July 16. He

**Gonsalves has spoken to his family and was back in Taloja jail after completing quarantine period, said senior advocate Mihir Desai**

was shifted to Nanavati hospital on July 19 for neurological and urological treatment.

On July 28, responding to the plea, public prosecutor Thakare had said that Gonsalves had undergone a Covid-19 examination and had tested negative. The jail authorities had also said that he would be allowed to speak to his wife through video conference.

The state, meanwhile, had said it will respond on Teltumbde's plea to undergo Covid-19 test by Friday. Senior advocate Mihir Desai, appearing for Gonsalves and

Teltumbde, informed the court on Friday that Gonsalves had tested negative for Covid-19 and spoken to his family about his well-being. He added that Gonsalves was back in Taloja jail after completing the quarantine period.

However, Teltumbde's family was anxious, as they were unaware of his Covid-19 status and also had not spoken to him, Desai said. He sought the state be directed to inform whether Teltumbde had been tested for Covid-19 and provide the result for the same. Thakare informed the HC that Teltumbde had been tested on July 30 and a report would be available on Saturday, which would be submitted to the court on Tuesday.

The bench directed the state to inform Teltumbde's family about the test result and also let them speak to him and posted the matter for further hearing on Tuesday.

**WESTERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender No. & Descriptions of Stores tender	Quantity in Nos	Total Tender Value in ₹	Earnest Money in ₹	Date of Closing of e-Tender Box at 11:00 Hrs.	Date of Opening of e-Tender Box at 11:15 Hrs.
1) W628031909A	234	823095	NIL	25.08.2020	25.08.2020
2) W628031931	21	4531672.32	90640	25.08.2020	25.08.2020
3) W628031932A	20	1755840	NIL	25.08.2020	25.08.2020
4) W628021939	56	5668147.52	113370	25.08.2020	25.08.2020

**Note:** (1) The complete information along with tender document of above e-Procurement Tender is available in website on <http://www.ireps.gov.in> upto the due date of tender opening. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000 (3) Rate entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rate and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered (4) Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Earnest Money Deposit/ Security Deposit to be paid under allocation No. 00844519(x) (6) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.

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**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

**COL VASANTH V. ASHOK CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)**  
25 Mar 1967 - 31 Jul 2007

In fond memory of our gallant Commanding Officer who supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation at Uri (J&K) on this day. You will forever remain in our hearts.

Col Prashant Kumar Singh, SM, CO and All Ranks of 9 MARATHA LI (NASHAK NAUVVI), ASHOK CHAKRA BATTALION

**LNK SHASHIKANT BACHHAV SHAURYA CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)**  
01 Jun 1979 - 31 Jul 2007

In fond remembrance of our valiant soldier who made the most noble sacrifice to the nation at Uri (J&K) on this day. We salute you and pledge never to let your sacrifice go in vain.

Col Prashant Kumar Singh, SM, CO and All Ranks of 9 MARATHA LI (NASHAK NAUVVI), ASHOK CHAKRA BATTALION

**STEM WATER DISTRI. & INFRA CO. PVT. LTD.**

**E-EOI Notice No. 01 for 2020-21.**  
E-EOI for the appointment of Statutory Auditor as per Section 139 of the Companies Act, 2013.

**EXPRESSION** of Interests are invited from CAG empaneled Chartered Accountants or appointment of Statutory Auditor under Section 139 of the Companies Act, 2013. The firm must have its office in Mumbai/Thane/Kalyan/Dombivli.

Interested Firms can send their applications online as per the process given on [www.stemabcpurchase.com](http://www.stemabcpurchase.com). The E-EOI will be available on the mentioned website from 03.08.2020 1200 hours to 17.08.2020 till 1200 hours. This E-EOI will be open on 20.08.2020 in front of applicants or representatives of such applicants.

Undersigned reserves the rights to reject one or all the applications without stating any reason.

Sd/-  
Managing Director

# Over 1.6 crore sanitary napkins sold at subsidised rates through SHGs under Asmita Yojana: State to HC

**OMKARGOKHALE**  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE STATE government informed Friday the Bombay High Court it had started the 'Asmita Yojana' in March 2018 to provide affordable and subsidised sanitary napkins to schoolgirls and women through nearly 30,000 self-help groups (SHGs) and has since sold nearly 1.6 crore sanitary pads.

Under the scheme, the state government submitted, girl students from Zilla Parishad schools aged between 11 and 19 years can purchase a pack of eight sanitary napkins for Rs 5, while women from rural areas could purchase the same Rs 24.

The state government was responding to a public interest litigation (PIL), filed by law students Nikita Gore and Vaishnavi Gholave, through advocate Vinod Sangvikar, seeking direction to the government to recognise sanitary napkin as an essential commodity by making changes to the Essential Commodity Act, 1955 and supplying the same through the public distribution system (PDS) during the lockdown.

The High Court had earlier directed the central and state governments to respond to the plea that also sought a direction to the authorities for effective implementation of the 'Menstrual Hygiene Management National Guidelines, 2015'.

On Friday, the Maharashtra government informed a division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Sarang V Kotwal that the Asmita Yojana was implemented from 2018 with the objective of "ensuring accessibility and availability of affordable sanitary pads across rural areas through women self-help groups (SHGs)".

The state government said that issue was truly important for the social welfare of women and requires more attention and systematic efforts to address menstrual hygiene issues for women and adolescent girls across rural and urban areas.

The state government, through Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Rural Development Department CEO, I R Vimala, submitted an affidavit stating, "Total 29,875 women SHGs are registered under Asmita Scheme across 34 districts who have sold 19,78,140 packets of sanitary napkins (total 1.6 crore pads) to women and adolescent girls and the efforts are still ongoing." The affidavit stated that it was an additional livelihood opportunity for SHGs by engaging themselves in the sale of Asmita sanitary napkins.

Seeking that the plea is disposed of, the state added that it had supplied over one lakh packets of sanitary napkins during Covid-19 lockdown. "Prime objective was to meet the demand for essential goods, sanitary napkins and also ensure a livelihood for women SHGs during the lockdown. The state has effectively followed the Asmita Yojana during the lockdown period as well."

**MUMBAI BUILDING REPAIRS & RECONSTRUCTION BOARD**  
A Regional Unit of (MAHARASHTRA HOUSING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY)

Tel.:No.: 22054235, E-mail: [rrec3mhada@gmail.com](mailto:rrec3mhada@gmail.com)  
Main Portal : <https://mahatenders.gov.in> • MHADA Portal : <https://mhada.maharashtra.tenders.in>

**TENDER NOTICE**

**For Labour Co-op Society Registered under DDR Mumbai City District**

Digitally Signed & Unconditional Online Tender in Form "B-1" (Percentage Rate) are invited by the Executive Engineer, C-3 Div. M.B.R. & R. Board, 10-12 Ropa Lane, Chandanwadi, Mumbai - 400 002 from the **Labour Co-operative Society registered with MHADA** under appropriate class with DDR class in Mumbai City District.

E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Security Deposit (50% initially & 50% through Bill)	Registration (Class) of Labour Co.op. Soc.	Tender Price Including GST in ₹	Time Limit for Completion of Work
01	S.R. to R/C Building known as Pushpa Sadan in C-3, Repairs to UG Tank & Plinth Protection.	7,07,882/-	8,000/-	Class - B & Above	560/-	12 Months (including Monsoon)
02	S.R. to R/C Building known as Samarth Niwas in C-3, Repairs to UG Tank & Plinth Protection.	5,43,272/-	6,000/-	Class - B & Above	560/-	12 Months (including Monsoon)
03	S.R. to R/C Building known as Ashish in C-3, Repairs to UG Tank & Plinth Protection.	7,30,789/-	8,000/-	Class - B & Above	560/-	12 Months (including Monsoon)
04	S.R. to R/C Building known as 168-176, Ram Sadan, at Saint Sena M.Marg, Mumbai in C-3, Providing Water Proofing Treatment to Terrace & OHT.	7,78,502/-	8,000/-	Class - B & Above	560/-	12 Months (including Monsoon)
05	S.R. to R/C Building known as 39-41, Parnakuti, Mumbai in C-3, Structural Repairs to External & Internal Plaster Painting Work.	22,35,388/-	23,000/-	Class - A	560/-	18 Months (including Monsoon)

Sr. No.	Stage Description	Date & Time
1	Publishing Date	06/08/2020 at 10.00 hrs.
2	Document Sale Start	06/08/2020 at 10.05 hrs.
3	Document Sale End	21/08/2020 at 17.30 hrs.
4	Bid Submission Start	06/08/2020 at 10.05 hrs.
5	Bid Submission End	21/08/2020 at 17.35 hrs.
6	Technical Bid Opening	24/08/2020 at 11.00 a.m. onwards
7	Price Bid Opening	24/08/2020 at 11.00 a.m. onwards

- The Complete bidding process will be online (e-Tendering) in two bid system. All the notifications and detailed terms and conditions regarding this tender notice hereafter will be published online on website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>, [MHADA Website - https://mhada.gov.in](https://mhada.gov.in)
- Bidding documents can be loaded on the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from Date 06/08/2020 at 10.05 hrs. to Date 21/08/2020 upto 17.30 hrs.
- The payment for Tender Form Fee and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) must be made online.
- Technical Bids will be Opened on 24/08/2020 at 11.00 AM & Price bid will be opened on 24/08/2020 at 11.00 a.m. onwards at office of Executive Engineer C-3 Div., M. B. R. & R. Board, 10-12 Ropa Lane, Chandanwadi, Mumbai - 400 002, on website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
- e-Tenderer should submit original documents (those were uploaded during bid preparation) for verification at the time of Technical Bid opening.
- Tenderer should submit information and scanned copies in PDF format in Technical Envelope as mentioned in Technical Offer.
- Tenderer should have valid class III/III Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) obtained from any certifying authority.
- The Executive Engineer C-3 Div., M. B. R. & R. Board, 10-12 Ropa Lane, Chandanwadi, Mumbai - 400 002, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
- Intending Bidders shall have to comply with the contents of Government Resolution No. सोएटी-०१/२०१५/प्र.क्र.२०/इमा-२, दि. २४/०४/२०१५
- Registration Certificate under GST is compulsory.
- In case of the rates quoted by lowest bidder less than estimated cost & L1 bidder failed to submit Additional Performance Security Deposit within 8 days, then if L2 is agree to L1 below percentage amount, then offer will be accept 2nd lowest Bidder. For more information please refer Detailed Tender notice.
- Guidelines to download the tender documents and online submission of bids can be downloaded from website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>, Help Support : 1800-233-7315 E-Mail - [eproc.support@mahatenders.gov.in](mailto:eproc.support@mahatenders.gov.in)

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Executive Engineer, C-3 Divn., M. B. R. & R. Board, Mumbai

**CENTRAL RAILWAY MUMBAI DIVISION**

**INTERVIEW FOR PARA-MEDICAL CATEGORIES**

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Applications are invited for Filling up the vacancies in Para-Medical categories on contract basis in Medical Department on Mumbai Division (Total 16 vacancies) on or before 02.08.2020.

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2. Name of Post: X-Ray Technician / Radiographer  
Vacancies: 08  
Note: - Recorded Whatsapp conference call Interview will be conducted on next days, if not completed on the assigned date. For more details & to download application visit our website: -  
1) [www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in) > about us > Division > Mumbai > Personnel > Filling up the vacancies in Para-Medical categories on contract basis in Medical Department on Mumbai Division (Total 16 Posts)  
2) [www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in) > News & Recruitment > Recruitment > Notification.

Railway Helpline 139

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED**  
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Tel/FAX :- 01907-262596 | Email - [sedphel@gmail.com](mailto:sedphel@gmail.com)

The date of Sale and opening of tender for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Transportation, Insurance, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 3 nos. 500 kVA, 11/0.440kV Dry type station indoor type transformer alongwith power cables and accessories for Bassi Power House (4x16.5MW), HPSEBL, Jogindernagar, District Mandi (H.P.) is hereby extended as per the following schedule:

Request/Issue for online tender documents	From 16.06.2020 (10.00Hrs.) to 14.08.2020 (12.30Hrs)
Last date of submission of online Tender	Up to 17.08.2020 (11.00Hrs)
Date of opening of Techno-commercial bid (Part-1)	17.08.2020 (15.00Hrs)

The detailed tender notification can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/hpsebl> and tender document can be had after making prescribed payment. Any clarification/amendment shall be uploaded on the above website.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged

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# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

**TRANSFER POLICY**  
Haryana: New transfer category for unmarried, widowed, divorced women employees

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

UNMARRIED, WIDOWED or divorced women employees in Haryana will no longer be required to participate in "general transfer drive" while opting for the station of their choice under the Online Transfer Policy of the state.

"On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bhandan, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal has given a bonanza to women employees...the women employees after their marriage will be asked to choose an option and in case of a newly married or an employee from above mentioned categories will be given the first station of their choice for a period of three years," a government spokesperson said on Friday.

The Chief Minister made this announcement while presiding over the meeting held here Friday to review the Online Transfer Policy being prepared by various departments.

"As per the decision taken by the Chief Minister, in case of a newly married or divorced woman employee, she will be given the station of her first choice for a period of three years.

After that if the employee participates in the "Transfer Drive", then she will be allotted first, second or third station as per her choice.

Similarly, in case of 100 per cent disabled or any employee above 80 per cent locomotor disability, she will be given the first station of her choice as per the transfer policy", the spokesperson added.

## Australia envoy targets China over LAC, South China Sea

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE BRUISING diplomatic war between Canberra and Beijing reached New Delhi Friday with the envoys of the two countries sparring over the situation in the South China Sea.

Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell, who met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday, targeted China over the situation along the Line of Actual Control, saying "Australia opposes any attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo, which only serve to increase tension and the risk of instability."

On Friday, O'Farrell said Canberra remains "deeply con-



Barry O'Farrell; Sun Weidong

cerned" by "actions" in the South China Sea that are "destabilising" and could "provoke escalation". While he did not name China, it was clear he was referring to Beijing's aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea.

What followed was a public spat between the Chinese and Australian envoys on Twitter.

Sun Weidong, Chinese ambassador to India, tweeted, "Noted remarks by Australian

HC to India on South China Sea discrediting facts. China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests are in conformity with international law including UNCLOS. It's clear who safeguard peace and stability and who destabilize and provoke escalation in the region."

Replying to Sun, O'Farrell tweeted, "Thank you @China\_Amb\_India. I would hope then you follow the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award which is final and binding under international law, and also generally refrain from actions that unilaterally alter the status quo."

On July 23, Australia lodged a note with the UN Secretary General refuting China's unlawful maritime claims in the South China Sea: "It rejects China's claim to historic rights and inter-

national waters, its assertion of certain maritime zones, and its contention there is wide international recognition of its South China Sea sovereignty claims."

On Thursday, after meeting Jaishankar, O'Farrell said: "Australia urges restraint along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and supports continued moves towards de-escalation. As I told the External Affairs Minister of India today, Australia opposes any attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo, which only serve to increase tension and the risk of instability."

"It is important that the bilaterally-agreed principles and norms that have helped prevent escalation or miscalculation in the border areas over many decades continue to be observed," he said.

## Tewari takes on UPA critics: Those who can't see big changes need re-education

**MANOJ CG**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

IN ITS 10 years at the helm, the Congress-led UPA had ushered in "transformative changes", and those who cannot see the good work it had done between 2004 and 2014 should "re-educate themselves," Congress leader and former I&B minister Manish Tewari said on Friday.

Tewari's remarks come a day after Rajeev Satav, a young Rajya Sabha MP considered close to Rahul Gandhi, triggered a row by suggesting that introspection in the party, if need be, should begin from the UPA-2 period.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Tewari claimed that the UPA was a victim of "internal sabotage" and "vicious campaign of calumny and innuendo" from outside.

A meeting of party Rajya Sabha MPs, convened on Thursday by Congress president Sonia Gandhi and attended by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, has once again revealed the growing strain within the party between veterans and young leaders, many of the latter group close to Rahul Gandhi. At the meeting, former Union minister Kapil Sibal's suggestion for an introspection was countered by Satav, who argued that introspection should begin from the UPA-2 period to analyse how the Congress fell to 44 Lok Sabha seats in 2014.

Tewari on Friday said, "The UPA brought in the Right To Information Act, MGNREGA, midday meal scheme, free and compulsory education to children under RTE, and the Food Security Act, which created the most transformative social security architecture." Even



Manish Tewari

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman, he said, admitted in her last Budget speech that 271 million people were lifted out of poverty between 2006 and 2016, eight of which were UPA years.

"The UPA was also a victim of both internal sabotage — (former Comptroller and Auditor General of India) Vinod Rai being the classical example — and of a vicious campaign of calumny and innuendo. However, none of the charges levelled have stood the test of the law even six years down the line," he said. "If somebody cannot see the good work the UPA had done, then possibly he or she needs to re-educate themselves."

Tewari also tweeted on Friday, "Was UPA responsible for the decline in fortunes of the Congress in 2014 is a valid question — must be gone into? Equally valid is was UPA sabotaged from within? 2019 defeat must also be analysed..."

Satav's remarks have reopened a debate in the party on reasons for its electoral downfall.

During an interaction with IIM alumni in Singapore in 2018, Rahul Gandhi had admitted that an "internal" and "generational fight" and collision between the "older vision" and a "newer vision", along with issues of corruption, had contributed to Congress's defeat in 2014.



Khushbu Sundar

## Congress leader welcomes NEP: Rather speak fact than be a puppet

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
CHENNAI, JULY 31

CONGRESS NATIONAL spokesperson Khushbu Sundar has welcomed the New Education Policy (NEP). In a tweet on Thursday, she said her stand on NEP "differs" from that of her party.

"My stand on #NEP2020 differs from my party's I apologize to @RahulGandhi ji for that, but I rather speak the fact than be a head nodding robot or a puppet. Everything is not about agreeing to our leader, but about being courageous to voice ur opinion bravely as a citizen," she tweeted.

Sharing Khushbu's tweet, Congress's Karur MP S Jothimani, who is known to have a close rapport with Rahul, tweeted, "Democracy is all about all opinions are heard and respected. Congress party and its leadership unlike BJP never expect people to be head nodding robots or puppets."

While her tweet triggered speculation that Khushbu may join the BJP, multiple sources in the party ruled this out. "But yes, she is tired of the Congress leadership. She will never join BJP, she will continue to fight with communal groups and even individuals in public forums but that doesn't mean that she will continue long in a national party that lacks a vibrant leadership," said a senior Congress leader from Tamil Nadu.

## Top court gives states 3 weeks for info on migrants back home

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday noted that states and Union Territories (UT) were yet to inform the court about what had been done to comply with its June 9 direction to maintain a record of migrant labourers who had arrived in these states and UTs in the wake of the lockdown.

"In our order dated 09.06.2020, we have noticed that the task which has now to be undertaken by the concerned States and Union Territories is to maintain record of all such migrant workers, who have arrived at different places... None of the States/Union Territories have filed any affidavit giving details of the compliance of the... direction," a bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah said, giving the states and the UTs three more weeks to comply.

The apex court pointed out that they "are required to bring on record the mode and manner in which records of migrant labourers who have reached their native places are being maintained with their skill, nature of employment and other details".

The June 9 order had, among other things, said that "details of all migrant labourers, who have reached their native places, shall be maintained (by the states and UTs) with details of their skill, nature of employment, earlier place of employment".

Taking suo motu cognizance of the difficulties faced by migrant labourers following the lockdown, the Supreme Court had on June 9 asked all states and UTs to do the needful to send those stranded back to their native places within 15 days.

On Friday, the court said that despite the steps taken by the states and UTs, there were still some migrant workers stranded in different states, including Maharashtra. The bench asked Maharashtra to ensure the return of stranded workers.

## On Delhi riot probe note, HC tells Spl CP: Why the need, show 5 such letters

**PRITAM PALSINGH**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE DELHI High Court on Friday asked Special Commissioner of Police Praveer Ranjan what was the "necessity" for him to issue a letter to chiefs of teams probing the Northeast Delhi riots, which stated that arrests of "some Hindu youth" from riot-hit areas has led to a "degree of resentment among the Hindu community".

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait also asked him to place before the High Court "five such letters" issued by him or his predecessor.

"... Such types of letters are not known under CrPC to instruct the officers. However, it is not in dispute that senior officers are duty-bound to guide the of-

ficer time and again as per the current situation going on at the particular time," Justice Kait said.

"Accordingly, I hereby direct Respondent No. 4 (Ranjan) to send five such letters which he or his predecessor issued on receipt of complaint/input/representation in a sealed cover within two days," he said.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, Ranjan's July 8 order had also stated that "due care and precaution" must be taken while making arrests. The order, addressed to senior officers heading probe teams, asked them to "suitably" guide the investigating officers.

The order was challenged in court by families of two persons killed in the February violence — Sahil Parvez, whose father was shot dead near his

home, and Mohd Saeed Salmani, whose mother was lynched inside her house. The petitioners had cited *The Indian Express* report, 'Resentment in Hindus on arrests, take care: Special CP to probe teams', published on July 15.

The High Court said a decision on whether notice has to be issued on their petition will be taken after perusing the documents to be filed by Ranjan. It listed the matter for further hearing on August 7.

In pursuance to the High Court's July 27 direction, the Delhi Police had placed before it the July 8 order signed by Ranjan. The two petitioners, through their counsel Mehmoob Pracha, have sought quashing of the order.

Making his submission dur-

ing the hearing via video conference, Pracha said the order amounts to unlawful and illegal interference in the performance of investigative functions by police officers.

Ranjan, who too was present for the hearing via video conference, said: "I will come with all the orders. I will show the direction issued in this particular matter Mr Pracha is raising."

"I have very specifically mentioned in the beginning that this is an intelligence input, which we received through some agency. These advisories have been issued to all concerned. Not only by me, by the Special CP Intelligence also... The newspaper title that it was issued in the interest of a particular community. That was not the purpose," he said.

## Panel recommends nod to Serum for late-stage Oxford vaccine trials

**PRABHA RAGHAVAN**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

AN EXPERT committee on Friday recommended that Serum Institute of India be allowed to conduct late-stage human trials for the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine candidate in India after the Pune-headquartered firm revised its proposal. The *Indian Express* has learnt.

If the chief of India's apex drug regulatory body signs off on this, Serum will be able to kick off the trials here, putting it ahead in India's own race for a Covid-19 vaccine.

The development comes three days after the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) for Covid-related therapies on Tuesday recommended amendments to Serum's earlier protocol to conduct the trials here. Serum has a tie-up with Swedish-British firm AstraZeneca, which developed the vaccine along with the University of Oxford, to manufacture this vaccine for low- and middle-income countries. Following these recommendations, the firm had speedily amended its proposal and resubmitted it, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

SEC, which had reconvened on Friday evening to evaluate the re-



Samples from the Oxford vaccine trial. AP/File

vised proposal, recommended that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation grant permission for Serum to conduct phase II/III trials here, said two sources close to the development. The next step will be for the Drug Controller General of India to study the recommendations and take a call on the proposal.

The panel also suggested that the authorisation to market the vaccine, which Serum is calling 'Covishield', be granted after considering data generated both from the India and international trials, said one of the sources.

The firm plans to conduct its phase II/III trials on around 1,600 participants, a government official earlier told *The Indian Express*. Serum declined to comment on the development.

Among the amendments that Serum has made to its protocol is to expand the number of trial sites it is looking at to around 20 facilities across India, said a senior government official.

This is because, among its earlier observations, the SEC had felt that Serum needed to take a "pan India" approach to the trial sites it was considering. While it is unclear how many trial sites were proposed by Serum in its earlier protocol, the firm's CEO Adar Poonawalla had earlier told *The Indian Express* that it intended to conduct the trials in two cities—Pune and Mumbai.

The committee on Tuesday recommended a total of eight amendments to Serum's late stage trial protocol. These included recommendations related to how the trials would test for the ability of the vaccine to invoke an immune response—the committee felt the trials needed to look at the ability of the vaccine to induce a cellular immune response.

Cellular immunity includes the ability development of specific white blood T-cells that can attack and kill the virus, as T-cells usually remain in the body longer than antibodies do and act as a memory response, said two persons involved in vaccine development and testing, seeking anonymity.



A worker in PPE kit sprays disinfectant inside a mall in Pune on Friday. Malls in the city are set to reopen on August 5. As per government notifications, malls are required to put in place guidelines and social distancing signs in corridors, lifts, washrooms and other areas. Ashish Kale

## Ensure states implement direction to pay health workers, SC tells Centre

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday told the Centre that it was not enough to have issued directions to states to pay salaries to doctors and health workers involved in the fight against Covid-19, and it should also ensure compliance.

"You are not helpless. You have to see to it that your order is implemented. You got power under DM Act. You can take steps also," Justice M R Shah, sharing a bench with Justices Ashok Bhushan and R Subhash Reddy, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

The remarks came as Mehta told the bench that the Centre had issued directions on June 18 to all states but had not received compliance report from the NCT of Delhi, Punjab, Maharashtra, Tripura and Karnataka.

The solicitor general referred to an affidavit filed by the Union Health Ministry in this regard.

The Supreme Court had on

June 17 asked the government to issue appropriate orders to ensure timely payment of salaries to doctors and health workers

The affidavit of the Health Ministry said that accordingly, orders were issued under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, on June 18 to all the concerned secretaries of health departments "inter-alia directing them to release salaries of doctors and health workers doing COVID-19 related duty, on time".

Subsequently, an application was filed in the court highlighting instances of non-payment of remuneration to doctors and health workers in the NCT of Delhi and the four states.

Though reminders were sent to them, "no report with respect to the compliance of the order dated 17.06.2020 was received", the affidavit said, adding that another set of reminders had been sent to them to send the reports on "urgent basis".

Taking note, the bench recorded in its order, "learned Solicitor General submits that an order has been passed on

18.06.2020 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare directing for payment of salaries of doctors and health workers during the period of Covid-19 on time. He submits that five States i.e. Delhi, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tripura and Karnataka have not paid the salaries to the doctors and health workers on time to the full satisfaction. He submits that appropriate steps in this regard shall be taken by the Central Government to ensure that salaries of doctors and health workers is released. He prays for and is granted a week's time."

The court was hearing a PIL by Delhi-based Dr Arushi Jain on problems being faced by doctors and health workers on the Covid front.

The bench also asked the SG to look into complaints that some hospitals were counting the quarantine period of doctors and health workers as period of leave.

Mehta said the period of quarantine cannot be treated as leave and agreed to look into it.

## 'Covid has given chance to create order with no global warming, unemployment'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

POINTING OUT that the present financial system is designed in a "very wrong way" and the coronavirus outbreak has revealed the weaknesses of the society in an ugly way, Nobel laureate and founder of Grameen Bank Muhammad Yunus on Friday said the pandemic has given the world a chance to create a new order where there is no global warming, no wealth concentration and no unemployment.

In a conversation with



During the web discussion

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Yunus referred to the exodus of migrant workers and said it is time "we recognise these people". He said the western economic system sees the rural economy or the informal sector as an appendix to the urban economy. He said it is

time for a change and to create a system that will create space for the informal and rural economy and all sections of society.

Referring to the stress on returning to the pre-Covid world, he said, "What is the hurry to go back? Because that world was a very horrible world. It was creating a world with global warming"

Yunus said coronavirus has "given us a chance to think new", an "opportunity to make a break" and take "bold" and "outrageous" decisions. "We can... build a new world where they will be no global warming, no wealth concentration, no unemployment."

### UNLOCKING IN STATES

#### PUNJAB

##### WHAT'S OPEN

- Gymnasiums
- Yoga institutes
- Varsity entrance exams (Distancing norms must)
- Places of worship (5 am-8 pm)
- Malls (7 am-8 pm)
- Restaurants (till 10 pm)
- Liquor vends (up to 10 pm)

##### WHAT'S SHUT

- Educational institutions
- Cinema halls
- Bars
- Swimming pools
- Night curfew (11 pm-5 am)
- Non-essential shops closed on Sundays

#### RAJASTHAN

##### WHAT'S OPEN

- Gymnasiums
- Yoga institutes
- Small places of worship
- Marriage functions can be held (up to 50 guests, social distancing must)

##### WHAT'S SHUT

- Educational institutions
- Cinema halls
- Swimming pools
- Bars

#### ODISHA

##### WHAT'S OPEN

- Gymnasiums
- Yoga centres
- Govt & pvt offices (with reduced staff)
- Salons & spas (with safety precautions)

##### WHAT'S SHUT

- Places of worship
- Educational institutions
- Cinema halls
- Night curfew (9 pm-5 pm)



2 men held for vandalising Rajgruh test positive for Covid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JULY 31

TWO MEN, who were arrested for allegedly vandalising Rajgruh, the home of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, have tested positive for Covid-19.

The two accused were identified as Umesh Jadhav (35) and Vishal More (20), who were arrested on July 9 and 22 respectively.

An officer said, "Jadhav was sent for a Covid-19 tested and his reports said he was not infected. We believe he got the infection from More, who had been arrested recently. They were kept in lock-up together."

The two were sent to judicial custody earlier this week, and it was mandatory to present Covid-19 reports before lodging them in jail.

"We sent them for testing, and learnt they were infected, due to which they have been shifted to a quarantine centre, and after they recover, they shall be sent to jail," the officer said.

Govt scraps pension of those jailed during Emergency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JULY 31

IN ANOTHER significant reversal of a decision taken by the previous BJP-led regime, the Uddhav Thackeray government on Friday discontinued pensions being given to those who had been jailed during the Emergency.

According to the Uddhav-led general administration department, which issued a resolution in this regard, the move



Uddhav Thackeray

to stop pension was triggered by the sharp drop in revenues and the worsening financial position of the state exchequer in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In January 2018, the Devendra Fadnis government, of which Shiv Sena was a part, had rolled out a pension scheme for all those jailed for opposing the Emergency between 1975 and 1977.

Accordingly, Rs 10,000 was

being paid to all those who had spent more than a month in jail and Rs 5,000 to those who had spent lesser time behind bars. In cases where the beneficiary in question had passed away, their spouses were eligible for 50 per cent of the due pension amount.

In 2018-19 and 2019-20, the Fadnis government had earmarked Rs 42 crore a year towards disbursement of the pension. Over 2,500 beneficiaries had

been identified, said officials.

While the department cited drop in revenues and tax collections as the reason for scrapping of the pensions, sources said that political considerations had also contributed to the decision.

The Congress had opposed the move of honouring those jailed during Emergency with a citation, which was being done during the previous regime.

UNDERTRIAL SUICIDE

Family wonders how no jail staffer noticed incident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JULY 31

FAMILY MEMBERS of a 36-year old undertrial, who is alleged to have died by suicide at Talaja Central Jail on Wednesday, on Friday raised concerns about how the incident took place despite the presence of jail staffers.

Dinesh Narkar was found dead in the toilet of the hospital ward of the jail, where he was kept in quarantine. While he had tested positive for Covid-19 July 10, at a subsequent examination on July 19, he had tested negative.

Sanjana Kumbhar, Narkar's elder sister, told *The Indian Express* that her brother had attempted to harm himself twice since he was arrested by the N M Joshi Marg police earlier this month in the case of attempt to murder of his wife.

However, Senior Inspector Pandit Thorat from the police station said: "We had not received any such complaints regarding his mental health."

Kumbhar said that they were informed about Narkar's death after midnight on Thursday by the N M Joshi Marg police, following which they reached J hospital to complete formalities. "At the jail, it

is difficult to understand why there was no staff to ensure the safety of the prisoners. We were told that he hanged himself with the help of a bedsheet of the hospital ward cot. How did nobody notice this? This could have been prevented."

SANJANA KUMBHAR DECEASED'S ELDER SISTER

As procurement prices dip, dairy farmers look at revenue sharing model adopted by sugar sector to tide over crisis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JULY 31

WITH PROCUREMENT prices of milk dipping, dairy farmers are now exploring the CRangarajan Committee revenue sharing formula (RSF), which sought to shield the sugar sector from price volatility and recommended ways to help mills pay growers on time, to overcome the current crisis.

However, sources said, there is no unanimity among the various stakeholders on allowing higher revenue to dairy farmers.

The RSF, adopted by the state's sugar sector in principle, recommended that around 70 per cent of the total proceeds

realised from the sale of sugar would be shared with dairy farmers while remaining 30 per cent retained by milk cooperatives and unions.

Former state agriculture minister, Anil Bonde, said the 70:30 revenue formula could be a lasting solution to address financial concerns of dairy farmers. "While a farmer is paid Rs 15

or Rs 16 per litre for milk today, consumers are still paying Rs 40 to 48 per litre. The difference of Rs 24 to 26 per litre is pocketed by both cooperative unions and private dairy companies. If a revenue-sharing model is agreed upon, 70 per cent of revenue realised would go to farmers and 30 per cent towards the operational cost of milk companies," he said. The formula, he said, would also help to check exploitation of dairy farmers.

Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana president Raju Shetti, however, said the 70:30 RSF could not be entirely acceptable or practical in dairy farming given its complexities. But some aspects of the model can be borrowed like extending

the fixed price for sugar to milk powder, he said.

Shetti also cautioned that such measures would invite flak as milk powder prices have international bearing due to treaty under GATT.

"The government will have to provide short- and long-term measures to help dairy farmers. As in the sugar sector, prices of skimmed milk powder should be made uniform across the country. This will partly minimise the losses faced by dairy farmers and stabilise milk supply and its price." Fluctuation in milk powder price has a direct bearing on milk rates paid to farmers, he added.

Shetti also demanded scrapping of 5-12 per cent Goods and

Service Tax (GST) on milk products like white butter and sweets. If expenses on production of milk products come down, then the profit could be shared with dairy farmers, he said.

There has growing unrest among the dairy farmers following a steep decline in milk prices from Rs 27 per litre to Rs 15 per litre.

The Covid-19 lockdown has compounded the problems as milk demand has declined by 35 to 40 per cent.

The fall in skimmed milk prices has seen milk cooperatives and private players exploiting the farmers as processes milk powder is not bringing desired dividends.

**INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**  
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)  
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006

"ICFRE Awards for Excellence in Forestry -2020"

Applications are invited for "ICFRE Awards for Excellence in Forestry" which are given for original and outstanding work/research contribution. The categories are (a) ICFRE Personnel (Five Awards) (b) Non-ICFRE Individuals, Institutions and Organizations (Six Awards) (c) ICFRE Lifetime Achievement Award in Forestry (One Award).

Detailed advertisement with guidelines and proforma is available at ICFRE website [www.icfre.org](http://www.icfre.org) and at the office of ADG (Education & R.B.).

Last date of receipt of application: 30.09.2020  
Complete application should be sent to  
Asst. Director General (Edu. & R.B.)  
Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education  
P.O. New Forest, Dehra Dun - 248006, Tel: 0135-222-4850,  
0135-2758348, Fax: 0135-2758571, E-mail: [adg\\_edu@icfre.org](mailto:adg_edu@icfre.org)

**SALE TENDER NOTICE Khadim's**

Sealed Tenders are invited from Prospective buyers within 16th August 2020, for water affected 54,394 Pairs of Footwear on as is where is basis. The said material is lying in the warehouse situated at 71/61 M.G. Road, Titagarh Kolkata - 700119. Contact Person for Inspection of stock Mr. Avijit Mukherjee (Mob: 98364 63209). Earnest money 10 % of offer value by DD / PO along with tender payable to M/S Khadim India Ltd. Kankaria Estate, 5th Floor 6, Little Russel Street Kolkata 700071. should be attached with the tender.

**Government of India Department of Atomic Energy Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Technical Services Division North Site, Trombay, Mumbai-85**

**Notice Inviting e-Tenders**

The Chief Engineer, Technical Services Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, North Site, BARC, Trombay, Mumbai - 400 085, on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tenders on two bid system for following work :-

**NIT No. BARC/TSD/145/2020-21, Name of work** - Maintenance of electrical system for the various buildings and providing round the clock operation for substation and AC plant at Training school Building, BARC, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai; **Estimated cost** - ₹ 1,35,00,000/-; **Earnest Money** - ₹ 2,70,000/-; **Period of completion** - 18 months; **Last date and time of submission of bid** - 14.09.2020 (23:59 Hrs.).

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the Website [www.tenderwizard.com/DAE](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DAE) or [www.barc.gov.in](http://www.barc.gov.in)

Changes if any, in the above scheduled date etc. will be notified only on the website [www.tenderwizard.com/DAE](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DAE)

Contact for assistance / clarifications 24x7 @ 9969395522  
Shri Rudresh, e-mail: [rudresh.tenderwizard@gmail.com](mailto:rudresh.tenderwizard@gmail.com)  
Chief Engineer

**Government of India Bhabha Atomic Research Centre Nuclear Recycle Board Fuel Fabrication, INRP (O), Tarapur**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

BARC (T) invites sealed item rate tenders for the following works:

No.	Tender No.	Name of Item
1	FF-INRP(O)/GEN/07/OFS/2020-21/22 Dated: 29.07.2020	Annual contract for miscellaneous work in OFS at FF, INRP(O), NRB, BARC, Tarapur as per terms and conditions given in Annexure - I & II

Estimated Cost Rs 34,00,000/- Earnest Money Rs 68,000/- Time of Completion Months 12 months. Sale Period 31/07/2020 to 10/08/2020

Detailed terms and conditions for purchase and submission of tender are given on website [www.barc.gov.in](http://www.barc.gov.in)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

ANDHERI - CLOSURE OF EAST SIDE SPANS OF EXISTING ANDHERI NORTH MCGM FOOT OVER BRIDGE BETWEEN KM.2118 - 22/1.

East side spans of Andheri North MCGM old Foot Over Bridge will remain closed from 01.08.2020 for dismantling in connection with 6th line project. Passengers may use New Foot Over Bridge which has been commissioned on date 31.07.2020.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
[www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Like us on: [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

**PLEA ON TRAVEL IN LOCAL TRAINS**

Access to justice a fundamental right, lawyers form integral part of system: HC to govt

OMKARGOKHALE MUMBAI, JULY 31

THE BOMBAY High Court on Friday directed the state government to decide expeditiously by August 4 representations made by lawyers and the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa seeking to include lawyers and their staff on the list of persons rendering essential services and allow to travel in special local trains during the pandemic.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Sarang V Kotwal heard, through video-conference, a PIL that claimed several lawyers did not own private vehicles and it became difficult for them to commute to the court and so they should be included on the list of persons entitled to travel in special local trains and declared as rendering essential service.

A clutch of other PILs also sought directions to the state to allow lawyers to travel by suburban local trains during the pandemic as they provide essential services.

The state government last week had informed the high court that it could not allow lawyers to travel by suburban local trains as it had restricted both the number of trains and passengers as a part of the measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are of the considered opinion that the state must apply its mind and take an informed decision with regard to the concerns voiced by the advocates as well as their staff. The state must not be ignorant that access to justice is now recognised as a fundamental right and advocates and their staff constitute an integral part of the entire system, which is dedicated to the delivery of justice," the Bench said.

Directing the state to consider and decide all representations by lawyers and their organisations before it by Tuesday, the court has posted further hearing on the pleas to August 7.

**A clutch of other PILs also sought directions to the state to allow lawyers to travel by suburban local trains during the pandemic as they provide essential services**

**Corrigendum Notice OFFICE OF THE DG & IG OF POLICE, JHARKHAND, RANCHI-834004.**

With reference to advertisement under PR No. 229753\ (Police) 2020-21 regarding Annual Maintenance Contract of IT Equipments to Jharkhand Police Tender No.02/2020-21 by Police Headquarters, Jharkhand, Ranchi, following modifications have been made after Pre-Bid Conference:-

The last date for submission of Tender Document is amended as 04-08-2020 by 15.00 hrs.

Opening of the tender paper is amended as 04-08-2020 by 16.00 hrs.

Document related to Pre- Bid queries, response and amendments can be downloaded from Jharkhand Police web-site "[jhpolice.gov.in](http://jhpolice.gov.in)".

I.G of Police (Provision) Jharkhand, Ranchi  
PR.NO.231362 Police(20-21):D

**MP INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)  
SECRETARIAT FOR SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM

CIN : U01102MP197783G0001302, "CED MAP BHAWAN" 16-A, Arera Hill, Bhopal-461011 (India), Tel. : (91) 755-2571830, 2575773, Fax: (91) 755-2559973, E-mail : [facilitation@mpidc.co.in](mailto:facilitation@mpidc.co.in), Website : [www.mpidc.mp.gov.in](http://www.mpidc.mp.gov.in)  
(Formerly known as Madhya Pradesh Trade and Investment Facilitation Corporation Limited)  
Bhopal, Dated : 28.07.2020

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (No. 36)**

Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (MPIDC) invites offer from interested consultant with proven capabilities and demonstrated performance to express their interest to participate in the competitive bidding for Preparation of Project Report as per the Guideline of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt of India dated 27.07.2020 for establishment of Bulk Drug Park in 1500 to 2000 Acres of Land in the state of Madhya Pradesh. For details interested consultants can visit following website :-

- [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) - MPIDC HO Bhopal
  - Contact Person : Shri S.K. Jain - 9826050599
  - The tender will be visible on-line on [mptenders.gov.in](http://mptenders.gov.in) from 30.07.2020 at 3:00 PM.
- M.P. Madhyam:980632020 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**MAHARASHTRA MEDICAL COUNCIL, MUMBAI**  
Established by Government of Maharashtra Under MMC Act 1965  
189-A, Anand Complex, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sane Guruji Marg, Arthur Road Naka, Chinchpokali (West), Mumbai - 400011. Tel.: 022-23007650  
Email Id: [maharashtramccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:maharashtramccouncil@gmail.com) • Website: [www.maharashtramccouncil.in](http://www.maharashtramccouncil.in)  
No. MMC/Tender/Catering Service/2020/01681 Date : 30.07.2020

**NOTICE FOR TENDER**  
Catering Service

Maharashtra Medical Council, Mumbai invites proposals from reputed and experienced companies to participate in the Service providers bidding process to firms for providing services of Catering Service of MMC office for the period of one year.

For the detailed Tender document, interested bidders should visit <http://maharashtramccouncil.in/tenders> or Maharashtra Medical Council, Mumbai web-site.

Tender submissions tender form may be obtained from the office from 01/08/2020 to 14/08/2020 between 10.30 a.m. to 04.00 p.m. from Monday to Friday from the above address on Payment of Rs. 2,000/- (Rs. Two Thousand only) (Non-refundable) by Cash or Demand Draft drawn on any Nationalised bank in favour of Registrar, Maharashtra Medical Council, payable at Mumbai.

Sealed Tenders envelope will be accepted up to 02.00 p.m. on 17/08/2020 and will be opened at 04.00 p.m. on 17/08/2020 in the presence of the parties, if present. Tenders received by Post / Courier after due date will not be accepted.

Sd/-  
(Sanjay Deshmukh)  
Registrar  
Maharashtra Medical Council, Mumbai

**राहुरी नगरपरिषद, राहुरी**  
ता. राहुरी, जिल्हा-अहमदनगर  
जा.क्र.कावि ३/५३०/४४/२०२० दिनांक: ३१/०७/२०२०

- सूचीपत्रक -

राहुरी नगरपरिषदेस नगरपरिषदांना वैशिश्ट्यपूर्ण कामासाठी विरोध अनुदान या योजनांतर्गत जुनी चारी क्र.६ मध्ये आर्यो.सी.सी. पाईप टाकणु जॉर्गींग ट्रॅक तयार करणे. या मजकुरानंतर सदर कामासाठी अंदाजपत्रकीय रकम ₹.५०,२३,९९९/- (एक कोटी पन्नास लाख तेवीस हजार नऊशे एकोणिस) हा मजकूर समाविष्ट करण्यात येत आहे.

तसेच सदर कामांसाठी प्रि-बिड मीटिंग दिनांक १०/०८/२०२० रोजी सकाळी ११.०० वा. मुख्याधिकारी नगर परिषद, राहुरी यांचे दालनात घेण्यात येईल. हा अतिरिक्त मजकूर समाविष्ट करण्यात येत आहे.

संबंधित ई निविदा सुचनेतील उर्वरित मजकूर, अटी व शर्ती निविदा बाबतचा कालवधी इ. मूळ ई निविदा सुचनेप्रमाणेच राहिल याची नोंद घ्यावी.

स्वाक्षरीत /-  
(श्री.एस.जी.कुरे)  
मुख्याधिकारी  
राहुरी, नगरपरिषद, राहुरी

**एमएमआरडीए MUMBAI METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)  
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 41. Tel : 26590001/04.  
Fax: 91-022-26591264 Website : <https://mmrda.maharashtra.gov.in>

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

Name of Work : Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority hereby invites e-tender for "Construction of Depot Infrastructure comprising Stabling Yard, DCC and Administrative Building, Maintenance & Workshop Buildings, ASS, Finishing , Plumbing, Earthworks for Land Development, Compound Wall, Road, Approach Bridge/Viaduct & Underground Utility Duct Works, Drainage etc. complete (excluding PEB works) for elevated Car Depot at Mogharpada for Metro Lines 4, 4A, 10 & 11of Mumbai Metro Rail Project of MMRDA". The Tender details are as under :

1. Tender No. : MMRDA/4/ MMRP/CA-L4C01/2020
2. Estimated Cost : Rs. 5,96,60,33,035/- (Including GST)
3. Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 5,96,60,330/-
4. Contract Period : 36 Months
5. Tender fees : Rs. 10000/- + 18 % GST (Non refundable)
6. Contact Details : Mr. Sanjiv Tatu, Superintending Engineer, Metro Project Implementation Unit, Tel: 022-224663709, 24063701  
Email : [sanjiv.tatu@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:sanjiv.tatu@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in)

7. Bid document download : 03.08.2020, 18:00 hrs to 17.09.2020, 18:00 hrs

8. Last date of Online submission : 18.09.2020, 17:00 hrs

The e-tender shall be available for free download on registration at <https://etendermmrda.maharashtra.gov.in> as per the above-mentioned dates. The submission of the e-tender is through MMRDA e-tendering Portal only. For any e-tendering support, bidders shall mail MMRDA e-tendering Helpdesk [etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in) or call Helpdesk 0225997445.

Date : 01/08/2020  
Place : Mumbai

Sd/-  
Metropolitan Commissioner  
MMRDA

**Government of Gujarat Narmada Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpasar Department**

**Tender Notice No. 03 of 2020-21**

ONLINE Tender is invited for the work of Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Automatic Water Level Recorder (Non-Contact Radar Type-AWLR) and Automatic Rain Gauge (ARG) Real Time Data Acquisition System (RTDAS) GSM/GPRS based at Various Location Across Gujarat State Including operation and maintenance of AWLR & ARG, Maintaining Data Acquisition System for 4 (Four) years and other allied services under National Hydrology Project by The Executive Engineer, W.R.I. Division, Ahmedabad. Last Date of Online Tender submission: 21/09/2020 upto 16.00 Hrs. Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: 24/08/2020 at 12.00 Hrs. Subsequent addendum and corrigendum will only be published on [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com). Website and it will be bound to all the bidders. For further details contact to this office during office hours. Detailed Tender Notice can also be seen on [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com), [www.nhp.mowr.gov.in](http://www.nhp.mowr.gov.in) & [www.statetenders.com](http://www.statetenders.com).

No. INF/ABD/413/2020

**Government of India DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX**  
ECIL Post, Hyderabad - 500 062

**E-Tender Notice**

On behalf of President of India, General Manager, NFC-Kota, Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad-500 062, invites sealed item rate tenders from the eligible contractors who have executed works of similar nature and magnitude for the following work:

Sl.	Tender No & Name of the work	Estimated Cost	EMD
1	NFC-K/ELE/2020/9 Electrical Cable Tray Systems	₹7,89,13,000/-	₹15,78,260/-

Period for view and downloading : 01.08.2020 to 20.08.2020  
Due date for online submission : 07.09.2020 upto 21:00hrs  
Due date for receiving hard copies : 21.09.2020 upto 14:00hrs  
Due date for opening bid : 21.09.2020at 15:00 hours

Detailed NIT can be viewed from [www.nfc.gov.in](http://www.nfc.gov.in), tender documents can be downloaded from [www.tenderwizard.com/DAE](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DAE). Bidders must have a valid class III digital signature certificate and must enroll with [www.tenderwizard.com/DAE](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DAE).  
General Manager, NFC-Kota  
For and On behalf of President of India

**SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
Invitations for Bids  
Roc. No. SSSL/6092/2020 Date : 30.07.2020

1. Supply and Fixing of Decorative 120W LED Street Lights of 904 Nos, Supply and Erection of 9m Height Octagonal Street light pole with Decorative Double Arm 452 Nos, Supply and laying of UG Cable 12204 Rm in PAN City of Salem City Municipal Corporation. Estimate Cost Rs. 650.00 Lakhs.
- ii Bid document and other information available at [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in), [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in), [www.salemcorporation.gov.in](http://www.salemcorporation.gov.in) Tender document can be downloaded from the above website.
- iii Date, Time and Venue for Tender Procedures. Submission of bids - 08.09.2020 upto 3.00 P.M Opening of bids - 08.09.2020 at 3.30 P.M

DIPR/2895/TENDER/2020 Commissioner, Salem Corporation

**भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहमपुर Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Berhampur**  
Established by the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

Advertisement No. NT-02/20 Date: August 01, 2020

IISER Berhampur, an Institute of National Importance established by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India is looking for dedicated and committed candidate(s) to fill-up the following sanctioned posts.

S. No	Name of the posts/ No. of posts	Group	Pay level (as per 7th CPC)	Pay level (as per 6th CPC)	Reserved for					
					UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	PWD
1	Scientific Officer / 02 Nos.	A	Level - 10	PB-3, GP-5400	01	00	00	01	00	00
2	Scientific Assistant / 02 Nos.	B	Level - 06	PB-2, GP-4200	01	00	00	01	00	00
3	Laboratory Assistant / 02 Nos.	C	Level - 05	PB-1, GP-2800	02	00	00	00	00	00
4	Junior Assistant (Accounts) / 01 No.	C	Level - 03	PB-1, GP-2000	01	00	00	00	00	00

Post at Sl. No. 01 to be filled on Direct Recruitment / Deputation / Transfer-on-Absorption basis. Posts at Sl. No. 02, 03 & 04 to be filled on Direct Recruitment only. Online applications can be submitted from 11:00 AM on August 05, 2020 till 05:30 PM of August 31, 2020. Last date for receipt of hard copy of online submitted application form along with all supporting documents is September 21, 2020 upto 05:30 PM. For details, visit <https://www.iiserbr.ac.in/index.php?category=staff-positions&pid=staff-positions> कृपसचिव / Registrar



## Minor raped, murdered in Muzaffarnagar village; one held

AMIT SHARMA,  
MEERUT, JULY 31

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD girl was allegedly raped and strangled to death by a 22-year-old man in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar late Thursday night. Police said they have arrested the accused and that he had confessed to the crime.

The crime came to light on Thursday after the father of the victim filed an FIR when did not return home till late evening. In the FIR, the father said that when the family tried to trace the girl, some of her friends said the accused — who stays in the same village — asked her to come along with him as he was going home.

Muzaffarnagar Deputy SP Ashish Pratap Singh said, "We took him into custody and when we interrogated him at the police station, he confessed to not only killing the seven-year-old, but also raping her. He will be sent to jail on Saturday."

The incident came days after a 16-year-old girl was gangraped in a Muzaffarnagar village by four men.

## Woman raped in Bulandshahr

**Bulandshahr:** A 50-year-old woman was allegedly raped by five men in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district, police said on Friday. A case under Section 376 D (gangrape) of the IPC has been registered against two identified and three unknown persons on the basis of the complaint filed by the woman's brother-in-law, they said.

According to the complaint, the incident took place on Thursday night when the widowed woman went to an agricultural field near her house, police said. When she did not return, her family members started searching for her and she was later found in the field, they said. The woman told her family that five men assaulted her and identified two of them from her neighbouring village, police said. **PTI**

## J&K madrasa head held for 'hurting religious sentiments'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 31

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police on Friday held the head of a madrasa in Banihal town on charges of committing an act intended to hurt the religious feelings of another community.

Police identified the accused as Ghulam Rasool, who has been running a madrasa at Banihal's Nagbal. They said he had put out an advertisement seeking donations from people to sacrifice animals on their behalf on Eid. The advertisement said one piece of a "big animal" will cost Rs 3,000, while the pieces of small animal will cost Rs 8,000-10,000.

The president of Ramban unit of the VHP, Ashish Sharma, had lodged a complaint with police, saying the advertisement about sacrificing "big animals" was aimed at hurting the religious feelings of a particular community.

Ramban SSP Haseeb ur Rehman said that police have apprehended Ghulam Rasool to avoid a law and order problem. The matter is under investigation.

# 41 die after consuming illicit liquor in 3 Punjab dists, CM orders probe

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR  
AMRITSAR, JULY 31

AT LEAST 41 people have died in three districts of Punjab's Majha region allegedly after consuming spurious liquor in the last two days. As death toll mounted on Friday, Punjab CM Amarinder Singh ordered a magisterial probe into the deaths to be conducted by the Jalandhar Divisional Commissioner.

Till Friday evening, 11 deaths were confirmed in Amritsar. Two villages, Muchhal and Tangra, in Amritsar had reported 7 deaths on Thursday, while 4 more fatalities were confirmed on Friday. In separate cases, 11 deaths due to alleged consumption of spurious liquor were reported from Batala in Gurdaspur district and 19 from Tarn Taran. According to SDM, Tarn Taran, Rajneesh Arora, six more people are critical in the district.

DGP Dinkar Gupta Friday said that the death toll could rise further as the spurious liquor network was evidently spread across many areas.

Just like bodies of five deceased in Amritsar were cremated without post-mortem on Thursday, last rites of a few bodies in Batala and Tarn Taran too were performed without autopsy



The kin of Amrik Singh, one of the deceased, at Tarn Taran district on Friday. Rana Simranjit Singh

on Friday. Around noon, a Punjab government press note said that dead in these cases will not be cremated without a post-mortem.

CM Amarinder Singh said that the inquiry will look into the facts and circumstances leading to incidents, as well as into any other issues connected or relevant to the incidents. The probe will be conducted by Divisional Commissioner, Jalandhar, along with Joint Excise & Taxation Commissioner Punjab, and SPs (Investigation) of the concerned districts, according to a state government spokesperson.

Promising strict action against anyone found complicit in the

case, the CM directed police to launch a search operation to crack down on any spurious liquor manufacturing unit operating in the state.

It may be recalled that the Punjab Police had seized a whopping 8.32 lakh litres of lahan (raw material mixed for distillation of illicit liquor) in the middle of June in a drive titled Operation Red Rose. The drive had led to registration of 3,490 cases under the Excise Act and arrests of 2,664 accused. Earlier in the 40-day period of lockdown, 1.81 lakh litres of lahan was seized.

On Friday, Punjab Police ar-

rested seven bootleggers from Amritsar, Batala and Tarn Taran districts in over 40 raids conducted by five teams led by senior officers. The total number of persons apprehended so far in the spurious liquor deaths case has gone up to eight, including Balwinder Kaur, who was arrested Thursday night from Muchhal village in Amritsar.

DGP Dinkar Gupta said a huge quantity of spurious liquor, drums, storage cans etc have been recovered from the accused and the same have been sent for chemical analysis to check for constituents of spurious liquor. More arrests are likely, he said, adding that raids were continuing and the police teams would continue to crack down on all those involved in the case to unravel the extend of the spurious liquor mafia operating in the region.

While two persons, Balwinder Kaur and Mithu, were arrested from Amritsar (Rural) district, another two persons identified as Darshan Rani and Rajan were nabbed from Batala district. Four others—Kashmir Singh, Angrez Singh, Amarjit and Baljit—have been arrested from Tarn Taran.

Mithu, who was arrested from village Jasso Nangal, Police Station Khilchian, Friday has admitted to his role in the supply of spurious liquor, said the DGP.

The state police chief revealed that FIR no. 253, dated July 31, has been registered under Sections 304, 307 and 120 of the IPC at Police Station Sadar Tarn Taran against the four accused arrested from the district. He added that these bootleggers had admitted to supplying spurious liquor in village Norangabad.

According to the police, first five fatalities were reported from Mucchal and Tangra villages in Amritsar on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. On Thursday evening, two more people died under suspicious circumstances in Muchhal, and one person died at Sri Guru Ram Das Hospital in Amritsar after being shifted from Tangra. Batala too had reported two fatalities linked to consumption of illicit liquor on Thursday.

On Friday, 9 more persons died in Batala, taking the death toll in the town to 11, while 19 spurious liquor related deaths were reported from Tarn Taran.

Meanwhile, opposition parties in Punjab lashed out against the Capt Amarinder Singh government for the alleged lapses which led to death linked to consumption of illicit liquor and demanded a high-level independent inquiry into the incidents.

(WITH INPUTS FROM  
ENSHCHANDIGARH)

## Unable to find alcohol, 10 die after drinking sanitiser

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JULY 31

AT LEAST 10 people in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district have died over a period of three days after consuming sanitiser as a substitute for alcohol. Officials said liquor shops in the area were shut either due to government policy or because they fell under a containment zone.

Prakasam district's Karichedu and Darsi mandals have been declared containment zones due to the high number of Covid-19 cases, and all shops — including liquor outlets — have been shut.

Prakasam SP Siddharth Kaushal, who visited the two areas on Friday, said police found sanitiser in at least 20 homes, but quite a number of people in the town were consuming it as an intoxicant. "We found empty as well as unopened sanitiser bottles in some homes. Family members confirmed that the victims were consuming it in lieu of liquor. We are looking for more people who are consuming it since the last 8-10 days. Liquor is not available to these addicts due to the closure of shops in containment zones and they got their hands on cheap sanitiser," he said.

Police officials said that the addicts gathered behind a temple in the town and mixed sanitiser with water and soft drinks and have been consuming it since the past 8-10 days. On Wednesday night, one P Srinu complained of severe stomach ache and collapsed. He was rushed to the Darsi Government Hospital, where he told police — investigating the death of another person the previous night — that he and others were consuming sanitiser for several days.

On Thursday night, three others, including Srinu, died in hospital. On Friday, seven more people succumbed at the hospital, sending alarm bells ringing among health officials.

"Almost all of them are daily wage labourers or beggars. We have seized some stock of sanitiser from some shops while those with medical shops would be examined for chemical contents. Apart from the post-mortem report we are also seeking a toxicology report to ascertain what exactly happened. At least 10 people have died so far in the last three days," Kaushal said.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has sought a report from the police and the district collector.

## Kerala: CPM, Cong accuse each other of nexus with BJP

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JULY 31

AHEAD OF the ground-breaking ceremony for the Ram temple in Ayodhya on August 5, a war of words has broken out between the ruling CPM and the Opposition Congress in Kerala, each accusing the other of a nexus with the BJP.

In an article in party daily *Deshabhimani* on Friday, CPM state secretary and politburo member Kodiyeri Balakrishnan wrote, "Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala has become the sarsanghchalak of RSS in Kerala. Chennithala is the heart-throb of RSS. He is the son of an RSS sympathiser. That is why Congress-led UDF is maintaining silence in the Ayodhya issue."

Referring to the Ayodhya, triple talaq and the Citizenship Amendment Act issues, Balakrishnan alleged that the Congress has always played the "soft-Hinduism card".

The CPM leader wrote that it was this "soft Hindu line" that made then Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao support the demolition of the Babri Masjid. "Chennithala is climbing up the political ladder in the shadow of Rao's tradition. For the Congress, BJP and IUML, their only enemy is CPI(M)," he wrote in the article.

He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be laying the foundation stone for Ram temple in Ayodhya on August 5 to "paint Sri Rama in saffron and make Sri Rama a Hindu card even during this Covid-19 pandemic".

Chennithala, the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, has stepped up his attack on the state government in the wake of



CPM state secy Balakrishnan has targeted Chennithala

a string of controversies, including the gold smuggling scandal, prompting the CPM to hit back.

Recently, Balakrishnan had stated that "what BJP says in the morning is repeated by Chennithala in the afternoon. The Opposition Congress is now implementing the RSS agenda. RSS wants Chennithala to head the UDF."

Defending Chennithala, Congress state president Mullappally Ramachandran said the CPM wants to divert attention from critical issues. The ruling party, he said, is now isolated from the people and has realised that it cannot retain power. Secularism is only a façade for the CPM, he said.

Congress daily *Veekshanam* on Friday quoted an article in the online edition of BJP mouthpiece *Janmabhumi* on the "RSS links" of CPM politburo member S Ramachandran Pillai.

Pillai on Friday told the media that the controversy is "unwarranted now". "I had attended RSS till the age of 15. I became a materialist and shifted to Communism after realising that internationalism is better than nationalism," he said.

Responding to the war of words between the CPM and the Congress, BJP state president K Surendran said both the parties want to woo minority votes. "Congress and CPM have already started secret parleys in their efforts to defeat the BJP in the coming local body elections," he said.

## Final-year exams: SC refuses to pass interim order

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE SUPREME Court on Friday refused to pass any interim order on a batch of petitions challenging guidelines to hold final year/semester examinations by September amid the Covid-19 pandemic and asked the Centre to clear the stand of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on the issue.

The UGC told the top court that nobody should remain under the impression that since the Supreme Court is examining this issue, the final year/semester examination will be stayed.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that it was not passing any orders on the issue and posted the matter for further hearing on August 10.

The bench, also comprising Justices R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah, was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and the UGC, that he would apprise the court about the MHA's stand.

Mehta said they were only concerned with final year exams and out of over 800 universities in the country, 209 have completed the examinations and around 390 universities are in the process of conducting the examinations.

"Let nobody remain under the impression that since this court is examining this, it will be stayed. Let students continue with their studies," Mehta said.

To this, the bench said, "We are not passing any such order." On Thursday, the UGC justified its decision directing all universities and institutions to hold final year/semester examinations by September saying it was done to protect the academic future of students across the country.



## TEMPLE TREAT

Sweets being prepared for the Ram temple's foundation stone laying ceremony, in Ayodhya on Friday. **PTI**

## Dalit religious leader should have been invited for Ram temple bhoomi puja: Maya

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, JULY 31

BSP PRESIDENT Mayawati on Friday said it would have been better had an invitation been extended to "Dalit Mahamandaleshwar" Kanhaiya Prabhunandan Giri for the 'bhoomi puja' ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on August 5, adding that it "would have had some impact on the Constitutional intention of setting a casteless society".

This comes after reports in sections of the media that Prabhunandan Giri was unhappy over not being invited to the event.



BSP chief Mayawati

In a tweet in Hindi, Mayawati wrote, "Considering Dalit Mahamandaleshwar Swami Kanhaiya Prabhunandan Giri's complaint, it would have been better if he was also invited for the ceremony along with other 200 saints/sadhus."

At the same time, the BSP chief advised the Dalit community to distance themselves from such matters and "focus on work by walking on the path shown by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar".

The remarks came in the wake of allegations by Prabhunandan Giri that he was not invited to the event possibly out of apprehensions that this visit would make the temple "apavitra" (impure).

Narendra Giri, president of Akhila Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, denied Prabhunandan Giri's allegations, saying that "saints do not have any caste".

Kameshwar Chaupal, member of Ram Janma Bhoomi Teerth

Kshetra Trust who belongs to the Dalit community, also denied the allegations and said he is a representative in the trust and moreover, mud from places of worship of Dalits from different parts of Bihar was being brought for the bhoomipujan ceremony.

"The allegations are false. Amid the coronavirus situation in the country, norms are that number (of people at functions) should be limited. I, Kameshwar Chaupal am there. I am a Dalit and there are others, too. It is not appropriate to make such allegations. I am bringing mud from different places of worship of the Dalit Samaj in Bihar."

## Wary of large-scale spread, Assam keeps close watch on tea gardens

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, JULY 31

THE ASSAM government is keeping a close watch on the possibility of a large-scale Covid-19 spread within the tea workers' community, officials told *The Indian Express*.

The tea tribe community accounts for 17 per cent of Assam's population. It is economically backward and most tea workers live in quarters next to tea gardens in poor health conditions.

Till Friday, 69 tea workers have tested positive for Covid-19 — one has died, 26 have recovered and 42 are under treatment. Officials say a large-scale transmission in tea gardens could be-

come a major challenge for the administration.

In a letter dated July 28, state Labour Commissioner Ghanshyam Dass wrote to assistant labour commissioners and labour inspectors, "If due to any reason there is community spread of Covid-19 in the labour lines [residential quarters of the workers next to the gardens] it will lead to a major catastrophe as the present medical facility available is not sufficient to cater to a pandemic situation in the present day scenario. Thus this might lead to high mortality."

"So all officers are directed to do the needful in coordination with the district administration and convince the tea garden management and unions to



At a tea garden in Golaghat district of Assam. **Express**

carry out testing drive of the tea garden workers as soon as possible, so that if there is any infec-

tion it may be contained at the earliest," the letter stated. Speaking to *The Indian*

*Express*, Dass said the tea workers' community was vulnerable, but stressed that the situation is currently under control. "We are keeping a close watch and coordinating with the health department and district administrations," he said.

Pallav Gopal Jha, DC of Dibrugarh, which has many tea gardens, said the administration is conducting rigorous contact tracing in the gardens through ASHA workers. "All persons with symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection, Influenza-like Illness or fever are being tested," he said.

Jha said the positivity rate within the tea workers' community is currently low.

Gonsu Gosain, the president

of a labour union of a tea estate in Golaghat district, said, "Yes, there is fear but work is going on in keeping with strict hygiene norms. We are maintaining one-metre distance between workers, washing hands frequently and constantly wearing masks." Although there are no cases yet in the garden he works at, Gosain said, "We have to be careful in our residential quarters. There are no cases in our garden, but there is fear."

Golaghat DC Bibhash Chandra Modi said, "Till now, there are hardly any cases in tea gardens in this district. We have held meetings with garden managers and sought cooperation from various unions. Everyone is cooperating. We have disal-

lowed entry of any unknown person in the gardens and labour lines."

The DC said he has started a WhatsApp group on which representatives of gardens in the district post photos and videos of daily sanitisation and physical distancing during work.

Lakshmanan S, Assam's Mission Director of the National Health Mission, said there was nothing to be especially worried about tea workers as the government is taking all precautionary steps in industries where people work in close contact. "A tea garden is an open space and the risk is less. The state government had given clear guidelines on how to work in tea gardens months back," Lakshmanan said.

## 6 children among 9 dead in Bihar boat mishaps

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, JULY 31

NINE PEOPLE, including four children, died in two boat incidents on the Gandak river in Bihar's Gopalganj district in the last 24 hours.

While six people — including four children aged between nine and 11 years — from Parsauni Malahi village died in a boat accident on Friday morning, three from Baikunthpur died on Thursday as their boat capsized. The Gopalganj district administration has stopped ferrying of private boats after the incidents.



## Indian Express journalist wins Prem Bhatia Award for political reporting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE INDIAN Express Special Correspondent Dipankar Ghose has won the Prem Bhatia Award for political reporting for his work on issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the migrant labour crisis.

While Ghose won the award for the category of reporting on political issues, the award for reporting on environmental and development issues was given to the People's Archive of Rural India (PARI), a journalism website dedicated to reporting on rural India.

The Prem Bhatia Memorial Trust, which confers the awards for outstanding journalism, said in a press release that Ghose has been awarded "for his coverage of the migrant labour crisis and other Covid-19 related issues".

Apart from reporting on the issue of migrant labour walking back hundreds of kilometres to their home towns during the lockdown, Ghose also reported a series of stories from Bhagalpur in Bihar for over a month starting mid-June to understand the effects of the pandemic and the lockdown in small-town India.

On July 6, Ghose reported about the children of Musahari tola, a Mahadali colony in Baddilla village, who had turned to rag-picking and begging after the mid-day meal scheme, which guaranteed one stable meal a day, came to a halt as schools



Dipankar Ghose

were closed.

Taking note of the report within hours of it being published, the Bihar government issued an order to provide rations as well as money through Direct Benefit Transfer to all school children across the state for 80 working days from May to July.

The Patna High Court and the National Human Rights Commission also took suo motu cognizance of the report.

While the court directed the state government to ensure that no child is "pushed into or indulged in any activity of rag-picking or begging, more so on the account of lack of food", the NHRC issued notices to the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development and Bihar's chief secretary and mentioned that it was a "serious issue of violation of human rights", demanding a reply within four weeks.

The Prem Bhatia Award to PARI "collectively for its army of field reporters, volunteers and its dedicated team which sifts and publishes data", the press release said, is "for its extensive field reports, including climate change effects and the impact of the pandemic on rural India". PARI's founder editor P Sainath has also won the award earlier.

## RAJASTHAN POWER PLAY

# House session 14 days away, Cong now shifts its MLAs to Jaisalmer

Ruling party claims threats to legislators, family; BJP says after Jaisalmer, there is Pakistan

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, JULY 31

WITH the Assembly session still 14 days away, the Congress on Friday shifted its MLAs, shepherded by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, to a resort in Jaisalmer — over 560 km west of Jaipur — via chartered flights.

The legislators head there after an 18-day stay at a hotel and resort on the outskirts of Jaipur, where they moved following the revolt by Sachin Pilot and 18 MLAs. Indicating that the Gehlot loyalists would now be in Jaisalmer till the Assembly convenes on August 14 or a floor test, the Congress



Ashok Gehlot

claimed a "threat" to them and immense "pressure" on their family and relatives.

Talking to journalists outside Jaipur airport, Gehlot said, "The MLAs are getting calls, their family members are getting calls, threat calls, to pressurise them. The MLAs are mentally troubled... They have been sitting here for long... hence we thought to shift them. There will be less pressure there, and it is far away."

Accusing "the Government of India and Home Ministry" of being after his government, the CM said "saving the government is important" along with governing the state. "I am forced to say, 'Amit Shahji, what has happened to you? Day and night, awake and while asleep, you think how to topple a government'. If chosen governments fall like this, what will be left of democracy?" he said.

Gehlot added that he would be going up and down between the state capital and Jaisalmer. "I will be in Jaipur and so will most of my ministers. We will not compromise with governance."

A senior Congress leader said the legislators had themselves raised the "pressure" they were under at the Congress Legislature Party meeting on Thursday, after which a unanimous decision was taken that all would shift somewhere out of Jaipur.

Sources said the Congress was also worried that the family mem-



Congress MLAs at the Jaipur airport on Friday. The MLAs, who were camping at a hotel on the Delhi-Jaipur highway, were moved to Jaisalmer via chartered flights, ahead of the Rajasthan Assembly session on August 14. Rohit Jain Paras

bers dropping in to meet the MLAs at the Jaipur resort might be conveying offers to defect. Few MLAs were allowed visitors, that too immediate family members, but with upcoming festivals such as Eid, Raksha Bandhan and Janmashtmi, Congress expected requests for visits to increase.

On Thursday, Gehlot had said the "rates" of MLAs had increased manifold. "Ever since the Governor declared 14th (August) for the House to convene, the telephones have started ringing. We get news who is calling and what they are offering. They (MLAs) are being asked, 'Tell us what you want...'" he said.

While the Fairmont Hotel and Resort where the MLAs were staying till Friday is now in the crosshairs of ED, their accommodation in Jaisalmer — Suryagarh Hotel — is 14 km from the city.

Denying Gehlot's allegations, BJP state president Satish Poonia said, "Who is saleable, disclose their names." Asking why the Congress was headed for Jaisalmer, he said what was the need for it "if all Congress MLAs are united, there is no danger, everything is fine".

"After Jaipur and beyond Jaisalmer, there is Pakistan," Poonia said. "For how long will you run away from reality?"

## Rajasthan Cong chief whip moves SC against HC order on disqualification

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

CHIEF WHIP of the Congress Legislature Party in Rajasthan Assembly Mahesh Joshi has moved the Supreme Court against the High Court's July 24 order asking the Speaker to maintain "status quo" on the question of disqualification of 19 rebel Congress MLAs.

The plea said the High Court had "exceeded its jurisdiction" and that its order "impinges upon the domain of the legislature".

Joshi said the HC order "is ex facie unconstitutional, illegal and in the teeth of the law laid down" by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in 1992 in the case Kihoto Holoohan vs. Zachillhu.

He said the writ petition filed by the rebel MLAs in the HC "was totally non-maintainable and premature". It "sought to challenge only a notice dated 14.07.2020 issued by the Speaker calling for comments of the Respondents on the disqualification petitions filed

against them under... the Tenth Schedule", he said, adding "there was absolutely no adverse order of any kind against the Respondents and as such the Writ Petition... was completely non-maintainable".

Their writ petition sought to raise the question of constitutional validity of Para 2(1)(a) of Tenth Schedule, which was already settled by the Supreme Court in the Kihoto case, Joshi said.

It was on disqualification petitions filed by Joshi that the Speaker issued the notices to rebel MLAs.

On this, Joshi said the petitions filed by him "make out a primary facie case against" the MLAs "of voluntary giving up membership of the party under para 2(1)(A) of the Tenth Schedule".

Substantiating this, he said "grave and sinister attempts were being made by" them "to break the ranks of the INC and topple the duly elected INC Government in the State of Rajasthan".

The rebels "had deliberately absented themselves from two

crucial CLP meetings held on 13.07.20 and 14.07.20 despite repeated reminders and notices", he said, adding "the media was rife with vociferous demands by" the MLAs "calling for a floor test against their own Government".

They even claimed that "the INC Government had cheated the people of Rajasthan". They "had become inaccessible to the Party leadership by going incommunicado and were enjoying the hospitality of the State BJP Government in Haryana at a resort in Manesar (Haryana)", Joshi said.

The chief whip said he had "asserted" before the HC that the rebels "are acting in concert with the BJP... and there are serious attempts being made by" them "to offer allurement and bribes to members of the INC to switch support to the BJP".

Joshi said such "conduct" of the MLAs "reveals grossest form of defection under Para 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule".

On July 29, Assembly Speaker C P Joshi had moved the SC against the HC order.

## Setback in ops to plug blowout at OIL well in Assam's Baghjan

TORA AGARWALA  
GUWAHATI, JULY 31

THE LAST leg of the operations to control the blowout and fire at Oil India Limited's (OIL's) Baghjan well in Assam faced a setback on Friday, just as engineers were attempting to place the Blowout Preventer (BOP) on the well head to plug the leak.

For more than two months, OIL has been trying to control the blowout in the Baghjan oilfield in Tinsukia district. A release by OIL on Friday evening said, "While the capping operation was being attempted, the Athey Wagon top-

pled over at the last moment, and the attempt did not succeed."

The Athey Wagon is a 90-foot-long vehicle used to lift heavy equipment — in this case the BOP, a device that needs to be re-installed at the well head, following which the well can be "killed" or shut down completely.

"We would have been able to plug the blowout today itself if the wagon had not toppled," said OIL spokesperson Tridiv Hazarika. He added, "A well-killing liquid will be pushed into the well at high pressure to complete the operations." The spokesperson said the process may take up to four-five hours.

# No upper limit on ticket fare in private trains, Railways clarifies

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THERE IS no upper limit to fares that private players can fix for passenger trains they will run, and operators will not need any approval from any authority for it, the Railways Ministry clarified on Friday.

Several prospective bidders for the project had raised a set of queries on various aspects of the move to give out 109 routes to run 151 trains to private players for 35 years at a recent pre-application meeting.

Replying to those queries on Friday, the Railways said fares of these private trains will be market-driven, and no approval is contemplated. Sources said to make this provision legally tenable, the Railways may need Cabinet approval or even Parliament sanction, since under the Railways Act, only the ministry or the Union government can decide fares for passenger trains in the country.

With no upper limit for fares and a steep project cost, thanks to expensive, modern rolling stock, fares are expected to be way steeper than existing train services, officials said. The private

player is free to sell tickets through its website but the back end of the website will be tied to the railway passenger reservation system.

Confusion prevailed over the technical specifications of trains that Railways wants the private players to deploy. While several companies asked how Railways could seek 160 kmph speed from private trains when its infrastructure is probably not ready to for such speed, the reply given was: "The clause is self-explanatory. No change is contemplated."

The Railways also did not come out with technical specifications for the rolling stock that

it seeks the private players to bring in. On various questions about this, the reply was: "The draft Specifications and Standards will be issued shortly."

Sources said technical specification contemplated for private operators is such it requires maintenance after running 40,000 km or for 31 days — something that is not easily available in the market.

When asked how responsibility will be fixed in case of accidents, the reply given was: "Relevant provisions shall be included as part of draft concession agreement."

## Andhra Governor nod to 3-capital plan; HC clearance still remains

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, JULY 31

ANDHRA PRADESH Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan on Friday approved the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development Bill and AP Capital Region Development Authority Repeal 2014 Bill, paving the way for establishing three capitals in the state.

The Governor's nod makes it unlikely for Amaravati to be the state's sole capital, as envisaged by the previous TDP government.

As per the decentralisation Bill, Amaravati will be the legislature



Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan

capital, Visakhapatnam will be the executive capital and Kurnool will be the judicial capital. However, at least a dozen petitions filed in the High Court by TDP activists, Amaravati Parirakshana Samithi and social activists are still pending. Until the court clears them, the state cannot implement the Governor's order.

YSRCP workers and leaders set off firecrackers to celebrate

the Governor's decision while farmers in Amaravati region, who have been protesting for several months, held a demonstration.

Former chief minister and Opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu said it is a dark day in the state's history.

"Using unethical means, the government has forced the Governor to assent to this fraud," he said.

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister B Satyanarayana said the government's aim in decentralising capitals is to ensure equal development across the state.

# 'These are not ordinary times, even for flood work'

BIHAR WATER Resources Minister and national general secretary of JD(U) **SANJAY KUMAR JHA** speaks to **DIPANKAR GHOSE** on efforts to deal with the pandemic as well as the flood situation, and the upcoming Assembly elections.

What is the flood situation in Bihar?

As of July 31, 108 blocks in 14 districts are affected. According to our estimates, that means over 39 lakh people are affected. One of the main issues is two to three breaches on the Gandak and a couple on Budhi Gandak river. About 72 hours before heavy rain, we send an alert to the district. In Bihar, people live inside embankments too. So if there is an alert, our engineers are made aware, and people are asked to move from the embankments. Following the July 9-11 heavy rainfall, and again on July 19-21, there was a heavy rain alert in the Gandak catchment of Nepal, and the concentration of rain was above 200 mm at several gauging stations. In hundreds of places, our engineers have continued work-

ing on seepage and piping day and night.

What is the forecast for the near future and what are your preparations?

In the last 24 hours, while Gandak has been stabilising; Budhi Gandak and Adhwara group rivers have received a lot of discharge from Nepal and levels show a rising trend. In two to three days we expect rain to subside in the Gandak, Budhi Gandak, and at Baghmati, Adhwara and Mahananda catchments. Water levels of Gandak, Budhi Gandak, Adhwara group rivers and Mahananda have set new records this July... breaking those set in the 1987. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been especially concerned about ensuring that people living inside embankments move out in time. In his daily stocktaking briefings, he seeks to know not only about rainfall, river trends, forecasts and flood-fighting efforts, but also the relief and rescue efforts.

Bihar's floods are almost an



annual ritual. How has Covid-19 affected operations this year?

We had a lockdown from March 24, and that was the peak time for the department to do anti-erosion work. No trucks

could come. No labour or engineer could go to the site. After April 10 or 12, the CM exempted this work from the lockdown. But that was not enough. We made a cell that contractors could contact if they had issues with material, so we could contact the factory outside the state, or the district collector concerned, and get the truck moving. Only then were we able to finish 393 critical anti-erosion work, which was difficult. Engineers also tested positive. We are sending people from headquarters, but they are not familiar with the terrain. These are not ordinary times, even for flood work.

A month ago you said there were issues with maintenance work on the Gandak barrage on the Nepal side. What is the status on that?

This becomes a country-to-country thing. MEA deals with them. Our representative also sits in Kathmandu. There have been some issues relating to

work this time. Here, it is our government, and we did the work accordingly. But we do flood fighting and anti-erosion work in Nepal side also. There was a lockdown there, and we had no access. So we requested the MEA. I said that even if we fix everything, what will happen if things go wrong upstream. But they stopped our engineers. They said they would let them go only after thermal screening. Later, they agreed they could go. I don't want to speak on India-Nepal relations, but things were not as smooth this year.

The opposition says that amid flood and Covid, CM Nitish Kumar is not stepping out and is focused only on elections. What is your response?

From day one Nitish Kumar has been monitoring, reviewing every day. The number of migrants who came was not small, 30-40 lakh. I think he managed it well. Quarantine centres were opened. I travelled with him in June by road to Darbhanga and

Madhubani, to review work on the India-Nepal border. He has seen other points of the flood situation. It is true that if the CM moves too much, the administration of different regions gets affected. As far as elections is concerned, it is for the Election Commission to decide. As far as my party is concerned, JD(U) is for the election. Why people are running away from elections, I don't know. Because they have seen the Lok Sabha results and they were wiped out. They have seen their future.

But if the Covid curve is high, or amid floods, how will an election happen without say rallies, or people coming to vote?

We have time. Let's see how things unfold in August. EC has come out with details like increasing booths, etc. Let them take a call. We hope things improve in Bihar. Death rates are minimal, recovery rates are more than national average. Things are not as bad as projected. This is a global problem.

## Rampant corruption in defence deals during NDA-1, says Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE CONGRESS on Friday sought an explanation from the BJP for "rampant corruption, compromise on national security and weakening of the defence structure" under the first NDA government headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The attack came a day after former Samata Party chief Jaya Jaitly was sentenced to four years in jail for a 2001 case of alleged corruption in a defence deal, only to be granted a stay order by the Delhi High Court a few hours later. Two others were also sentenced by the lower court to four years' imprisonment but did not move the High Court.

The Congress also raked up the Rafale fighter jet deal controversy in the wake of the judgement. "The verdict of the court also highlights the need to investigate the truth of Rafale deal and proves that truth needs to be investigated and is not what the BJP says," said spokesperson Jaiver Shergill.

Shergill said that the conviction of Jaitly and two others by the lower court had exposed the NDA-BJP's "corruption, commission and conspiracy" oriented approach towards defence deals.

The lower court verdict, he alleged, has established the structure of the defence procurement mechanism under the NDA-BJP regime is filled with the "cement of money-making, influencing and bribing rather than being built on the pillars of transparency and compliance of procedures".

"There exists a culture of influencing, favouring and facilitating defence deals in lieu of receiving bribery and gratification within the NDA-BJP top leadership and decision-makers," said Shergill.

Jaitly, Major General S P Murugai (ret'd) and former Samata Party leader Gopal Pachherwal were charge-sheeted after Tehelka magazine aired a sting operation that showed them purportedly accepting bribes from its reporters — posing as representatives of a fictitious company — for supplying orders from the Army for handheld thermal imagers.

## In MP, Cong MLA files case on Scindia's RS win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JABALPUR, JULY 31

A PETITION was filed on Friday in the Madhya Pradesh High Court challenging Congress-turned-BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia's election to the Rajya Sabha.

Senior Congress MLA from Lahar constituency in Bhind district, Dr Govind Singh, filed the election petition claiming that Scindia had suppressed facts regarding an FIR filed against him with Bhopal police, his counsels Sanjay Agrawal and Anuj Agrawal said. Singh has filed the election petition on basis of being a voter in Rajya Sabha polls, they added.

The petitioner has said that Congress Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh had raised this objection with the election authorities on March 17 but it was rejected, the lawyers said.

## Puri launches guidebook on central scheme for affordable housing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

AS PART of a new central scheme to provide affordable housing on rent to the poor from the pool of government houses lying unused in India, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Friday launched a guidebook or knowledge pack to provide policy clarity to all stakeholders.

Puri also launched 'CREDAI Awaas App' and NAREDCO's online portal 'HousingForAll.com' through a video conference.

"About 1.08 lakh houses constructed under previous government schemes are vacant in 159 cities, which are potentially available for rental housing for urban migrants or the poor," Puri said.

The Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) scheme, which has been launched under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) as part of Atma



Hardeep Singh Puri

Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, will provide dignified and affordable living spaces for urban migrants/poor in need, said Puri.

The scheme will also help real estate developers retain labour forces on their sites, he said, adding the rental housing will be beneficial for youths.

To achieve the government's target under 'Housing For All' by 2022, Puri said the ministry has almost sanctioned the entire 1.12 crore dwelling units as envisaged under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (Urban). About 70 per cent of sanctioned houses have been grounded. Puri said the face of the national capital would change with the implementation of three major schemes, including a land pooling policy.



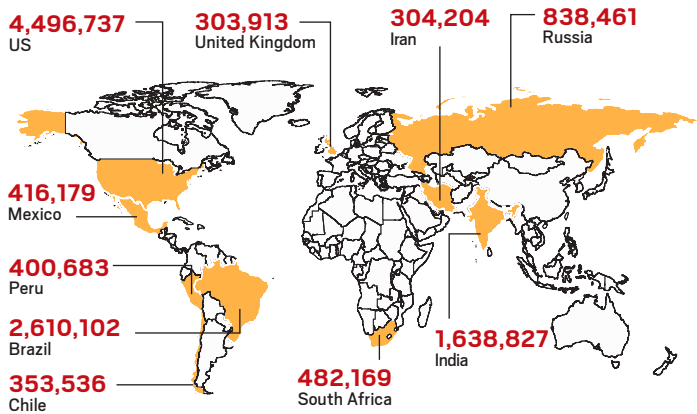


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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

### THE WORLD

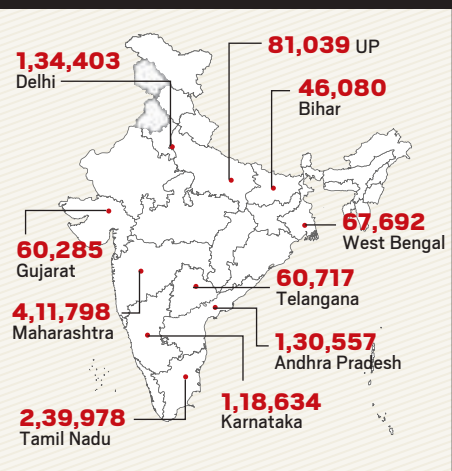


TOTAL CONFIRMED: 17,334,539 DEATH COUNT: 674,038

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on July 31. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match if these are accounted at different times.

INDIA COUNT: 16,38,870 (35,747 DEATHS)

### TOP 10 STATES



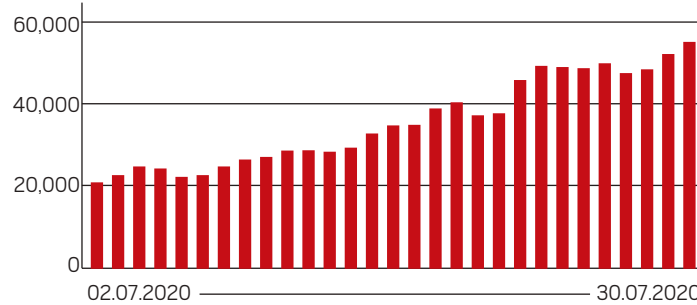
### REST OF INDIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	471
Arunachal Pradesh	1484
Assam	38407
Bihar	48477
Chandigarh	1016
Chhattisgarh	8761
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1064
Goa	5704
Haryana	34254
Himachal Pradesh	2506
Jammu and Kashmir	19889
Jharkhand	10167
Kerala	22303
Ladakh	1378
Madhya Pradesh	30968
Manipur	2505
Meghalaya	803
Mizoram	408
Nagaland	1566
Odisha	30378
Puducherry	3298
Punjab	15456
Rajasthan	40145
Sikkim	610
Tripura	4706
Uttarakhand	7065

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, July 31. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above.

1057805 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 35 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

### DAILY NEW CASES UNTIL JULY 30



Have a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do? Write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## AN EXPERT EXPLAINS

# Should you test just to check?

Not advised, because the probability of being falsely identified as Covid-19-positive is quite high. When no test is 100% accurate, the key aspect to consider is disease prevalence in the population that is being tested



TUSHAR GORE

If you test positive, do you have the disease?

The unequivocal answer is: maybe. No diagnostic test is 100% accurate. But if you are not showing any symptoms, and do not have any reason to believe you might have been exposed to the virus, getting yourself tested just to check your status might not be advisable. You would possibly be surprised to know how big the probability of your being incorrectly identified as positive can be in such a case. The key, as you will see later, is the prevalence of the disease, meaning how widespread the disease is in the community.

### How accurate are tests?

No test is 100% accurate. It is not very difficult to believe this. Diagnostic tests, including the ones used for detection of Covid-19, have a margin of error and often generate results that are false positives or false negatives. A false positive means the test incorrectly labels a healthy person as diseased. Similarly, a false negative incorrectly marks a diseased person as healthy.

Any test has to accomplish two goals: correctly identify the diseased and the healthy individuals. The two goals are distinct, and one can be achieved without the other. To illustrate the point, let's consider this extreme example: imagine a test that labels everyone as diseased. This test would work remarkably well if a large majority of those undertaking it were actually sick, but it would fail miserably if most of them were healthy people. Therefore, it would correctly identify the diseased people in one scenario, while failing to find the healthy ones in the other.

Therefore, accuracy of a test is measured by two parameters, aligned with the two goals. Sensitivity is the ability of the test to correctly identify diseased individuals. A highly sensitive test picks up a large percentage of the diseased. It is calculated as the number of positives detected out of the number of diseased individuals tested. So, if out of 100 people who undertake the test, 10 are sick, and nine of them get correctly identified, then the sensitivity would be 90%.

The second measure, the ability to correctly identify healthy individuals, is called specificity. It is calculated in a similar manner.

### ACCOUNTING FOR ERRORS

	Actual Diseased	Actual Healthy	Totals	False Results
TOTALS	50	950	1,000	
Positive Result	45 (90% Sensitivity)	47 (False Positives)	92 (45+47)	47 (False Positives)
Negative Result	5 (False Negatives)	903 (95% Specificity)	908 (903+5)	5 (False Negatives)

Most tests have different sensitivity and specificity values.

### Do I believe my result?

Let us imagine a test with 90% sensitivity and 95% specificity. The test is conducted in a population that has an overall disease prevalence of 5% (meaning, 5% of the population is infected). This is another important parameter. We do not always know the true spread of the disease, and therefore, typically an estimate is used for prevalence.

Now let us test 1,000 people from this group. By our assumptions, 950 of these people would be healthy and only 50 (5% disease prevalence) would be infected. The table shows the test results for these 1,000. Out of 50 diseased people, this test correctly identifies 45, and marks five as negative. And among the 950 healthy people, 903 (95%) are correctly identified, and 47 are incorrectly detected as infected.

Although the actual number of diseased people is only 50, this test marks 92 (45 actual, plus 47 false positives) as infected. A person who receives a positive result will only be 49% likely to have the disease. This realisation comes from the calculation that only 45 out of the 92 positive results (49%) are correct. This ratio is called the positive predictive value, or post-test probability of disease, and indicates the degree to which a positive test can predict actual sickness. It should be as high as possible to drive confidence in a positive result.

Similarly, there is a negative predictive value and it indicates confidence in a negative result. In this example, a negative result has a 99.4% probability of being accurate (903 out of 908 negative results are actually healthy).

One insightful way to interpret these results is to compare the probability of being sick before and after the test. Before the test is taken, the probability of a person being sick (called pre-test disease probability) is 5% — the same as the disease prevalence. A positive test increases this probability to 49% (post-test disease probability). Interestingly, the probability of being

healthy also increases with this test. Before the test, the probability of being healthy is 95%. A negative result increases this probability to 99.4%.

So, this test increases the confidence in either diagnosis — though the confidence level in a positive result from this test might not be satisfactory.

A good test is one that raises this confidence to very high levels.

### How can false results be reduced?

In this scenario, the high number of false positives, 47, was a result of 95% specificity and 950 healthy individuals. In most contexts, 95% accuracy would be considered good enough. But in a situation with low disease prevalence, a test of much higher specificity is required. To push the false positives down to, let's say, 10, a test with 99% specificity is needed.

Increasing specificity is one way to reduce false positives. The other lever, mathematically, is to reduce the relative number of healthy people. This can be achieved by testing a population group in which the disease is much more widespread. This does not mean waiting for the disease to spread, but to limit testing to a sub-group that is more likely to have the disease — the primary contacts of infected people, for example, or health workers.

Repeating the above calculations with a population size of 500 with 50 diseased people reveals that false positives come down to 22. The positive predictive value (confidence in a positive result) increases from 49% to 67%.

In summary, false positives are reduced with two levers: a high specificity test, and a high disease prevalence setting (high pre-test disease probability).

Similar logic indicates that false negatives are reduced with a high sensitivity test used in a situation with low disease prevalence.

### How accurate are the tests currently being used?

In the Covid-19 setting, two kinds of tests are being used — RT-PCR to detect in-

fections, and antibody tests to estimate the disease prevalence. (Antigen and other diagnostic tests are not considered.) The accuracy data for either of these tests is not widely known. A recent study evaluated RT-PCR kits from 22 companies in laboratory settings and showed that sensitivity was upwards of 90%, and specificity was at least 95% (data from [finddx.org](http://finddx.org)). Laboratory testing results usually show higher numbers compared to clinical testing results (tests on samples from individuals). Sample collection methodology, apart from other factors, impacts these results.

The antibody kits developed in India have 92.4% sensitivity and 97.9% specificity. The Indian Council of Medical Research completed a seroprevalence study in May, presumably using these kits. The study estimated the disease spread to be 0.73%. As we have seen above, at such low prevalence, false positives will be a problem. Calculations using these test parameters with 1% disease prevalence show that 70% of all positive results would be false. Since the objective of a seroprevalence study is to estimate the overall disease spread, options such as limiting the size of the population group are not available. Therefore, further analysis and interpretation of the calculated prevalence rate are required.

### What is the takeaway for individuals who want to know their status?

For an individual, there could be an understandable urge to "test and just check" and reduce uncertainty by seeking the comfort of an anticipated negative result (the RT-PCR test to detect active infection). The prudent decision is to counter this impulse with the knowledge that testing will not provide certainty unless conducted in the correct context. For asymptomatic individuals without any risk of exposure, the pre-test probability of disease is low. The chance of false positives in such a setting is high. Asymptomatic individuals should therefore opt for a test only if they have a solid reason to fear exposure. If a person is required to undergo testing, the individual should, if possible, demand a testing kit with the highest specificity.

This reasoning is applicable to any test, not just a Covid-19 test. Testing in asymptomatic individuals "just to check" leads to false positives when disease prevalence is low, and is not appropriate. Adherence to this principle by the overall healthcare community will result in higher true positives.

Tushar Gore is MD/CEO at Resonance Laboratories, a niche pharmaceuticals manufacturer

# 'We are trying to improve online... don't postpone exams, we don't know when we will reconvene'

In this E-Xplained session before a nationwide audience on Zoom, Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Director IIT Delhi, discusses challenges posed by the pandemic, and the effectiveness and limitations of online learning



### On coping with the pandemic

It has been a difficult time, I must tell you. It was also sudden, we were not prepared well enough... When Covid struck, within a matter of 10 days, two weeks, we told faculty you were teaching in the classrooms, now you suddenly start doing everything online. The transition was not easy at all. Even personally for me, it was a big challenge. Because with the kind of infrastructure we have on our campuses, with the kind of diversity we have, students from such varied economic and social backgrounds, suddenly to move to an online kind of education was a nightmare. The moment we said we will run classes, there will be a hundred emails from students saying, "But I don't have a laptop". We are still struggling... but now I think we are better prepared. Within a matter of a month, at least 300 courses from IIT Delhi went online, but there are still challenges.

I think now the next semester is going to be much better. In fact, we are also bringing back students who have issues with online. We have done a survey: 4% of IIT Delhi students cannot take classes from their hometowns or their places of stay, so now we are trying to bring back these 4% to the campus, make them stay in hostels, even give them laptops where they require them.

### How effective is online learning

Online teaching is not just about teaching in front of a camera. The way you behave in a classroom, the way you behave in front of a camera, are very different. If you make Tendulkar act, we know how lousy Tendulkar is when he is in front of a camera. But you make him play and you shoot him while he is at his natural best, he will come across

as the world's best batsman. That is true with some of our teachers too. Some of our best teachers, who are very good at connecting with students in the classroom — the moment they moved online, they just did not know where to start. So the training part also became very important for us.

In a classroom, I can give a one-hour lecture without any issues. But online, if I start lecturing one hour, people get bored very, very fast. We even saw some studies that say 10 minutes is the maximum time that you can hold the students' attention when you are online. So how do we now give a one-hour lecture in smaller modules when you are online? Another big challenge I see is: On campus a lot of peer learning happens — you learn by interacting with your peers — and that is mostly missing in the online kind of a model.

I hope that we will also be able to move to more hybrid forms of teaching.

### How to make up for peer learning and tutorial system

We are now training many of our faculty on the flip classroom approach, where you make available the lecture content. Some of it can be recorded by the faculty member himself or herself. Some of it may be already available because IITs have been very extensively participating in the NPTEL programme. NPTEL is thousands of courses and all of them are available. So we will also make use of some of the resource material, and students will get to hear the lecture whenever they want. But when you are live with the faculty member, that will be a more discussion kind of session.

But nothing can really beat the classroom and the real-time and the physical. If you ask me, the gurukul way of teaching, what our ancients used to do, is the best form of education, and we have compromised it because we needed to scale up our systems. Now we have reached a stage where the gurukul kind of education is gone, and the hostel kind of education has come in. From here to jump to online and say everything will become virtual is never



Prof V Ramgopal Rao (left) in conversation with Ritika Chopra on Zoom.

### AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

#### On alternative plans if exams are not possible even in September

I would like to believe we will be able to conduct in September. If we are not able to do that... two batches simultaneously is an issue in terms of logistics. But we will have to see what other options we can consider. We can observe a semester kind of a break. If the next semester doesn't happen, we will be able to still absorb it. December would have been vacation time and May to June-July would have been vacation time. By consuming December and the summer next year, we would have brought things to a normal state at least by the end of 2021.

going to be the same as what we started with...

Certain things can be done very well online, certain things cannot be done well online. IITs are mostly engineering-centric and almost every course has a laboratory component. Those laboratory things, we cannot do anymore... Now, if in December we can start the campuses, we may be okay. But if it further gets extended... that uncertainty is also there. Therefore, now we are no longer saying that we will postpone examinations. We

#### On the possibility of using artificial intelligence for exams invigilation

We are discussing some of these aspects right now. For example, there are start-up companies developing online evaluation methods. IIT Delhi would like to look into that. The other option is take-home examinations, and as an instructor, I always give students take-home examinations. I used to tell students that even if I am conducting an examination in the classroom, if you say I could not answer this question because I don't remember, I would give you full marks. We are not testing students on their memory, we are testing them on their cognitive ability, on their thinking.

are trying to make use of technology, make use of whatever is available for you... and start closing down the semester, start improving your effectiveness online... Don't postpone anything because we don't know when we are going to reconvene.

#### On conducting entrance exams

I think joining of the new batch can be delayed, if the examination gets postponed for some more

time. We will be able to accommodate that in our calendars. But conducting these examinations is important... At some point, we need to figure out ways of getting back to a normal state by taking all the precautions we need to take. If you are following social distancing norms, if you are wearing a mask all the time... I don't think anybody should have a reason to complain.

But the challenge again comes down to infrastructure. All these examinations are held in various centres, which are managed by multiple companies. For example, JEE Advanced is conducted by TCS. When we follow social distancing norms, you need twice the number of centres as compared to normal times. We had a certain number of centres, let's say 80 centres, now you suddenly require 150-160 if you are maintaining social distancing norms. The question is, can TCS make available in these times, another 80 centres? What are these centres and what is their condition... If you are not able to hold JEE Advanced in one centre, the entire exam needs to be cancelled. In JEE Mains that is not an issue; they do it in multiple sessions.

So we have to expand the number of centres, we have to follow social distancing norms, but that costs money. In fact, we have been in negotiations with TCS. These are the challenges.

TRANSCRIBED BY MEHR GILL  
(Edited excerpts)

VIDEO:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JMAcZsZjyHb-074huw0EVXRm8hla>





## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## BARBED WIRE

SC needs to ask tougher questions, of those who wield power—before it dismisses an 83-year-old citizen's plea for freedom

**T**HEIR LORDSHIPS COULD look at the photograph. It was taken on Thursday, a day after the Supreme Court disposed of a petition by J&K Congress leader Saifuddin Soz's wife challenging his "illegal detention" and accepted the government's contention that he was under no restrictions. It frames the 83-year-old leader speaking to reporters, from behind a boundary wall mounted by a barbed wire, before being pulled away by police personnel, at his residence in Srinagar. It is not necessary to listen to what Soz had to say across the wall on Thursday — that photograph and that video, tell the story and pose a question. It is not only: Why did the J&K administration take liberty with the facts in court? It is also, and more: Why did the court accept the J&K administration's word for it? Why did it accept the state's definition of freedom when it is clearly in conflict with the citizen's? Unfortunately, that latter question is now embedded in a recurring pattern. In case after case involving citizens' fundamental liberties and alleged transgressions by the state, the courts seem to give the government the benefit of the doubt.

On Jammu and Kashmir, a marker of this pattern came last year on October 1, when, responding to petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the August 5 decision to abrogate J&K's special status, a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court refused to order a stay and adjourned the hearing to November 4 — until well after the scheduled implementation of the Centre's order sliced the state into two Union Territories on October 31. The pattern has continued through the Court's treatment of habeas corpus petitions related to politicians, business leaders, lawyers and journalists — its lack of alacrity, its adjournments, effectively extended those detentions. In May, the SC order declining pleas for restoration of 4G internet services was disturbing not just for continuing the denial of such services but also because it seemed to cede its own powers of judicial review to a special committee headed by the Union home secretary — the very departments whose orders were in question would adjudicate on the validity of the curbs on citizens' freedoms imposed by them.

Soz's is a test case because there are many like him. Trapped in a zone between arrest and detention, unofficial and official, verbal and formal, at the mercy of the policeman at the gate. This is exactly the zone tailor-made for abuse, where the apex court needs to shine the light, clear the air. All the more reason for the court, as the custodian of constitutionally mandated individual liberties, to ask more questions, not less — of the administration that wields the power, before it decides to dismiss the plea of the family of an 83-year-old Indian citizen who needs police permission to step out of his home.

## PASSING THE BLAME

Leadership crisis of the Congress is now manifest in a farcical battle of the generations

**S**IX YEARS AFTER it suffered a rout in a general election, the Congress is yet to figure out why it has lost the confidence of voters. Since 2014, when the party was dramatically reduced from 200 plus seats to a meagre 44 in the Lok Sabha, the Congress has lost numerous elections, including the next general election in 2019 when its tally went up by a mere eight seats. And yet, its leaders, young and old, seem content with passing the blame to each other rather than honestly reckoning with their own failings. A meeting of the Rajya Sabha MPs called by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Thursday saw the young blame the old and the latter ask all to reflect on why the party performs so poorly in successive elections. This periodic chest-beating almost never demands accountability from the Gandhi family that has led the party to multiple poll debacles — a few who spoke at Thursday's meeting demanded that Rahul Gandhi, who quit as party president after the 2019 defeat, be persuaded to return. Therein, perhaps, lie the roots of the Congress's woes — a leadership and cadre that sees office as privilege and inheritance, instead of a prize for hard work and perseverance.

At Thursday's meeting, younger leaders deemed close to Rahul Gandhi reportedly blamed the party's fall on those who were ministers in the UPA 2 government. Indeed, one reason for the UPA's debacle in 2014 was the perceived corruption and mis-governance that plagued Manmohan Singh's second term as prime minister. Yet, there seems to have been no accountability. The same cast of leaders continues to occupy party positions and a few have even been rewarded with berths in state governments and in Parliament. At the same time, the younger leaders have little to show for themselves. The more ambitious among them seem all too willing to abandon ideology and explore options outside the Congress rather than challenge the seniors within the party and force a change.

The Congress will need to arrest the drift if it does not want to lose more leaders to rivals, or even face a split. The listlessness at the top in the past has seen it lose the opportunity to form governments — Goa and Manipur — or save its governments — Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Being the country's main Opposition party, the state of the Congress has a bearing on India's democracy. An alert and active Opposition that holds the government accountable is missing. It is much needed.

## SIGNS OF LIFE

Over 140 years after Giovanni Schiaparelli saw canals on Mars, Nasa seeks aliens in a lake bed

**W**HILE ELON MUSK hurls cars into orbit for fun, Nasa has sent a car-sized rover to Mars in deadly earnest. *Perseverance* is headed for the Jezero crater, which is believed to have been once filled with water, the first principle of earth-like life. It will bring back ancient clay deposits from the lake floor, which will be examined for traces of ancient Martian life, from before the planet turned into a desert. It is presumed that the natives, if any survive, are friendly, and that *Perseverance* will not be car-jacked by little green men.

But little green men are absurdly anthropomorphic. If humans do encounter life outside our world, they may not even recognise it as living. It may have developed with a different biochemistry and genetics, and different gravity, pressure and temperature would have moulded the outcome. On Venus, whose surface is hot enough to melt lead because of a runaway greenhouse effect, science fiction might imagine life forms with molten metal coursing through their veins. And in deep space? There could be Vogons and Klingons, and the dragons of Eden.

Researchers at two US universities have recently proposed a widening of the concept of life into the unknown — to "lyfe". To qualify, lyfe must be able to manage energy, grow, maintain its internal environment (like we maintain body temperature) and record, process and act on information. Interestingly, apart from space aliens, a nightmare artificial intelligence which operates autonomously — precisely the one which Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking had raised the alarm about — could probably tick all those boxes. In that case, we would not have to send a rover the size of a sedan all the way to the other planets in search of alien life. It could be right here on earth, dreaming of impossible futures in its silicon brain.

# NEP: Trick or treat?

Text of education policy artfully navigates several thickets. Fears about document come from context



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

THE NEW EDUCATION Policy, for the most part, provides a forward-looking framework for transforming Indian education. If the government does little else but implement most of the recommendations on school education and empower India's school children, the future will belong to India. But we should also be under no illusion that the accumulated weight of betrayals in education also threaten to make this promising document just that: Another document.

India's political economy has simply not made quality education a top priority. What has changed in the last couple of decades is the explosion of aspiration and demand for education. But that demand has yet to be channelised into institutional change. A large part of the betrayal has come, not from politicians, but educators. Our resistance to fair change has been monumental.

There is another context for scepticism as well. The emphasis in the document on critical thinking and free inquiry is entirely well placed. But it is difficult to read those words in a context, where as we speak, universities are being intimidated into political and cultural conformity. A free education system cannot flourish without a free society; reason cannot be sovereign in the face of identity politics. So the work of ensuring that freedom and critical thinking are not mere words in a power point, constrained by realities of power, will be doubly harder.

It is a cliché to say that it all depends on implementation. It is hard to disagree with many proposals unless one sees their operationalisation. The document lays down objectives; the strategy has yet to come. There is yet another promise of a new regulator, a new research foundation. A lot will depend upon norms that get embedded in these institutions. This government's record on regulation is not inspiring. So the critical question will, less, be: Does one agree with the document? It has to shift to a different question: What are the conditions that will make some of its most promising ideas work?

So fears of the document come from the context rather than the text. The text itself is for the most part admirable. It does an artful job of navigating several thickets. On the language issue, it is nicely ambiguous. It prefers the long-standing recommendation of primary

education in the mother tongue, but does not categorically recommend curbing language choice for English. On the basic architecture of delivery, the document has an agnosticism on the issue of public versus private education both in school and higher education. Whether or not public education succeeds will not be determined by this document; it will be determined by what the government does with its expenditure and priorities. So, criticising the document on this count is misplaced. The repeated emphasis on engagement with Indian civilisational history is unexceptionable, but if that engagement can be honest, it will inspire more confidence. The reductive dishonesty of some past curriculum should not be replaced by the new dishonesty of pride.

The most promising parts of the documents are on school education: The focus on early child development, learning outcomes, different forms of assessment, holistic education, and, most importantly, recognising the centrality of teacher and teacher education. This part of the document will get the least attention but is the most important. The document recognises that "the very highest priority of the education system will be to achieve universal foundational numeracy and literacy." The rest of the policy will be irrelevant if this basic requirement is not achieved. The suggestions for school education are ambitious, centred on the students, cater to their pedagogical diversity, and take on board the world of knowledge as it is now emerging. The document drops the word multidisciplinary a bit too much, without explicating what it means. One way of thinking about this is not in terms of multiple subjects. It is reorienting education from disciplinary content to modes of inquiry that allow students to access a wide variety of disciplines.

But there are two worrying tensions. The document talks about flexibility, choice, experimentation. In higher education, the document recognises that there is a diversity of pedagogical needs. Students might need different exit options. But it is unclear if the document is recommending that the diploma or early exit options all be made available within a single institution, or different institutions offer different kinds of degrees. If it is a mandated option within single institutions, this

will be a disaster, since structuring a curriculum for a classroom that has both one-year diploma students and four-year degree students takes away from the identity of the institution. There is also a risk that without adequate financial support, the exercising of exit options will be determined by the financial circumstances of the student.

But the document betrays itself most by recommending that all higher education institutions become multidisciplinary. This betrays the principle that different institutions have different identities, different comparative advantages, different pedagogical philosophies and a different mission. Some will be narrow and specialised, some broad-based. A healthy education system will comprise of a diversity of institutions, not a forced multi-disciplinarity. Students should have a choice for different kinds of institutions. The policy risks creating a new kind of institutional isomorphism mandated from the Centre.

The second tension is in terms of exams. The document rightly emphasises that focus needs to shift from exams to learning. But it contradicts itself. Exams are neurotic experiences because of competition; the consequences of a slight slip in performance are huge in terms of opportunities. So the answer to the exam conundrum lies in the structure of opportunity. This will require a less unequal society both in terms of access to quality institutions, and income differentials consequent upon access to those institutions. India is far from that condition. Exams are also necessary because in a low trust system people want objective measures of commensuration. So the document reinstates exams back into the picture by recommending a national aptitude test. But the idea that this will reduce coaching is wishful thinking, as all the evidence from the US and China is showing. So, in the tyranny of exams, the more we change things the more they will appear the same.

But we should be grateful to an admirable document for focussing on the right questions. There is much to discuss. But the hope is that with this our education policy can be transformed into a treat, not another trick in a long line of betrayals.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

The emphasis in the document on critical thinking and free inquiry is entirely well placed. But it is difficult to read those words in a context, where as we speak, universities are being intimidated into political and cultural conformity. A free education system cannot flourish without a free society; reason cannot be sovereign in the face of identity politics. So the work of ensuring that freedom and critical thinking are not mere words in a power point, constrained by realities of power, will be doubly harder.

## THE DIGITAL LIFELINES

COVID-19 underscores importance of tools that help alleviate poverty, build resilience



WILL CATHCART

IN A RECENT address to leaders of the US-India Business Council, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the growth and gaps in India's digital economy. Nearly 500 million Indians today are active internet users, he said, but another 500 million have yet to come online. Doubling the size of digital India requires bridging this divide and expanding access to tools and platforms that power India's digital economy today.

Foremost among these platforms is the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system. More than four years ago, Modi launched this ground-breaking initiative to enable Indian citizens to make digital payments to one another and to the more than 60 million Indian small businesses that serve local communities and the world.

The UPI system set a national open standard for all of India's banks (155 and counting) that technology companies can adopt on an equal and level-playing field. This approach means that no one company, foreign or domestic, can write the rules for the other. Everyone has to meet the same standards set in India.

This project has been very successful in just four years. Since its launch, the UPI system has grown to manage a 100 million-strong user base, and it is just scratching the surface. Meanwhile, it has set important new frameworks around security and efficiency. Because of the strong rules that India has put in place, payment transaction information remains

with the banks and within the country. And as a platform built on Indian technology and governed by Indian rules, UPI benefits Indians now and holds great potential for further innovation and commerce.

Rapidly scaling UPI is the need of the hour and one of the best ways to strengthen India's digital economy. Today people can send money to their aged parents, isolated during this time of physical distancing. Migrant workers can support their families. Farmers can sell their products outside the market.

With UPI, technology companies can partner with local technology leaders, and Indian financial institutions, to serve the unique needs of India's diverse users — especially those living in rural areas or transitioning to the internet. In fact, NPCI has also set a goal to increase UPI's user base to 500 million by 2022, which if achieved, would be a true game changer for Digital India. We are eager to contribute to this effort by launching payments on WhatsApp across India and help power a new wave of fintech innovation and financial inclusion.

The UPI infrastructure was built for scale and to reach hundreds of millions of people without the risk of any one company grabbing an unfair share. Given the limited number of people who are able to send money to friends and loved ones even today, it is imperative more tech companies are able to leverage the power of UPI to expand the digital ecosystem to accelerate financial inclusion.

Indeed, UPI is a world-class payments system that can also anchor a broader suite of fintech applications like micro-pensions, digital insurance products, and flexible loans which WhatsApp can facilitate. These are custom solutions created by Indian technology companies, on the public infrastructure of UPI, that will first solve large social, business and financial problems in India and then become templates for other countries to deploy. These powerful tools can build on the extraordinary success India has made in lifting millions of people out of poverty and build resilience to future economic shocks. COVID-19 has only underscored the importance of these tools that will serve as critical lifelines for small and micro-enterprises and individuals as they look to recover from the pandemic.

Even amid global uncertainty, I am profoundly optimistic about India's future growth, and we share Prime Minister Modi's belief that "there has never been a better time to invest in India." While the world grapples with COVID-19, India continues to stride forward. We see a nation that is determined to meet its moment and the unique needs of all of its citizens. With courage, ambition, and boundless potential, India can emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever before — a leading democratic digital powerhouse that will lead the world in the 21st century.

The writer is head of WhatsApp

## AUGUST 1, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

**RAO ON BORDER**  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER P V Narasimha Rao told the Lok Sabha that India was fully convinced that the alignments shown in our map regarding the boundary with China are true to the international border. He was replying to a call-attention notice by Ghulam Rasool Kochak suggesting that China had been backsliding by disputing India's stand on the McMahon Line as the boundary between the two countries. Rao said according to an interview carried by the official Chinese news agency, Xinhua, Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, had told an Indian journalist that ever since negotiations on the

boundary question had begun, China had "never asked for the return of all territory illegally incorporated into India by the old colonialists". This by necessary implication, reiterated the well-known Chinese view about the legality of the McMahon Line.

**CHENNA-INDIRA MEET**  
THERE IS NO question of resignation. This was the cryptic answer given by Andhra Chief Minister M Chenna Reddy to waiting journalists after his hour-long meeting with Gandhi. Reddy said he had a "frank and heart-to-heart" discussion with the PM. He refused to be drawn in further into the issue. His meeting with the PM was preceded

by two meetings with the Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Bishma Narain Singh, who has been named observer for Andhra Pradesh.

**CENTRE WAITS**  
THE CENTRE IS awaiting the response of the Assam agitation leaders to its acceptance of the "accord" brought about by the Manipur Chief Minister Dorendra Singh, before taking the necessary follow-up action.

**RAFI IS DEAD**  
MOHAMMAD RAFI, The renown playback singer, died at the Bombay Hospital following a heart attack. He was 54.





# Somnath to Ayodhya

PM's decision to attend Bhumi Pujan of Ram temple sets the tone for us to discuss and debate the full truth about a toxic secularism



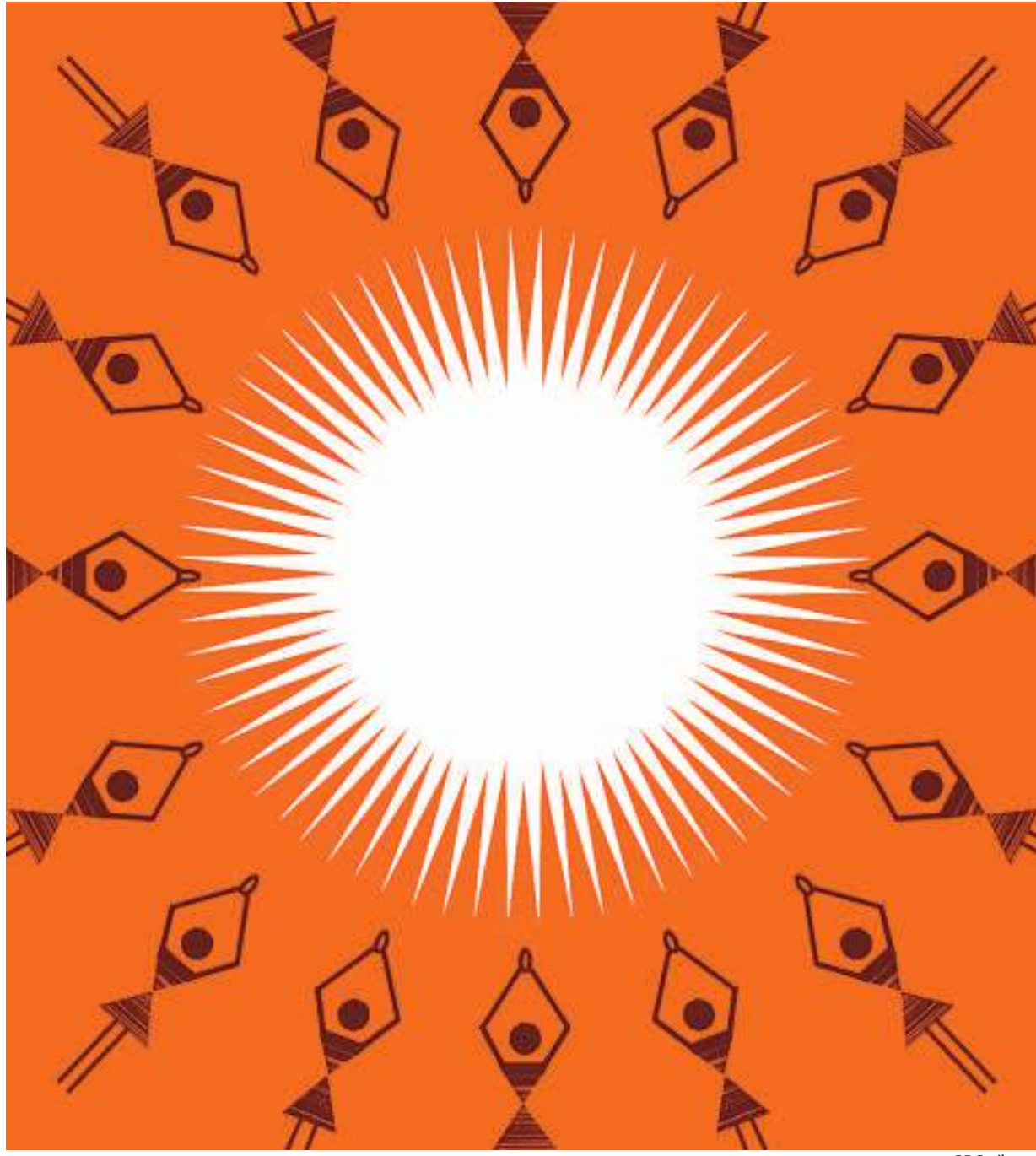
G KISHAN REDDY

IN DECEMBER 2017, the Science Channel — a part of Discovery Inc. — released a short video clip analysing the land bridge connecting India and Sri Lanka based on scientific evidence. The video clip released on Twitter claimed that the bridge, known to Hindus as the Ram Setu (the bridge of Lord Rama), was man-made. The short video has geologist Alan Lester, a professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Erin Argyilan, a professor in the Department of Geosciences at Indiana University Northwest, and others discussing the fact that the sandbar between the two nations is natural and that the stones covering the sandbar have been brought from far and set on top. Practising Hindus would know that this incident is described in the Yuddha Kanda of the Ramayana — the army of Rama, the Vanara Sena, created the bridge after writing the Lord's name on the rocks.

India does not need Western academicians to validate the scientific nature of Hindu beliefs. However, this matter is significant owing to the stance of the then Congress-led UPA government. In an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court in September 2007, to dismantle the Ram Setu so that the Setusamudram shipping canal project could be built, the UPA government stated that "... mythological texts, which formed an important part of ancient Indian literature ... cannot be said to be historical records to incontrovertibly prove the existence of the characters or the occurrence of the event." In this case, the UPA misused the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to further its agenda and deny the existence of Lord Rama so that they could deny the existence of the Ram Setu in the process. Thanks to consistent pressure from the Sangh Parivar, this affidavit was later withdrawn. The Director of Monuments in the ASI, who had signed the affidavit in the Supreme Court, later stated that the affidavit was prepared by the Ministry of Law and Justice and he was asked to sign it.

The idea of secularism was good on paper as long as its practitioners believed it served the purpose of separating the affairs of the state from religion. However, within a few years of the creation of the republic, it became a tool that was used to either guilt-trip the majority religion or to eke out disproportionate concessions from them. Over time, Nehruvian secularism descended into what it truly stood for — naked anti-Hinduism. Although this transition to rank anti-Hinduism seems like a recent development, the origins can be traced back to as early as 1951 with the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple.

The decision to reconstruct the Somnath Temple was made by Sardar Patel and others immediately after Independence, in November 1947. Gandhiji favoured the reconstruction, but wanted it to be funded through public donations and contributions with the Union government playing no role in its reconstruction. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru found this initiative to be revivalist. He vehemently opposed the move and when he heard that President Rajendra Prasad would be participating in the event to install the de-



C R Sasikumar

ity in the temple in May 1951, he wrote several letters to dissuade him from doing so.

Two aspects become clear from Prime Minister Nehru's letter to the President: First, the deep discomfort in a Hindu civilisation taking pride in its past and taking steps to revive it and second, the mocking of Hindu rituals and practices such as the request to embassies of other countries to collect twigs and water for the consecration of the temple. While in his letter to the President, the Prime Minister terms the act of collecting water and twigs as rash, in the notes to the Foreign Secretary and others, he terms it as fanciful and asks embassies to not entertain such requests.

The arguments that were made during the Somnath consecration are used even today. Some public intellectuals opine that only a specific type of public good should be built whenever activities to reconstruct temples are initiated. Little do they understand that temples are actually public goods, owing to the philanthropic activities they undertake and the sense of community that they instil.

This brings us to the event early this month. The Prime Minister and chief ministers of various states have been invited for the Bhumi Pujan of the grand temple for Lord Rama at

Many Opposition leaders do not want an honest debate and hence have been asking the prime minister to refrain from attending this event. For long, blatant anti-Hinduism flourished under the garb of the grand Nehruvian secularism project. L K Advani's Rath Yatra in September 1990 marked the beginning of the end of this kind of toxic secularism.

his birthplace in Ayodhya on August 5. The PM's decision to attend this event bears significance as it sets the tone for us to discuss and debate the full truth regarding the repressive regimes of the past and the attempts made to wipe out and destroy symbols dear to Hinduism.

Many Opposition leaders do not want an honest debate and hence have been asking the prime minister to refrain from attending this event. For long, blatant anti-Hinduism flourished under the garb of the grand Nehruvian secularism project. L K Advani's Rath Yatra in September 1990 marked the beginning of the end of this kind of toxic secularism — where one community bears the brunt of a project that was created to prevent them from uniting its people. Let the return of Lord Rama in Ayodhya bring light to all, especially to those ignorant souls who revel in creating narratives and barriers to prevent a religion from staking claim to what was rightfully hers.

The writer is the Minister of State for Home Affairs, and a Member of Parliament from Secunderabad constituency

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The picture in Europe and further afield is grim. But we must not resign ourselves to a large-scale recurrence of coronavirus." — THE GUARDIAN

# Tilak, sedition, and a few lessons

On Bal Gangadhar Tilak's hundredth death anniversary, what governments can learn from his two trials



ARVIND P DATAR

A LITTLE AFTER midnight, Bal Gangadhar Tilak passed away in Bombay after a brief illness exactly 100 years ago. Mahatma Gandhi and Lala Lajpat Rai were amongst the many leaders who were part of the funeral procession that was attended by an estimated 2,50,000 people. His death brought to an end an amazingly eventful 65-year journey that marked the beginning of a systematic struggle for the country's freedom. This article is confined to the two trials for sedition that demonstrate how the judicial system was misused to silence the voice of freedom.

Tilak's first trial for sedition had its origin in the famine of 1896. It is hard to believe that between 1876 and 1900, 18 famines occurred, taking a staggering 19,00,00,000 lives. *Kesari*, the weekly newspaper started by Tilak, had a series of articles that criticised the conduct of officials who insisted on collecting land tax even during a famine, and for not implementing the Famine Relief Code. Bubonic plague struck Pune in 1897, which incidentally forced the British administration to enact the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. To stem the spread of this contagious disease, repressive measures were adopted by Walter Charles Rand, who was appointed as a special duty officer. Intense resentment was also caused by the desecration of places of worship. Rand was killed by Damodar Chaphekar, who was convicted and hanged. This provoked more anger, leading to further repression. Tilak had written strong articles condemning the brutality of the measures adopted even before this murder. In addition, Tilak also wrote an article justifying the killing of Afzal Khan by Shivaji. The Anglo-Indian press bitterly criticised the British government for not taking action against Tilak.

On July 27, 1897, Tilak was arrested and tried for sedition before the Bombay High Court. Ironically, the lawyer who secured him bail, Dinshaw Davar, became the judge who would pass a savage sentence on him 10 years later.

It is a matter of deep regret that when Tilak's trial was about to begin, none of the leading lawyers of the Bombay HC were willing to appear for him. WC Bonnerjee, a Congress leader, Moti Lal Ghosh, the founder of the *Amrit Bazar Patrika*, and Rabindranath Tagore collected almost Rs 20,000 from donors and this was used to send two leading English barristers from Calcutta to appear for Tilak.

The trial before Justice Arthur Strachey was a farce. Strachey's address to the jury was deplorable and it is almost unbelievable that an article on the killing of Afzal Khan by Shivaji could be part of the foundation of a case of sedition. Even more bizarre was Strachey's ruling that "disaffection" which constitutes the offence of sedition, under section 124A of the IPC, was simply "the absence of affection". He sentenced Tilak to 18 months' imprisonment. While the Anglo-

Indian press gloated over his conviction, the ruling was criticised in England. One newspaper wrote that there was hardly any evidence that would justify such a severe sentence and observed that if criticism was to be punished as sedition, "the government is on a perilous path". The British press noted that Strachey's interpretation of "disaffection" would be unacceptable in England.

The partition of Bengal and the killing of two English women by a bomb hurled by Khudiram Bose led to large-scale repression. The Anglo-Indian press attacked Tilak for provoking the youth to engage in violent protests. Once again, Tilak wrote several articles in *Kesari* and asked the government to stop repressing freedom. He pointed out that the best way to stop violence and bombs was to grant self-rule to the people of India and, in one article, criticised the Explosives Act. Once again, Tilak was arrested in June 1908 and charged with sedition. Initially, M A Jinnah appeared for Tilak and applied for bail, but this was rejected by Justice Davar, who had appeared for Tilak in 1897.

This second trial was once again a mere formality. Tilak argued his own case. He pointed out that the English translation of his articles had serious errors and asked for a correct version, but this plea was rejected. The most shocking part of the trial was that Tilak's residence in Pune was searched, but nothing was found except a card on which Tilak had written the names of two books on explosives. Tilak explained that when he was writing an article on the Explosives Act, he came across the names of these two books, but this card was the basis of an allegation that Tilak was manufacturing bombs.

What was regrettable was that the jury consisted of seven Englishmen/Anglo-Indians and two Indians who eventually deserted. Davar accepted the majority verdict and sentenced Tilak to six years imprisonment. His articles, according to Davar, were seething with sedition and approved the committing of murder with bombs. He concluded that Tilak's journalism was a curse for India. Tilak responded with these immortal words: "I maintain that I am innocent. There are higher powers that rule the destiny of things and it may be the will of Providence that the cause which I represent is to prosper more by my suffering than by my remaining free."

Tilak was sent to Mandalay jail in Burma and returned in 1914. Justice Davar's judgment came in for much criticism. An important question raised was that when the High Court's jury panel contained several Marathi-speaking Hindus, there was no explanation for their exclusion. Davar's verdict was also criticised by several newspapers in England except for *The Times*, which welcomed it. One newspaper sarcastically remarked that the trial could hardly be an illustration of the impartiality of the British justice system.

Tilak's imprisonment by invoking the law of sedition failed to suppress the freedom struggle. The two trials teach us useful lessons in dealing with public protests. A wise government would do well to ascertain the opposite viewpoint and have the grace to correct its path wherever necessary. Suppressing widespread dissent or criticism has always proved counterproductive.

The writer is a Senior Advocate practising in the Supreme Court



KHALED AHMED

# Religion does not hold

Rather than shoring up national identity, it creates schisms

ASTATE BECOMES stable when the people living in it acquire what is called "national identity", says Francis Fukuyama. Somehow, religion doesn't help in this process of acquiring collective identity. If one looks at the Islamic world, this process of becoming a nation has been derailed by religion. Yet, most political leaders seek to emphasise religion to stabilise the sense of being a nation among its varied population. If India had observed how religion deprived Pakistan of its national identity, it would have thought differently about the potential of religion.

Pakistan thought it could become "one" by having a single "national language", but when Urdu was proposed as the national language, the people of East Pakistan, proud of their Bengali legacy, refused to accept it. Instead of acquiring a national identity, the people got divided and finally separated in 1971.

In 1949, Pakistan sought to become an "Islamic" state to give its people a "national identity" that would bind them together and stabilise the state. What happened immediately was that its non-Muslim communities felt left out. In the 1941 census, Pakistan's non-Muslims constituted 25 per cent of the population. However, in the 1998 census, this number had declined to 3.6 per cent. Instead of acquiring a "national identity", Pakistan purged itself of its non-Muslims.

What stabilises the state — according to

Fukuyama — is its firm national identity. But it is not religion which bestows this identity; religion actually destroys it. In Pakistan, minority Hindus and Christians have either fled or are being treated badly. But this does not mean that the Muslims of Pakistan — the so-called majority — are living in peace with an agreed collective identity. Among the Muslims, the most prominent factor going against "national identity" is the Shia-Sunni schism. The Shia population — around 6 per cent — is increasingly unhappy because of the way narrow interpretations of religion have sidelined them. They are killed by extremist Sunni "non-state actors" that Pakistan harbours to fight its neighbourhood wars.

Intense religious identity, instead of bestowing "national" identity, starts purging Muslims not considered "regular" by fellow-Muslims. Pakistan has constitutionally ousted the Ahmadi Muslims from state nationality. They are not Muslims in Pakistan. They become Muslims the moment they step into, let's say, India that has not apostatised them. There are other potential "apostates" like the Aga Khani Ismaili and Bohra communities, who can be targeted by jihadi outfits that increasingly claim to be the arbiters of identity in the country. Does this mean that Pakistan is ultimately a Sunni state where only Sunnis can live in peace? Unfortunately, the Sunnis have a Deobandi-Barelvi split and can be very

nasty to one another. And there is a Wahhabi Ahle Hadith variety that would like to purge both of them if it got the chance.

In the case of the Shia of Quetta and Gilgit-Baltistan, the growth of jihadi Islam in Pakistan has forced them to turn to Iran for consolation, if not survival. The Afghan Taliban "shura" — which Pakistan "sheltered" in Quetta — and the Islamic State, kill Hazaras, the local Shia community that has done rather well as Pakistanis. Nothing is more heart-rending in Pakistan than to see the Hazaras being massacred by fellow Muslims from as far away as Punjab to cover themselves in glory.

If religion doesn't give a stable national identity, what should the state do to survive? Looking at the Middle East before the Arab Spring destroyed it, one can say that only authoritarianism can keep religion at bay. The region was reasonably stable before the idea of democracy came to the fore in Egypt and the religiously conservative Arabs thought they should give democracy a chance. After the radical-Islamist Ikhwan won the election there, Egypt started falling apart forcing the military to take over and prevent the Christian Copts from being put to the sword.

Today, the "authoritarian" Gulf survives as a stable region while "democratic" Tunisia, Iraq, Syria and Libya face self-destruction. The dictators had kept them going, posing no threat to other Arab states ruled over by kings.

After the Arab Spring failed amid bloodshed, the monarchs helped stabilise the dictators to keep the Arab states going. Others, like oil-rich Iraq and multi-racial Syria, are dangerous to live in because of an absence of "national identity". In Iran, where an authoritarian-clerical governance has survived external threats, peace is kept only through the removal of the democratic opposition.

Stable states have well-entrenched national identities, but it is not religion that bestows national identity. Like Pakistan, Turkey is going religious after removing an indirect "secular" dictatorship; and its minorities are feeling the heat. It is also taking part in the revival of the 19th century Turkish-Arab conflict in Libya where rival United Arab Emirates and Egypt are trying to impose a dictatorship to "save" it from becoming "democratic" and, therefore, self-destructive.

Fukuyama writes: "In the contemporary world, diversity — based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and the like — is both a fact of life and a value. For many reasons, it is a good thing for societies. Exposure to different ways of thinking can often stimulate innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship. Diversity provides interest and excitement."

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LIMITED PURPOSE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'New policy, old test' (IE, July 31). The NEP alone cannot guarantee a transformation in the education sector. One hopes that the increased funds reaches the schools across the country that do not even have a toilet or a roof. Teachers' vacancies have to be addressed. It is laudable that in higher education, the model has changed but the issue of unemployment remains. English is the language required for jobs and opportunities the world over.

SS Paul, Nadia

### 18 OR 21

THIS REFERS TO the article 'Lacking the easy way out', (IE, July 31). In India, on attaining the age of 18, a person is thought to have the agency to take decisions for themselves and the society at large. The legal age of marriage should ideally be a little more than this. There has been a longstanding demand for a gender-neutral age of marriage. MoSPI data suggests the average age of marriage in India is 22.1 years, whereas for rural India it is 21.7 years. An average woman is already getting married at 21 years.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

### LIVES OF OTHERS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'For the love of dog' (IE, July 30). The piece underlines the need for local authorities to conduct proper

## IDEAS ONLINE

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sterilisation drives. As human beings, we should be considerate of other sentient beings.

Varun Das, Zirakpur

### WALLS SPEAK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'Amma's things' (IE, July 31). The oft-spoken proverb, "Even walls have ears" should have an addition, "and can speak as well" given the inventory of the personal possessions found at the home of the late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalithaa's. It reveals her as a voracious reader. In contrast, the recovery of large amount of gold, silver and thousands of clothes shows her predilection for personal gratification.

Azhar Ali Khan, Rampur



MEANWHILE

## DEGENERES APOLOGISES TO SHOW'S STAFF

Ellen DeGeneres apologised to the staff of her daytime TV talk show amid an internal company investigation of complaints of a difficult and unfair workplace. "On day one of our show, I told everyone in our first meeting that 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show' would be a place of happiness," she wrote. Something changed, she said, "and for that, I am sorry."



## TOP OF THE WORLD



Alan Parker with a BAFTA in 2013. Reuters

## BRITAIN

Alan Parker, director of *Midnight Express* dies at 76

BRITISH FILMMAKER Alan Parker, whose movies included *Bugsy Malone*, *Midnight Express* and *Evita*, has died at 76. A statement from the director's family says Parker died Friday in London after a long illness. Parker was one of Britain's most successful directors, whose diverse body of work includes *Fame*, *Mississippi Burning*, *The Commitments* and *Angela's Ashes*. Together his movies won 10 Academy Awards at 19 British Academy Film Awards. Parker also championed Britain's film industry, serving as chairman of the British Film Institute and the UK Film Council. AP

## BRITAIN

## UK wins bid to appeal Shamima Begum case

THE UK government on Friday won permission to appeal against a court ruling allowing London-born ISIS bride Shamima Begum to return to Britain to challenge stripping of her British citizenship. Bangladeshi-origin Begum, now 20, was one of three schoolgirls who fled London to join ISIS in Syria in 2015. The UK Court of Appeal ruled that the case must go to the Supreme Court before she is allowed back because the case raised a point of law of public importance that only the highest court can resolve. PTI

## USA

## Amphibious military vehicle carrying 16 sinks; 1 dead, 8 missing

ASEAFARING tank with 15 Marines and a Navy sailor aboard sank near a military-owned island off the coast of Southern California, leaving one of the Marines dead and eight missing, authorities said Friday. They were travelling in the amphibious assault vehicle from the shores of San Clemente Island to a Navy ship Thursday evening when they reported that the vehicle was taking on water, a Marine Corps spokesman said. Two of the Marines who were rescued were injured. The incident took place during a routine military exercise, the Marine Corps said. AP

## Hong Kong postpones elections by a year citing virus, Oppn cries foul

Pro-democracy camp was hoping for a sweeping win in Sept polls amid anger over new security law

YANNI CHOW & CAROL MANG  
HONG KONG, JULY 31

HONG KONG leader Carrie Lam on Friday postponed a September 6 election to the Chinese-ruled city's legislature by a year because of a rise in coronavirus cases, dealing a blow to the pro-democracy opposition which had hoped to make huge gains.

The United States quickly condemned the move, saying it was the latest example of Beijing undermining democracy in the Chinese-ruled territory.

"This action undermines the democratic processes and freedoms that have underpinned Hong Kong's prosperity," White House spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany told reporters.

The decision to delay the vote came after 12 pro-democracy candidates were disqualified from running for perceived subversive intentions and opposition to a sweeping new security law imposed by Beijing, prompting questions among many about whether the pandemic was the real reason for the delay.

"Postponing the September elections for a year is a cynical move to contain a political emergency, not a public health one," said Sophie Richardson, China



At a press conference, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam said the elections were being postponed because authorities wanted to "ensure fairness, public safety and public health". AP

director at Human Rights Watch.

"This simply allows Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam to deny Hong Kong people their right to choose their government,"

Avery Ng, secretary-general of the League of Social Democrats, was equally sceptical.

"Obviously the Chinese Communist Party is using Covid-19 as a cover to stop Hong Kongers from voting against the government and democrats' potential

majority win," he told Reuters.

"Together with the mass disqualification of candidates, the CCP... only allows an election in which they can control the outcome to take place."

Germany announced it would suspend its extradition agreement with Hong Kong following Lam's decision.

The opposition had aimed to ride a wave of resentment over the national security law to win a

majority in the Legislative Council, where half the seats are directly elected with the other half filled mostly by pro-Beijing appointees.

Lam said she had to invoke an emergency law to make the postponement and no political considerations were involved. China's Parliament would decide how to fill the legislative vacuum, she added. She told reporters the decision was aimed at safeguarding people's health. REUTERS

## China-backed hackers targeted vaccine firm, says US official

CHRISTOPHER BING & MARISA TAYLOR  
WASHINGTON, JULY 31

CHINESE GOVERNMENT-LINKED hackers targeted biotech company Moderna Inc, a US-based coronavirus vaccine research developer, this year in a bid to steal data, according to a US security official tracking Chinese hacking.

China on Friday rejected the accusation that hackers linked to it had targeted Moderna.

Last week, the US Justice Department made public an indictment of two Chinese nationals accused of spying on the United States, including three unnamed US-based targets involved in medical research to fight the novel coronavirus.

Moderna, which announced its Covid-19 vaccine candidate in January, confirmed that the company had been in contact with the FBI and was made aware of the suspected "information reconnaissance activities" by the hacking group mentioned in last week's indictment. REUTERS

## Thousands rally in Pakistan in support of killer of American

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ISLAMABAD, JULY 31

THOUSANDS OF radical Islamists rallied on Friday in northwestern Pakistan in support of a man who earlier this week walked into a courtroom in the city of Peshawar and gunned down a US citizen on trial for blasphemy.

The American, Tahir Naseem, died of his wounds before he could be taken to hospital while the gunman, Faisal Khan, was taken into custody.

The US State Department said Naseem was standing trial after being "lured to Pakistan" from his home in Illinois and entrapped by the country's controversial blasphemy law, which international rights groups have sought to have repealed.

The US statement did not elaborate on the circumstances in which Naseem came to be in the South Asian country.

The blasphemy law calls for

the death penalty for anyone found guilty of insulting Islam. But in Pakistan, the mere allegation of blasphemy can cause mobs to riot and vigilantes to kill those accused.

"We are shocked, saddened, and outraged that American citizen Tahir Naseem was killed yesterday inside a Pakistani courtroom," read the State Department statement, released on Thursday.

Pakistani officials said Naseem was charged with blasphemy after he declared himself Islam's prophet. Police in Peshawar, who originally identified him as Tahir Shameem Ahmed but later corrected themselves, said he was arrested two years ago. The assailant was also initially identified incorrectly, as Khalid Khan. It was later learned his real name is Faisal Khan.

It wasn't clear how he managed to enter the courtroom on Wednesday and get past security with a weapon.

## Pakistan artillery kills 15 civilians in Afghanistan: Kabul

REUTERS  
KABUL, QUETTA, JULY 31

CROSS-BORDER ARTILLERY fire by Pakistan killed at least 15 civilians in Afghanistan on Thursday, Afghan officials said, prompting Kabul to put its ground and air forces on alert.

The artillery fire came after clashes between Pakistani and Afghan security forces at the closed Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing, where crowds on both sides were waiting to cross for the festival of Eid al-Adha.

"If the Pakistani military continues its rocket attacks on Afghan territory, they will face retaliation by the Afghan army," Afghanistan's defence ministry said in a statement.

Pakistan's foreign office and military did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment, but Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told reporters that the matter had been taken up with Afghan authori-

ties and hoped it would be resolved amicably.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are both US allies but their relations have rarely been close.

Afghanistan has for years accused Pakistan of supporting Taliban militants. Pakistan denies doing so and in turn accuses Afghanistan of supporting militants fighting the Pakistani government.

The governor of the south-eastern Afghan province of Kandahar, Hayatullah Hayat, said the shells fell in residential areas of Spin Boldak and that women and children were among the 15 dead and 80 wounded.

Hospital officials in Pakistan told Reuters three bodies and 20 people suffering bullet wounds had been brought after the clashes between protesters and security forces.

They exchanged fire when crowds waiting to cross into Afghanistan became unruly and attacked Pakistani installations, a Pakistani official said.

## Vaccine will be available in 2021, Fauci assures House

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, JULY 31

ONCE A coronavirus vaccine is approved as safe and effective, Americans should have widespread access within a reasonable time, Dr Anthony Fauci assured lawmakers Friday.

Appearing before a House panel investigating the nation's response to the pandemic, Fauci expressed "cautious" optimism that a vaccine would be available, particularly by next year.

"I believe, ultimately, over a period of time in 2021, that Americans will be able to get it," Fauci said, referring to the vaccine.

There will be a priority list for



Dr Anthony Fauci

who gets early vaccinations. "I don't think we will have everybody getting it immediately," Fauci explained.

But "ultimately, within a reasonable time, the plans allow for any American who needs the vaccine to get it," he added.

Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease official, said a quarter-million people have expressed interest in taking part in studies of experimental vaccines.

## Britain tightens lockdown rules in northern England amid rising cases

PHIL NOBLE  
MANCHESTER, JULY 31

BRITAIN IMPOSED tougher lockdowns across swathes of northern England after a rise in the rate of coronavirus transmissions.

Britain reported its highest number of infections in more than a month on Thursday, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke of a second wave in Europe and put people on alert about more quarantine restrictions.

More than 4 million people were ordered not to mix with other households in Greater Manchester, the biggest city in northern England, parts of West



UK PM Boris Johnson on a police bike Thursday. He has asked people to remain alert about new quarantine restrictions. Reuters

Yorkshire and East Lancashire, though they can still go to the pub and to work.

"The problem with this virus is that it thrives on the social contact which makes life worth living," Health Secretary Matt Hancock said. "We can see that second wave in Europe," he added.

Asked by the BBC if the UK was now entering a second wave, Hancock said: "It is not yet and we are absolutely determined to take the action that is needed."

The measures were introduced hastily during the start of the annual Eid al-Adha "feast of sacrifice", disrupting the celebration that marks the end of Ramadan for hundreds of thousands of British Muslims. REUTERS

## Twitter says hackers used phone to fool staff and gain access

KELVIN CHAN  
LONDON, JULY 31

TWITTER SAYS the hackers responsible for a recent high-profile breach used the phone to fool the social media company's employees into giving them access.

The company revealed a few more details late Thursday about the hack earlier this month, which it said targeted "a small number of employees through a phone spear-phishing attack."

"This attack relied on a significant and concerted attempt to mislead certain employees and exploit human vulnerabilities to gain access to our internal systems," the company tweeted.

The July 15 attack compro-

mised the accounts of some of its most high profile users, including Tesla CEO Elon Musk, in a bid to lure their followers into sending money to a Bitcoin account.

After stealing employee credentials and getting into Twitter's systems, the hackers were able to target other employees who had access to account support tools, the company said.

Twitter said it would provide a more detailed report later.

British cybersecurity analyst Graham Cluley said his guess was that a targeted Twitter employee or contractor received a message by phone asking them to call a number. The hackers could then use "social engineering" techniques to trick the victim into handing over their credential. AP

## AFTER TWEETING ABOUT POSTPONING ELECTION, HE NOW SAYS HE WANTS NO DELAY

## Trump faces rare GOP rebuke over tweet



## RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

STEVE PEOPLES  
NEW YORK, JULY 31

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump repeatedly tests the Republican Party's limits on issues including race, trade and immigration. Now, he has struck a boundary.

GOP officials from New Hampshire to Mississippi to Iowa quickly pushed back against Trump's suggestion on Thursday that it might be neces-



Trump on a visit to the American Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington. Reuters

sary to delay the November election — which he cannot do without congressional approval — because of the unfounded threat of voter fraud. They reassured voters that the election would proceed on the constitutionally mandated day as it has for more

than two centuries.

Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley was especially blunt: "All I can say is, it doesn't matter what one individual in this country says. We still are a country based on the rule of law, and we want to follow the law."

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu vowed his state would hold its elections as scheduled: "End of story," Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., who leads the House Republican Conference, said, "The resistance to this idea among Republicans is overwhelming."

The top Republicans in the House and Senate also distanced themselves from the notion of a delayed election.

The President did not deny that he was trying to cast doubt about the election results when asked directly during Thursday's press briefing. Instead, he repeatedly cited the prospect of voter fraud.

"I don't want to delay. I want to have the election. But I also don't want to wait for three months and then find out that the ballots are all missing, and the election doesn't mean anything," Trump said, warning of the possibility of "a crooked election." AP



Obama at the funeral of John Lewis. Reuters

## Obama takes aim at Trump in fiery eulogy for John Lewis

RICH MCKAY & NATHAN LAYNE  
ATLANTA, JULY 31

IN A fiery eulogy for longtime US Representative John Lewis on Thursday, former President Barack Obama took a series of thinly veiled shots at the actions of his successor that he said tore at the legacy of the Black civil rights icon being laid to rest.

The funeral for Lewis, who played an instrumental role in passing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, came on the same day Republican President Donald Trump suggested the Nov. 3 election could be delayed. Trump has also waged a war against mail-in ballots, a tactic critics say is aimed at suppressing votes.

"We no longer have to guess the number of jelly beans in a jar in order to cast a ballot," Obama said in the eulogy, referring to one way Black people were once disqualified at the ballot box.

"But even as we sit here, there are those in power doing their damndest to discourage people from voting by closing polling locations and targeting minorities with restrictive ID laws and attacking our voting rights with surgical precision," he said. REUTERS

## SYSTEM ALREADY BEING USED BY COUNTRIES TAKING PART IN BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

## China officially commissions BeiDou sat navigation system to rival GPS

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIJING, JULY 31

CHINA IS celebrating the completion of its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System that could rival the US Global Positioning System and significantly boost China's security and geopolitical clout.

President Xi Jinping, the leader of the ruling Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army, officially commissioned the system Friday at a ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

That followed a declaration that the 55th and final geostation-

ary satellite in the constellation launched June 23 was operating after having completed all tests.

The satellite is part of the third iteration of the BeiDou system known as BDS-3, which began providing navigation services in 2018 to countries taking part in China's sprawling "Belt and Road" infrastructure initiative along with others.

As well as being a navigation aid with an extremely high degree of accuracy, the system offers short message communication of up to 1,200 Chinese characters and the ability to transmit images.



A model of the BeiDou system in China's Zhuhai city. Reuters file

## Increasingly important amid US tensions

BY COMPLETING BeiDou, China now has its own satellite navigation system to compete with the US's GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo. Of these, the GPS is the most widely used, not just for per-

sonal navigation, but also for more sensitive military purposes. As Washington-Beijing ties continue to deteriorate, it becomes more important than ever for China to have a navigation system that the US does not have control over.

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the system is already in use in more than half the world's nations and stressed

China's dedication to the peaceful use of space and desire to work with other countries.

"China is willing to continue

to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in space and share the achievements of space development with other countries on the basis of mutual respect, openness, inclusiveness, equality and mutual benefit," Wang said at a daily briefing.

While China says it seeks cooperation with other satellite navigation systems, BeiDou could ultimately compete against GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo networks. That's similar to how Chinese phone makers and other producers of sophisticated hardware have taken on foreign rivals.



## MOVE NOT FEASIBLE, SAY PUNJAB, BIHAR, KERALA

## GST compensation: Some state FMs object to market borrowing proposal, suggest steps to shore up revenue

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

AS STATES oppose the proposal for them to borrow to bridge the revenue gap under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, some states have suggested raising tax rates and bringing more items into the ambit of compensation cess to shore up revenues.

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, in a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday, took strong objection to recent reports of the central government not having the money or the obligation to pay GST compensation to states, stating that Centre had provided "innumerable assurances" in the run-up to GST for "assured and unhindered compensation".

Punjab is already operating with a GST deficit of over 45 per

EXPLAINED  
The matter at hand

AFTER FINANCE Ministry officials are reported to have cited their inability to pay states in the near future in a Parliamentary panel meeting on Tuesday, followed by a legal opinion by AG suggesting that the Centre does not have the obligation to pay, states have stressed upon the commitment of compensation made at the time of the GST roll-out in 2017.

cent, Badal said, adding the GST Compensation Act has been a central legislation and the obligation to pay compensation follows from the law's enactment. He has sug-

gested five measures — ad-valorem compensation cess to factor in inflation, subsuming central excise duty on cigarettes and tobacco products in compensation cess, settlement of pending IGST dues, bringing back certain items into the 28 per cent tax slab and inclusion of services consumed by rich in the topmost 28 per cent slab — as possible solutions for reducing the revenue gap and hence the burden of compensation to states.

"Any shortfall after these adjustments may be met through central borrowings. This will be both efficient in terms of the cost of borrowing as well as equity. States should not be made to bear the burden of borrowing, which in any case is likely to be higher than the rate at which the central government will be able to borrow," Badal said.

Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac said, "AG opinion

seems to be that if there is no money in cess fund it's upto GST Council to make appropriate arrangements. Fine. But the Centre has 1/3rd votes in Council. No decision can be taken without its concurrence. So the question is, what is its stance? To pay or not to pay?"

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi also concurred with the view that borrowing by states or the Centre, if to be repaid from the compensation cess fund, is not feasible. Instead the Centre must consider raising the long pending demand of raising the fiscal deficit limit for states to allow them to borrow more. "States have already been demanding raising the fiscal deficit limit unconditionally from 3.5 per cent to 4 per cent (of GSDP). States should be allowed to borrow more, which is not to be paid through the compensation cess fund. And even if

that condition is put, nobody will give you that loan because there won't be much money in that kitty (compensation cess fund). So, if there are not enough cess collections, then ultimately you have to pay from the consolidated fund (of states)," he said.

Modi said the "only solution is to raise GST rates. Not only states but the Centre is also getting less revenue and I don't think it is feasible for the Centre to borrow and compensate states. It is not a one-time affair, it is going to continue for another 1 year or 2 years or more. So the only other option left is to increase the tax rates, which will have to be decided by the GST Council. Pandemic will continue for a much longer time, so ultimately you will have to decide after 1 month, 2 months or 3 months, whether it is inverted duty structure or tax rates, so that there is less revenue loss," he said.

Google, FB get 3 mths to negotiate with Australian media 'fair pay for news content'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
CANNBERRA, JULY 31

THE AUSTRALIAN government said Friday it plans to give Google and Facebook three months to negotiate with Australian media businesses fair pay for news content.

In releasing a draft of a mandatory code of conduct, the government aims to succeed where other countries have failed in making the global digital giants pay for news syndicated from commercial media companies.

Google said Australia's draft code was a heavy-handed step that could impede the digital economy.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said Google and Facebook would be the first digital platforms targeted by the proposed legislation but others could follow. It's about a fair-go for Australian news media businesses, Frydenberg said.

FOREX RESERVES rise by \$5 bn to hit fresh high of \$522 bn

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

THE COUNTRY'S foreign exchange reserves rose by another \$5 billion in the week-ended July 24 to hit a new high of \$522 billion. With this, India has seen its forex reserves expand by \$94 billion over the past 10 months.

While the reserves have been driven by a rise in foreign portfolio investment and foreign direct investment, and has been supported by lower crude oil prices

and decline in imports on account of the pandemic, experts say that it has provided much needed relief to the economy.

The RBI data released on Friday shows that in the week-ended July 3, foreign currency assets expanded by \$3.6 billion to \$480.5 billion.

Despite the COVID-19-related stress on the economy and the country going into a stringent lockdown towards the end of March, the first seven months of calendar 2020 have seen a rise of \$65 billion in forex reserves.

HOUSE PANEL submits final report on Code on Social Security

NEW DELHI: Concerned over the exclusion of 'unemployment insurance' for unorganised sector workers, the Standing Committee on Labour recommended the government to incorporate it in the Code on Social Security to deal with unprecedented labour market situations. In its final report on the Code submitted on Friday, the Committee has also flagged the vagueness of the Financial Memorandum, stating that it does not quantify estimated expenditure or source of revenue.

It also proposed reducing the continuous service period from five years to one for getting gratuity, along with suggesting extending social security benefits to all workers without discrimination or differentiation, inclusion of "exchange of services" in the definition of establishment with a provision of under 10 workers. ENS

INDIA INKS air bubble deal with Kuwait, even after being denied travel relaxations

TALKS ON FOR similar arrangement with the UK, Canada

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

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India's other 'transport bubbles' with France and Germany

are also subject to the countries and the European Union allowing Indian citizens to arrive into their jurisdictions — something they currently do not allow.

A senior government official said the transport bubble arrangements mean that airlines of both countries will be permitted to fly passengers both ways, but alluded to the fact that restrictions imposed by India's Home Ministry and the foreign countries could mean only those who clear these checks will be able to travel out or in. The Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Air India were looking to operate flights to Hong Kong, but the Ministry said the Hong Kong administration was not allowing flights from certain points of origin, including India.

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A senior government official said the transport bubble arrangements mean that airlines of both countries will be permitted to fly passengers both ways, but alluded to the fact that restrictions imposed by India's Home Ministry and the foreign countries could mean only those who clear these checks will be able to travel out or in. The Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Air India were looking to operate flights to Hong Kong, but the Ministry said the Hong Kong administration was not allowing flights from certain points of origin, including India.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

INDIA INKS air bubble deal with Kuwait, even after being denied travel relaxations

TALKS ON FOR similar arrangement with the UK, Canada

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

A DAY after Kuwait announced lifting of travel ban for its residents across the world, except those from seven countries, including India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said a "transport bubble" arrangement has been signed with Kuwait "to uplift stranded passengers both to and from India". A senior government official said the Centre was in talks with the UK and Canada to sign arrangements for such 'transport bubble'.

"To allow gradual movement of passenger traffic during the COVID-19 situation, 'Transport Bubble' agreements have been signed with USA, France, and Germany. Recently, 'Transport Bubble' agreement has also been signed with Kuwait to uplift stranded passenger both to/from India. More similar arrangements are likely to fructify and ease passenger movements from different countries," the DGCA said.

In a tweet Thursday, Kuwait's Center for Government Communication said: "Allowing citizens and residents of the country to travel to and from Kuwait, except for residents coming from the following countries: Sri Lanka, India, The Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, Iran and Pakistan".

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A



**NRAI postpones camp for core group**

The national shooting federation has postponed the compulsory training camp for its Olympic core group planned here from Saturday after taking into the account the situation arising out of the pandemic. On Thursday, a shooting coach at Dr. Karni Singh Range tested positive for COVID-19 but the development will not force a closure of the facility. **PTI**

# 'If we are not seen praising iconic players, fans tend to assume that we are antagonistic'

## Players, coaches kneel as NBA returns to action

Manjrekar 'happy to apologise' for reinstatement in commentary panel

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, JULY 31

FIVE MONTHS after he was removed from the BCCI commentary panel, former cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar has written to Board president Sourav Ganguly and other members of the Apex Council explaining his position and offering to apologise "if I have offended anyone."

Manjrekar stated that he would be "happy to apologise" and that the sacking has "shaken my confidence" and was a "big jolt". In this communication accessed by *The Indian Express*, Manjrekar noted that he was told by an BCCI official on phone that he was sacked because "some players had an issue with me as a commentator".

The mail was a precursor to another letter the former batsman wrote to Board officials requesting his reinstatement in the commentary panel for the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League - most likely to be held in the United Arab Emirates - and promising to abide by the regulations set by the BCCI.

"You are already in receipt of the email I sent to explain my position as commentator. With the IPL dates announced, bcci.tv will pick its commentary panel soon. I will be happy to work as per the guidelines laid by you. After all, we are working on what is essentially your production. Last time, maybe there was not enough clarity on this issue," he wrote.

It has been speculated that Manjrekar was removed from the panel as a result of his comment calling Ravindra Jadeja a "bits-and-pieces player" during last year's ODI World Cup and the subsequent reactions from fans and the player himself were an important trigger in him losing his job.

On July 31 last year, Jadeja had tweeted his ire at Manjrekar's comments: "Still, I have played twice the number of matches you have played and I am still playing. Learn to respect ppl who have achieved. I have heard enough of your verbal diarrhoea @Sanjaymanjrekar".

After his half-century in the World Cup



**"Anyone who has followed my career as a commentator would know that I have no malicious agenda against anyone and that my opinions come from a very pure place that I hold sacred. It's cricket we are talking about, a sport that's given me and my father so much... I was greatly hurt! Especially because this came as a real shock!"**

**SANJAY MANJREKAR**

semi-final against New Zealand, Jadeja had gesticulated angrily towards the commentary studio. The official Twitter handle of the ICC posted a video of a post-match discussion involving Manjrekar. "By bits and pieces, he just ripped me apart today. Bits of pieces of sheer brilliance, he proved me all wrong," he had said that day.

In his first mail to Board officials, Manjrekar also flagged the perils of being a commentator in these times. "If we are not seen praising the iconic players all the time, the fans of those players tend to assume that we are antagonistic towards the players they worship... Anyone who has followed my career as a commentator would know that I have no malicious agenda against anyone and that my opinions come from a very pure place that I hold sacred. It's cricket we are talking about, a sport that's

given me and my father so much," Manjrekar stated. "I was greatly hurt! Especially because this came as a real shock!" he added.

Manjrekar reiterated his willingness to apologise. "So, really, this sacking for whatever reason, has shaken my confidence as a professional. If unwittingly, I have offended anyone I would be happy to apologise to the concerned party."

Manjrekar also brought up the Jadeja issue in great detail in his email to the Apex Council, attaching an audio file of his comments. "You will see how benign it is when you hear it in right context". He also wrote, "The player concerned obviously misunderstood this or was perhaps misinformed. By the way, the player and I have since privately made peace over this issue."

He stated that the comment was not made during commentary but in an interview. "Please note this comment was not made by me on Twitter or in commentary, it was in an audio interview to a news agency... that got blown out of proportion. It was made as a part of a long media interview but unfortunately was made into an eye-catching headline by just one website and the player reacted sharply to it on Twitter. This got the issue the traction it did not deserve. 'Bits-and-pieces' is a cricketering term commonly used for cricketers who are non-specialists. It is regularly used by commentators to describe certain players and it's never considered to be demeaning."

In his email, Manjrekar listed out his standing as a commentator until he was "suddenly not found good enough". "Until this moment I had been the leading commentator on the BCCI panel for many years fulfilling some of the biggest responsibilities there are in live broadcasting: lead commentator, post-match awards presenter, hosting the toss, doing player interviews and yes, impromptu BCCI functions on ground too. I am also one of the first Indian commentators that gets rostered for the World Cups by the ICC. I did my job with great pride and a 100 per cent commitment and suddenly not found to be good enough to be in the panel was a big jolt."

[ **MANJREKAR'S LETTER** ]

*Dear esteemed members of the Apex Council,*

In February 2020, completely out of the blue, I was told by Dev Shriyan, the head of production, BCCITV, that I was being removed from the commentary panel.

I have publicly maintained that - "the BCCI are my employers and they have every right to either have me or not, in their commentary panel. I have never considered being on a commentary panel an entitlement."

But here, amongst a small circle of important stakeholders of Indian cricket, friends and colleagues, please allow me to open my heart.

I was greatly hurt! Especially because this came as a real shock! I did my job with great pride and a 100 per cent commitment and suddenly not found to be good enough to be in the panel was a big jolt.

Later I was told on phone by a senior office bearer that some players had an issue with me as a commentator. Now here is where our job gets a bit tricky.

If we are not seen praising the iconic players all the time, the fans of those players tend to assume that we are antagonistic towards the players they worship. That's the professional hazard we have to live with doing our job. Anyone who has followed my career as a commentator would know that I have no malicious agenda against anyone and that my opinions come from a very pure place that I hold sacred. It's cricket we are talking about, a sport that's given me and my father so much.

My comments and opinions could be wrong, but they are never personal, derogatory or borne out of prejudice or cunning design, I am only biased towards excellence in performances, whether it's a team or a player.

Now, let's take the 'bits and pieces' comment that got blown out of proportion during the last World Cup.

'Bits and pieces' is a cricketering term commonly used for cricketers who are non-specialists. It is regularly used by commentators to describe certain players and it's never considered to be demeaning.

The player concerned obviously misunderstood this or was perhaps misinformed. By the way, the player and I have since privately made peace over this issue.

So, really, this sacking for whatever reason, has shaken my confidence as a professional. If unwittingly, I have offended anyone I would be happy to apologise to the concerned party.

Regards,  
Sanjay

*\* Excerpts from Manjrekar's email to BCCI*

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
LAKE BUENA VISTA, JULY 31

BLACK PLAYERS were next to white players. Coaches from one team were next to their compatriots from the opposing side. Many locked arms with the man next to them, some shut their eyes tightly, a few including LeBron James briefly raising a fist into the air or pointing skyward. The NBA had a strong, powerful re-opening night message.

When it comes to demanding change, the league stands united - and Thursday, the four teams that played on the first night of the league's restart showed that by not standing.

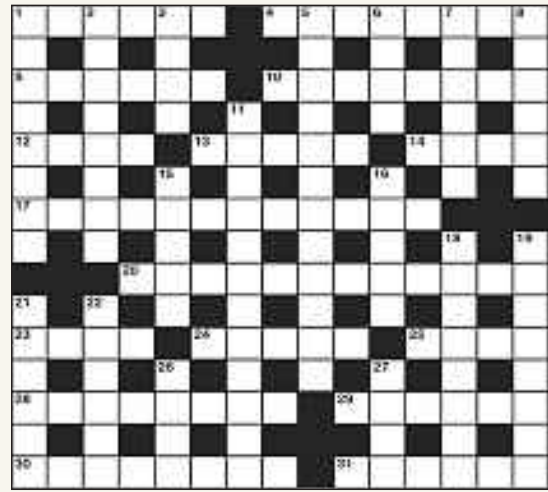
They were unprecedented images for the league in unprecedented times: The Utah Jazz and New Orleans Pelicans knelt alongside one another during "The Star-Spangled Banner," their way of joining the chorus of those demanding racial justice and equality in society. In the second game Thursday, James' Los Angeles Lakers and the Los Angeles Clippers did the same thing during the anthem preceding their matchup.

"Tonight we witnessed sober, powerfully moving and heartfelt demonstrations by our players of their commitment to the pursuit of justice," National Basketball Players Association Executive Director Michele Roberts tweeted. "Very proud."

The NBA has a rule that dates to the early 1980s decreeing that players must stand for the national anthem, and Commissioner Adam Silver quickly announced that the policy is being adjusted. The anthems were pre-recorded: Jon Batiste performed the one before Pelicans-Jazz, the Compton Kidz Club had the task before Clippers-Lakers.

"I respect our teams' unified act of peaceful protest for social justice and under these unique circumstances will not enforce our long-standing rule requiring standing during the playing of our national anthem," said Silver, who watched from a Plexiglass-enclosed suite because he has not been quarantined and therefore cannot be around players and coaches who are living inside the NBA's so-called bubble at Walt Disney World.

**CROSSWORD 4185**



**ACROSS**

- Sad reflection about everything in Texas (6)
- Dance orchestra led by a woman (8)
- Concedes there are about a thousand approaches (6)
- Tend to have little rest for recreation (8)
- Part that's left inside eggs (4)
- Turf out, of course (5)
- Assent to a change of name (4)
- But one skater turns out to be an old comedian (6,6)
- Get up before ten (4,3,5)
- Love girl's curved shape (4)
- Soft cry of pain produces purse, but not of the lips (5)
- Jewel in ring given to close friend (4)
- Retain a foreign drink as a souvenir (8)
- Nobody else will know if we keep it (6)
- Sort of step many debtors neglect to make (8)
- Form of decoration in the forces, perhaps (6)

**DOWN**

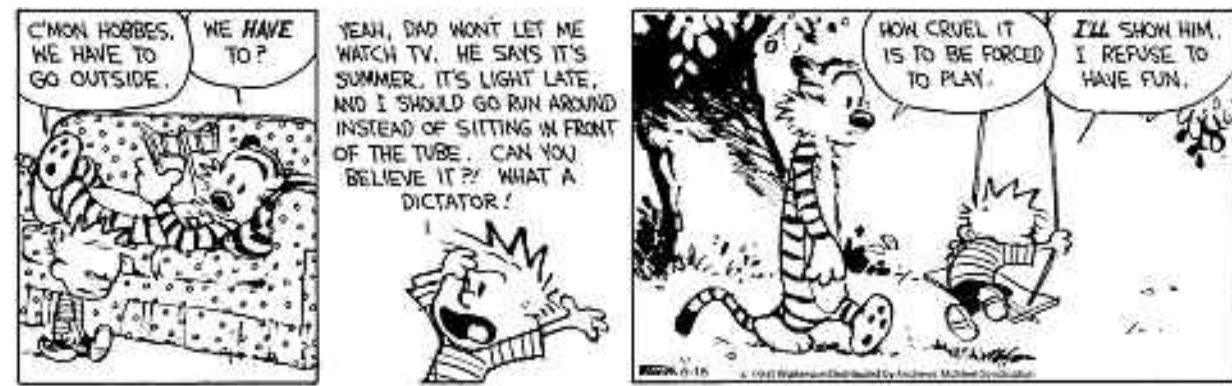
- Bitter criticism - I'd bear it somehow (8)
- Lacking members (8)
- Hothead put up the stake (4)
- A sheaf of corn that comes as a surprise (1,3,2,1,5)
- Unproductive sort of raid (4)
- Fall back in common mutual defence (6)
- Many a call for courage (6)
- Just the place to keep a bill of fare (6,6)
- Heated complaint (5)
- This will do for the present (5)
- Trouble in when there are games about (8)
- Lets it break to a point that could be dangerous (8)
- Jail sounds hair-raising (6)
- It's not often there's real trouble in the railway (6)
- Is the French one ringed in the main? (4)
- He takes after his father, presumably (4)

**Solutions Crossword 4184:** Across: 1 Refer, 4 Patient, 8 Sou, 9 Democracy, 10 Moabite, 11 Set on, 13 Drills, 15 Enosis, 18 Mimic, 19 Mustard, 21 Potentate, 23 Eon, 24 Everest, 25 Paths. Down: 1 Resumed, 2 Feudalism, 3 Radii, 4 Pamper, 5 Tucks in, 6 Era, 7 Try on, 12 Testament, 14 Licence, 16 Sidings, 17 Impart, 18 Maple, 20 Steep, 22 Tie.

**OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis



**CALVIN & HOBBS** by Bill Watterson



**MARVIN** by Tom Armstrong



**JUMBLED WORDS**

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. I would define, in brief, the \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ as the rhythmic creation of Beauty - Edgar Allan Poe (6,5)

**ANERR** **DIODTY**

**KPOOS** **AMRUPW**

SOLUTION: RHYTHM, BEAUTY, POETRY, WARMBUR

**SUDOKU 4187**

**Difficulty Level 3s**

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

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



**SOLUTION SUDOKU 4186**

