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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

₹6.00 (₹8 PATNA & RAIPUR, ₹12 SRINAGAR) WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

**DELHI RIOTS**

**Police: Road blocks sign of conspiracy, chargesheet by Thursday**



The PM, other MPs in the Lok Sabha Monday. Members wore masks and rows were separated by polycarbonate sheets. PTI

ENS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

A DAY after former JNU student Umar Khalid was arrested, senior Delhi Police officers Monday said they were set to file a conspiracy chargesheet in the Northeast Delhi riots of February 2020, and identified blocking of traffic by anti-CAA protesters as "the first indicator that there was a conspiracy due to which it all started".

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Delhi Police Gazetted Officers Association, which was also attended by Commissioner S N Shrivastava, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwaha was quoted by PTI as saying they had not found any proof yet of the involvement of pro-CAA-NRC protesters.

Kushwaha said, "When we started investigating the Delhi riots, we first saw all the sites and found a common pattern that traffic jam was started at all the

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**PM sets tone, Govt skirts China, economy on Day 1 of Parliament**

LIZ MATHEW & HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

CITING A heavy legislative agenda, the government avoided the Opposition's attempts to raise issues like the India-China border row and economic crisis on the first day of the 18-day Parliament session on Monday. Congress leader in Lok Sabha

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury also sought to discuss *The Indian Express* investigation report on a Shenzhen-based technology company with links to the Chinese government monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals and organisations in its global

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MORE REPORTS  
PAGE 7

**Centre seeks House nod for Rs 20,000 cr to banks**

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday sought Parliament's approval to inject Rs 20,000 crore of equity capital in public sector banks (PSB).

The Union Budget 2020-21 did not make any allocation towards fund infusion in state-owned banks for this year, as banks were expected to raise capital from the equity markets. But with banks expected to record a spike in non-performing assets

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**EXPLAINED**  
No new fiscal push

BARRING EQUITY infusion in public sector banks and some spending in the health sector, the supplementary demands for grants does not indicate any renewed fiscal push in the wake of record contraction in the economy.

**AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION PART TWO**

**New economy under watch: Tech start-ups, range of apps from payment to healthcare**



Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal, IIT-K's Abhay Karandikar, IIT-B's Deepak Phatak, CIO of Premji's VC firm under watch



MEHBOOBA MUFTI, KIREN RIJIJU, SAIFUDDIN SOZ, CONRAD SANGMA

Top venture capitalists on list; digital health and education, delivery services most followed

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M & JAY MAZOOMDAAR  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

FROM AN engineering student interning with the Indian Railways to the Chief Investment Officer at the venture capital company set up by Azim Premji, the Overseas Key Individual DataBase (OKIDB), built by Chinese firm Zhenhua Data, has at least 1,400 entries covering the entire spectrum of India's new economy, an investigation by *The Indian Express* has revealed.

Those targeted include venture capitalists, angel investors, founders and chief technology officers of the country's promising startups and e-commerce platforms, and foreigner investors based in India.

They form part of the 10,000 Indian individuals and entities targeted in the database and comes when Chinese investment



in Indian startups surged by over 10 times from \$ 381 million in 2016 to \$4.6 billion in 2019. However, the ongoing border standoff has caused uncertainties

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30 JUDGES ON MONITORED LIST P 8

**J&K to North-East, Rijiju to Mufti, many CMs in between**

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE geography of those being monitored in India by the Chinese firm Zhenhua Data is telling.

The *Indian Express* investigation of Zhenhua's (OKIDB) Overseas Key Information DataBase reveals that at least 180 politicians and bureaucrats on the target list are from states in the

North-East including Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland; Sikkim; and the newly created Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir; and Ladakh.

This assumes significance given that Zhenhua Data claims to be working with the intelligence, government, military and security agencies.

Significantly, the database includes as many as 30 prominent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Very serious matter, step in and start probe: Oppn to Govt**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

TAKING NOTE of *The Indian Express* investigation report that a Shenzhen-based technology company with links to the Chinese government and the

Chinese Communist Party is monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals and organisations in its global database of "foreign targets", Opposition members asked the government Monday to step in, open a probe and take the initiative for a global dialogue.

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**BUSINESS AS USUAL**



**End user key, govt looks at 'depth' of data mined**

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M & PVAIDYANATHAN IYER  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

TAKING NOTE of *The Indian Express* investigation of a Shenzhen firm with links to the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party which is monitoring thousands of individuals, the Indian security establishment, directly dealing with cyber security, is evaluating the depth of data being collected and the risks it may pose to national security.

Top government officials said an assessment is being prepared for National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. "While the reports clearly state the scale of the operation, we are more concerned about its depth—to what level of detail the Chinese firm is profiling individuals in terms of data points, the financial investment in hardware facilitated by its partners, and the need for upgrading cyber hygiene at our end," said a top official.

Simultaneously, the revelations are being discussed at the

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**BENGALURU HOTELS SEE GRADUAL UPTICK IN BUSINESS, TURN TO 'CLOUD KITCHEN'**

Staff shortage, inability to pay salaries to retained employees, paying electricity and water bills and other borrowings and commitments are cited as the major reasons behind the downfall of the industry in times of the pandemic



**VIDEO OF THE DAY  
PM MODI AHEAD OF MONSOON SESSION**

There's corona and there's duty, MPs chose duty, he said



**EXPRESS RESEARCH  
HINDI'S STRUGGLE OVER URDU**

Urdu was predominant language in areas today called the 'Hindi belt'

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**The controversy over Delhi Police's chargesheet**

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode we're looking at what Delhi Police said in a supplementary chargesheet in a Northeast Delhi riots case

**FROM PAGE ONE**

**Probe: Oppn**

The Congress said the report about "Chinese digital surveillance" of India's leaders and others is "quite disturbing" and it is important to know the extent of this surveillance, and if there is more to this than collating data. It said the development has huge implications for national security and privacy of citizens.

Anand Sharma, Congress deputy leader in Rajya Sabha, told reporters: "We hope the government will go to the bottom of it and take appropriate action to protect data privacy of citizens. This has huge implications for national security, besides the privacy of citizens." Sharma is chairman of the Parliamentary standing committee on Home Affairs. Gaurav Gogoi, Congress deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, said, "We want the Government of India to step up its efforts because when we confront a country like China — we are confronting China not only on land, sea and air, we are confronting Chinese intentions in cyberspace as well — Government of India should not be caught sleeping."

"In the days to come, the government should make it clear that all the data collected by Chinese agencies have not been used to manipulate policy, have not been used to gain more intelligence data on our military or on sensitive information," he said.

Former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said it is time the government initiates a global dialogue on such threats. "If what is reported is true, there is certainly a great sense of concern and disquiet," he said.

"We encountered this before in the matter of various platforms associated with the United States that were culling out and using meta data and many issues were raised at that time. I am not quite sure how far we took that matter, and how we resolve this. But there is growing concern across the globe, and there needs to be a global conversation," he said.

Referring to the military standoff with China, he said, "Right now, we can express our immediate concern with our neighbour because of the existing circumstances, but I think this is a larger problem that needs to be handled globally, and I am sure we are well placed to take an initiative in this matter."

Praveen Chakravarty, head of the Congress's technology and data cell, said, "The news is quite disturbing. Most importantly, we need to know the extent of this surveillance, and if there is more to this than collating public data on people. The government has to assure the nation through a detailed investigation."

"Equally, the increasing incidence of foreign technology companies intruding into India's and Indians' affairs is alarming. We need an anti-digital surveillance law soon, which will also incorporate data privacy," he said.

In its official reaction, Congress communication department in-charge Randeep Surjewala said, "If the report is true, then was the Modi government aware? Or they didn't know that we were being spied upon? Why is the government failing to protect our borders over and over again?"

TMC Lok Sabha member Saugata Roy said: "I moved an adjournment motion in Parliament today regarding this issue... although I did not get a chance to mention it. This is an extremely serious matter that a Chinese agency, controlled by the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese government, is farming data information on all top political leaders, officials, Army staff and scientists. It is invading data privacy of Indian leaders. Our government needs to raise this with the Chinese government."

RJD Rajya Sabha member and party spokesperson Manoj Jha

said: "When we opened the newspaper this morning, we saw one of the scariest news items in recent times. What worries me is how we are tackling these issues with China. Today, the Prime Minister made a comment that we need to stand by our soldiers, that we do and have always done. Our soldiers have never disappointed us. It is the diplomatic corridors which have... The government has had a robust non-nonsense policy when it comes to another neighbour, Pakistan. Our question is why do we shy away from a similar robust policy for Beijing? This is such a serious news item. Why has the government not responded?"

BSP Lok Sabha member Kunwar Danish Ali said: "The investigative report published in *The Indian Express* is an eye-opener. The Government of India has blind faith in Chinese firms."

SP Rajya Sabha member Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh said, "This (the investigation) is a warning for India... China is transgressing on our territory again. How much Indian land has been captured, the government is not telling us."

Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Transport Minister Anil Parab told reporters: "It is the job of the Union government to protect leaders from Maharashtra. Not just Maharashtra, but all leaders in the list should be protected."

NCP Rajya Sabha member Vandana Chavan said: "The feeling now is that all our data can be compromised. This is no less than cyber warfare."

**Data mined**

level of ministries concerned, including the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), which has a specialised division on cyber laws and e-security. "We are analysing the scope of the operation. Since it involves the President and the Prime Minister, the political establishment has to take a call on what the government's response should be," said an official who did not wish to be named.

Sources said that while many companies collect personal data of similar nature by scraping open source platforms, given that this involves a Chinese firm which works with the military and security agencies, the government is concerned about the end use and the end user.

"In itself, granular data may not be revelatory but tracked over a few years, 24 by 7, using sophisticated tools of analysis, open source data on an individual can be a great information asset. More so, if he or she is a top official or in a strategic setting," said an official. "We need to go through the entire list and identify cyber hygiene issues."

*The Indian Express* had on Monday reported that at least 10,000 Indian individuals and organisations from politics to business, judiciary to media, even crime accused, are being monitored real time online by big data firm Zhenhua Data that caters to the Chinese government and the People's Liberation Army.

**Parliament Day 1**  
database of "foreign targets", but Speaker Om Birla said the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) would meet on Tuesday to fix a time for discussing "sensitive issues".

Sources said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to make a statement on the India-China border issue on Tuesday, if the BAC decides to slot it.

In his customary remarks before the start of the session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on Parliament to send out a unanimous message that the entire country stands behind its Armed Forces. "This Parliament, particularly this session, has a special responsibility... when our brave

soldiers are at the border... The faith with which they are standing, determined to protect the motherland, Parliament, and all its members, will send out a message in a unanimous voice, spirit and resolve that the country stands in support of them," he said. "The entire Parliament stands with the brave soldiers with one voice. I believe that Parliament will send out a very strong message," he said.

When the session began, Chowdhury tried to raise the issue of Chinese aggression twice. Chowdhury also sought to refer to *The Indian Express* report on the "hybrid warfare". "The BAC will discuss and fix a time for discussing sensitive issues. We will discuss sensitive issues sensitively," Birla responded.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* later, Chowdhury said, "I was surprised that not a single word was allowed to be spoken on the issue. The issue is being discussed by the media and public. Why can't Parliament discuss it? Why is the government evading a discussion?" he said.

"The people in this country are being kept in the dark about what exactly is happening at the border. There have been confusing reports. In order to give a clear picture, the government should come out and offer a threadbare discussion," he said.

"The Congress party also supports the soldiers and the risk they have taken to protect the nation. We stand behind the soldiers. We want to support the government, but the government can't run away from discussions," he said.

During the 30-minute zero hour, the treasury benches avoided issues like the India-China border row, unemployment, migrant crisis and economic slowdown. The NCP's Supriya Sule was the only MP who raised the issue of unemployment and economic crisis. Urging the Centre to assist Maharashtra, she said: "On the first day, we could have discussed the state of economy and unemployment. I don't see the Centre talking much about them."

The BJP MPs stuck to raising other issues. While Sanjay Seth talked about conversions in Jharkhand, Ravi Kishan spoke about drug trafficking with reference to the film industry.

Meanwhile, the government introduced eight Bills in the Lok Sabha and passed two pending Bills.

**Money for banks**

and higher loan losses in the wake of Covid-19, equity raising by PSBs from capital markets is now possible at low valuations. Government equity support will provide extra cushion and help the banks raise more funds from the markets.

According to the first batch of supplementary demands for grants 2020-21 tabled in Parliament on Monday, a total of Rs 20,000 crore has been sought "for meeting expenditure towards recapitalisation of public sector banks through issue of government securities".

The government sought approval for a total additional spending of Rs 2,35,852 crore, which includes cash outgo of Rs 1,66,983 crore, while the rest will be met through savings of departments and ministries.

Apart from bank capital infusion, Rs 40,000 crore has been sought towards increased spending under the MGNREGS and Rs 33,771.48 crore for direct benefit transfer under Jan Dhan Yojana and National Social Assistance Programme.

Approval for Rs 44,340 crore of spending has also been sought towards providing additional allocation under post devolution revenue deficit grant to states as per the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations.

**New economy under watch**

about the future of this investment boom. The prominent faces being tracked in OKIDB include T K Kurien, the Chief Investment Officer at the Premji Invest, a venture capital company set up by Azim Premji; Anish Shah, Group CFO, Mahindra Group; PKX Thomas, CTO, Reliance Brands; Brian Bade, Chief Executive, Reliance Retail; and Vineet Sekhsaria, Group Head, Morgan Stanley, Real Estate Investing.

Also in OKIDB are Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal; Zomato founder and CEO Deepinder Goyal; Swiggy co-founder and CEO Nandan Reddy; Nykaa co-founder and CEO Falguni Nayyar; Uber India's head of driver operations Pavan Vaish, and PayU business head Nameet Potnis.

Also under watch are Professor Abhay Karandikar, Director, IIT, Kanpur; and Professor Deepak B Phatak, IIT, Bombay, known for upgrading Aakash, advertised by its manufacturer as the "world's cheapest tablet."

An analyses of the entries show that venture capitalists and angel investors are the most tracked persons in OKIDB. The focus is also on founders, CEO, CFOs, CTOs, and COOs of key sectors.

The rapidly growing digital health sector is the one most tracked portfolio, followed by the digital education sector. Post-demonetisation, the Modi

government has been pushing for digital payments. Unsurprisingly, the top payment apps are part of the database. So are the supply chain portfolio and delivery apps. Also under watch are the tech startups in the urban transportation segment.

Some of the entries in OKIDB under key segments are:

**Angel investors and venture capitalists:**

- Matrix Partners India, whose portfolios include Indian ride sharing company Ola, Practo (a platform that connects patients with doctors), and the Indian payment gateway app Razor Pay.

- Kalaari Capital, whose portfolios include Indian e-commerce companies Snapdeal, Myntra & Urban Ladder.
- Seed Fund, who portfolios include sports media firm sportskeeda, and RedBUS.in, an aggregator of routes, tickets and inventory for inter-city bus network.

- Fireside Ventures that has backed brands such as MamaEarth and the Ayurveda Experience.

The list includes the Japanese officials on Incubate fund in India, whose portfolios in the country include ShopKirana, leading Go-to-Market platform brand, Yulu, the rental bike-sharing plat-

form, and Gaming Monk, an esports gaming platform.

Also in OKIDB are German officials of NEXT STEP India, which is a market discovery program for German startups to explore opportunities in India; and top officials of the Everstone Capital, which manages assets worth \$5 billion across private equity, real estate, and venture capital.

**Digital Healthcare**

- Cipla-backed Wellthy Therapeutics, that delivers clinically-validated digital therapies.

- Strand Life Sciences, the Bengaluru based silico technology company named as the technology pioneer twice at the World Economic Forum.

- Gramin Healthcare, that provides primary healthcare services in Rural India.

**Digital Education**

- Byjus, adda247, Oliveboard, the country's top learning apps.

- Learnyst, the all-in-one platform that helps educators build their own online platforms to conduct live classes.

- Kenznow, a top online platform for education abroad.

- Auxilo, that offers study loans for Indian students.

**Payments**

- Country's leading payment apps Paytm, Razorpay, and PhonePe.

- Pine Labs, an Indian merchant platform valued at USD 1 billion.

- Avenues Payments, that provides the payment gateway CCAvenue that had partnered 60 Indian banks.

- FSS payment gateway that had partnered with merchants like IRCTC.

**Supply Chain**

- Mahindra Logistics
- Truxapp, supply chain transport app

- Shadowfax, a leading crowdsourced B2B last mile delivery services platform

- Mojro, a logistics service startup

- Logistimo, supply chain firm that connects remote communities with essential services.

**Delivery Apps:**

- Online supermarket apps Bigbasket and Daily Bazaar, Zappfresh & Fresh Meat Market

- Food delivery apps Zomato, Swiggy and FoodPanda; online meat delivery platforms; and now, bike, B2B delivery platform for micro retailers.

**URBAN TRANSPORTATION:**

Besides Yulu, the database includes Cityflo, the app-based premium daily commute company; Rapido, one of India's largest bike taxi services; and Lithium Urban Technologies, a fully electric mobility service provider.

**J&K to North-East, Rijiju to Mufti, many Chief Ministers in between**

leaders and bureaucrats from the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh, the arena of the current India-China standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

China was in a face-off with India at Doklam in Sikkim in 2017; Beijing had knocked at the UN Security Council seeking a meeting to discuss India's abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir last August, and earlier in March had stalled a UNSC proposal to designate Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar a global terrorist.

Beijing's watch on the North-East has many reasons. For over a decade, China's dam-building spree and water diversion plans along the Brahmaputra (Yarlung

Tsangpo) on its side also remain a source of tension between the two neighbours. Those in the Zhenhua list include at least 12 current or former Chief Ministers and their relatives; 10 serving ministers holding infrastructure portfolios such as Power, Water Resources, Irrigation, River Development and Public Works, and several key bureaucrats from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal.

From Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports, to Mehbooba Mufti, former Chief Minister of J&K when it was a state — she is currently

in detention — those being monitored include Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and his deputy Yanthungo Patton.

Not only do these states and UTs share international borders with five countries including China, they are key to the Centre's Act East Policy being a critical physical bridge between India and South-East Asia.

Politically, the ruling BJP has expanded its footprint in the region with its own Chief Ministers in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Tripura, since it assumed power at the Centre in 2014.

Among those being monitored are former members of

Parliament from Ladakh, leaders of PDP and National Conference in the Valley; state Congress President Ghulam Ahmad Mir; former Union Minister Saifuddin Soz; Karan Singh, son of Hari Singh, the last king of the princely state of J&K.

In OKIDB, former Chief Ministers from the North-East include two from Assam, three from Arunachal Pradesh, two from Meghalaya, one each from Manipur, Sikkim and Mizoram.

The list mentions bureaucrats including Umang Narula, now advisor to Lieutenant Governor in Ladakh, and Japu Deru, former MLA from Bomdila and former advisor to Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

Government sources said bank equity infusion plan will be finalised after taking into account their internal assessment of the impact of Covid-19 on their "balance sheets, liquidity profile, asset quality and profitability".

The RBI has asked both private sector and public sector banks to raise equity to strengthen their balance sheets. A number of private banks have raised capital of over Rs 80,000 crore from equity markets since April.

"The current pandemic related shock is likely to place greater pressure on the balance sheets of banks, leading to erosion of their capital. Proactive building of buffers and raising capital will be crucial not only to ensure credit flow but also to build resilience in the financial system," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said last month.

In recent years, the government has significantly capitalised state-owned banks and pursued consolidation in the PSU banking

space. In the last three financial years, the government has infused equity of Rs 2,65 lakh crore into state-owned banks. But the pandemic is expected to lead to a further surge in NPAs and erosion of capital, necessitating another round of capital raising by banks. Industry sources said Rs 20,000 crore of capital may not be enough for all PSBs and this equity may go to relatively weaker banks.

As per a recent assessment of an expert panel set up by the RBI, corporate sector debt adding up to Rs 15.52 lakh crore has come under stress following the pandemic. The KV Kamath committee, which worked out the financial parameters for a loan restructuring plan, has said that 72 per cent of the banking sector debt worth Rs 37,72 lakh crore remains under stress, which is almost 37 per cent of the total non-food bank credit.

Among other proposals to augment the health infrastructure, the government has sought Rs 14,231.96 crore, including Rs 5,915.49 crore, for meeting addi-

tional expenditure towards grants-in-aid general for containment of the pandemic and Rs 2,475 crore to the Indian Council of Medical Research. Approval for another Rs 10,000 crore has been sought to meet expenditure towards food subsidy under the National Food Security Act.

Rs 1,232 crore will be allocated to the Small Industries Development Bank of India on interest subvention of 2 per cent on prompt repayment of Shishu loans extended under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. Another Rs 4,000 crore will be provided to the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited for giving government-guaranteed collateral-free additional loans to MSMEs under the Rs 3 lakh crore of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.

In May, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced a 65 per cent increase (Rs 40,000 crore) over the Budget outlay for MGNREGS in the fifth and final tranche of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat package. In the 2020-21 Budget estimate, the

government had reduced the allocation under the scheme to Rs 61,500 crore, compared to the revised estimate of Rs 71,002 crore in 2019-20. The sharp hike came amid migrants going back to their hometowns after the nationwide lockdown, leading to a sharp surge in demand for NREGS work.

**Delhi Police**

sites simultaneously. It was the first indicator that there was a conspiracy due to which it all started."

With questions having been raised over the lack of action against BJP leader Kapil Mishra over his alleged inflammatory speech a day before the riots in the area, the DyCP was quoted as saying, "A narrative is being created that pro-CAA/NRC people were involved in it, but it has not come into the investigation yet."

On Monday, the Delhi Police got 10-day custody of Khalid, who has been booked under the UAPA, on charges stemming from his participation in the anti-CAA protests. The Delhi Police Special

Cell also questioned filmmakers Rahul Roy and Saba Dewan on Monday for around eight hours and has told them to join the investigation in connection with the riots.

Commenting on the criticism over Khalid's arrest and the Delhi Police investigation of the case, Shrivastava said at the webinar, "As we are approaching the final end of this investigation, and as you know Umar Khalid was arrested so there is more sort of cry especially on social media, print media and also today the TV channels... (They) are trying to take away the sheen from the investigation. You know that people whom we investigate, many have very good social media presence."

Shrivastava said the Delhi Police would file a chargesheet by Thursday in connection with the conspiracy case in the riots. "As it is nearing, there is more and more clamour and news... some attempt by some interest groups to discredit Delhi Police investigation. The Delhi Police has registered 751 cases and it has gone about it in a very fair and impartial manner and out of 751 cases, 340 have been solved. The remaining we have not got much leads in."

As per the PTI report, Kishwaha said they had identified 25 protest sites, most of them in trans-Yamuna area, and that people who were part of it came from outside, and were not locals. "People kept on going to the protest sites again and again and they talked about the CAA-NRC so that more and more people would come there and it would look like a CAA-NRC protest was going on.

Seeking Khalid's custody for 10 days, the Delhi Police told Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat on Monday that they wanted to confront him with documents running into 11 lakh pages.

Granting the police's request, ASJ Rawat observed, "Considering the nature of the case and role of the accused Umar Khalid that has surfaced so far regarding the conspiracy and involvement in anti-CAA/NPR/NRC protest, with the support of several radical groups/organisations... I deem it fit that, for having an effective and proper investigation, to allow the present application for seeking police custody."

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad said that "from examination of witnesses, it was revealed that accused Umar Khalid was coordinating the protest sites in Delhi with other radical groups", and said his custody was required to "unearth a deep-rooted conspiracy".

Trideep Pais, who appeared on behalf of Khalid, said police have stated no specific reason for the remand. Pointing out that Khalid had been questioned for five hours on July 31, and around 12 hours on Sunday before his arrest, Pais said, "What is their case? This application does not even say what they want to confront him with; they want to make (up) stuff as they go along. Whether it is a speech which provokes or not — isn't it incumbent to say when did he speak, where did he speak?"

He also read out a transcript of Khalid's speech, and said he had not even been in Delhi during the riots. "(His) Amravati speech is about peace... Even I am against the CAA, that is not a crime. What is the crime Umar is said to have committed? It is public knowledge that people have been pressured to give statements in police custody. They say he protested. Everyone protested... This application is not worth even a one-day custody."

Prasad admitted that not much had been disclosed, but said this was needed under the UAPA, for maintaining "sanctity of the investigation".

# FILM INDUSTRY APPEALS TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR REOPENING OF CINEMAS

## #UNLOCKCINEMASAVEJOBS

**AT THE RATE OF A MONTHLY LOSS OF RS 1,500 CRORE, THE CINEMA EXHIBITION INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE LOST UP TO RS 9,000 CRORES IN 6 MONTHS OF THE LOCKDOWN**

Films are the soft power of India and cinemas continue to be the main form of entertainment for millions of Indians. The cinema exhibition sector, comprising of close to 10,000 cinema screens across the country, is a critical part of a functioning and dynamic film industry. This is a sector which directly employs more than 2 lakh people while providing indirect employment to lakhs of people. Due to countrywide lockdowns, the cinema exhibition industry has run into an extremely adverse and hostile situation; it was the first sector to be shut down and will be the last sector to reopen.

Malls, Airlines, Railways, Retail, Restaurants, Gyms and many such services have already been restarted as part of 'Unlock India'. In the recently announced 'Unlock 4', Bars and Metro services have also been permitted to reopen. Cinemas are equipped with better abilities to ensure crowd management in stringent hygienic environments while maintaining applicable social distancing norms. The following factors ensure the cinemas are always safe;

- Only paying patrons visit us unlike other activities where there are no entry tickets
- Movie show timings are staggered, therefore no crowd build-up
- Controlled and regulated entry and exits
- Availability of ample waiting areas
- Cinemas are professionally managed, hence compliance to SOPs is assured

Countries such as China, Korea, UK, France, Italy, Spain, UAE, USA, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and many others have already opened cinemas to the public with implementation of the highest degree of safety protocols and have seen an encouraging response from the audiences. Overall, more than 85 countries have fully reopened cinemas across the globe.

Assigning top-most priority to the health and well-being of our guests and employees, we have developed and are ready to implement a safety plan with the most stringent SOP's, to ensure a safe, secure and a hygienic cinema viewing experience for the movie lovers of our country.

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Under the aegis of  
Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry



## CPM TOO CONDEMNS MOVE

## Cong joins chorus against UAPA in Umar arrest: 'Has chilling effect'

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

A DAY after Delhi Police arrested former JNU student leader Umar Khalid under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Congress Monday appeared critical of the move while the Left outrightly condemned it.

Arguing that UAPA is a special law that should apply in special circumstances, senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid said invoking it in cases of protests will have a "chilling effect" on democratic rights.

Rajya Sabha MP and Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi told *The Indian Express*: "Congress has no problem with a fair, non-discriminatory, even and balanced application of the law. This is the expectation in Khalid's case also. Unfortunately, past events have frequently belied such expectations. We hope that does not recur in this case. Apart from this apprehension, we believe in the law taking its course."

Former Law Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal told

*The Indian Express*: "The manner in which the police seems to be investigating the Delhi riots establishes two things — the investigation process has been sullied and is proceeding in tandem with political considerations of the union government to brush under the carpet the complicity of those who started the riots and targeted people, and blame those who were the victims."

He said: "The fact that they have obviously obtained statements seeking to name academicians like Jayati Ghosh, leaders like Sitaram Yechury and people like Apoorvanand who sympathised with those who were peacefully agitating shows the extent to which the government will go to silence dissent. Even economists, intellectuals and political leaders are being targeted to instill fear in the minds of others. This augurs ill for democracy and is a pointer to the slow decimation of Constitutional values."

Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor tweeted: "PM says he welcomes criticism, but forgets to mention the cost of criticism to be paid by those who who speak out. In today's India, payback is only re-



Police arrested former JNU student Umar Khalid under the UAPA on Sunday

served to our own citizens, never against countries who actually question and challenge our sovereignty. #StandWithUmarKhalid."

The Congress officially did not react to the arrest.

The CPM said Khalid's arrest under provisions of the "draconian" UAPA is condemnable.

"This comes following the detention, under UAPA, of Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita (JNU), Ishrat Jahan, a former councillor of the Congress party, Jamia students Meeran Haider, also an RJD youth leader, Asif Tanha, Safoora Zargar and Gulfisha Fatima and

Shifa-Ur-Rehman," it said, arguing that while "top BJP leaders who made hate speeches and incited violence are protected by the Central government, young peaceful protesters against the CAA are being targeted and arrested citing the utterly manufactured version of the country's Home Ministry and the Delhi Police linking anti-CAA protests with communal violence."

The Centre, the CPM said, must stop the practice of the Special Branch summoning anti-CAA activists for questioning and trying to coerce them into implicating those targeted by the Home Ministry and the police.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Khurshid said: "If young people in their enthusiasm and passions cross the line, I would be very surprised that they cross the line to such an extent that they could impose criminal culpability on them."

"But we don't know enough. What we have seen of the charges and chargesheets that have been filed, they are extremely unsatisfactory. Some judges have picked them up to say that this is not fair. Some judges have treated them

in their routine manner in which investigations happen where you tilt in the favour of the investigation because you don't want to interfere with it. But the overall picture is extremely unsatisfactory," he said.

The UAPA, he said, is being imposed almost on a routine manner on people who otherwise would be granted bail.

"UAPA is imposed and then they say this is a larger conspiracy... we will need more time to investigate the larger conspiracy. So, this imposing of UAPA indiscriminately in this manner is extremely unsatisfactory. Because UAPA is about terrorism and not about anyone violating the normal law of the land in which case the CrPC applies to them. But UAPA is a special case and it is a special law that should apply in very special circumstances. And I'm not sure that it is very sensible for anyone to say there was large-scale intent at terrorism or something akin to terrorism that happens when these kinds of civil strikes happen and people come out to agitate, etc. It is extremely unfair and has a chilling effect on democratic rights," he said.

## 9 retd IPS officers raise questions on riot probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

ACADEMICS, ARTISTS, activists and lawyers Monday condemned Umar Khalid's arrest and invoking of UAPA against him, even as nine retired IPS officers questioned the Delhi Police's investigation of the Delhi riots.

"As citizens deeply committed to Constitutional values, we condemn the arrest of Umar Khalid who has been subjected to a malicious investigation targeting peaceful anti-CAA protesters... With deep anguish, we

have no doubt in saying that this investigation is not about the violence in the national capital, but on the completely peaceful and democratic protests across the country against the unconstitutional CAA," read a statement by 36 signatories, including Syeda Hameed, Arundhati Roy, Ramachandra Guha, T M Krishna, Brinda Karat, Jignesh Mevani, P Sainath, Prashant Bhusan and Harsh Mander.

On Sunday, retired IPS officer Julio Ribeiro, who was former Mumbai police commissioner, DGP Gujarat and Punjab, and former Indian Ambassador to

Romania, had written to Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava, questioning the probe into the Northeast Delhi riots cases. On Monday, nine more retired officers wrote an open letter to Shrivastava requesting re-investigation of all riot cases. The signatories of the letter included former Director General National Crime Records Bureau Shafi Alam and former Special Director CBK Saleem Ali.


"We were sad to note that one of your Special Commissioners had tried to influence investigations claiming resentment among Hindus over the arrest of

some rioters belonging to their community. Such a majoritarian attitude in the police leadership leads to a travesty of justice for the victims of violence and their family members belonging to minority communities. This would further mean that the real culprits of the violence belonging to the majority community are likely to go scot free," read the letter.

"Basing investigations on 'disclosures' without concrete evidence violates all principles of fair investigation. While implicating leaders and activists, who expressed their views against CAA, all those who insti-

gated violence and are associated with the ruling party have been let off the hook," it read.

Delhi Police's Additional PRO Anil Mittal said that "investigation of all riot cases has been done professionally and meticulously. The matter is subjudice, and any grievances in this regard have to be raised at the appropriate forum. Regarding the letter written by Special CP, mentioned in this letter, the matter has already been adjudicated by the Delhi High Court. Prima facie, nothing wrong was found in issuing directions by senior officers".



**DELHI POLICE**  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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Forms can be submitted at District DCsP offices from **15.09.2020 to 22.09.2020** (both days inclusive)

**Last date of depositing application forms is  
22.09.2020 upto 06:00 PM  
at the respective offices of jurisdictional District DCsP.**

Last date for issuance of license by Districts DCsP is **23.10.2020**

Validity of temporary fireworks license for pucca shops is 24 days and 15 days for temporary shed from the date of issuance of respective licenses


**Appeals against rejection of applications by District DCsP can be filed before jurisdictional Joint Commissioners of Police/Ranges between 23.10.2020 & 24.10.2020 (both days inclusive)**

Appeals will be decided by the jurisdictional Joint Csp/Ranges between **26.10.2020 & 27.10.2020 (both days inclusive)**


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DP/9254/2020



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Government of Rajasthan



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"In the fight against Covid-19, our core belief is that 'Each Life Matters'. We will continue to work tirelessly until corona is completely eliminated from the state."  
Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister

**Dialogue on Corona Awareness**  
Open Platform Discussion with Eminent Doctors  
15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, 11:30 AM (Today)

**PARTICIPANTS**

Chief Minister, Rajasthan  
Health Minister      MoS, Health

**Distinguished Doctors of the Country**  
Dr. Naresh Trehan  
(CMD, Medanta, Gurugram)

Dr. S. K. Sarin      Dr. Devi Shetty  
(Director, ILBS, New Delhi)      (Chairman, Narayana Hridayalaya, Bangalore)

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**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UNITS (BDUs)**

**Non-traditional Cargoes**

In order to increase the share of rail transportation in non-traditional cargoes, exclusive Business Development Units have been set up at the zonal headquarter and all five divisions i.e. (Delhi, Ambala, Lucknow, Moradabad and Firozpur).

**Transportation Solutions**

These units have been mandated to interact with various industries and trading entities and offer suitable rail transportation solutions to find mutually beneficial ways and to facilitate a shift to railways.

**Time-tabled Freight Trains**

One major initiative being planned by Northern Railway in this regard is the running of time-tabled freight trains for less than full train load consignments.

**Teevra Services**

These services have been named as 'TEEVRA Services' (Time-tabled Efficient and Economically Viable Railway Services) and would be offering time-tabled freight transportation services between different origin-destination combinations. Freight customers would be able to book according to the wagon basis.

**Affordable Freight Services**

This initiative of Northern Railway is aimed at providing affordable time-tabled freight services for MSMEs and other small industries and units.

**Contact Details**

Interested business entities may contact the following nodal coordinators of the Business Development Units (BDUs) for any enquiry, suggestions or assistance.

Name of Officer	Office	Contact Number
Chief Freight Transportation Manager, NR	Northern Railway, Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi	011-23387643, 9717630903
Senior Divisional Operations Manager, New Delhi	Delhi Division DRM Office, New Delhi	011-23743352, 9717631900
Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Lucknow	Lucknow Division DRM Office, Lucknow	0522-2234520, 9794833900
Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Moradabad	Moradabad Division DRM Office, Moradabad	0591-2412012, 9760534900
Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Ambala	Ambala Division, DRM Office, Ambala	0171-2610553, 9729539900
Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Firozpur	Firozpur Division, DRM Office, Firozpur	01632-244488, 9779232900

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**National Engineer's Day**

# Engineering is a way of thinking!

*Celebrated in the loving memory of Sir M Visvesvaraya, one of India's finest engineers of all times, National Engineers Day celebrates the noble profession of engineering and its various contributions to mankind*

IT IS a given that for growth of our society and its success, engineering as a profession is of immense importance to mankind. Since time immemorial, engineers have put their efforts in "transforming the theoretical to the practical for the betterment of all." The term engineering is derived from the Latin ingenium, meaning "cleverness" and ingeniare, meaning "to contrive, devise".

Born on September 15, 1861, in Mudnahalli village of Karnataka, the Bharat Ratna awardee Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was a stellar Indian

civil engineer of his time. He contributed significantly to India's progress and went on to become the country's "most prolific civil engineer, dam builder, economist, statesman, and can be counted among the last century's foremost nation-builders." Among his notable contributions are the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore as well as the flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad. While he was the chief engineer for the former, he was the chief designer for the latter.

Sir M Visvesvaraya is credited with his contribution to harnessing water re-

sources in the country and was chiefly responsible for the building and consolidation of dams across the country. Honouring Sir M Visvesvaraya's innovative and novel engineering solutions, every year our country celebrates National Engineers Day on 15 September, as a tribute towards his remarkable achievements for the betterment of our society. "Due to his outstanding contribution to the society, Government of India conferred 'Bharat Ratna' on this legend in the year 1955. He was also awarded the British knighthood by King George V, and hence has the honorific 'sir'".



## Disrupting the Electronic Goods Industry to Reach the Masses!

**What was your thought process behind the conceptualisation of Detel EV?**

As soon as the Govt declared that by 2030, most of the automobile industry will be electric, Dr Yogesh Bhatia, Founder/CEO Detel India/ B2Badda.com /PreLoved Device wanted to bring an affordable electric vehicle in the market with a price point attractive to the masses. As a responsible brand, Detel has always strived to bridge the gap between desirability and affordability by launching economical, good quality products.

**How did you engineer this product to make it the world's most economical electric bike?**

At the price point that we have launched Detel Easy EV, with lithium ion battery and 3 years warranty, we

have again given a disruptive price point to our customers. EV with Lead acid battery are available at more expensive price point with warranty of just 1 year. With Detel Easy, we are proud to be a brand which is #connecting40cror-eindians and #deteldecarbonisesindia.

**Is India ready for electric bikes and cars, as not many are using it currently? What is your take on this?**

Depending on having charging stations is a big disadvantage for EV. But with Launch of our first Electric vehicle product, Detel Easy, which is easily chargeable at home or office, we have removed this hindrance too. The battery can be dismantled and taken near a charging point making it absolutely hassle free for our valuable customers.

**What is the biggest challenge that consumers face regarding**

**electric bikes? How is the industry trying to resolve this?**

The biggest challenge definitely is high dependency on charging stations for the electric vehicles. Detel Easy has resolved this by breaking this entry level barrier for the customers. Detel Easy is as easy as charging your other gadgets at home, or anywhere where there is a plug point. Industry can definitely resolve this by introducing new products at economical prices so that customers can adapt to entry level products easily.

**What can be done to provide a boost to the EV industry in India?**

EV user should be prioritised and incentivised by giving them parking concessions/priority, toll concessions etc for contributing to the environment by being responsible customers.

**What other products do you offer to consumers?**

Detel, a 3year old brand is one of the top 100SMEs of India, associated with consumer electronics. It also has a sub brand DetelPro which is it's health and hygiene vertical. The company also comprises of B2Badda.com, India's first hybrid online business platform and PreLoved Device.

**Being a start-up in the EV industry, what challenges do you face?**

We would like to make a significant change through our vision of connecting 40 crore Indians. There are several challenges which we need to address towards accomplishing our goal successfully such as sourcing of raw materials, procurement and charging station infrastructure.

**What are your expectations from the government?**



"Realising the rural India's hesitation for putting huge investments in electronic goods, **Dr. Yogesh Bhatia**, Founder & CEO of Detel India, b2badda.com and PreLoved Device, relied on his over 23 years of extensive experience to establish Detel India – an affordable, yet technologically advanced consumer electronics brand. The brand's vision is to make such electronic goods and products that are accessible in every nook and corner of the country.

With every purchase of EV, Detel is proud to gift a tree to its customer, in his name. The customer will also get the geo location of the tree along with a certificate. A humble initiative by Detel for our mother earth, for a greener, healthier India. #deteldecarboniseindia



The expectation from the government is to prioritize EV consumers - Parking space, charging station and subsidy to EV manufacturing plants so as to make it more affordable. This would make us even more Atmanirbhar and will resonate with government's vision too.

**Since your product prices are low compared with other brands, does this strategy hurt your profit margins being a start-up?**

As per our business philosophy, we always try to bridge the gap between desirability and affordability in each of the category of our business. EV industry is a new entrant for us, so the price point was necessary to meet this goal of making our EV consumers adapt to this innovative product.

**What is the vision of Detel India?**

Detel India vision is to establish Detel Brand as a trustworthy, reliable, value for money, "Make in India" brand for all Indians and hopefully, in future, for the global community as well.

**What will be your advice to budding engineers and engineer-**

**ing start-ups of today?**

On this special day, we would like to thank all our bright engineers of India for bringing so much recognition globally. With the vision of our cabinet minister, Mr Nitin Gadkari to see India as a global hub for EV industry, we would be delighted to see more indigenous, eco friendly, innovative and economical products to make India be ahead of the world in EV industry.

**Your advice to your fellow business fraternity. Your words of wisdom on adapting change?**

Without sounding too philosophical, I would say "badlaav hee samay ka niyam hai" – those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. Do not be rigid about your products or markets. Be ready to change your thinking, strategy, and processes according to the market situations. We all have suddenly encountered "the unexpected". This will result in markets changing; in the short, medium, and long term. Do not be afraid of taking decisions and to adapt to continuously changing conditions.

## DETEL FAMILY



Consumer Electronics



Electric Vehicle



Health & Hygiene



B2B Platform



Refurbished Devices



TOTAL CASES	Total		Vacant	
	HOSPITAL BEDS	14,456	7,767	
2,21,533	VENTILATORS	1,222	461	
Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Sep 13	4,235	3,403	29	56,656
Sep 14	3,229	3,374	26	44,884
Total	28,641*	1,88,122	4,770	21,84,316

\*Total active cases

## 96,000 recoveries under home isolation prove its success: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

AROUND 96,000 people in Delhi, who were put under home isolation, have so far recovered from Covid-19 while 30 deaths have been registered in this category, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal informed the Delhi Legislative Assembly during a one-day special session on Monday.

As per figures shared by the CM, out of 1.88 lakh recoveries recorded in Delhi so far, 51.18% people got cured under home isolation, which he said was reflective of the success of the experiment that encouraged people to get tested and also prevented healthcare infrastructure from getting overwhelmed.

The Delhi government's September 14 health bulletin said 16,568 patients remain under home isolation in the city.

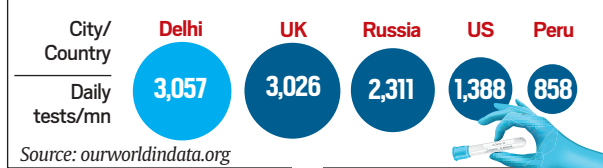
"Once we introduced the home isolation protocol, people stopped avoiding tests. Otherwise, many did so to avoid going to quarantine centres. In fact, contrary to perception, family members of a person actually take great care of a sick person. All across the world, healthcare infrastructure came under great strain and we thought if developed countries are struggling to cope, what will be the situation here. Hence, we encouraged home isolation," Kejriwal said.

Participating in a short duration discussion, Kejriwal said Covid cases rapidly grew in Delhi



CM Kejriwal speaks at the Legislative Assembly Monday

### TESTING: DELHI VERSUS ABROAD



as 32,000 passengers had returned to the city from various foreign countries by March 22. "Out of all the flights returning to India, 80%-90% landed in Delhi. And at that point, there were no norms on isolation, quarantine, there was no ICMR guideline. On March 22, the Delhi Health Secretary wrote to district magistrates directing them to identify all 32,000 passengers who had returned. It was an impossible task. Only around that time did the Centre issue guidelines to quarantine such people.

"They came from countries which had a high prevalence of the virus. We did not have enough

PEPs, testing kits. They must have spread the virus to a great extent. I also want to thank the Centre for providing us testing kits, oxygen cylinders. If the Centre says it tackled coronavirus alone, it would be lying, and if we say we controlled the situation alone, we would be lying. It was a team effort which also involved NGOs, spiritual organisations, etc," Kejriwal said.

As per records, the decision to screen foreign return passengers at the airport and share their contacts with the district administrations was taken on March 3, when the city had one positive case. According to official docu-

### SISODIA TESTS COVID POSITIVE

New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia tested positive for Covid-19 on Monday. He is under home isolation. "At present, I have no fever or any other symptoms and I am fine," he tweeted. Several MLAs — including Madipur MLA Girish Soni, Karol Bagh MLA Vishesh Ravi, RK Puram MLA Parmila Tokas — were found positive after they were tested ahead of a one-day session Monday. **ENS**

ments, the CM was informed on March 8 that "1,40,603 passengers have been screened at the Delhi Airport and placed under surveillance".

On Monday, the CM also said that since July 26, 5,264 patients from other states have been treated at Delhi government hospitals. He said the testing rate in Delhi per 10 lakh per day stands at 3,000, which was on a par with the United Kingdom.

"The corresponding figures are 1,388 in USA, 2,311 in Russia, and 858 in Peru while India has an average of 819 tests per million per day," the CM added. Delhi relies heavily on rapid antigen tests, which have a sensitivity rate of 50.6% to 84%. Till August 27, less than 1% rapid tests were followed up through RT-PCR.

## Centre tells SC: No immediate removal of jhuggis at Rly lines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE CENTRE Monday told the Supreme Court that there will be no removal of slum clusters along railway tracks in Delhi till the departments concerned that are looking into the issue come up with a decision.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta conveyed this to a bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, which took note of the submission and adjourned the hearing by four weeks.

"Mr Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General appearing on behalf of the respondent, Union of India, states that the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and the Government of NCT of Delhi are going to take a decision on the issue raised in the instant interlocutory applications and till then they will not take any coercive action against the slum dwellers. Stand over for four weeks," the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramaniam, said in its order.

The submission came when the court took up for hearing applications including one by Delhi Congress leader Ajay Maken against the SC's August 31 direction to remove 48,000 jhuggis along railway tracks, including



SC had directed to remove 48,000 jhuggis along rly tracks

encroachments in the railway safety zone, within three months.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in the Delhi Assembly on Monday that the Centre's affidavit was positive and the different agencies in the city will have to work together to ensure jhuggi dwellers are not left stranded.

The August 31 order directed that "a comprehensive plan for removal of jhuggis be made and executed in a phased manner". It also directed that "encroachments which are there in the safety zones should be removed within a period of three months and no interference, political or otherwise, should be there and no court shall grant any stay with respect to removal of the en-

croachments in the area in question".

The direction came after the Railways pointed out to the court in a matter of removal of plastic and other garbage along the tracks that "there are predominant presence of jhuggis" along "140 km route length of track in Delhi".

Kejriwal also said rehabilitation of jhuggi dwellers before demolition of their houses was mandatory as per law. He also said removing jhuggis during the pandemic would lead to problems: "We should not proceed in this direction till the time corona subsides so that these areas do not become hotspots and lead to spread of disease."

The Delhi government had

earlier written to the Northern Railways, telling them that jhuggi residents can be shifted to houses built by it on payment of up to Rs 11 lakh per house, but not before March next year.

"If politicians or officers do not work for a day, life will move on, but if jhuggi dwellers don't work, the city will come to a stop... In 70 years, no one made housing plans for them. This is why jhuggis mushroomed... Till the time I am alive, I won't let you suffer. If I have to plead or fight with anyone, I will do it. I assure you, either the Centre or the state will give you alternate housing," he said.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing in the matter Monday, urged the court to order a status quo, but the bench pointed out that the Centre has already stated that there will be status quo till a decision is taken.

Singhvi said that some demolitions had taken place last week. Mehta, however, said these might have been under some other order but not the August 31 order.

Maken, in his plea, urged the court to direct authorities to rehabilitate slum dwellers before evicting them and removing the clusters as per the Delhi Slum & JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy, 2015, and the protocol (for removal of jhuggis).

### BRIEFLY

#### CM lauds JEE mains qualifiers

New Delhi: Over 500 students from Delhi government schools qualified the recently concluded JEE mains. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "Congratulations to each student and teachers. Am proud of you."

#### Farmers stopped at border

Noida: A farmers group protesting against agricultural ordinances was stopped at Ghaziabad border while enroute to Jantar Mantar Monday.

#### Woman held for killing daughter

Noida: A 32-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly killing her daughter in Noida's Sector 49. The accused's family has told police that she has been suffering from mental health issues and would often have violent episodes.

#### Man held for robbery

Noida: A 35-year-old man was arrested by Noida Police for allegedly robbing people after meeting them on the pretext of selling products on OLX. **ENS**

## 25-yr-old doc dies after month-long battle with Covid

ASTHA SAXENA & SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

A 25-YEAR-OLD doctor who completed his MBBS from AIIMS died Monday morning after having battled Covid for over a month.

Dr Vikas Solanki, a resident of Hisar in Haryana, tested positive for the disease last month and had been availing treatment at a hospital there. He was shifted to the AIIMS campus in Jhajjar as his complications grew.

On Saturday, Dr Solanki was shifted from the Jhajjar campus to AIIMS Trauma Centre in Delhi and was put on ventilator.

Dr Ajay Mohan, a surgery resident at AIIMS, who was Solanki's senior during their MBBS days at the Institute, said he died at 8.30 am at the Trauma Centre. Mohan said Solanki was initially "asymptomatic" and that the virus "first impacted his pancreas leading to hypoglycemia and sepsis. Slowly, his organs started shutting down. He underwent dialysis too — the condition of his lungs deteriorated and then on Monday morning, he passed away. He was a dynamic young man; it's so heartbreaking and scary."

Friends and colleagues who worked with him at AIIMS described him as a topper, and a jovial person with a great vision. According to doctors, Solanki left the institute in 2018-2019, but planned to apply for a non-



Dr Vikas Solanki completed his MBBS from AIIMS. He was undergoing treatment at AIIMS Jhajjar

academic job in the institute.

Dr Wamiqur Rehman Gajdhari, his senior and a close friend from his AIIMS days, who recently lost his father to Covid, said, "I was yet to come out of the grief of losing my father, and now news about Vikas has left me heartbroken. He was one of the brightest students I have met at AIIMS. He had knowledge about everything — from medicine to philosophy, politics to history. We had a lot of common interests and bonded well during our educational journey."

In 2015, Dr Solanki had gone to Leh where he and his friends sponsored the fee of students from classes VI to X in a school.

"For two years, not a single child had to pay a penny for education. He always asserted that investment on education by the government can change the face of India," said Dr Abhinav Singh Verma, a neurosurgeon at AIIMS who studied with him.

## Another salary protest, this time by Kasturba hospital nurses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

FOLLOWING A strike by administrative staff and teachers of North MCD against a delay in payment of salary, nurses at the corporation's Kasturba Hospital held a two-hour protest on Monday. Nurses in other hospitals and health facilities run by the North MCD, whose salaries too have been delayed by three months, are likely to join the protest.

B L Sharma, president of the hospital's nurses' union, said they were last paid in May. He said the protest will go on till they get an assurance from the administration. This comes even as the Delhi High Court intervened in the mat-



At the protest in Kasturba hospital on Monday

ter and asked the civic body to pay salaries.

Explaining the delay, North body deputy standing committee chairperson Ritu Goei said around Rs 950 crore is due from Delhi government. "Besides collections from stamp duty, adver-

tising, toll tax and other revenue sources have decreased," she said.

Indu Jamwal, president of Hindu Rao hospital's Nurses' Welfare Association, said, "Why doesn't the Central government intervene? Are they not aware of what is happening in Delhi?"

Sagardeep Singh, general secretary of the Hindu Rao hospital resident doctors' association, which is also a Covid facility, said they last received salaries for June. "The situation here is such that senior resident doctors either don't want to join or don't want to renew their contract once it ends."

AAP leader Durgesh Pathak had tweeted asking the BJP to immediately pay the salaries. A Delhi government spokesperson did not comment.

## Once its core member, Bhushan says IAC propped up by RSS, BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

AAP FOUNDER member and civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan, who was expelled from the party in 2015, has claimed that the India Against Corruption (IAC) movement was "propped up by the BJP and RSS" to bring down the UPA government.

Bhushan was a core member of IAC, which was the precursor to AAP led by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. In 2015, he was expelled from the party along with Yogendra Yadav over alleged "anti-party activities".

In an interview with *India*



Bhushan was expelled from the party in 2015

Today TV's Rajdeep Sardesai, Bhushan said: "In hindsight there are two things that I do regret. One is not seeing that the movement was to a large extent supported and propped up by the BJP-RSS for their own political purposes to bring down the

Congress government and get themselves in power."

"I have no doubt about it (RSS-BJP role) today. He (Anna Hazare) was also probably not aware of it, Arvind was aware of it, I have very little doubt of that. The second regret that I have is not having understood Arvind's character earlier enough. I understood it too late by which time we had actually created another Frankenstein's monster so to say," he said.

When contacted, an AAP spokesperson and Yadav declined to comment on Bhushan's allegations. While Yadav supported the IAC from outside, he joined forces with Kejriwal in August 2012 after the announcement on AAP's launch.

## AIIMS grapples with case of both Covid and dengue

ASTHA SAXENA  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

AS DELHI continues to battle Covid-19, a case of co-infection with dengue is throwing up a health challenge for doctors due to overlapping initial symptoms and laboratory parameters of both diseases. In one such case, a 30-year-old woman who tested positive for Covid and dengue was successfully treated at AIIMS.

On August 23, the woman came to the hospital's medical emergency with moderate grade fever, chills, headache, body pain, joint pain, and fatigue. However, she did not show any respiratory symptoms such as sore throat, cough and breathlessness.

Doctors found that her platelet count was low. As she also had fever, a Covid test was performed which returned positive.

"We also suspected dengue as she had fever, muscle and joint pain, and low platelet count. She turned out to be positive for dengue NS1 antigen. Malaria test for PF and PV were negative," said Dr Ashutosh Biswas, professor of medicine, AIIMS.

While most dengue cases throw up a negative test in 5-7 days, the woman was positive until the 10th day of illness. "This is an unusual finding in this case. The reason is not clear as to why the infectivity period of dengue (NS1+ve) is increased in the presence of Covid-19 infection in an individual," said Dr Biswas.

The patient was discharged after nine days of hospital stay. Fifty-three dengue patients

### The 30-year-old woman who tested positive for Covid and dengue is the first such case at the institute, said doctors

were admitted to AIIMS till September this year, of which 42 were brought post the Covid outbreak. However, only one was found to have a co-infection. In Delhi, 131 cases of dengue and 114 cases of malaria have been reported so far.

"This is a new experience and we expect that dengue is also going to have a similar kind of pathogenesis like Covid. In dengue and Covid-19, almost 80% of patients are asymptomatic. With a change in the season, the number of dengue and Covid cases may increase, and that can be a cause of worry. Both viruses cause cytokine storm and if infected with both, the severity of the illness will increase," added Dr Biswas.

According to experts, both viral diseases don't have any antiviral drugs or vaccine, and, therefore, it is extremely important to look after management of such patients. False positivity is also reported to be high among co-infection cases, which may create a diagnostic challenge.

"If a dengue patient is also infected with Covid-19, the mortality rate may be high. Patient management has to be planned well. Many hospitals in Delhi are Covid-only... the government will have to plan this," he said.

## 3,035 FROM SOL, 285 STUDENTS FROM REGULAR COLLEGES, NCWEB REGISTERED FOR PHYSICAL EXAM

# Few opt for offline test as second phase of OBE kicks off in Delhi Univ

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE SECOND phase of Delhi University's Open Book Examination (OBE) kicked off on Monday with very few students appearing for the exam in the offline physical mode.

The first phase of the OBE for final year undergraduate and postgraduate students had been conducted completely in the online mode last month. The second phase is now being conducted for students who did not attempt

their examinations in the first phase, and for PWD students who wish to improve their performances. In the second phase, both offline and online options have been provided.

However, only a small minority of students have registered for the offline mode. Out of 13,815 students from the School of Open Learning who have registered for the exam, only 3,035 have selected the offline mode. Apart from that only 285 students from regular colleges and the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board (NCWEB) opted for the

physical exam.

While few had opted for the physical exam, even fewer appeared at their centres on the first day of the exams.

Of the 46 students from SOL who were supposed to take the test at Deshbandhu College on Monday, the principal of the college Rajiv Aggarwal said only 22-23 students turned up.

Payal Mago, principal of Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women, also said that only around 50% candidates appeared at the centre. "We were supposed to have 75 candi-



Students at Deshbandhu College Monday. Tashi Tobgyal

### EXPLAINED Online & offline

THE FIRST phase was held only in the online mode. The second phase is now being conducted for students who did not attempt their examinations in the first phase, and for PWD students who wish to improve their performances.

dates today but half appeared. However, we had not been expecting more since these students could also give it online if they wanted so that would be preferable for them," she said.

At Deshbandhu College, most candidates — all from SOL — who appeared for the exam said that they had missed the first phase because of lack of information.

"I had three 'back' papers but I didn't even know that these exams were happening. This exam happened on August 10 and I found out about it on August 11," said Kuldeep.

Another student Rishikesh Rajput said that he had attempted the paper in the online mode in the first phase itself but had failed to submit. "Since I don't know whether it will be considered or not, I wanted to give it physically this time," he said.

In some exam centres, physical exams did not begin on the first day.

"Eight students had papers to-day and they all gave their exam online. We have one PWD student who might come for an offline exam on Tuesday," said Ramjas College principal Manoj Khanna.

# 7 IN PARLIAMENT

MONSOON SESSION

## HOUSE DIARIES

## THE PANDEMIC EFFECT

■ On the first day of Monsoon session, not a single MP was spotted without a mask. Many were using disposable surgical masks and some re-usable cotton masks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wore a three-ply mask. Some MPs seem to have gone for a bit of glamour on masks, like Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and IJP's Chirag Paswan. Some TMC MPs wore customised masks. BJP's MP from Telangana's Nizamabad, Arvind Dharmapuri, wore a mask of the same material as his saffron kurta.

■ A key challenge to conduct the session amid the pandemic has been to ensure social distancing between the members. Members of both Houses have been seated in chambers and galleries across two Houses. It would appear that both Houses have similar arrangements, but it is not so. Lok Sabha has transparent screens on each seat to enhance social distancing; Rajya Sabha does not have them. Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday requested members to not come to the Well to approach officers of the secretariat — which has been cordoned off. When Harivansh was re-elected Deputy Chairman, Naidu asked the Leader of the House and the Leader of Opposition to escort him to the designated chair, but asked them to not touch each other.

## NO QUESTION HOUR: MY QUESTIONS



■ What steps is the govt planning to take on unemployment front?

■ What does govt plan to do to boost the economy?

■ What about the Covid situation? Did we make mistakes?

■ Why are cases spiking so much?

A regular Question Hour would have given members the opportunity to ask supplementary questions on the floor of the House. Now, we will not get a chance to cross-examine ministers

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY, Congress

## On Day 1, pandemic issues prevail in proceedings

Speaker reminds members of extraordinary situation; Oppn members raise questions on move to do away with Question Hour

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

MONDAY'S FOUR-HOUR session of the Lok Sabha on the first day of Monsoon Session was, in a way, dominated by the pandemic. From members arriving in masks to their seats rearranged in keeping seating with physical distancing norms, and from Opposition members' criticism of the move to do away with Question Hour to repeated reminders by Speaker Om Birla that the House is meeting in an "extraordinary situation", the pandemic loomed large over the proceedings.

More than two dozen MPs belonging to various parties tested positive, sources confirmed. The Lok Sabha secretariat refused to divulge details. Contrary to apprehension, the turnout seemed to have surprised secretariats of both Houses. In Lok Sabha, Birla expressed satisfaction over the elaborate preparations and cooperation he received from MPs, cutting across party lines. "I am happy that MPs in large numbers have turned up," he said.

Sources said more than 300 MPs attended the proceedings.

When the House met after adjourning for an hour following obituary references to deceased members, including former President Pranab Mukherjee, the Opposition criticised the government vehemently. As Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said that the decision to do away with



Distancing marks in place Monday. More than two dozen MPs from various parties were found Covid positive in tests conducted before the session got underway. PTI

Question Hour was to keep "movement of officials to bare minimum", Congress leader of House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the "arguments and rationale" cited for cancelling it was "far from convincing". He said, "Question Hour is the essence of Parliamentary democracy... because it makes the executive answerable and accountable."

Fellow Congress MP Manish Tewari cited the book 'Parliamentary Practice and Procedure of Parliament', by M N Kaul and S L Sakthder, to point out that the House should unanimously agree to do away with Question Hour.

AIMIM member Asaduddin Owaisi also said Question Hour is "essential for the exist-

ence of Parliamentary democracy".

The government argued that the Parliamentary Affairs minister as well as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have had discussions with the Opposition over the move.

The Zero Hour — halved from one hour — also saw the pandemic figure in many issues raised. BJP member Bhanu Pratap Verma (Jalaun) and Congress's VK Sreekandan (Palakkad) wanted resumption of railway services, cancelled during the lockdown, in their constituencies. Apna Dal MP Anupriya Patel asked the government to help students who are unable to acquire laptop or tablet for online classes by enhancing DTH services to rural areas.

Shiv Sena's Shrirang Appa Barne asked the Centre to pay GST dues to Maharashtra to fight the spread of coronavirus in the state.

In his detailed statement on the Covid-19 situation, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the battle against the virus is far from over and stressed the need to continue precautionary measures. On a vaccine against Covid-19, Vardhan said: "Globally, around 145 candidate vaccines are in pre-clinical evaluation and 35 vaccines in clinical trial. In India... more than 30 vaccine candidates have been supported, which are in different stages of development."

### RS adopts motion to do away with Question Hour

In Rajya Sabha, opposition parties appealed to the government to not do away with

Question Hour and said questioning the government lies at the heart of democracy.

After Pralhad Joshi moved a motion to suspend rules relating to starred questions and private members' business in Rajya Sabha, TMC leader Derek O'Brien, who moved an amendment to the motion, said, "It (Question Hour) is the heart of Parliamentary democracy; it is the only one hour every day where the Opposition questions the ministers."

O'Brien said Question Hour has never been suspended before "in a regular session"; it has "only happened during the Chinese incursion in 1962 and during the Emergency maybe," he said.

Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said since "people have no access or means to pass questions to a minister inside Parliament," their representatives — the MPs — ask questions on their behalf.

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said he, too, is keen to have the Question Hour but "we are meeting in extraordinary times". On doing away with Question Hour, Naidu said, "...there were a number of instances when it has been done. I do not want to join the debate with anybody... In 1962, 1975, 1976, 1991, 2001 — it has been done umpteen number of times. I am not justifying that on that account."

O'Brien's amendment was rejected and government's motion to suspend Question Hour for the session was adopted.

— WITH KRISHN KAUSHIK

## MARK OF MASKS: SPOT YOUR MP



MPs outside the House — distancing norms were maintained all along on the opening day of the session on Monday. Seats were sanitised after the Lok Sabha session got over and before Rajya Sabha MPs took the seats in the afternoon. PTI



DMK's T R Baalu and K Kanimozhi outside the House. The party's MPs protested against the NEET exam and the National Education Policy on Monday. PTI



(Above) Monday was National Conference MP Farooq Abdullah's first day in Parliament since August 5 last year; (left) NCP MP Supriya Sule and Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel. PTI

## Harivansh elected RS deputy chairman again

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

IT WAS A smooth sail for JD(U)'s Harivansh, the NDA's candidate for the post of Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, election for which was held on Monday.

Harivansh beat Manoj Kumar Jha of the RJD, who was the joint Opposition candidate, in a voice vote. This would be Harivansh's second innings as the Deputy Chairman of the Upper House.

"Whether it is this side or that side, Harivansh treats all in the same manner, without differentiating, without being impartial," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after the election.

The Prime Minister said that "to ensure that Parliamentarians play within the rules is quite challenging", adding, "I was already sure that he will be a good umpire, but with his decisions and his decisive power, he even assured those who did not know him."

Harivansh, the Prime Minister said, earned the respect of the House during his term as the Deputy Chairman over the last two years. His name was proposed by BJP chief J P Nadda, and seconded by Leader of the House Thawarchand Gehlot.

Congratulating Harivansh, Leader of the Opposition in the House Ghulam Nabi Azad said "he has tried to do justice to members of all the parties present in the House". Azad mentioned that "whoever is in opposition usually has a complaint that they get less attention". He said that whether it is the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman or any chairperson, "they always try that every person should get the opportunity to speak,



NDA candidate and JD(U) MP Harivansh defeated RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha, who was the joint Opposition candidate, by a voice vote

from big parties, the government, opposition as well as the leaders of smaller parties, or even those who are nominated or are single members (from their parties), because here we are all equal, all members of the Parliament are equal."

Leaders of TMC, SP, BJD, TRS, YSR Congress and DMK, among others, also congratulated Harivansh.

Thanking the members, Harivansh said he had learned a lot from the several leaders of different parties, many of whom have helped him in the past to get a better understanding of the rules and conventions of the House.

"I am among such people who have had a very long and prosperous Parliamentary life, but they are my strength," he said.

Harivansh added that "whenever such a situation has come, and will come in the future too, they will lead the way to move forward following the rules and procedures".

## Eight Bills tabled, two pending ones get LS nod; govt says MSP will stay

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday introduced eight Bills in Lok Sabha, while two pending Bills were passed.

Five of these Bills were introduced to replace ordinances: Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020; Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill; Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill; Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill; and Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill.

The three others are new: The Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill, 2020; Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill; and Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar moved two key Bills aimed at implementing reforms in the farm sector: The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill is aimed at allowing sale and purchase of farm produce outside government-regulated Agricultural Produce Market Committee mandis. An ordinance on this was promulgated on June 5. The Bill brought to replace it comes at a time when farmers in Punjab and Haryana are protesting against the ordinance. The farmers argue that the ordinance intends to phase out the system of minimum support price. Neither the ordinance nor the Bill mentions anything on this. The Opposition has also protested a central legislation on this, as agri-



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and BJP MP Jyotiraditya Scindia. PTI

culture is a state subject. Rejecting the charges, Tomar said, "Don't doubt the wisdom of the government. Whatever legislation we have brought, the government has legal right."

He assured the House that the MSP will stay. "I want to assure on behalf of the government that MSP was there, is there, and will continue to be there," he said.

While farmers are also protesting against the Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, Tomar said this, too, is in their interest.

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill will replace the ordinance issued on June 5. Through this, the government has amended the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, which provided for imposition of stock limit of food-stuff, including cereals, pulses, potato, onion, edible oilseed and oil. Salary, Allowances and Pension of MP (Amendment) Bill has been in-

roduced to replace the ordinance promulgated to cut salaries of MPs during the pandemic.

Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill seeks to provide for enforceability of netting of a qualified financial contract.

Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill proposes to regulate assisted reproductive technology services. Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill seeks to amend Section 3 to widen the scope of financiers and permit other NBFCs to also undertake factoring business and participate on Trade Receivables Discounting System platform for discounting invoices of MSMEs.

The Lok Sabha passed The National Commission for Homoeopathy Bill, 2020 and The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2020.

### OBJECTIONS PUT IN FORCEFULLY

## 'Attack on federal structure': Oppn slams farm sector, co-op banks Bills

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE OTHERWISE noisy first day of the session was subdued on Monday, but opposition parties put their objections to the government's attempts on "coercive federalism" and "misuse of Presidential powers on issuing ordinances" forcefully.

Opposition members from the Congress and the TMC expressed objections to the government's move to do away with Question Hour and the issuing of ordinances during the lockdown period.

Opposing Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's move to withdraw the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, N K Premachandran of RSP pointed out that the Bill was introduced in the House on March 3, but an ordinance was promulgated on June 26.

He said: "Normally an ordinance is promulgated only in extraordinary situations... When the government makes a legislative proposal, the long-term interest of society has to be taken into account. She brought the Bill without applying legislative wisdom. So lack of seriousness on the part of government in legislative process is well proved in this case."

He argued that the government has taken Presidential powers for granted.

### EXPLAINED

#### Heat set to rise as key issues come up

WHILE THE opening day saw relatively subdued business in Lok Sabha, proposed discussions on the LAC/border row with China, the economic slowdown and migrant workers' crisis could raise the heat in coming days. The Opposition seems to have accounted for this, with several younger MPs — or what is called the "shouting brigade" — seated in the chamber, so that they can raise issues. Or rush to the Well in protest, if the need arises.

Sitharaman countered saying the ordinance was brought in as several cooperative banks were facing stress during the pandemic. "But what we are bringing, after withdrawing that Bill which came in the form of

ordinance, is essentially what the Bill of March 2020 had, together with a few things added — such as giving Reserve Bank (of India) a chance to be able to restructure any distressed cooperative banks in case they are in severe distress," she said.

Opposing introduction of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, Congress's Gaurav Gogoi said it deregulates certain commodities, thus depriving state governments of this control. He said, "This deprivation of this essential responsibility comes without any consultation with states. This impingement on state powers without any consultation renders the Bill ultra vires."

TMC's Sougata Roy called it "coercive federalism" by the Centre. "Pointing out that states had the power to regulate stocks, he said: "It was necessary for avoiding hoarding and blackmarketing or seasonal shortages during floods or droughts. This power was wholly with the state government. Now, this power is being taken over by the Central Government, and powers of state governments to regulate have been circumscribed."

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor opposed the move to introduce The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, saying that it violates basic tenets of federalism because agriculture is in the state list.

# 8 EXPRESS NETWORK

## CJ to top regulators, serving and retired: 30 judges on monitored list

**KAUNAIN SHERIFF M**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

FROM A JUDGE heading a panel probing the killing of a BJP legislator by Maoists in Chhattisgarh to India's first anti-corruption ombudsman appointed by the Narendra Modi government, the Overseas Key Information DataBase (OKIDB) developed by Zhenhua Data, and investigated by *The Indian Express*, is monitoring 30 judges including the current Chief Justice of India, another judge in Supreme Court, three serving judges of the higher judiciary, and four retired judges of the Supreme Court who are currently heading key posts in various capacities.

The list includes Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, Justice AM Khanwilkar of the Supreme

Court, Justice Sandeep Mehta of the Rajasthan High Court, and Justice Sunita Agarwal of the Allahabad High Court.

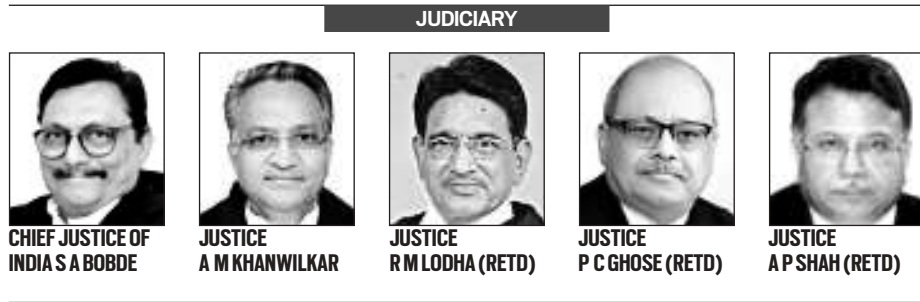
It also includes judges who have retired from the SC and are currently in key positions: Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, Chairperson, Lokpal; Justice Shiva Kirti Singh, Chairperson, Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT); Justice Vikramajit Sen, Chairperson, Governing Board, Bombay Stock Exchange and Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad, Chairperson, Press Council of India.

Also on the list are former Chairman of Intellectual Property Appellate Board Justice K Basha (IPAB) and Justice S Usha, former Vice-Chairman, IPAB.

The list scrutinised by *The*



*Indian Express* includes two judges who head separate panels to probe Left-wing related incidents: Justice Satish Agnihotri, former CJ of Sikkim HC, heads a judicial commission set up by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in August 2019 to investigate the Naxal attack in Dantewada in April 2019 which killed BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi and four security personnel.



And Justice Amitava Lala, former Acting CJ of Allahabad HC, heads a one-man commission appointed by West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee in March 2012 to probe the 1982 massacre of 16 monks and one sanyasin of the Ananda Marg. He has so far summoned several senior Left leaders.

Former SC judges Justices PK Balasubramanyan and Arijit

Pasayat, who have also been Chairpersons of Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR), which gives binding rulings in advance tax matters pertaining to a foreign investment venture in India are on the list of those monitored. A scrutiny of the data further shows two other Chief Justices A P Shah (Delhi) and Mohit Shah (Bombay) – indirectly connected with the same

matter arising out of the AAR – were also monitored.

In 2012, Justice Balasubramanyan, heading the AAR, had ruled in favour of minimum alternative tax (MAT) levied on Castleton Investment, a Mauritius-based company. In 2014, the I-T department had sent notices to several Foreign Portfolio Investors seeking MAT, following the uproar among for-

ign investors, then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had constituted a panel headed by Justice AP Shah, who recommended MAT will not be applicable on FII/FPIs not having a place of business/permanent establishment in India. At the same time, in the Bombay High Court, a bench headed by CJ Mohit Shah was hearing a case on a similar MAT matter involving Luxembourg investor Aberdeen Asset Management.

The list includes those who have been part of human rights panels: former SC judges Cyriac Joseph, Shivraj Virupanna Patil, Sujata Manohar, all of whom served at the NHRC; Bilal Nazki, former CJ of Orissa HC and former Chairperson of J&K Human Rights Commission; Sujit Roy, former CJ of Orissa HC and former Chairperson of Assam

Human Rights Commission; and Prakash Tatia, former CJ Jharkhand and former Chairperson of Armed Forces Tribunal.

The list also includes: Former CJ Justice RM Lodha, who headed a committee constituted by the SC to suggest reforms within the BCCI; former SC judge Justice Ganpat Singh Singhvi, who chaired the now-defunct Competition Appellate Tribunal, and had set aside an order of the Competition Commission of India which imposed a Rs 52.24 crore penalty on BCCI for abusing its dominant position in organising the Indian Premier League; and Justice Abhay Mohan Sapre, former judge of SC, who was part of the bench that appointed SC judge DK Jain as the new BCCI Ombudsman.

## US special envoy to visit India today, brief officials on intra-Afghan talks

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

US SPECIAL envoy on Afghan peace process Zalmay Khalilzad will visit India on Tuesday and meet top Indian officials to brief Delhi on the intra-Afghan talks that started on Sunday in Doha. He had visited India in May this year and met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval.

Khalilzad, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, met top brass in Islamabad on Monday.

In Doha, MEA's joint secretary (Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran) J P Singh met Afghanistan's former CEO and head of Afghan peace process, Abdullah Abdullah, on Monday.

"Had a good meeting with J.P. Singh, JS (PAI), Ministry of External Affairs of India in Doha-Qatar. We took stock of the developments on the peace efforts, & the need for genuine regional & international support for talks. I also thanked India for its continued support," Abdullah tweeted.

Signalling a carefully calibrated shift in its position on engaging with the Taliban, India participated on Saturday in the commencement ceremony of intra-Afghan talks between the Afghan government and



**US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad**

the Taliban in Qatar's capital Doha.

Jaishankar joined the ceremony via video link while South Block sent Singh to Doha to attend the meeting.

Jaishankar told the gathering that the peace process must be "Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled", "respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan" and "promote human rights and democracy".

Neither he nor the Ministry of External Affairs made any reference to "externally sponsored terrorism" – this has always been a reference to Pakistan.

In its statement on Saturday, the Ministry only said that "the issue of violence across the country and its neighbourhood has to be effectively addressed".

## As onion prices rise, govt bans export with immediate effect

**PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS**  
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 14

WITH WHOLESALE prices of onion at Maharashtra's Lasalgaon market crossing Rs 30/kg on Monday, the central government banned all export of the bulb "with immediate effect".

This comes even as the government is set bringing laws in Parliament to remove all stock-holding and movement restrictions on farm produce.

Prices at Lasalgaon's market

in Nashik district started rising since early May. The recent appreciation of prices is mainly due to heavy August rain destroying the onion crop of north Karnataka, which was supposed to hit the market early September.

Suresh Deshmukh, a commission agent operating out of Dindori's wholesale market in Nashik district, also said that the rain caused extensive damage to stored onions in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. "Thus, at present it is only Maharashtra which has stored market-ready onion and the supply crunch is set to con-

tinue until the new crop hits the market in November," he said.

Regarding Monday's decision, farmer leader Raju Shetti said, "This abrupt decision again proves the promises made by the central government were hollow. They had no intention of protecting the interests of farmers." The founder of Swabhimani Paksha said that by prohibiting the export of onions, the central government has cheated farmers.

Calling the move illegal, Shetkari Sanghatana has called for an indefinite road closure in Maharashtra from Tuesday.

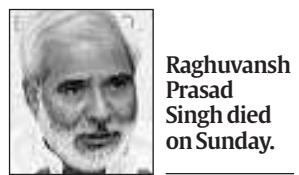
## RJD MLA: Plot by JD(U) behind Raghuvansh letters

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 14

SENIOR RJD leader Bhai Birendra on Monday raised questions as to how the ailing Raghuvansh Prasad Singh could have written letters from his ICU bed, and alleged a political conspiracy by the JD(U). The JD(U) rubbished the allegations as baseless.

Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh died on Sunday. On September 10, he had written a one-line resignation letter to RJD chief Lalu Prasad and two other letters – one to Nitish Kumar, who is trying to lure Singh's son to make him a member of the Legislative Council. It is a letter conspiracy... It is a JD(U) plot and dirty politics."

JD(U) spokesperson KCTyagi said, "It is very callous of the RJD leader to make such baseless allegations."



**Raghuvansh Prasad Singh died on Sunday.**

"I wonder how an ailing person could write letters from his ICU bed. It is quite possible that those letters were written by someone else at the behest of (CM) Nitish Kumar, who is trying to lure Singh's son to make him a member of the Legislative Council. It is a letter conspiracy... It is a JD(U) plot and dirty politics."

JD(U) spokesperson KCTyagi said, "It is very callous of the RJD leader to make such baseless allegations."

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## IMA ponzi scam: CBI gets state nod to press charges against 2 IPS officers

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government has granted the CBI sanction to press charges of cheating and criminal breach of trust on five police officers, including two senior IPS officers, for allegedly favouring a businessman, Mohammed Mansoor Khan, during a probe into a ponzi scheme run by his firm, I Monetary Advisory (IMA) between 2017-19.

The state government has given the CBI clearance to file a chargesheet against the five officers, including IPS officers Hemant Nimbalkar, currently additional commissioner of police (administration) in Bengaluru city, and Ajay Hillori, a commandant in the state reserve police. **ENS**

## Bhushan pays Re 1 fine: 'Doesn't mean I have accepted verdict'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

ADVOCATE PRASHANT Bhushan on Monday paid the Re 1 fine imposed on him by the Supreme Court after his conviction in a criminal contempt case, but said this does not mean that he has accepted the apex court verdict.

He filed a review petition against the August 14 conviction order, saying the matter "should never (have) been heard by Justice Arun Mishra" who was part of the bench that found him guilty.

"Just because I'm paying the fine does not mean I have accepted the verdict," Bhushan told the media, adding that he has already filed another writ petition urging the court to lay down a procedure for appeal in cases where the SC takes suo motu contempt action and punishes someone.

Bhushan alleged that the government is trying to silence voices of dissent. He said he had received several contributions to pay the fine and would use the money to set up a "truth fund", which would be used to defend personal liberty of those who face state "persecution".

The court had on August 31



**Prashant Bhushan**

imposed on Bhushan a token fine of Re 1 fine after holding him guilty of criminal contempt over two of his tweets which the court said were "based on distorted facts" and a "malicious/scurrilous... attack" on the "entire Supreme Court".

Bhushan contended in the review petition that he was convicted "without fully considering his defence of truth and bona fide opinion" and sought an open court hearing in the matter.

He argued that the August 14 judgment "suffers from multiple errors apparent on the face of the record of both law and of fact".

Bhushan contended that the contempt "matter should never (have) been heard by Justice Arun Mishra" because "on several occasions Hon'ble Justice Arun Mishra has orally accused" him "of committing contempt of court when he had merely mentioned that it may be inappropriate for a particular judge to hear a particular case in circumstances where conflict of interest was involved".

## State using sedition to curb free speech: ex-SC judge

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE GOVERNMENT is using the sedition law with an iron hand to curb free speech in an overreaction to people's opinion, former Supreme Court judge Justice M B Lokur said on Monday.

Another method by which the state is curbing free speech is to crack down on critical opinion by charging them with spreading fake news, Justice (retired) Lokur said during a webinar on 'Freedom of Speech and Judiciary'.

He cited examples of journalists, reporting about coronavirus cases and related issues such as lack of ventilators, being accused of fake news. "State is using sedition as an iron hand to curb free speech. Suddenly you have a lot



**Justice M B Lokur**

of cases charging people with sedition. A common citizen who says something is charged with sedition. Already 70 cases of sedition have been seen this year," Justice Lokur said.

On the case against lawyer Prashant Bhushan, Justice Lokur said his statements were misread. He also gave the example of Dr Kafeel Khan and said his speech was misread to charge him under NSA.

Veteran journalist N Ram said the punishment in the Bhushan case is "incongruous" and there is no "real substantiation" for the apex court's findings.

## Thai national detained for murder of compatriot in Surat

Surat: The Surat police has detained Thai national Eda Wongpromme (27) alias Ananda, who works at a spa in Vesu area of Surat, for allegedly murdering her friend, Wanida Bouson, 27, who worked in another spa in Adajan area. She will be arrested if her Covid test report comes negative.

According to police,

Wongpromme confessed to have killed Bouson for money to return home as her tourist visa was expiring on September 26. Bouson's two mobile phones worth Rs 2 lakh and gold necklace worth Rs 25,000 were found from Wongpromme's residence. Police also found the key of Bouson's front door. **ENS**

## Flow of India's culture alive, protected because of Hindi: Shah

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah on Monday pushed for greater use of Hindi by officials and the youth, saying the flow of India's culture and value systems remain protected primarily because of Hindi.

Delivering a video address on Hindi Diwas, Shah said, "Hindi's strengths lie in its scientific nature, simplicity, easy comprehension and acceptability. That is why in 1949, it was declared India's official language. The unhindered flow of India's culture, civilisation and value systems has stayed alive and protected primarily because of Hindi."

Shah said that across the length and breadth of a diverse India, Hindi was the most prominent among regional languages in uniting the nation. "Hindi along with Braj, Bundelkhandi, Awadhi, Bhojpuri and other languages are examples of how they have strengthened India's diversity. Hindi has been a powerful medium of national integration and pride since the freedom struggle," he said.

This is the second time Shah has made an address on Hindi Diwas.

His last speech, in 2019, had triggered a controversy as he pushed for the idea of "One Nation, One Language". His speech had then been opposed by CPM, AIADMK, DMK and several politicians from south India.

During Monday's address, Shah took care to emphasise that Hindi was not competing with any regional language.

"Hindi has only complemented and strengthened other regional languages. It has never competed with any local language. It is important that this is clear to the entire country," he said.

## Yogi renames Mughal Museum near Taj Mahal after Shivaji

Lucknow: Questioning "how Mughals can be our heroes", Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday decided to name the upcoming Mughal Museum in Agra after Chhatrapati Shivaji, adding that the Maratha ruler's name "will invoke a feeling of nationalism and self-esteem".

The decision was taken at a review meeting of development works of Agra division.

The museum, proposed to come up on about 6 acres of land near the eastern gate of Taj Mahal, was conceived to apprise tourists about the Mughal era's weapons, culture and dresses among others. **ENS**

## AASU-AJYCP-backed political party named Assam Jatiya Parishad

Guwahati: The political party backed by the All Assam Students' Union and Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chhatra Parishad will be named Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP), it's convenors said Monday. The party was formed weeks after both bodies had formed an "Assam Advisory Committee", comprising 16 personalities of the state, to suggest a future course of action to protect the interests of the state's indigenous people. **ABHISHEK SAHA**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Open E-Tender Notice**  
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:

1	Name of work	Annual Zone for maintenance of track work in the section of SSEIP-Way/NDLS under ADEN/NDLS for the period ending 30.06.2021
2	Approx cost of work	Rs.1,49,60,690.46/- (Rupees One crore Forty Nine Lakh Sixty Thousand Six Hundred Ninety & Forty Six Paise Only)
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs.2,24,800/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 5900/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	06.10.2020 @15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

\* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. \* For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. \* No manual offers are acceptable. \* Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/NIT/20/2020-21/W-3DRM's office Dated: 14.09.2020 1994/2020

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**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Saroj W/o Sh. Ravinder** R/o Plot of Pooran, Jhuggi G Block, Nala Road, Madanpur Khadar, New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Kalindi Kunj Delhi since 26.07.2020. In this regard, a vide **DD No.78-A, dated 27.07.2012 has been registered at P.S. Kalindi Kunj, Delhi.** The description of the missing lady is as under.

**Age:** 25 Years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'1", **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Orange Saree. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing lady then please inform P.S. Kalindi Kunj, Delhi following Tel No. / e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639**

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**Ph: 011-29945322**

**DP/183/SE/2020**

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**Tender Notice**  
Dy. CME/Works for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur, for and on behalf of President of India invites open tender through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work:-

**S.No. (1), E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: Tender No. "05-MWS-GKP-2020-21"** Supply, Installation and Training of Siemens NX Software with workstation with other items". Estimated cost (In Rs.): 23,90,460.52. Earned Money (In Rs.): 47,800/- Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00 hrs., Date 13.10.2020. Cost of the Tender form: 3,000/-. Period of Contract : 06 (Months). The details of above tender are also available on Indian Railway Website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Chief Workshop Manager, Mechanical Workshop, CPRO/Mech. - 59 N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur

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**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**1st CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**  
No.: 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/18/2020-21/W-3 Dated: 14.09.2020  
The advertised tender notice no. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/18/2020-21/W-3 dated 03.09.2020 in which one item namely "Annual zone for maintenance of track work in the section of SSEIP-Way/NDLS under ADEN/NDLS for the period ending 30.06.2021." for Rs. 1,49,45,407.15, is scheduled to be opened on 29.09.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs. has been cancelled on administrative ground. 1993/2020

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**WITHDRAWAL OF STOPPAGE OF TRAIN NO. 02501/02502 & 05626/05625 AT NEW KARIMGANJ**  
It has been decided to withdraw the stoppage of 02501/02502 Agartala-New Delhi-Agartala Special and 05626/05625 Agartala-Deoogarh-Agartala Special train at New Karimganj Station with effect from 12-09-2020 as under.

Train No. & Name	Station	With effect from
02501/02502 Agartala-New Delhi-Agartala Special	New Karimganj	Scheduled to leave from Agartala on 14-09-2020
		Scheduled to leave from New Delhi on 16-09-2020
05626/05625 Agartala-Deoogarh-Agartala Special	New Karimganj	Scheduled to leave from Agartala on 12-09-2020
		Scheduled to leave from Deoogarh on 14-09-2020

General Manager (Operations)

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, U.P. JAL NIGAM, NOIDA**  
**JAAT CHOWK, CHIPYANA ROAD (GAUTAMBUDHAGAR)**  
**Letter No. 1083/M-3/50**  
**Date: 09.09.2020**

**SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE**  
On behalf of the Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited on turn key basis for "Installation of India Mark-II hand pump in the areas of GNIDA, District: G.B. Nagar (U.P.)"

"Intending tenders must be registered with U.P. Jal Nigam in class "C" or above Category Hand pump. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website, <http://letender.up.nic.in> latest by 16-09-2020. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled online latest by 23.09.2020 up to 15:00 hrs. Uploaded tender document shall be opened on 23.09.2020 at 16:00 Hrs. onwards in the office of "Executive Engineer, Construction Division UP Jal Nigam, Noida (Gautam Budh Nagar)

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## Building India's coding culture

### Coding must start at school level

**EVERYTHING WE** do today is being supported by technology, and one of the most important components of that technology is software. All the buzzwords that we hear today like Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Autonomous vehicles, Robotics, etc., have an underlying software layer to it. Every equipment has some software embedded in it. Every industry needs to develop new software, as well as maintain and improve existing software. Software is developed in a programming language and the act of writing programs is also called Coding.

While coding is obviously necessary for building software, learning how to code has other advantages as well. Computers, at the most basic level, need precise instructions to operate. When one writes a piece of code to solve a problem, it is essential to think of steps that would lead to an efficient and correct solution. One learns to organise one's thoughts logically and expressing them in the form of a code. And, of course, one acquires the problem-solving skills. And hence coding is important not just for those who will eventually take up a career writing code, but also for everyone else since communication and problem solving are very important for every career.

Considering the importance of coding, countries around the globe have introduced coding in schools decades ago. In fact, over the last decade, the argument in school education has been whether to introduce it at the primary level. The UK, for example, introduced coding in primary schools in 2013. In India, NEP 2020 has recognised the importance of coding and has proposed its introduction from Class 6. Considering the poor state of infrastructure in Indian schools and lack of teachers of programming, it would have been very difficult to introduce coding in primary school. But one hopes that after five years when we have universal access to coding in middle school, the government will consider moving it to even earlier classes. Availability of tools like Scratch has enabled small children to pick up coding because code can be built visually by dragging and dropping modules, and there is no need to learn an advanced programming language at a young age.



Having said that, merely having coding as a subject would not change much. Consider our engineering colleges. Coding is a compulsory course in every discipline. We graduate about one million engineers in a year. Not even one per cent of them would be considered as good coders. If we consider only IT-related engineering disciplines in which students would have supposedly used coding extensively in multiple courses, less than 2 per cent graduates can write functionally correct and efficient code as per a survey by Aspiring Minds in 2018. All IT services companies have extensive training programs for fresh recruits, sometimes lasting as much as 6 months before they are job-ready. Lack of availability of good coders also results in lack of software products or world-class apps coming out of India.

Lack of knowledge of coding is not because of lack of teachers or infrastructure. Today, one can learn to code if one has a computer and an Internet connection. There are several sites where one can learn coding, test their coding skills, participate in programming contests, etc. The real problem is motivation. At the school level, students only want to do things which will help them get admission in good colleges. Good coding skills don't help in admissions. At the college level, students only want to do things which will help them get a good job. In the absence of career counselling, they have a belief that skills don't matter for jobs. They need a good CGPA, and some extra-curricular activities on their resume. They can learn the answers to standard interview questions in a couple of weeks before the placement season and fool the industry. And good CGPA can be achieved more easily by copying programs than by learning programming.

To improve coding skills, we really need to start at the school level. There should be a lot of programming competitions and performance in these could be considered for admission to the colleges. If, for example, IITs, NITs, and IIITs can reserve just one

seat each in their Computer Science programs for those who get the highest performance in Indian National Olympiad in Informatics, you can bring about a revolution in coding culture in this country. This one small step will lead to many students learning to code, leading to many product companies increasing their base in India, and many of these will become entrepreneurs leading to employment generation and improvement in GDP growth rate.

Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi, Director, PEC Chandigarh



**Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya**  
KCIE, FASc

#### FACT FILE

19th Diwan of the Mysore Kingdom  
In office : 1912-1918

**Born** : 15 September 1860  
Muddenahalli, Chikkaballapura, Kingdom of Mysore (now Karnataka, India)

**Died** : 14 April 1962 (aged 101)  
Bangalore, Karnataka, India

**Alma Mater** :  
■ Central College, Bangalore  
■ University of Madras  
■ College of Engineering, Pune  
■ University of Bombay

**Profession** : Engineer

**Awards** : Bharat Ratna (1955)

His birthday, 15 September, is celebrated as Engineer's Day in India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania in his memory. He was the Chief Engineer of Krishna Raja Sagara dam in the north-west suburb of Mysuru city, and also served as one of the Chief Engineers of the flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad.




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## CODING BLOCKS JUNIOR - Teaching Coding to School Students for FREE



**Mr Manmohan Gupta**  
Alumni - IIT Delhi  
Founder, Coding Blocks,  
Co Founder, Nagarro software

Coding is the most desirable skill of the 21st century and is fun to learn. Learning to code has many advantages, especially when you do it at the right age. At the School level, students who know how to code score relatively high in Mathematics, and are proven to have better Analytical Ability, Abstract Thinking, and higher Self-confidence.

"When I started Coding Blocks way back in 2014, my vision was to empower our younger generation with Coding. But as soon as we started, we realized there was a much bigger problem we had to handle, which existed at the College level. Today, with more than 40,000 College students, and Working professionals trained, and with more than 5000 superb Success stories

in top Tech companies like Apple, Google, Facebook, Microsoft, and the like; I believe we have succeeded in our quest. And now is the time to focus on school students" says Mr. Manmohan Gupta, Founder of Coding Blocks and Co-founder of Nagarro software.

Coding Blocks Junior is Mr. Gupta's 'Give back to the society initiative', where they will teach coding to School students for free. Extensive research on syllabus and pedagogy has been done to make Coding interesting for all Age groups in school. Coding Blocks Junior has started through YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/codingblocksjunior>) and is soon going to launch their Learning portal and Android/iOS apps. Students interested in learning can go to their website (<https://jr.codingblocks.com>) and Sign up there and choose their course. They can then head to Coding Blocks Junior YouTube channel and start attending live classes on the schedule.

Most of the students fear coding and presume it's a subject of the super brilliant. On the contrary, it's a subject which is very interesting and fun to learn. When students code, they see the output of their effort almost

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**Robotics for kids**  
(Grades 6-10)

**Ace Github**  
(Grades 5-10)


**Game dev using Python**  
(Grades 8-12)

**Python for Seniors**  
(Grades 11-12)

**C++ for Seniors**  
(Grades 11-12)

Parents and students who want to learn coding can start their journey with Coding Blocks Junior ( **Website** : <https://jr.codingblocks.com> **YouTube** : <https://www.youtube.com/codingblocksjunior>). Coding Blocks Junior can be reached at [jr@codingblocks.com](mailto:jr@codingblocks.com) or 9599247216.


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# A maritime awakening

For China, it came in the last century.  
In India, it is long overdue

ARUN PRAKASH

## CHINA WATCHING

Strategic targeting of Indian citizens by Chinese firm raises questions that need to be understood — before being addressed

**A**N ONGOING INVESTIGATION by *The Indian Express* has lifted the veil over a concerted attempt to track thousands of Indian citizens by a big data Chinese firm with ties to the Chinese government. According to the cross-country investigation — joint investigations were carried out by news organisations in several countries — over 10,000 Indians in the fields of politics, government, business, technology, media and civil society, have been tracked by a Shenzhen-based information technology firm, Zhenhua Data Information Technology Co. While the scale of the profiling being undertaken is staggering, the targeted approach being adopted to specifically track key personnel is equally worrying. This level of strategic targeting raises vital questions: Is the Indian government vigilant about a monitoring of its citizens that goes far beyond the traditional methods? What are the norms of cyber hygiene for its staff? What purpose is the data being put to? Does this present a security risk? What should the Indian response be?

The investigation has revealed that the Chinese firm monitors the digital footprint of its targets across social media platforms, including keeping a tab on content from news sources, papers, and forums, to build a "relational database" which tracks associations between individuals, institutions and information. What would otherwise have been considered innocuous information is being pieced together in a broader framework. Such granular profiling and targeting of individuals has the potential of being misused and exploited — data, after all, can be used for spreading disinformation or for serving particular interests at both the national and international level. This also lies at the heart of what is called "hybrid warfare", a strategy that seeks to create social discord, disrupt economic activities, undermine institutions, and discredit political leadership by engaging in targeted cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns.

With a series of recent reports exposing China's attempts to obtain sensitive information, the Indian government will have to be prepared to respond across multiple platforms. The urgency of putting in place a robust personal data protection framework in India cannot be emphasised enough. While enforcing privacy laws in foreign jurisdictions may well be impossible, at the very least, provisions for asking for explicit consent, and for examining/monitoring the flow of information to third parties, will have to be provided. Indeed, firms like Zhenhua, working in opaque authoritarian systems, will use big-data to mine information in more open democratic environments and remain off the regulatory radar. More so when the absence of consent for third party data sharing makes matters difficult. Unlike apps that can be banned, what Zhenhua has — or can collect — cannot. These scraps of information become an invaluable asset with scale and time and given how they are harvested and who does it. This understanding should be key in framing any response and the government must carefully weigh the costs and benefits of the various options before deciding on it.

IN THE SEPTEMBER 2020 edition of its annual report on China, the US Department of Defence (DoD) makes the stunning announcement that the PLA Navy (PLAN) is the largest in the world. With an overall battle-force of 350 ships and submarines, including 130 major surface combatants, PLAN has overtaken the US Navy, with its strength of 293 ships. China has never bothered to provide a rationale for its ever-increasing military muscle, and a bewildered neighbourhood wonders what it portends, especially in the light of its recent adventurism in the Himalayas.

The PLA Navy has not grown overnight, and remains the clearest manifestation of the grand-strategic vision of China's political leadership. Factors that bear on its growing strength may include China's 14,500 km littoral, which is more than double India's, its objective of "reunifying" Taiwan and its irredentist maritime claims, in the South and East China Seas. An expansionist state which seeks eventual parity with the US, China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative and the Maritime Silk Route also provide the perfect camouflage for its grandiose maritime strategy.

India, on the other hand, remains a quintessential "status quo" power and has sought military force-levels adequate only to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Notwithstanding the low budgetary priority accorded to it, the Indian Navy (IN), has built itself into a modern and capable three-dimensional force, rated by other navies as professionally "up to NATO standards" and eagerly sought as a partner, both for exercises, and for maintaining "good order at sea."

Although technology and professional competence are the yardsticks for combat-effectiveness, numbers do matter, and with the IN at sixth or seventh in the international pecking order, there is obviously a significant disparity between the PLAN and IN. Given the growing gap between the two economies, it would be foolhardy for India to attempt an arms-race with China, but investing in maritime power would pay dividends in the long-run.

Faced with a difficult situation today, it is incumbent upon India, as a significant regional power and a democracy, to stand up to

its hegemonic neighbour. Regardless of economic asymmetry, India does have the military capability to inflict unacceptable pain in retaliation for any Chinese adventurism; certainly in the mountains, but also at sea.

However, as the nation cheers the army's tactical moves in Ladakh, there are misgivings about a strategic void in New Delhi. In this context, the above US DoD report deserves close examination by our "decision-making elite" as well as military leadership; because it shows that politicians — as much in a democracy like the US, as in a totalitarian state like China — accord the highest importance to national security. It bears reflection as to why India has remained an exception to this rule.

The US Congress believes that effective strategy-making defines national interests, objectives, and policies, along with the defence capabilities (and budgetary support) necessary to deter threats. The process provides a shared vision for all agencies and a common playbook to react in times of crisis. Starting with the US National Security Strategy, to be rendered by the president, US Congress demands quadrennial reviews — matching the presidential tenure — by the Departments of Defence, State, Homeland Security and the Intelligence Community.

Where China is concerned, its political leadership has, since 1995, been issuing a defence white paper (DWP) every two years. The 11 DWPs issued so far — all public documents — clearly articulate China's vital interests as well as national security aims, objectives and challenges. Topics of discussion include force-levels and defence expenditure, the PLA's progressively changing roles and re-organisation as well as its newly inducted equipment and platforms.

While the US template may be an "overkill", India has erred egregiously by its disregard for national security. No government has formulated a strategy or doctrine so far; nor has Parliament ever demanded a defence review or sought a white paper. As a direct consequence, "surprise" and "intelligence failure" have become a leitmotif in most of India's post-independence conflicts. Our defence-planning has remained ad-hoc and under-funded and every crisis evokes

confused and fumbling responses, including panic arms purchases.

Another important lesson that emerges from the US DoD document relates to China's "maritime awakening" in the latter part of the last century. While the PLAN owes much to visionary Admiral Liu Huaqing, its commander during the 1980s, it could not have achieved its present status without the Communist Party providing steadfast political support. Every Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) from Deng Xiaoping onwards, has backed the phased growth of China's navy, from an inconsequential coastal-force, to a substantive blue-water navy.

The CMC leadership having astutely grasped the reality that "maritime power" is much more than just a "fighting-navy", China is, today, the world leader in shipbuilding and its merchant marine ranks No 1 in the world. It also fields the largest coast-guard that protects the world's biggest fishing fleet. Chinese ports rank amongst the best world-wide.

As we watch the situation in Ladakh unfold, it becomes increasingly obvious that not only is a military resolution improbable, but a "hot-war" may be unaffordable for both nuclear-armed countries. The answer lies in extended negotiations at the highest political and diplomatic levels. As the weaker power, India also needs to resort to "power-balancing" and seeking like-minded friends and partners to send out a message of deterrence. India's attraction as a partner for the US, Japan or Australia, lies, not in its powerful army or professional air force, but in its navy's reach and ability to project maritime power.

In the approaching era of fiscal stringency, a sharper focus on its neglected maritime domain would garner immense benefits for India, and not just in terms of enhanced maritime-security. Giving a boost to shipbuilding, expanding the merchant fleet, modernising ports and mechanising fisheries would have a long-term impact on the economy, through growth of ancillary industries, skilling of youth and massive generation of employment — all contributing to "Atma Nirbharta".

*The writer is a retired chief of naval staff*

## SPEAK TO THE FARMER

In face of protests, government must clarify that ordinances, to be debated in Parliament, will not affect MSP procurement

**T**WO THINGS ARE striking about the ongoing farmer protests against the three central ordinances that seek to liberalise agricultural trade in the country. The first is the apparent reason. Farmer organisations say that the ordinances — particularly the one that allows sale and purchase of crops outside the premises of APMC (agricultural produce market committee) mandis — will sound the death knell of minimum support price (MSP)-based government procurement. This fear has no basis. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, which is to be approved in the current Parliament session, merely provides an additional marketing channel. Farmers, if they choose, can now sell directly to processors, retailers or exporters. They can, of course, still take their produce to mandis. Government agencies, too, can continue to procure grain from these state-regulated market yards. The ordinance only dismantles the monopoly of the APMCs.

The current protests are happening largely in Punjab and Haryana, states that have well-established systems of mandis and MSP-based wheat and paddy procurement, valued at Rs 80,000-90,000 crore annually. The benefits of it are obvious not only to their farmers, but also the powerful lobby of arhatiyas (commission agents) who extend crop loans and "facilitate" procurement at the APMCs. Any threat to the existing order is bound to face resistance. One shouldn't be surprised to see the stir finding support among farmers in other states that have also built strong public grain procurement systems.

The Narendra Modi government should explicitly clarify that the ordinances, while they are being presented and debated in Parliament, will not affect MSP procurement operations. That, in any case, is not the intent behind the present legislation. These only seek to remove intra- and inter-state movement and stockholding restrictions on agricultural produce, apart from enabling farmers to enter into contracts for supplying directly to organised agri-businesses (think cooperative dairies or sugar mills that don't procure milk and cane through mandis). The Punjab wheat farmer may be happy selling in mandis to government agencies. But that shouldn't be at the expense of the Maharashtra pomegranate or orange grower, who would definitely want to explore options outside of the APMCs.

## SECULAR SOCIALIST

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh may be remembered most for MGNREGA, which he piloted as minister in UPA 1 government

**R**AGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH, who died on Sunday, was among the last of a generation of Lohia socialists, who witnessed the rise and fall of social justice politics in north India. He was a loyal flag-bearer of Lohia-ite ideology that saw the political empowerment of backward castes as an essential attribute of socialist politics in the Indian context. Born in an upper caste family, with a doctorate in Mathematics, Singh backed Lalu Prasad through thick and thin. His death came two days after he wrote a terse letter to the RJD chief, announcing his resignation from the party.

Though Singh was a legislator for many years in Bihar assembly and in the Lok Sabha, he will be remembered most as the Minister for Rural Development who implemented the MGNREGA during UPA1. Not only did Singh pilot the Act amidst opposition from heavyweights in the Manmohan Singh Cabinet who viewed the scheme as populist and wasteful expenditure, he also oversaw its implementation. A grass roots politician, though less of a mass leader, Singh saw the necessity and potential of the MGNREGA in a country where millions live in precarious conditions. Today, the MGNREGA is universally accepted as the most effective instrument to address rural distress, the pandemic only confirming its importance.

After a sterling performance as the rural affairs minister (2004-09), Singh could have shifted sides, and found a place in the UPA2 Cabinet if he had wished. But Singh stayed with Lalu even though the RJD had become a family fief and its social justice agenda reduced to caste management and patronage. He spoke his mind to Lalu and the party, and in public, in the hope, perhaps, that he could influence a course correction. He was critical of the corruption and nepotism under Lalu, but the pole position the latter assumed as the bulwark of secular politics in Bihar may have compelled him to stay with the RJD, almost till the last.



DEVYANI ONIAL

THREE YEARS ago, sitting on Indian television's most famous couch, between one of the film industry's top producers and an actor with a clipped accent and a genteel lineage, when a young actor from a small hill district in Himachal challenged the established order, the audience cheered her on. When Kangana Ranaut appeared alongside Saif Ali Khan in *Koffee with Karan*, a show crowded with insider jokes and catty one-liners, and called its host Karan Johar the flag-bearer of nepotism, she stirred something in everyone who had made the journey from small towns to big cities, who had hesitated to join glib conversations with their awkward accents and who had pushed at the gates of privilege and got in only to find they were still out.

She wasn't the first outsider to break into an industry controlled by powerful families. Dilip Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan — some of Bollywood's biggest stars — had been outsiders, but while they recounted their struggle almost fondly, Ranaut showed her battle scars and resentment instead. She may have gained entry into the charmed circle but she seemed to be telling its gatekeepers that the privilege was entirely theirs. Her brashness mirrored the rise of a new India, unafraid to speak its mind and ready to discard all gestures of political correctness as it called out its elites.

A few years later, Ranaut is mirroring the rise of another India — a nation in perpetual outrage, a hard boorish India that has little empathy for those at the margins, shouts

## ESTABLISHMENT'S WARRIOR

Kangana Ranaut, who cast herself as Bollywood's disruptor, takes on a new role

down all dissenting voices and which has taken the brawl from the street to social media. In her toxic campaign against Rhea Chakraborty in the aftermath of the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, Ranaut has partnered with the patriarchy she once challenged. As the soap opera playing on television casts Chakraborty as the vishkanya who practised black magic, Ranaut has voluntarily taken on the role of the righteous other.

Ironically, there should have been no one better than her to understand the vilification of Chakraborty. In the very public unravelling of her relationship with Hrithik Roshan, an ex had accused her of black magic, too. But instead of recognising the strands that connect the web of misogyny, she has spun yet another. Just last week, labelling actress Sonam Kapoor as "mafia bimbo" on Twitter, she admonished Kapoor for comparing her struggle "to a small-time druggie who was living off a vulnerable and broken self-made superstar". We shouldn't have been surprised, though — she has, in the recent past, dismissed fellow actresses as B-Grade and needy outsiders.

In politics, she has often shown her admiration for PM Narendra Modi, the man whose journey from grassroots politics to the country's top job and whose takedown of Lutyens' Delhi has often been likened to hers in the film industry. As she lashes out against what she calls the "drug mafia of Bollywood" and throws her weight behind the BJP, she has taken on the worst instincts and vocab-

ulary of majoritarianism, calling the BMC Babur's army for demolishing her office and comparing Mumbai with PoK. The outsider has now truly mastered the language of othering, a dog whistle perhaps, for an eventual political role.

In this new brittle role, one in which you could accuse her of over acting, it's easy to forget the young girl who, with a mop of wayward curls in a uniform world of straight hair, had made such a splash. We rooted for her when she took on the role of a troubled alcoholic in her first film *Gangster* (2006) and followed her on a whirlwind solo honeymoon in *Queen* (2013). In her, we found a woman who spoke up about her vulnerabilities and her exploitation. As in life, so in films, she made unconventional choices, notching up many firsts and three national awards along the way. In an industry where the top billing still goes to men, she was one of the few actresses who could carry a movie on her own. Her success gave her a voice but she has used it increasingly only to bully and berate others and to amplify her real and perceived hurts.

As she bats for the Modi government in Maharashtra, the transformation of Bollywood's most powerful disruptor to the establishment's most ferocious warrior is complete. Ranaut could have become the flag-bearer of a revolution in Bollywood. It's a pity she has chosen, instead, to become the symbol of a million meaningless mutinies.

*devyani.onial@expressindia.com*



## SEPTEMBER 15, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

### V P SINGH'S OFFER

THE CHIEF MINISTER of Uttar Pradesh, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has sought the permission of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to resign from office, having owned full moral responsibility for the violence in Moradabad, Aligarh and other UP towns and its recurrence early this week. The chief minister, who has only recently completed two months in office, has requested the prime minister to accede to his request to resign which "arises out of both personal conviction and political propriety". Political circles in Lucknow have been agog with rumours about the imminent resignation of the chief minister, more so as he has

not been attending office or to office work because of being "indisposed".

### KAUNDA'S STATEMENT

THE PRESIDENT OF Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, hoped that a political solution to the Afghan and Kampuchean issues, would be found with the intensification of efforts by non-aligned countries. Speaking to journalists after two days of intensive talks on wide-ranging issues with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in New Delhi, Kaunda said that "behind the door" efforts were being made to resolve the Afghanistan issue. Like other countries, Zambia had been holding discussions with the Soviet

Union to find a political solution to the crisis.

### INDIRA ON CHINA

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has stressed the need for further improvement in bilateral relations between India and China. In a message of greetings to Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang on his assumption of office Mrs Gandhi said: "Both our governments are committed to improving bilateral relations... This is in the interest of our two peoples. It is important for peace and stability in Asia and the world. I am confident that even greater efforts will be made by our two governments to further this objective."

# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Mr Modi's short-sightedness will cost India dear. The country's second Covid wave may strike harder than the first."  
— THE GUARDIAN

# Two theatres of peacemaking

India's framework of non-involvement is unlikely to survive the present wave of structural change in Afghanistan and Arabia. Current peace efforts demand a significant rethink of positions



RAJA MANDALA  
BY C RAJA MOHAN

AS THE THREAT of conflict on India's China frontier looms large and tensions with Pakistan simmer on our western borders, hopes for peace and reconciliation have risen in Afghanistan and the Middle East. The first direct talks between Kabul and the Taliban insurgents began last week at Doha, in Qatar. Today, the leaders of UAE will sign a formal peace agreement with Israel at the White House, Bahrain, the second Gulf country to announce the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel in the last few weeks, will join the ceremony.

Sceptics caution against raising hopes too high. The chances of failure in Afghanistan are real. And the momentum behind the normalisation of ties between Israel and the Gulf kingdoms, may not necessarily lead to broader peace in the Middle East. Cynics say the US initiatives in Afghanistan and Arabia are driven by President Donald Trump's quest for diplomatic victories weeks before the election. To be fair though, President Trump has been eager, through the last four years, to redeem his pledge in the 2016 presidential elections to put an end to America's "endless wars" in the greater Middle East.

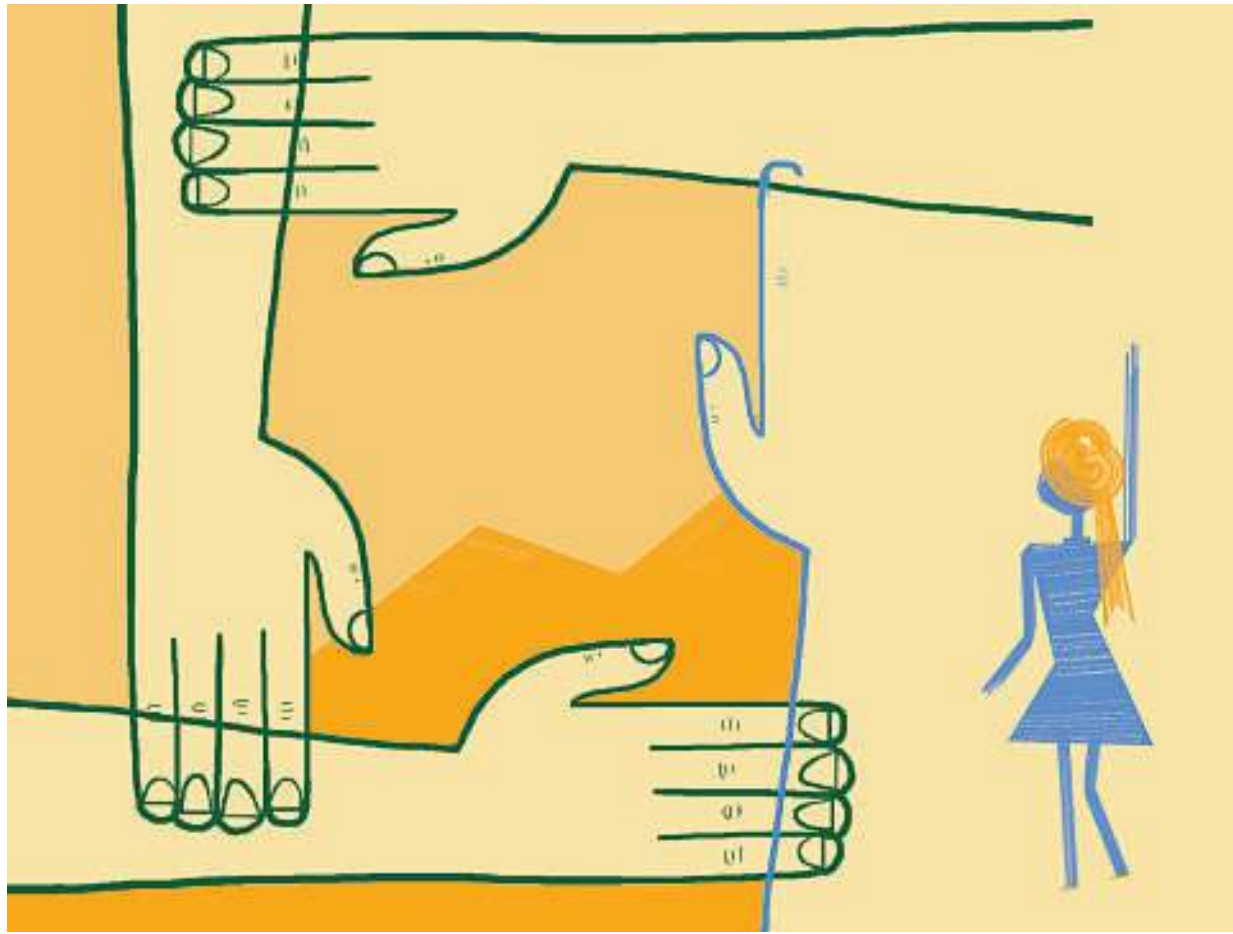
Talks between Kabul and the Taliban to generate an early ceasefire and a new framework for political reconciliation are part of the agreement between the US and the Taliban signed earlier this year, under which the US has pledged to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan and the Taliban has promised not to attack the US and its allies.

The Middle East has always been far more intimately tied to US domestic politics. Supporters hail Trump as the first US president in decades not to drag America into a new war in the Middle East. Joe Biden, his Democratic rival, is unlikely to oppose Trump's deal-making in Afghanistan and the Middle East. But he will certainly find ways to diminish the president's success.

It does not really matter if the motivations of Trump's policy are wise or not. His actions create new facts on the ground and have political consequences for other states. The developments in Afghanistan and the Middle East will have implications for a large number of actors, including India. Five broad trends emerge from the current peace efforts in Afghanistan and the Middle East. All of them demand a significant rethink of Indian positions.

First is the strategic nature of the two sets of developments. Given the difficulty of reconciling the competing interests in Afghanistan and the Middle East, both the peace processes remain quite vulnerable. But the unfolding dynamic will alter the geopolitical landscape in both places. Whether peace breaks out in Afghanistan or not, the Taliban is here to stay.

The Afghan peace process is rooted in the recognition that the Taliban could not be defeated on the battlefield and must be accepted as a legitimate political force. As UAE and Bahrain join Egypt and Jordan in having formal relationships with Israel, there is no escaping the fact that the contradiction between Arabs and Israelis is no longer the dominant one in the region.



CR Sasikumar

Second is Arabia's enduring importance for the Subcontinent's geopolitics. India's strategic community tends to take too narrow a view of the Arabian salience; the focus is mostly on ensuring oil supplies, promoting manpower exports, and limiting the region's impact on India's Pakistan problem. But there is more to the Gulf.

Consider, for example, the fact that the Afghan peace talks are taking place in Qatar, a tiny Gulf Kingdom. It might be worth recalling that the Gulf Arabs played a key role in the 1980s defeating the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The UAE and Saudi Arabia were the only countries to recognise the Taliban government in the late 1990s. This time around, they appear to have taken a backseat. But they will not forever cede the lead in Afghanistan to their Gulf rival, Qatar.

Delhi will need to pay more attention to the unfolding realignments in the Middle East, especially between the Arabs and non-Arab states like Iran, Turkey and Israel. The current peace deals mark a historic change in the structure of those relations. They are about a reconciliation between a critical section of the Arabs with Israel and their growing confrontation with Turkey and Iran.

Third is the paradox of American power. Trump's moves in Afghanistan and the Middle East are widely seen as part of the inevitable decline of US power. But the reality remains that the US is the one forcing change in both the theatres. There were a whole lot of attempts over the last decade from Russia, China, Europe and the region for a peace settlement in Afghanistan. In the end, it was the US political and diplomatic weight that facilitated the formal dialogue between Kabul and the Taliban. In the Middle East, it is the US that has led the efforts for a reconciliation between Israel and Gulf Arabs.

Fourth, as the US steps back from the region, at least for now, the resulting strategic vacuum is likely to be filled by other powers. Russia and China are quite active in both the Middle East and Afghanistan. China has tradi-

tionally avoided being drawn into the region's political conflicts. But in recent years, it has stepped forward, if tentatively. China's future role in Afghanistan, in partnership with Pakistan, could be quite significant and will be of some concern for India.

tionally avoided being drawn into the region's political conflicts. But in recent years, it has stepped forward, if tentatively. China's future role in Afghanistan, in partnership with Pakistan, could be quite significant and will be of some concern for India.

But the Greater Middle East is no longer the exclusive preserve of great powers. Regional powers have already acquired much say in the new geopolitics of the Middle East. If Qatar and UAE punch way above their weight, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey are locked in a major contest for regional influence. All of them are involved in the proxy wars in other countries. Meanwhile, Egypt and Iraq are trying to regain their once privileged places in the regional hierarchy.

Finally, domestic turbulence in most countries is intensifying. Religious radicalism, sectarian and ethnic divisions, and the clamour for more representative governments are sharpening conflicts within and between countries. The collapse of the oil market is undermining the region's economic fortunes and making it harder for political elites to address the emerging political challenges.

India's engagement with the Middle East has traditionally been focused on maintaining good relations with all the major powers in the region and avoiding involvement in their internal and intra-regional conflicts. Even in Afghanistan, where India's security stakes have been visibly high, Delhi has resisted being drawn too deep.

India's framework of non-involvement, however, is unlikely to survive the present wave of structural change in Afghanistan and Arabia. As the old order begins to crumble in the greater Middle East, the question is no longer whether India should join the geopolitical jousting there; but when, how and in partnership with whom.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

# Missing in NEP: Rural youth

The policy ignores the crisis in education among the marginalised majority in rural India



A R VASAVI

IN ITS ORIENTATION and strategies, the National Education policy 2020 (NEP) is a layered document that recommends significant structural changes to the education system, dips into the constructed imaginaries of a past glorious India that can be retrieved via education, co-opts some progressive ideas for elementary education, and overall acts as a guiding star for the aspirations of the urban middle-classes. But either deliberately or by the limited understanding of the committee members, the NEP overlooks the complexity of contemporary rural India, which is marked by a sharp deceleration of its economy, extant forms of distress, and pauperisation of a majority of its citizens.

Although the NEP claims to "bridge gaps in access, participation and learning outcomes", it overlooks the fact that poor quality education marks and mars the lives of rural citizens. Neglecting to engage with any idea of fostering equality of educational opportunity with equality in quality education, the NEP fails to address the growing school differentiation in which government schools are now primarily attended by children of disadvantaged castes and Adivasi groups, while a mushrooming of private schools caters to the aspirations of the more advantaged castes and classes. That such school differentiation defies the idea of education as a leveller and the possibility of schooling acting as a shared experience that forges social coherence is an issue that the NEP committee seems to be oblivious of.

Growing privatisation of education along with no assurance of quality is placing a huge burden on citizens and the report takes no cognisance of such trends. The fact that rural candidates are finding it increasingly difficult to gain entry into professional education and the lack of fit between their degrees and the job market means that several lakhs of them find themselves both "unemployable" and unemployed. These are issues that find no mention in the report.

Overlooking the general adverse integration of the rural into the larger macro-economy and into poor quality mass higher education, the report calls for the "establishment of large, multi-discipline universities and colleges" and places emphasis on online and distance learning (ODL), without paying attention to the fact that correspondence courses and distance education degrees have become a source of revenue generation for universities and institutions

and are run without guarantees of quality. The report fails to take into account the impact of poor-quality higher education on rural youth who, in many ways, are manifesting signs of alienation from their roots, are disaffected and amenable to being recruited into violent anti-social activities.

Recent reports of increasing suicides among youth are another indicator of the deep distress that they are experiencing. The NEP calls for higher education institutes to promote and support the teaching of "lok vidya" and it highlights the importance of yoga, AYUSH, and Sanskrit, which can be taught along with Artificial Intelligence, machine learning and digital learning, so that youth can be prepared for a global economy. In this narrow perspective, there is no scope for considering the establishment of smaller regional learning centres in which the youth can be taught a range of revamped older knowledge systems along with newer skills and knowledge.

The possibility of forging and promoting environmental studies for local ecological restoration and conservation, agro-ecologies that can draw on the varied sophisticated regional agricultural knowledge and practices, reviving local health and healing traditions from the vast repertoire of medical knowledge, or recognising vernacular architectural traditions and skills, and a range of artisan and craftsmanship to use local resources and thereby generate both employment and revive regional economies finds no mention at all in the NEP.

Such measures can create a pool of skilled and employable youth who may make meaningful lives in the rural itself rather than become part of the tide of migrant labour whose insecure and precarious lives were all too evident during the lockdown return migration. The NEP draws on its neoliberal economic ideas and moots the possibility of establishing "Special Education Zones" in disadvantaged areas and in "aspirational districts". But the report provides no details as to how such SEZs will function and who will be the beneficiaries of such institutions. Will such institutions be based on the models of Kota's entrance exam coaching industry or will it be like the way in which Challakere, a pastoral region 120 km from Bengaluru, was carved out by displacing local pastoralists and fauna, and establishing a "Science City" that combines a solar energy field, a nuclear processing site, and a campus for undergraduates of the Indian Institute of Science?

Although the report claims that the purpose of education is to achieve "full human potential, develop an equitable and just society and promote national development", it fails to cater to the needs of rural India's marginalised majority, who in so many ways are rendered into being subjects rather than citizens.

The writer, a social anthropologist, is based in Karnataka

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### RIGHTS UNDERMINED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, "The dog whistle" (IE, September 14). The Delhi Police naming personalities like Sitaram Yechury, Yogendra Yadav, Jayati Ghosh and Apoorvanand, who protested against CAA-NRC, and connecting them with Delhi riots looks bizarre. Any peaceful public protest is always against the government. In an electoral democracy, these protests make governments perform or engage in a course correction. Those who don't they bite the dust in the next election and a new government is elected. Branding such protests as crime of defamation and an act to destabilise the government, and attempt to connect them with events like riots, which needs fair and independent probe, reflects an undermining of democratic rights and the rule of law.

LR Murmu, Delhi

### BLAME GAME

THIS REFERS TO the article, "Who stoked the embers?" (IE, September 14). The Delhi violence earlier this year was a classic case of abuse of power. Busy finding out who started it, we have ignored its cause — fear. When the state circulates an ideology to otherise a group within the country, the apparatuses like the police no longer serve citizens, but only the state, thus maintaining hegemony. We saw exactly this in Delhi. To say that the protesters were misled is a brazen infantilisation of those who came out on the streets and demand equality — their fundamental right. Misleading, instead, is the rhetoric against the Muslim community that has been around for quite some time, and that

has enjoyed impunity. The hate-spewing rants have built a poisonous discourse and ordinary people have been manipulated to forget about their lost jobs and bleak future.

Fatima Ghazali, Patna

### HIGH STAKES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, "Road from Doha" (IE, September 14). The representation of India at the Intra-Afghan Peace Talks in Doha is testimony to the fact that it has formally shed all her inhibitions to openly share the stage with the Taliban in the larger interest of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned national reconciliation. The ministerial statement has highlighted India's expectations from the outcome of this negotiation. India has high stakes in a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata



RAJESH M PARIKH

# Two countries and a virus

Chinese have brilliantly outmanoeuvred virus. For us, worst of pandemic is yet to come

IN SEPTEMBER 1962, Jawaharlal Nehru was asked by a reporter about minor Chinese incursions into Indian territory during a stopover from London after attending the 12th Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. He responded that he had instructed his army to throw out the Chinese. The ill-prepared and sparsely distributed Army tried to do just that but in a few days, the Chinese had crushingly advanced into our territory within reach of New Delhi. Then, mysteriously, they retreated for reasons that are not unequivocally clear 58 years later. The prevalent theory is that the Chinese were not interested in our barren land. They just wanted to chastise a globe-trotting Prime Minister who had been making arrogant and somewhat exaggerated statements about India's capabilities. Besides, they may have needed a distraction from monumental domestic economic and political crises.

Time for self-disclosure. I am a neuropsychiatrist, not a political analyst. Far smarter and more accomplished individuals are in influential positions in New Delhi. I do, however, plead guilty to off-duty analyses of human behaviour and as my family and friends would testify, am occasionally right. Nine months ago, I began to co-author a book on the coronavirus before a single case had come to India and predicted then that the US and India

would have the largest number of cases in the world. That the world's most powerful and richest country, with the best medical facilities and by far the greatest number of Nobel Laureates would succumb to a tiny virus, seemed an absurd and risky prediction. Nonetheless, we took our chances. A couple of months later when our national tally of corona cases stood at 84 and it was believed that in a few days we would win the war against the virus, we predicted the opposite. We cautioned that we would have the largest number of cases in the world. While that remains to be seen, we hope as we often have in the past few months, that we are wrong. Meanwhile, over 25 other predictions we made about the pandemic have borne out. This newspaper recently ran an analysis about how the war against the virus was as good as lost. We pray that the virus will withdraw as mysteriously as the Chinese army in 1962 and that the Chinese will not outsmart us as the virus has.

Arguably, the four greatest generals in recent history — Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon and Rommel — repeatedly indulged in painstakingly patient deceptions. In the summer of 362 BC, Alexander calmly waited over a month on the inhospitable bank of the Jhelum. He was biding time against Porus's large army with the most powerful battle tanks

of the time, war elephants. Now and then, he needed them a little and withdrew. Porus's troops grew more confident and got lulled into a sense of security. One rainy night, while sending a small force across from where he had camped, his main army crossed a monsoon swollen river to outmanoeuvre Porus from the rear. The Battle of the Hydaspes (as the Jhelum was then known) continues to be studied by military strategists across the world.

Today, a China 10 times more powerful than us in economic and military might than in 1962, is needing us. They have not just singled us out for aggressive posturing. Hong Kong, Taiwan and the South China Sea have all seen crowding displays of might. Analysts argue that these may come to nought and are driven solely by domestic concerns. At least three factions in China jostle for power — the military, the politburo and within it, Chairman Xi Jinping and his enemies. In the years preceding the Sino-Chinese war, Chairman Mao's Great Leap Forward had been a complete disaster with 40-50 million starvation deaths. His position was in danger and he barely hung in during the 10th Plenum of the Party's 8th Central Committee in September 1962. A month later, total victory in the war with India reinforced his power in China. Could a 2020 war with India attempt to restore Xi's shaky

position? After all, everyone adores a war-winning leader (Indira Gandhi was unfettered Durga after the Bangladesh war).

Having conducted themselves disgracefully during the early days of the pandemic, the Chinese have brilliantly outmanoeuvred the virus. For us, the worst of the pandemic is yet to come in loss of lives and livelihoods. We aren't even thinking of the second wave of the pandemic. As we have pointed out in our book, the influenza pandemic of a 100 years ago, which killed almost 100 million people (equivalent to 425 million deaths today) had three waves, of which the first, was the smallest.

In 1962, the Chinese overwhelmed our ill-equipped frontier posts in successively large waves of troops. For many decades, our soldiers would have recurrent dreams of wave upon wave of Chinese overwhelming them. What nightmares await our troops this fall and winter? Is Arunachal Pradesh the real target? Let us hope that the bureaucrats of South Block have all the answers and that their phones have not been hacked by the Chinese.

Parikh is director, Medical Research & Hon. Neuropsychiatrist, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai. He has co-authored The Coronavirus: What You Need To Know About The Global Pandemic



TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

CASES: 48,46,427 RECOVERED: 37,80,107 DEATHS: 79,722 TESTS: 5,72,39,428 DOUBLING RATE: 35.12\*\*



Table with 5 columns: KEY STATES TO WATCH, TOTAL CASES, SURGE IN 24 HOURS, 7-DAY AVG GROWTH, DOUBLING TIME. Rows include Maharashtra, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi.

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

Table with 3 columns: CASE FATALITY RATIO, POSITIVITY RATE, DAILY IN, DAILY OUT. Includes 7 days earlier and now values for each metric.

Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths

Tripura daily served notice over article on state's Covid situation

DEBRAJ DEB AGARTALA, SEPTEMBER 14

THE WEST Tripura district administration on Monday served a notice to a vernacular morning daily, asking it to provide evidence in support of a news article it carried on Covid-19 or face action.

The news article in the Dainik Sambad published September 3 said the situation at three Covid Centres — GBP Hospital, Shahid Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel and Hapania Industry Department auditorium — were "indescribable", said that the lockdown and curfew wouldn't be able to prevent or contain Covid-19, and said highlighted the insufficient PPEs available with the government.

In her response to the notice, managing editor Paramita Livingstone said her newspaper is discharging its public duty and responsibility with diligence.

The notice to the Dainik Sambad comes a day after journalists in Tripura asked Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb to withdraw his comments on the media. On Friday, Deb had said that a section of "overexcited newspapers" were trying to "confuse" people over Covid-19.

Since then, two journalists in Tripura have allegedly been beaten up in separate incidents. Parashar Biswas, from Ambassa of Dhalai district, was assaulted by 6-7 people inside his own house, while television reporter Ashok Dasgupta from Belonia in South Tripura, was roughed up.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

HC judge calls for action against actor Surya for dig at judiciary over NEET

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 14

A DAY after Tamil actor Surya blamed the courts for forcing students to appear for NEET amid the pandemic, Madras High Court judge Justice S M Subramaniam wrote to Chief Justice A P Sahi, seeking contempt proceedings against him. Surya's statement on Sunday



came after four NEET candidates in Tamil Nadu committed suicide allegedly due to stress and anxiety in writing exams amid the pandemic. He said, "Courts were delivering justice through video-conferencing due to life-threatening coronavirus fears (but) are ordering students to fearlessly go and write the exams."

On Monday, sources close to Justice Subramaniam confirmed that he sought action against Surya by arguing that the actor's statement "amounts to contempt of court as the integrity and devotion of the honourable judges as well as the judicial system of our great nation are not only undermined but criticised in a bad shape..."

Was targeted to halt more charges against Akbar: Priya Ramani

New Delhi: Journalist Priya Ramani told a Delhi court on Monday she was "targeted selectively" through a criminal defamation complaint by former Union minister MJ Akbar "to halt the avalanche of allegations of sexual misconduct" against him in the wake of #MeToo movement in 2018.

Ramani made the submission before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja during the final hearing in the complaint filed by Akbar against her. Ramani in 2018 accused Akbar of sexual misconduct. Advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Ramani, told the court more than 14 women accused Akbar of harassment, but he filed case only against Ramani. PTI

Advertisement for National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID). Includes details about recruitment for various posts like Lecturer in Physiotherapy and Assistant Librarian.

Govt to HC: Law, values do not allow same-sex unions

SOFIAHSAN NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

JUST OVER two years after the Supreme Court decriminalised consensual homosexual relations, the Centre on Monday opposed a petition seeking the registration of same-sex marriages under The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, submitting that "our law, legal system, society, our values" do not recognise such unions.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta made the submission at the beginning of the hearing before a Division Bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan.

"Subject to my taking instructions (from the government), my legal take is it is not permissible", Mehta told the court.

Allowing the prayer would run contrary to existing statutory provisions, the SG said. "Our law,

legal system, society, our values do not recognise the marriage — which is a sacrament — between a same-sex couple," he said.

One among the couple has to be a man and the other a woman to fall or not fall within the degrees of prohibited relationships under the Act, he added.

"This is not as per my instructions. I checked up the law and unless and until the court would do violence to many provisions of law, this cannot be permitted," Mehta said.

He submitted that he would not even file an affidavit in response to the public interest plea, and would only rely on statutory provisions. Referring to specific provisions relating to domestic violence, Mehta asked: "Who will be treated as a wife (in a same-sex marriage)?"

On the Supreme Court's September 6, 2018 order reading down IPC Section 377, Mehta

submitted: "The judgment of the Constitution Bench merely de-criminalises homosexuality or lesbians. Nothing more, nothing less."

The High Court questioned the need for filing a PIL in the case, and told the counsel for petitioners that the persons could come to the court in the event of denial of registration. Adjourning the matter to October 21, the court asked the counsel to bring on record instances of, or facts about the denial of registration of marriage to same-sex couples.

The Bench had earlier observed that changes were happening across the world, and that it would keep an open mind while hearing the matter on merits. "What our constitutional values require, we will see...", the court said.

Advocate Raghav Awasthi, who appeared for petitioner

Abhijit Iyer Mitra and others, argued that in the absence of a declaration from a court or authority, same-sex couples were being denied registration of their marriage under the 1955 Act. This, the counsel said, was happening despite the Supreme Court's verdict on IPC Section 377. It was also argued that the definition within The Hindu Marriage Act does not say that the marriage has to take place between a 'man' and a 'woman'.

Awasthi submitted that the denial of registration impacted both the right to equality and the right to life, because benefits available to heterosexual couples were denied to homosexual couples.

The court was told that one of the petitioners wanted to get his marriage registered, and that some couples who had been denied registration, were reluctant to approach the court.

Trust official backs Uddhav, says none can stop his Ayodhya visit

AVANEESH MISHRA LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 14



Champat Rai

THE GENERAL secretary of Shri Ramjanabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Champat Rai, on Monday came out in support of Shiv Sena chief and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, saying that no one has the guts to stop him from coming to Ayodhya.

Rai's statement came days after a group of priests, including the chief priest of Hanuman Garhi Temple, accused Thackeray of defaming Sanatan Dharma amid Kangana Ranaut episode and said that the Shiv Sena chief was not welcome to the temple town.

"Some people have said that they will not let Uddhav (Thackeray) to come to Ayodhya. This is not the official stand of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad," Rai told mediapersons in Ayodhya.

"To hai kisike maa ne doodh piya hai aur pilaya hai apne bachhe ko jo Uddhav Thackeray kasamma karega Ayodhya mein? So who can dare to stand against Uddhav Thackeray in Ayodhya? Who is born so brave and powerful to stop Uddhav from entering Ayodhya? This is useless talk.

Saying such things is not right," Rai said.

The Maharashtra CM had visited Ayodhya in March this year upon the completion of 100 days of his government.

Reacting to Rai's remarks, Mahant Raju Das of the Hanuman Garhi temple along with several other saints raised slogans against the Temple Trust office bearer and said that Rai has no right to be in Ayodhya anymore.

"Champat Rai never issued a statement on the killing of saints, and when we opposed Uddhav, see the kind of language he is using. He is abusing Ayodhya and challenging the people of Ayodhya. I condemn the language used by Champat Rai. Such a person has no right to be in Ayodhya. I request the Sangathan that such people should not be given responsibilities," Das said, adding that he is being backed by Dharam Das from Nirvani Akhara, Paramhans Maharaj, and Mahant Dileep Das among others.

Mahoba killing: Police look for gangster who called family

MANISH SAHU MAHOBA, SEPTEMBER 14

THE POLICE are searching for a local gangster in the attack on businessman Indra Kant Tripathi a week ago, for which the then Mahoba superintendent of police is among those booked.

The police said the gangster, Ashu Bhadoria, now missing, had called up a close relative of Tripathi enquiring about his whereabouts three hours before he was shot at by unidentified assailants on September 8. Tripathi, 44, died of his injuries on Sunday night.

Late Monday the government announced an SIT to be headed by Inspector General, Varanasi Range, Vijay Singh Meena to probe the incident and submit a report in seven days.

In its order, the AIT said several provisions of the Air Force Rules had been "violated" by the Court of Inquiry, though adding that its order was meant only as interim relief. One of the violations the tribunal referred to is in line with the officers' questions regarding why the findings of the inquiry had not been shared with them.

The officers had argued that while the Air Force chief can deny the same given security considerations, their efforts to find out if this clause had been invoked in their case had been blocked since January. The officers were told on August 19 finally that the proceedings could not be shared as they were "secret", and were allowed access to only the "unclassified" parts.

On August 21, the two officers had challenged this before the authorities within the Air Force, questioning why they had been provided "only partial/redacted/reduced portion" of the court of inquiry, "that too without copy of order of the CAS (Chief of Air Staff), who is the only competent authority in the matter". But the Western Air Command had rejected this application as well, saying an "identical remedy" sought by them had already been "duly disposed of".



Forensic team inspecting Mahoba businessman Indra Kant Tripathi's car on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

against him. After the police invoked the Goonda Act against him, he had shifted base to Madhya Pradesh but kept visiting Mahoba, sources said.

"We are working on several leads, including the audio clip," Srivastava said. An officer said it was only after Bhadoria's arrest would they know who the "Raja sahib" he was referring to was.

Srivastava said the police were also looking into Tripathi's post on social media hours before the attack that he would hold a press conference the next day on the harassment he was facing from Mahoba SP Mani Lal Patidar.

With Tripathi's death, the charges would now be altered to murder, Additional Director General, Prayagraj, Prem Prakash said.

On Monday, as the body of Tripathi was brought home, family members and locals held a protest demanding arrest of the accused named in the case. The family held his last rites only after the police promised swift action.

In a video recorded before the attack, Tripathi had accused SP Patidar of criminal intimidation and of trying to extort money from him. A stone crusher who also supplied explosives for mining, Tripathi had suffered business losses recently.

Patidar and Devendra Shukla, the SHO of Kabrai Police Station under whose jurisdiction the attack happened, have both been booked in the case and placed under suspension. The two others named in the FIR are local businessmen Suresh Soni and Brahmdukt.

On Monday, the police questioned Tripathi's business partners Purushotam Soni and Bal Kishore. Questioning this, Ravi Kant said, "We are hurt that the police are targeting people close to us than the real culprits. Purushotam and Bal Kishore are like our family friends."

He said Patidar and his associates had threatened to ruin Tripathi's life, even kill him, if he did not pay up extortion money.

Advertisement for Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC). Includes details about recruitment for various posts like Staff Nurse and Generalist, along with a list of candidates and their marks.

Advertisement for Northeast Frontier Railway. Includes details about additional stoppage of special trains and a list of train schedules for various routes.



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## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

## COVID-19 VACCINE TRACKER

## Pfizer looks at rollout in US before the year is over

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL company Pfizer has said it was working towards the possibility of having to make its coronavirus vaccine available in the American market before the current year was out. Pfizer's candidate, being developed in partnership with German company BioNTech, is one of the frontrunners in the vaccine race, and is currently undergoing phase-3 trials in the US.

"We (have) already started manufacturing, and we have already manufactured hundreds of thousands of doses, so just in case we have a good study read-out... we will be ready," Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said in an interview on CBS television network.

Pfizer has previously said it expected to know by October whether its vaccine was effective or not. Bourla reiterated this, and said there was a 60% chance that by October the company would be able to ascertain how

effective its vaccine was.

"Of course that does not mean that it works, that only means that we will know if it works," Bourla said. The phase-3 trials are expected to continue well beyond October, but the company is hoping that early data would present adequate information to assess its effectiveness.

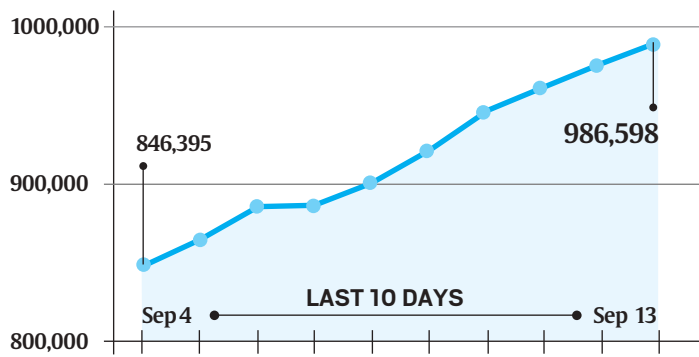
His comments came a day after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it was preparing to grant emergency authorisation when a coronavirus vaccine emerged on the scene. The FDA said it would soon come out with a 'guidance' on such authorisation.

Pfizer's earlier announcement about the October timeline for assessing effectiveness was one of the triggers that fuelled speculation that a vaccine would be available in the United States before the November 3 Presidential elections.



## INDIA ACTIVE CASES

986,598



Note: The Sept 13 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Sept 14

**INDIA TOTAL CASES**  
4,846,427

**WORLD TOTAL CASES**  
29,075,608

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Sept 14

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Sept 14

## Why do Covid-19 patients on ventilator face nerve damage?

SEVERELY ILL Covid-19 patients on ventilators are made to lie face down because it's easier for them to breathe. But that position can also cause permanent nerve damage, according to a new study.

The study from Northwestern University, US, is currently on a preprint server; the university said it has been accepted by the British Journal of Anaesthesia.

Scientists believe the nerve damage is the result of reduced blood flow and inflammation in Covid-19 patients. When non-Covid-19 patients on ventilators are placed in this position, they rarely experience any nerve damage.

Based on this study and other research, Northwestern said 12% to 15% of the most severely ill Covid-19 patients have permanent nerve damage. Based on the number of Covid pa-



**PAPER CLIP**

NEW RESEARCH

tients worldwide, the researchers estimated thousands of patients have been impacted.

The injury has been missed because critically ill people are expected to wake up with some weakness because they have been bedridden. But the pattern of weakness in Covid-19 patients caught the researchers' attention during rehabilitation when they found that, quite often, an important joint (wrist, ankle or shoulder) would be completely paralysed on one side of the body.

The most common nerve injuries are wrist drops, foot drops, loss of hand function and frozen shoulder. Some patients had as many as four distinct nerve injury sites. Some people need assistance with walking such as a wheelchair, brace or cane.

Source: Northwestern University

## How UAE, with virtually no sportspersons, became a global sports hub

SHAHID JUDGE  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

LAST DECEMBER, at the World Travel Awards, Abu Dhabi was adjudged the World's Leading Sports Tourism Destination. On September 19, the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi will host the inaugural match of this year's IPL, taking place entirely in the UAE for the first time. And if India fails to bring the pandemic under control, chances are that the 2021 edition, expected from March, too will be played in the Middle East. This fits into a trend of major sporting events choosing the Middle East nation as the venue.

But just as prominent as the UAE's expertise in hosting events is the glaring absence of an Emirati sportsperson of world-beating calibre. While the country has won an Olympic gold in 2004 and a bronze in 2016, an Emirati competing at the highest level of a sport has been a rarity — especially at events the country hosts.

Part of the reason is that of the 9.89 mil-

lion population in 2020 (World Bank), 88.52% are expatriates (Source: Global Media Insight).

"We are a very fresh and young country (UAE gained independence from the UK in 1971). Since we comprise a lot of expats, we have produced a lot of key players who are expatriates," said Hameek Singh, strategic director of the UAE Athletics Federation. "But then again, now we are looking forward to expatriates getting that kind of representation from UAE. We are one community over here, expats and locals, because we all value UAE as one country."

What makes the UAE such a major sporting hub? "The infrastructure that we have here is state-of-the-art, something that makes the developed countries want to look at us. UAE, and Dubai especially, has always been known for being the leaders, rather than following, so we bring the biggest and the best," said Singh, who was the first expatriate to represent the UAE.

"Anything that we talk about, we were probably ahead of the game. We started working on training equipment and facilities to be provided according to interna-



Jasprit Bumrah and Rohit Sharma in training in Abu Dhabi. *Mumbai Indians*

tional standards," Singh said.

## The gulf, sport by sport

**CRICKET:** In 1998, Sharjah held a tri-nation series among Australia, New Zealand and India, an event famously called 'Desert Storm' because of Sachin Tendulkar's back-to-back centuries.

The UAE is considered the 'home' venue

for Pakistan's cricket teams, especially during the international ban on Pakistan hosting matches. The International Cricket Council has its headquarters in Dubai.

The UAE national team, an associate nation, has qualified for two ODI World Cups — in 1996 and 2015, and have won just one (against the Netherlands, 1996) of their 11 matches. They also made it to the qualification round for the 2014 T20 World Cup.

**FOOTBALL:** The UAE men's team is ranked 71 in the world and eighth in Asia. The country hosted the U-20 Men's World Cup in 2003, the Asian Cup in 1996 and 2019 (finishing as runner-up and fourth respectively), and has hosted the FIFA Club World Cup for four years (2009-10 and 2017-18).

The Manchester City team is owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a member of the Abu Dhabi Royal Family. The team, as well as Bayern Munich, Manchester United, Arsenal, and Liverpool have held camps in the UAE.

**TENNIS:** Dubai hosts one of the richest tour events each in the WTA and ATP calendars. The WTA Premier event in 2020 had a total prize money of \$2,643,670; the ATP

500 event the following week had \$2,950,420 on offer. Both events have attracted top players from their inaugural editions (2001 for WTA and 1993 for ATP) such as Martina Hingis, Venus Williams, Andy Roddick, and the Big 3 — Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic.

The UAE has also been a prominent residence for players — mainly due to its tax benefits and facilities. Borna Coric (former world No. 12), Karen Khachanov (current No. 16) and Lucas Pouille (former No. 10) live in Dubai according to their ATP profiles, and Federer too had reportedly bought an apartment.

The UAE's highest ranked tennis player ever is Omar Alawadhi (career high 805), who last played in competition in 2018.

**TABLE TENNIS:** Dubai is the official sponsor of the Chinese national team from 2013 to 2017. The city also hosted the World Team Cup in 2010 and 2015. The country's highest ranked player, at 404, is Salah Alalushi. There are no women players in the ITTF rankings.

**BADMINTON:** Dubai hosted the Super Series Finals (year-end finale) from 2014 to 2017, but has not produced a prominent

badminton player yet.

**FORMULA ONE:** The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix has been a permanent fixture on the F1 calendar since its inaugural race in 2009. The UAE, however, is yet to produce a driver who competes at the pinnacle of motorsport.

**RUGBY:** The Dubai Rugby Sevens is a prominent event in the World Rugby Sevens Series — for both men and women. The men's event first started in 1970 and, according to the Dubai Rugby Sevens website, "is the longest running sports event in the Middle East." All events have taken place at the specially built Sevens Stadium since 2008.

In comparison, the national federation was formed only in 2009, and affiliated to World Rugby in 2012. UAE has competed in a World Series event just once, at home in 2011.

**GOLF:** The UAE hosts the PGA European Tour events Dubai Desert Classic and DP World Tour Championships, the latter being the finale of the Race to Dubai. The country, however, has just four golfers in the current world rankings — Ahmed Al Musharekh (the only professional in the list) and amateurs Ahmed Skaik, Saif Thabet and Abdulla Al Qubaisi. All of them are ranked last, tied.

## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION &amp; ANSWER

## Reading life signature on Venus

The discovery of phosphine in the atmosphere of Venus has triggered excitement as a possible sign of life on that planet. What is the gas, what is its connection with life, and how significant is the discovery?

AMITABH SINHA  
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 14

AN ANNOUNCEMENT by an international team of astronomers about the discovery of phosphine gas in the atmosphere of Venus on Monday triggered global excitement about the possibility of the presence of life-forms on the neighbouring planet. Apart from being produced in industrial processes, phosphine, a colourless but smelly gas, is known to be made only by some species of bacteria that survive in the absence of oxygen.

In a paper published in *Nature Astronomy*, a team of scientists have reported traces of phosphine in a concentration of approximately 20 parts per billion, thousands to millions of times more than what could otherwise be expected.

## So, is there life on Venus?

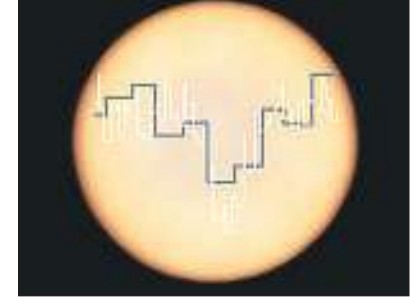
No one is saying that as of now. What scientists have discovered is the presence of a chemical which is known to be produced only through biological process, and not through any naturally occurring chemical process. There are some other ways in which this chemical might be produced, for example, in the underbelly of volcanoes or meteorite activity, but that would have shown in much lower concentrations. In any case, scientists have ruled out all those kinds of known possibilities which could be attributed for the presence of that gas.

In fact, this discovery was made in 2017, and the scientists checked and re-checked their data over the last three years before deciding to make it public.

The abstract to their paper in *Nature Astronomy* says this presence of phosphine is "unexplained" after an exhaustive study of all the possible other sources and "production routes in Venus's atmosphere, clouds, surface and subsurface, or from lightning, volcanic or meteorite delivery".

So, the only possible explanation for the origin of this phosphine, based on our current knowledge, could be in the biological processes, the way it is produced on Earth, by some microbes.

During an announcement on Monday, scientists were very careful to emphasise, repeatedly, that this was not a confirmation of the presence of life on Venus.



Artist impressions of Venus following the confirmation of phosphine in the atmosphere. On the left, a representation of phosphine molecules in the inset. Above, two superimposed spectra from ALMA (white) spectrum and James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (grey); dips in each one indicates presence of phosphine. ALMA, JCMT, ESO, NASA/JPL/Caltech via ESO

## Why is it significant then?

This is the most credible evidence yet for the possibility of life away from Earth. Scientists say it is more significant, for example, than the discovery of water on the Moon or Mars.

"In the search for extra-terrestrial life, this is the biggest finding, no doubt. Of course, this cannot be taken to mean that there is indeed life on Venus, or anywhere else, but if you are a scientist looking for life-forms on other planets, I think this is your first real breakthrough," said Dibyendu Nandi of IISER, Kolkata.

This is how Professor Sara Seager of the Department of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who is one of the authors of the study, also described the finding. She said the detection of phosphine had raised Venus "higher up on the ladder of interesting targets" where the possible presence of life-forms can be explored.

## But Venus cannot support life, can it?

There are several things that we know of about Venus that make life, as we know it, unsustainable on that planet. The temperature of Venus is too high, and its atmosphere is highly acidic, just two of the things that would make life impossible.

But Somak Raychaudhuri, director of

Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, suggested that this phosphine could be remnants from a time when Venus was a much more hospitable place.

"Look, this finding opens up many interesting possibilities. We don't know how long phosphine molecules survive. Also, we know that Venus has not always been as inhospitable as it seems now. So, one of the possibilities, if we would like to explore the question of presence of life on Venus, could be whether this phosphine is actually something remaining from a time when the planet did support life-forms. These are open questions right now. All these will be explored. What we have got now is just a foothold in the door. We can now probe with greater enthusiasm," he said.

"I would personally not classify this discovery in the same league as the discovery of the first planet, or the recent confirmation of the gravitational waves, for example, but it also certainly not as insipid as some signal of water molecule being found on some planet. In fact, in that way it is bigger than evidence for water. Water is only circumstantially related to life. It is not produced by life. Phosphine is produced by biological processes. So this is significant no doubt, and nothing like this has been discovered till

now," he said.

Varun Bhalerao of IIT Bombay said it was too early to consider this as evidence for extra-terrestrial life. "If you look at the paper they have published, the scientists themselves say something like, look we have found phosphine, but we don't know whether it means life. It is very interesting, and extra-terrestrial life is certainly plausible, but based on this finding, I don't think I would hold my breath for microbes on Venus, just yet. Plenty of weird molecules have earlier been found in weird places in space, where they were not expected," he said.

## What can this mean for Venus missions?

The finding can further ignite interest in space missions to Venus. Missions to Venus are not new. Spacecraft have been going near the planet since the 1960s, and some of them have even made a landing. In fact, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is also planning a mission to Venus, tentatively called Shukrayaan, in the near future. As of now, the plan is still on the drawing board.

All future missions to Venus would now be attuned to investigating further evidence of the presence of life.

WHAT'S NEW ON VENUS?  
NEWS REPORT, PAGE 15

## How far can singing/talking spread Covid?

KABIR FIRAQUE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE ACT of singing emits particles into the air, and the novel coronavirus spreads through particles. So, what is the risk of Covid-19 spreading when a person sings — or talks? Two studies have examined the amount of particles emitted when singing and talking.

## The broad findings

One paper, from Lund University in Sweden and published in *Aerosol Research and Technology*, found that:

■ The louder you sing, the more particles you spread

■ Consonants — particularly P, B, R, T — are bigger aerosol spreaders than vowels

The other paper, from the University of Bristol and awaiting peer review, found that:

■ Singing does not produce very substantially more respiratory particles than speaking, when both are at a similar volume.

## Vowels &amp; consonants

The Swedish researchers measured par-

ticles emitted by 12 healthy singers and two people with confirmed Covid-19; 7 of the 14 were professional opera singers.

In a chamber with particle-free air, they sang a short Swedish song, *Bibbis pippi Petter*, repeated it 12 times in two minutes at constant pitch, then repeated it again with the consonants removed, leaving only the vowels.

"In our work we investigated a number of different aspects of singing: singing compared to talking, singing loud compared to normal singing, singing with face mask and singing consonants compared to vowels... We did not systematically compare all the different consonants, but noted that P, B, R and T generated a high numbers of droplets," Jakob Löndahl, Associate Professor of Aerosol Technology at Lund University, said by email.

## Size matters

Consonants release very large droplets — and B and P stand out as the biggest aerosol spreaders. At the same time, larger droplets fall to the ground earlier, and so have a shorter lifespan than smaller droplets. Is that a contradiction?

"I think this is still a topic of considerable

scientific uncertainty," Löndahl explained. "The main reasons for supposing a larger transmission of disease from the big droplets is that they can contain more virus than smaller aerosol particles, and that disease transmission usually occur at rather close contact and less over longer distances (however the reason for this could also be the dilution over longer distances)."

## Absence of virus

As the two people with Covid-19 sang, the team measured the virus in the air close to them. The air samples contained no detectable amount of virus. "But the viral load can vary in different parts of the airways and between different people. Accordingly, aerosols from a person with Covid-19 may still entail a risk of infection when singing," doctoral student Malin Alvsved said in a statement.

## Singing 'Happy Birthday'

In the University of Bristol study, 25 professional performers were made to talk, and sing *Happy Birthday* in the "zero aerosol background" of an operating theatre. (Some reports have said it was the Lund University study that

found singing *Happy Birthday* could spread the virus because of the consonants B and P, but Löndahl told *The Indian Express* that *Happy Birthday* was not sung in his team's study.)

The University of Bristol researchers found is a rise in aerosol mass with increase in the loudness of the singing and speaking, rising by a factor of 20-30. However, singing does not produce very substantially more aerosol than speaking at a similar volume.

There were no significant differences in aerosol production between genders, or among different genres (choral, musical theatre, opera, choral, jazz, gospel, rock and pop).

## Should performers sing?

The Lund University researchers suggested singing need not be silenced. A song can be sung with social distancing, good hygiene and good ventilation; masks can also make a difference.

The University of Bristol researchers noted that when the audience is large, singers may not be responsible for the greatest production of aerosol. Ways to ensure adequate ventilation may be more important than restricting a specific activity, they suggested.

Singapore began handing out pocket-sized contact-tracing devices to residents on Monday. The box-shaped tokens use Bluetooth signals to record nearby devices and store encrypted data of a user's close contacts. If users test positive for Covid, the devices have to be handed over to authorities to extract the data on other people they have exposed to the virus.



## TOP OF THE WORLD



Paul Rusesabagina in court in Kigali. AP

### AFRICA

#### Hotel Rwanda hero charged with terrorism

A RWANDAN court on Monday charged Paul Rusesabagina, whose story inspired the film *Hotel Rwanda*, with terrorism, complicity in murder, and forming an armed group. Rusesabagina declined to respond to all 13 charges, saying some did not qualify as criminal offences and that he denied the accusations when he was questioned by Rwandan investigators. Rusesabagina, 66, asked to be released on bail, citing poor health that has caused him to be taken to hospital three times while he has been held in Rwanda. Credited with saving more than 1,000 lives during Rwanda's 1994 genocide, he appeared in handcuffs in Kigali for a pre-trial hearing.

### MYANMAR

#### UN rights chief: Recent attacks may be war crimes

THE UN human rights chief said on Monday that three years after a Rohingya exodus "no concrete measures" on accountability had been taken by authorities and said some cases of recent civilian casualties in Myanmar may represent war crimes. "In some cases, they appear to have been targeted or attacked indiscriminately, which may constitute further war crimes or even crimes against humanity," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet told the Human Rights Council in Geneva, speaking of casualties in Rakhine and Chin States.

### SOUTH KOREA

#### 'Comfort women' activist charged with fraud

SOUTH KOREAN prosecutors on Monday indicted the former leader of an advocacy group for victims of Japanese wartime sexual exploitation, also known as "comfort women", on charges of fraud. Yoon Meehyang resigned as head of the Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for the Issues of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, this year to launch a successful bid for a seat in Parliament. Since then, she has been dogged by allegations that she used subsidies for her own benefit, rather than to help the comfort women.

# Astronomers find potential signs of alien life on inhospitable Venus

Scientists say source of the phosphine found in planet's atmosphere is very likely to be something alive

SHANNON STIRONE, KENNETH CHANG & DENNIS OVERBYE  
SEPTEMBER 14

HIGH IN the toxic atmosphere of the planet Venus, astronomers on Earth have discovered signs of what might be life.

If the discovery is confirmed by additional telescope observations and future space missions, it could turn the gaze of scientists toward one of the brightest objects in the night sky. Venus, named after the Roman goddess of beauty, roasts at temperatures of hundreds of degrees and is cloaked by clouds that contain droplets of corrosive sulfuric acid. Few have focused on the rocky planet as a habitat for something living.

Instead, for decades, scientists have sought signs of life elsewhere, usually peering outward to Mars and more recently at Europa, Enceladus and other icy moons of the giant planets.

The astronomers, who reported the finding Monday in a pair of papers, have not collected specimens of Venusian microbes, nor have they snapped any pictures of them. But with



Temperatures in Venus can go up to hundreds of degrees and the planet is cloaked by clouds that contain droplets of corrosive sulfuric acid. Few have focused on the rocky planet as a habitat for something living. NASA/JPL-Caltech via Reuters

powerful telescopes, they have detected a chemical — phosphine — in the thick Venus atmosphere. After much analysis, the scientists assert that something now alive is the only explanation for the chemical's source.

Some researchers question this hypothesis, and they suggest instead that the gas could result from unexplained atmospheric or

geologic processes on a planet that remains mysterious. But the finding will also encourage some planetary scientists to ask whether humanity has overlooked a planet that may have once been more Earth-like than any other world in our solar system.

"This is an astonishing and 'out of the blue' finding," said Sara Seager, a planetary scientist

at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an author of the papers (one published in *Nature Astronomy* and another submitted to the journal *Astrobiology*). "It will definitely fuel more research into the possibilities for life in Venus' atmosphere."

"We know that it is an extraordinary discovery," said Clara Sousa-Silva, a molecular astrophysicist at Harvard University whose research has focused on phosphine and is another of the authors. "We may not know just how extraordinary without going back to Venus."

Often called Earth's twin, Venus is roughly the same mass as Earth. Many scientists think that Venus was once covered in water and possessed an atmosphere where life as we know it could have flourished.

In earlier days of the solar system, Earth was not so hospitable to the likes of us. There was life here then, even an entire biosphere that did not survive in the oxygen-rich environment that later developed. And much as Earth over time became a home for jellyfish, ferns, dinosaurs and Homo sapiens, Venus was transformed by something into a hell.

Today, the second planet from the sun has an atmosphere stifled by carbon dioxide gas and surface temperatures that average more than 400 degrees Celsius. The dense atmosphere of Venus exerts a pressure of more than 1,300 pounds per square inch on anything at the surface. That is more than 90 times the 14.7 pounds per square inch at sea level on Earth, or the equivalent to being 3,000 feet underwater in the ocean.

It is hardly a place that makes visiting or research easy, although that doesn't mean people haven't tried. Space programmes have tried dozens of robotic missions to Venus, many of them in the Soviet Union's Venera series. But the planet eats metal, within minutes melting down and crushing spacecraft that have landed there. Of all those attempts, only two managed to directly capture images of the planet's surface.

Whereas frigid Mars is currently ringed by orbiters and prowled by NASA rovers, Venus is being studied by only one probe, the lonely Japanese spacecraft Akatsuki. Future missions to the planet are still mere concepts. **NYT**

# As Trump visits fire-hit California, climate becomes an election focal point

Biden to highlight climate crisis in speech

JEFF MASON & TREVOR HUNNICUTT  
LAS VEGAS, WILMINGTON, SEPTEMBER 14



## RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump will travel to California on Monday to be briefed about its devastating wildfires while Democratic rival Joe Biden plans a speech on the matter from Delaware, bringing climate change to the forefront of the presidential campaign.

Trump, a Republican who pulled the United States out of the Paris accord on global warming because he found it too costly, has expressed his view that poor forest management is partly to blame for the fires that are raging around the West Coast.

Democrats have emphasized that climate change has played a role, and Biden is expected to emphasize that in his remarks.

Trump will travel to McClellan Park, California to meet with local and federal officials for a briefing about the fires.

"The president continues to support those who are battling raging wildfires in a locally-executed, state-managed, and federally-supported emergency response," White House spokesman Judd Deere said on Saturday.

Biden has included climate change in his list of major crises facing the United States, along with the coronavirus pandemic that has killed more than 194,000 and pushed the country into an economic recession.

## US ambassador to China to step down next month

Beijing: The US ambassador to China, Terry Branstad, will step down early next month, ending a three-year tenure marked by a trade war and bitter relations between the world's largest economies.

AUS official said Branstad was stepping down to work on President Donald Trump's re-election campaign. The former Iowa governor has been credited with helping Trump win the state in 2016. **AP**

"Vice President Biden will discuss the threat that extreme weather events pose to Americans everywhere, how they are both caused by and underscore the urgent need to tackle the climate crisis, and why we need to create good-paying, union jobs to build more resilient infrastructure," his campaign said. **REUTERS**

# Belarus leader seeks Putin help as crackdown fails to dispel protests

VLADIMIR SOLDATKIN  
MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 14

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin bestowed a \$1.5 billion loan on Belarus on Monday in a gesture of support for its leader Alexander Lukashenko, who flew to entreat his patron for help as demonstrations showed no sign of abating.

A day after more than 100,000 protesters demonstrated in Minsk for the fifth straight weekend to demand his resignation following an election they say was rigged, Lukashenko, who has led Russia's closest ally for 26 years, met Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

"First of all, I want to thank you... personally thank you and all Russians, all those, and I will not list them, who were involved in supporting us during this post-election time," Lukashenko



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko arrives in Sochi, Russia, for talks with Putin. AP

said after the talks.

The Russian leader also signalled support for Lukashenko in other ways and said defence co-operation would continue.

Despite an aggressive crackdown from his security forces, Lukashenko has failed to reclaim the streets from demonstrators, who taunted him on Sunday with chants of "You're a rat". **REUTERS**

# Germany: French, Swedish labs confirm Navalny was poisoned with Novichok

Berlin: Laboratories in Sweden and France have independently confirmed that Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny was poisoned with the Soviet-style nerve agent Novichok, the German government said on Monday.

Government spokesperson Steffen Seibert also said samples taken from the opposition politician, who is currently being treated in Berlin, had also been sent to the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague

for tests in their labs.

Army doctors at Berlin's Charite hospital, to which Navalny was evacuated after taking ill on a flight over Siberia last month, were the first to say he had been poisoned with Novichok. Navalny awoke from a coma last week.

Russia says it has seen no evidence that Navalny was poisoned.

"We renew our call for Russia to explain these events," the German government spokesperson said on Monday. **REUTERS**



(From left) Japan's former foreign minister Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba after Suga was elected as new head of the Liberal Democratic Party on Monday. AP

# Suga wins ruling party leadership race, set to become Japan's PM

LINDA SIEG & LEIKA KIHARA  
TOKYO, SEPTEMBER 14

JAPANESE CHIEF Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, a loyal aide to outgoing prime minister Shinzo Abe, won a landslide victory in a ruling party leadership election on Monday, paving the way for Japan's first change of leader in nearly eight years.

Suga, 71, who has promised to continue Abe's key policies, said his big win would give him the backing to pursue his reform goals — including deregulation and breaking down bureaucratic silos — and that containing the coronavirus and reviving the economy were conditions for calling a snap general election.

"As I got big support in numbers today, the environment in which I can pursue my policy agenda in a stable manner has

## Party banking on continuity

SUGA HAS been a loyal aide to Abe, and has promised to continue with his economic and foreign policies when he takes charge. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is keen on this continuity and stability in a country that had seen six PMs in six years before Abe's eight-year stint. The party, by invoking an emergency provision to

limit the vote for the leadership to just MPs and provincial party leaders, paved the way for Suga to defeat Shigeru Ishiba — a longtime Abe critic. Ishiba was thought to be more popular with the party's rank-and-file members, who would have been part of the voting if the emergency provision was not invoked.

been secured," Suga told reporters.

Suga won 377 votes out of 534 votes cast, and 535 possible votes, in the leadership election by the Liberal Democratic Party MPs and representatives of its 47 local chapters. Rival Shigeru Ishiba, a former defence minister, won 68

votes and ex-foreign minister Fumio Kishida got 89.

Suga is virtually certain to be elected PM in a parliamentary vote Wednesday because of LDP's majority in the House. He will serve out Abe's term as party leader through Sept 2021. **REUTERS**

## THE WIDESPREAD BUT ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN HAS BECOME AN EFFECTIVE — AND UBIQUITOUS — TOOL TO RAISE AWARENESS

# Feminists paper Paris with stark posters decrying domestic abuse

CONSTANT MÉHEUT  
PARIS, SEPTEMBER 14

ON A recent mild night, a squad of four young women wandered through a peaceful neighborhood in eastern Paris, armed with a bucket of glue, a paintbrush and backpacks loaded with posters.

They were looking for surfaces to paper with a stark message.

"There, it's not bad, is it?" said Astrid Tenon, wearing all black, as she pointed to a 20-foot-long wall, just east of the Marais neighbourhood. Her comrade in arms, Chloé Madesta, holding a bucket, nodded.

A well-choreographed operation immediately started: First, a woman brushed some glue over the wall, then a second woman pasted up page after page, while a third patted each piece down with another layer of glue.

After less than seven minutes, the wall bore the words: "You said you loved me, but it was still rape."

For about a year, posters denouncing sexual abuse and femicides — killing women because of their gender — have popped up by the hundreds in Paris, despite the fact that posting on public walls is considered vandalism and is illegal.

The posters are the work of

feminist activists who, critical of the French government's response to the growing problem of domestic violence, have taken to the streets with a large-scale poster campaign aimed at raising awareness of violent crimes carried out against women by their current or former partners.

"Our goal is to bring these facts before the eyes, so that one cannot look away," Madesta said. "Because this violence always remains in the shadows."

Chilling slogans reading "Dad killed Mom" or "She leaves him, he kills her" have been pasted on the sandstone facades in the city's centre. A "Silence is not consent" statement stands on a canal



Names of recent victims of domestic violence are pasted on a wall in Paris. NYT

bridge in northern Paris. Longer messages recounting the death of women at the hand of their partners have spread out along tunnels near the outskirts of the city.

The posters have gradually become a fixture of the capital's landscape, so common that many Parisians have walked past at least several of them.

The women want the messages "to burst into the daily, the ordinary life," Madesta said. "That is where this violence takes place."

The messages have also become an unlikely battleground over who owns the streets. Posters are regularly torn off or splattered with paint by passers-by, but the activists fix the dam-

age, restoring the words.

The posters draw much of their strength from a bold graphic identity of black, capital letters painted onto white sheets of paper: simple, sober and instantly recognisable.

"With this style, we are looking for the crude side of the message, the literality," Madesta said. "There is no metaphor in what we paste, there is no poetry."

The poster technique is simple and inexpensive, helping explain why the messages have sprung seemingly everywhere, so quickly.

The campaign is the work of a new feminist group, "Les Colleuses," or "the Gluers," be-

gun by Marguerite Stern, who, in the summer of 2019, put out a call on social networks. Dozens of women responded. Now some 1,500 activists have joined the poster campaign.

"I think it has something to do with Paris," Stern said of the strong response to her initial call. "It's a city where there are a lot of young women, students, a large activist network."

The activists say papering walls not only enables them to publicly expose a reality, domestic violence, that is often relegated to the private sphere, but also allows them to reclaim a space — the street — where many women feel vulnerable. **NYT**

## TOTAL DEPOSITS BY NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AT \$135.36 BN AS OF JULY 2020

# NRIs bring in more dollars during lockdown, amid layoffs, falling interest rates world over

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

NON-RESIDENT INDIANS (NRIs) brought to India a higher amount of \$4.6 billion to India between April and July this year when most of the countries faced stringent lockdowns across the world. This is 50 per cent more than what NRIs had brought to India during the same period of last year, i.e. \$3.05 billion.

With this inflow, total NRI deposits touched \$135.36 billion as of July 2020, up from \$130.58 billion in March 2020, \$133.12 billion in 2019 and \$124.44 billion in 2018, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

A bulk of this amount has come from Gulf countries, the US and Euro zone where NRIs are in large numbers. After

### NRI DEPOSITS (US dollar million)

SCHEME	Apr-July 2019	Apr-July 2020	Outstanding*
FCNR (B)	805	-1,622	22,622
NR(E) RA	1,496	5,557	96,083
NRO	752	673	16,664
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,054</b>	<b>4,608</b>	<b>135,369</b>

\*As on July 31, 2020

lockdown was imposed in April, layoffs and salary cuts happened in many Gulf countries and interest rates declined further in most countries which could have an effect on higher inflows, said a banking source.

As much as \$96.08 billion of NRI deposits is in NR(E) RA, or non-resident external rupee account, while FCNR (B) (foreign currency non-resident bank account) attracted \$22.62

billion till July this year, RBI data shows. Funds in both the accounts can be repatriated. During April-July 2020, NRIs withdrew \$1.62 billion from the FCNR (B) account but deposited \$5.55 billion in NR(E) RA accounts.

A major factor that attracts NRIs to NR(E) RA deposits is that savings, current and term deposits are allowed through this facility while FCNR allows only term deposits.

Besides, NRIs have put \$16.6 billion in NRO (non-resident ordinary) accounts as of July 2020. However, repatriation is not allowed in NRO accounts unlike FCNR (B) and NR(E) RA accounts.

The three NRI deposit schemes in India offer high interest rates as compared to rates in the US or Europe where banks offer virtually nil or close to 1 per cent rates. State Bank of India offers 4.90 per cent for NR(E) RA accounts for a tenure of one to two years. For deposits between 3-5 years, it offers 5.30 per cent.

NRIs are also making money by borrowing in Gulf countries and depositing it in India to take advantage of the interest rate arbitrage. "It's good to borrow there and deposit it here. Rates are half of what Indian banks charge. Borrowing cost in Middle East is very low ...

UAE Central Bank cut the policy rate by 50 basis points to 1.50 per cent in March. Banks offer around 1.50-1.60 per cent on FDs in Dubai, whereas you get at least three percentage points more in India," said a banking source.

The situation is not different in the US where depositors get a maximum of 1.25 per cent on one year FDs which is almost close to the inflation level of 1.3 per cent in the country.

However, bankers said NRI depositors need to be cautious about the rupee depreciation as their high returns on FDs (fixed deposits) or debt paper in India will evaporate when the rupee declines sharply against the dollar.

Resident Indians have been getting a negative real return (interest rate minus inflation rate) on their FDs due to the rise in inflation level.

## Nvidia to buy UK chipmaker Arm Holdings from SoftBank for \$40 bn

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 14

US GRAPHICS chip maker Nvidia said it plans to buy UK-based Arm Holdings in a deal worth up to \$40 billion, in a move that would create a global industry powerhouse.

Nvidia and Arm's parent company, Japanese technology giant SoftBank, announced the deal Sunday.

Nvidia is based in Santa Clara, California, and is best known for its graphics processing chips. Arm's chip designs power the vast majority of the world's smartphones and the company is renowned as an innovator in technology for connected devices, known as the Internet of Things.

Arm centers its business on designing chips and licensing the intellectual property, especially in mobile computing, rather than chip manufacturing, for which it relies on partners.

Under the terms of the deal, NVIDIA will pay SoftBank \$21.5 billion in stock and \$12 billion in

EXPLAINED

### Gives the US upper hand in tech war with China

NVIDIA'S ACQUISITION of Arm Holdings essentially translates into investment by the American chip maker in the UK's artificial intelligence and internet of things space, which is expected to be at the core of various key industries like healthcare, manufacturing, logistics, etc. In return, Nvidia's investment gives the US an upper-hand in its ongoing tech-war with China given the criticality of Arm's blueprints for powering chipsets for Chinese smartphone makers and AI firms.

cash.

SoftBank could earn a further \$5 billion if Arm hits performance targets while Arm employees will get \$1.5 billion worth of Nvidia shares. SoftBank bought Arm for about \$32 billion in 2016 in an effort to cement the Japanese company's ambitions in advancing how various devices, including security cameras and household appliances, connect online and work together.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang said the company plans to keep Arm based at its headquarters in Cambridge, England, where it will build an artificial intelligence research center and hire more engineers. This isn't about consolidation, this isn't about cost savings," Huang told reporters. Regulators in the UK, China, the European Union and the United States will need to approve the deal.

## 'Promoter share pledging hits 3-year high in August'

Pledging of shares by promoters in NSE-listed firms reached 1.86% of the total market capitalisation in August, making it the highest in 3 years, a primeinfobase.com report said

**1.88% of total market cap:** Share pledging by promoters of companies listed on National Stock Exchange (NSE) in April 2017

**29** Companies in which 100 per cent of the promoter's stake was under pledge as on August



Source: Prime Database Group/PTI

**56%** RISE IN VALUE OF SHARES PLEDGED BY PROMOTERS OF THE NSE-LISTED FIRMS, FROM ₹1.78 LAKH CRORE IN JULY TO ₹2.77 LAKH CRORE IN AUGUST

**81** Firms in which more than 90 per cent of the promoter's stake was pledged

**463:** Number of companies among the 1,656 main-board firms listed on NSE in which shares were pledged as on August 2020, as against 461 companies as on July 2020

## Retail inflation at 6.69% in Aug, still above RBI's tolerance band

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

RETAIL INFLATION eased only marginally to 6.69 per cent year-on-year in August, against a revised 6.73 per cent in July, as lockdown-related supply disruptions outweighed any purported Covid-induced demand com-

pression in the economy. This has dashed hopes for another round of repo rate cut in the next meeting of the monetary policy committee (MPC), analysts said.

With this, retail inflation remains above the MPC's tolerance band of 4 (+/-2) per cent for eight out of the past nine months, complicating the central bank's task at a time when economic growth

is sliding. Wholesale price inflation, meanwhile, touched 0.16 per cent in August, having entered the positive territory for the first time since March, as manufacturing inflation hardened even though price pressure in food eased.

As for retail inflation, the headline print for April and May was 7.22 per cent and 6.27 per cent, respectively. FE

### BRIEFLY

#### RBI circular to banks on asset classification

New Delhi: Concerned over manual identification of bad loans by some banks, the Reserve Bank of India on Monday asked banks to introduce automated IT-based system for asset classification and provisioning.

#### TCS market valuation goes past ₹9 lakh cr

New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday became the second Indian firm to attain a market valuation of over Rs 9 lakh crore after Reliance Industries.

#### Indiabulls Housing mops up ₹1,205 crore

New Delhi: Indiabulls Housing Finance on Monday said it has raised about Rs 1,205 crore over the last few days through its qualified institutional placement (QIP) and partial stake sale in UK-based OakNorth Bank Ltd.

#### FB India names Global Business Group head

New Delhi: Facebook (FB) on Monday said it has appointed former Ola executive Arun Srinivas as the Director of Global Business Group in India. PTI

## EPF members withdraw ₹39.4K cr during Mar 25-Aug 31; highest from Maharashtra

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT fund (EPF) members withdrew Rs 39,402.94 crore between March 25 and August 31 from their retirement savings, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. The government had imposed the nationwide lockdown on March 25, to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Members of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) were also allowed relaxation in March regarding withdrawal of their funds to mitigate financial difficulties posed by the pandemic. The maximum amount of EPF withdrawals from March 25 to August 31 were recorded in Maharashtra at Rs 7,837.85 crore, followed by Karnataka at Rs 5,743.96 crore and Tamil Nadu (including Puducherry) at Rs 4,984.51 crore.

#### Dream Sports raises \$225 mn funding

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14

DREAM SPORTS, which owns Dream11, has raised a fresh \$225 million in funding that includes both primary and secondary investments.

The round was led by Tiger Global Management, TPG Tech Adjacencies (TTAD), Chrysalis Capital and Footpath Ventures and the firm is now understood to be valued at close to \$2.5 billion.

The bulk of the transaction comprises secondary investments, sources said. "The increase in the secondary component appears to be due to

Total EPF withdrawals in Delhi during the period stood at Rs 2,940.97 crore, followed by Telangana Rs 2,619 crore, and Haryana Rs 2,220 crore. This data pertains to total withdrawals for various reasons, including on account of the new pandemic withdrawal provision.

The government had, in March, allowed millions of EPFO subscribers to withdraw a portion of their retirement savings amid the Covid-19 lockdown. As per the relaxation provided to cope with financial difficulties, EPFO subscribers can withdraw 75 per cent of their savings or up to a maximum of three months' basic pay and dearness allowance, whichever is lower. Subscribers are currently allowed to withdraw their PFs for house construction, marriage and education of children, illness and unemployment.

During April-August 2020, the EPFO settled 94.41 lakh claims worth Rs 35,445 crore. The claims

were 32 per cent higher than that in April-August 2019, while the amount disbursed rose by around 13 per cent. During April-August 2020, 55 per cent of the advance claims settled were related to the Covid-19 advance, while around 31 per cent of advances settled during the period pertained to illness claims. Almost 75 per cent of Covid-19 advances and about 79 per cent of illness-related claims were settled for EPF subscribers earning less than Rs 15,000, the government had earlier said.

The scheme allowing advance withdrawal was notified on March 27 and the online withdrawal facility launched on March 29. The earlier withdrawal conditions allowed subscribers to take non-refundable advance or withdraw money before retirement for specified purposes. Also, subscribers who have been unemployed for more than a month can withdraw up to 75 per cent of their balance.

## ICICI Bank gets exemption from paring stake in insurance arms for 3 yrs

New Delhi: ICICI Bank has said it has got exemption from paring stake in its life and non-life arms to 30 per cent for three years.

A government notification exempted ICICI Bank from the provisions of Section 19(2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with respect to shareholding above 30 per cent in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited, for a period of three years, the bank said. PTI

## Sebi multi-cap schemes directive: Small-cap indices jump up to 5.2%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi's) directive to mutual funds on investment limits in multi-cap schemes resulted in widespread buying in small-cap stocks on Monday.

The BSE small-cap index jumped by 4 per cent, even as the Sensex declined by 98 points to 38,756.63 and the Nifty50 shed 24 points to 11,440.05.

The BSE 250 small-cap index gained 5.26 per cent and the mid-cap index increased 1.56 per cent. The NSE Nifty small-cap 250 index shot up by 5.18 per cent.

In a circular issued on Friday, the market regulator specified that minimum investment in equity and equity re-

lated instruments of large, mid-and small-cap companies should be minimum 25 per cent each of total assets.

Deepak Jasani, head of retail Research, HDFC Securities, said that the recent Sebi circular on allocation by multi-cap schemes spurred buying in small- and mid-caps in anticipation of fund buying that could emerge later to adhere to the new regulation.

The mutual fund industry exposure in mid- and small-cap stocks is around 16.4 per cent and around 6.25 per cent, respectively. As a result, in order to meet the minimum 25 per cent location to mid and small-caps, fund houses will have to move an aggregate investment of Rs 12,600 crore into mid-cap stocks and move an aggregate investment of Rs 27,000 crore to small-caps. So, funds amounting to Rs 40,000 crore

will move to mid and small-cap companies. Though Sebi has given the mutual fund industry four months time to revise their portfolios, industry insiders say that the rebalancing of the portfolio is likely to commence from this week.

On Monday, the market started on a strong note, thanks to upbeat global cues and favourable news related to Covid-19 vaccine trials. However, a sharp decline in the banking and financials erased all the gains and pushed the index lower as the day progressed.

"The broader markets outperformed and ended in the range of 1.5-4 per cent, in anticipation of fund buying in mid-cap and small-cap space after the recent directives from Sebi for multi-cap funds," said Ajit Mishra, VP—Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

#### What is the company doing?

Happiest Minds Technologies is an IT services company founded in 2011 by Ashok Soota. Positioned as 'Born Digital, Born Agile', it provides end-to-end solution in the digital space. Its business is divided into three categories: digital business service (DBS), product engineering service (PES) and infrastructure and management security service (IMSS). As of June 2020, it had 148 active customers with a global presence in nations like the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and the Middle East. In the quarter ended June 30, its total income was Rs 1,869.9 million, EBITDA Rs 478.2 million and its restated profit was Rs 501.8 million.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Why is Happiest Minds Technologies IPO making waves in the primary market?

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

HAPPIEST MINDS Technologies, which came out with an initial public offering (IPO) recently, was a big success in the capital market, leading to oversubscription of 151 times. Founded by 77-year-old IT veteran Ashok Soota, the company has proved that the IPO market is alive and kicking and good IPOs will be welcomed by the investing public.

How was its IPO received by

the investing public?

The IPO of Happiest Minds Technologies, which closed on September 9, was oversubscribed 151 times. It got bids for 3.51 billion shares versus the 23.3 million on offer, ranking it among India's most successful first-time share sales of this decade. The price band for the offer was fixed at Rs 165-166 per equity share. Post IPO, the promoter's stake will come down to 53 per cent from 62 per cent.

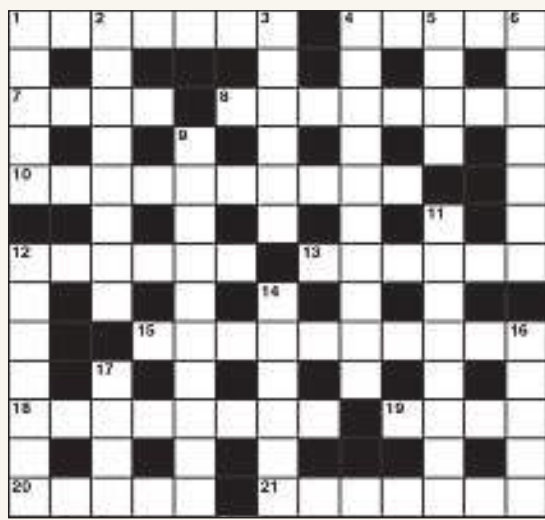
Will all investors in the IPO get allotment?

All investors are unlikely to get the allotment due to huge oversubscription. The quota for institutional investors was subscribed over 77 times. For non-institutional investors, 6.3 million shares were allotted and were subscribed over 351 times. In the case of retail individual investors, 4.2 million shares were allotted and were oversubscribed almost 71 times.

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Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## CROSSWORD 4224



- ACROSS**
- 1 Metal machine operators in the States perhaps (7)
  - 4 She makes two points about Western democracy (5)
  - 7 Privately owned pit? (4)
  - 8 This artist draws pictures on his knees (8)
  - 10 For sleeping partners? (6,4)
  - 12 Put down a whisky (6)
  - 13 Minister is to eat about six (6)
  - 15 I'm sorry he doesn't show regret (10)
  - 18 Transport for nothing in Hamburg perhaps (8)
  - 19 Very keen to make a comeback as a singer (4)
  - 20 The trouble with one hundred is moral (5)
  - 21 Add more solids to kitchen stew (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Possibly amend given title (5)
  - 2 Magician to hoodwink member of a panel (8)
  - 3 To hush an upset baby is rather mean (6)
  - 4 Sort of simple diet it's dangerous to exceed (5,5)
  - 5 Soaks up food (4)
  - 6 Important individual rendered powerless (7)
  - 9 Bad spelling (5,5)
  - 11 A short verse on the Shannon river (8)
  - 12 Out of control blaze is of some magnitude (7)
  - 14 Inflexible student of form? (6)
  - 16 Aim to exercise (5)
  - 17 High-class sort of shop (4)

Solutions Crossword 4223: Across: 1 Seasickness, 9 Ratings, 10 Ursup, 11 Goya, 12 Caboodle, 14 Darken, 16 Mirror, 18 Informer, 19 Mean, 22 Trace, 23 Inutile, 24 Index finger. Down: 2 Entry, 3 Snow, 4 Casual, 5 Neurotic, 6 Sounder, 7 Drug addicts, 8 Appearances, 13 Reprive, 15 Refrain, 17 Relief, 20 Exile, 21 Ruin.

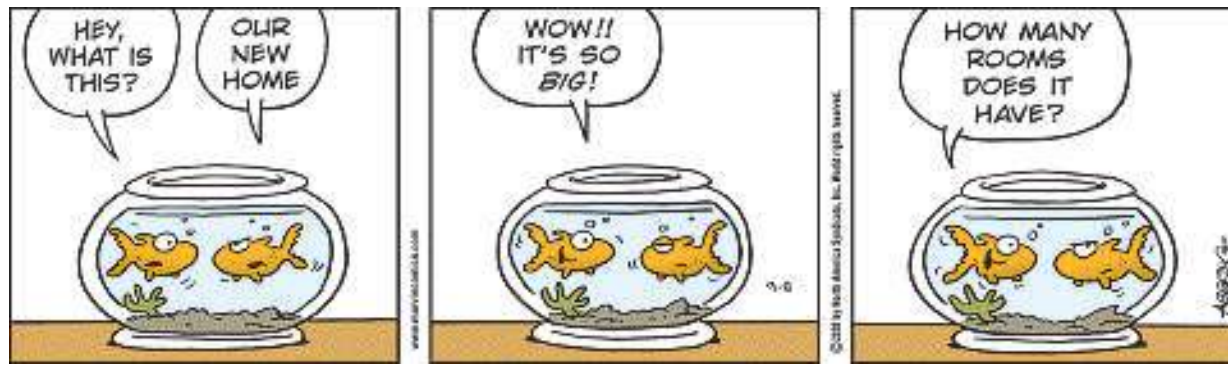
## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## 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 clue.

The first time I ever read the \_\_\_\_\_ I thought it was a poem about everything - Steven Wright (10)

CKAOR      EIRTCN

ABIIIT      AKLRDY

Answer: The first time I ever read the 'Dharma Gurbani' I thought it was a poem about everything - Steven Wright (10)

## SUDOKU 4232

Difficulty Level 5s  
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.

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

SUDOKU 4232

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

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4231

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4231

## WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION

### HIRING OF VEHICLES & VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

Sr. No.	e-Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate NIT Cost	EMD (₹)
01	DRM-ADI-157-2020-21	Hiring of 03 Nos multi-utility pick up (Double Cab) vehicle capacity-1 MT for SSE (P.Way) BG Sabarmati, SSE (P.Way) Ahmedabad & SSE (P.Way) Himatnagar Unit under jurisdiction of ADEN-NWADI for 2 Years.	₹ 2570470.45	₹ 514000.00
02	DRM-ADI-158-2020-21	Hiring of multi-utility vehicle 03 No vehicles pick up (Double Cab) capacity-1 MT for SSE (P.Way) USFD Unit under ADEN (NW) Ahmedabad for 2 Years.	₹ 2570470.45	₹ 514000.00
03	DRM-ADI-159-2020-21	Hiring of multi-utility vehicle 02 No pick up (Double Cab) capacity-1 MT for SSE (P.Way) Kalol & (MG) Sabarmati Unit under ADEN (MG) Sabarmati for 2 Years.	₹ 2008643.16	₹ 402000.00
04	DRM-ADI-160-2020-21	Sabarmati-Kalol: Providing track drain, repairs to road surface, providing ballast retainer in Major and Minor bridges and cess repairs in connection with Sabarmati-Kalol doubling work under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/South/Ahmedabad (left over work).	₹ 27635299.92	₹ 288200.00
05	DRM-ADI-161-2020-21	Sabarmati-Kalol: CTR, TTR, deep screening in Khodiyar yard and other ancillary in connection with Sabarmati-Kalol doubling work under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/South/Ahmedabad (left over work).	₹ 12319166.78	₹ 211600.00

For above all tenders: Closing date & time of e-tender: Date 13.10.2020 at 15.00 Hrs. Office Address: Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Ahmedabad, DRM Office, Nr. Chamunda Bridge, Opp. New Swadeshi Mill, Naroda Road, Amtdupura, Ahmedabad-382345. Website for participating e-tender: www.ireps.gov.in

Like us on Facebook.com/WesternRly - Follow us on Twitter.com/WesternRly

## Narmada Water Resource Water Supply & Kalpsar Department

### TENDER NOTICE No. 07 of 2020-21

Online Tender (E-Tendering System) is invited by the Executive Engineer (Administration), Central Design Organization, Block No. 9/2, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Gandhinagar - 382010, Phone No. 079-23253486 from Agencies who are having similar experience. Detail of work is as under.

Sr. Name of work	Qualification of Bidder
1 Supply of Geo Studio Pro Software Under National Hydrology Project for Central Design Organization at Gandhinagar	(1) E.M.D Rs. (2) Tender Fees Rs. (3) Time Limit
Period for Tender Download :-	Dt. 14/09/2020 to Dt. 14/10/2020 upto 18.00 Hrs.
Pre-bid Meeting	Dt. 23/09/2020, at 12.00 Hrs. (Web based)
Physical Submission:- (Tender Fee, E.M.D. and other (Documents))	Dt. 15/10/2020 to Dt. 20/10/2020 upto 18.00 Hrs.
Technical Bid Opening	Dt. 15/10/2020, after 12.00 Hrs.
Price bid Opening	(1) 15/10/2020, after 12.05 Hrs. (If possible) (Only for technically responsive bid offers.

Further details will be available on website: [www.nwr.nprocure.com](http://www.nwr.nprocure.com) Name of work and Tender ID must be write on Cover.

(INF/879/20-21)

## भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड

### CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

एक सरकारी कंपनी (एक सरकारी का उपकरण) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
ICD, Malanpur - 477117

### TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)

Online tender in single bid system is invited for the work of "Repair to Bituminous pavement near Admin Building and Warehouse at ICD/Malanpur.", only through e-tendering mode. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs. 1000/- through online from the website: [www.tenderwizard.com/CCL/](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCL/).

Tender No.	CON/EP/NCR/MALANPUR/R. REPAIR/2020
Name of Work	Repair to Bituminous pavement near Admin Building and Warehouse at ICD/Malanpur.
Estimated Cost	Rs.24,33,422.00
Completion Period	60 days
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.48,670/- (through e-payment)
Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Rs.1000/- (inclusive all taxes & duties) (through e-payment)
Tender Processing Fee (Non-refundable)	Rs.1436/- (inclusive all taxes & duties through e-payment)
Date of sale of Tender (online)	15.09.2020 (11:00hrs) to 06.10.2020 (upto 17:00 hrs)
Date & Time of submission of Tender.	07.10.2020 upto 17:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of Tender.	09.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs.

\* Through e-responses  
CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details login to [www.concorindia.co.in](http://www.concorindia.co.in) or [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) or [www.tenderwizard.com/CCL/](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCL/)

Group General Manager (P&S)

## TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture  
Regd. Office: NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009  
Tel: 86112222, Fax: 27488042, Email: [TPDDL@tatapower-dli.com](mailto:TPDDL@tatapower-dli.com)  
CIN No. : U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website: [www.tatapower-dli.com](http://www.tatapower-dli.com)

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

TATA Power-DLI invites tenders as per following details:

Tender Enquiry No. / Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/PMG/Tender/Banking-2020-21/03	N.A.	16.09.2020	06.10.2020; 16:00 Hrs/ 06.10.2020; 16:30 Hrs

### CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENSION

Tender Enquiry No. / Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001230/20-21 For Supply Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Power Quality Meter	05.08.2020	21.09.2020 at 16:00 Hrs/ 21.09.2020 at 16:30 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website [www.tatapower-dli.com](http://www.tatapower-dli.com) → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents

Contracts - 011-66112222

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

### E-TENDER NOTICE

1. Name of the work with its location:	Hiring of one EECO Maruti Suzuki Ambulance round the clock with first aid kit, two folding stretchers, oxygen cylinder with all attachments, driver and attendant to be stationed round the clock at Health Unit Bhoor Ghaziabad for transporting railway employees both working and retired and their beneficiaries, from various places at Bhoor Bharat Nagar Ghaziabad including all colonies to Divisional Railway Hospital, Delhi and/or Central Hospital, New Delhi and/or to any other Hospital as advised by the Railway Medical Officer Bhoor GZB, on a monthly payment basis.
2. Approximate estimate cost:	Rs. 48,000/- (Rupees Forty Eight Thousand only) per Month or Rs. 17,28,000/- (Seventeen Lakh Twenty Eight thousand only)
3. Cost of Tender form	Rs. 2360/- (inclusive GST (non-refundable))
4. Address of the website form where the tender form can be downloaded	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
5. EMD to be deposited	Rs. 34,600/- (Rs. Thirty Four Thousand Six Hundred) only
6. Completion period of the work	03 (three) years from the date of award of work
7. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	09.10.2020 upto to 15.00 hrs. and opening 15.30 hrs. same day
8. Website particulars notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> (Chief Medical Superintendent, Northern Railway Divisional Hospital (Near Novelti Cinema) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Marg, Delhi-110006)

No. 31-Med-Amb-Hiring-Bhoor-GZB-2020-23  
Dated: 14.09.2020

1996/2020  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. HSCC/CSIR-IHBT/PALAMPUR/HOSTEL/2020 Dated: 14.09.2020

Online item rate bids are invited by HSCC (India) Limited on behalf of Director, CSIR for the works: Construction of Hostel Block for CSIR-IHBT, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh". Estimated project cost: Rs. 24.15 Cr and Completion period: 18 Months. Tender available online from 16.09.2020 and Last Date of submission of Bids is 01.10.2020. The detailed NIT and Bid documents will be available on e-tender portal [www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC), HSCC website [www.hscctd.co.in](http://www.hscctd.co.in) and CPP portal. Corrigendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on said websites and not be published.

GM (Projects), HSCC (I) Ltd

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

### RAILWAY RECRUITMENT BOARD, AJMER

#### Corrigendum No. 11

#### E Tender No. RRB-All-Tender-CEN-03-2019

Name of Work : RRBs- Engaging Exam Conducting Agency (ECA) to conduct Computer Based Tests (CBTs) and all related activities like processing of Results and Panels etc for Recruitment of various Ministerial and Isolated categories in Indian Railways notified in Centralized Employment Notification (CEN) 03/2019.

Following updates/modifications in the above tender have been incorporated on IREPS:

1. Approximate Cost of Work - Rs. 3.22 Crore
2. Responses on pre-bid queries are uploaded in terms of para 1.7 of Tender Document.
3. Revised and updated Tender Document in supersession of original Tender Document dated 02.03.2020 is uploaded.

All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

You may login to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for these updates as well as any further revision in dates/updates.

14.09.2020 Chairman/RRB/Ajmer

## परिचयमाल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.

ई-निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकों द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य की निविदा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से कराने हेतु अनुबंध एवं प्रतिष्ठित टेकेदारों से मुहुरदर निविदाओं को अलग-अलग भागों में आवेदन को जाती है। निविदा शुल्क व धरोहर राशि इस कार्यवाही के खाता नं. 1088022416 आई.एफ.एस.सी. कोड SBIN000685 भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, रतेवे रोड, मुजफ्फर नगर में आर.टी.सी.एस.एन.ई.एफ.टी. के माध्यम से जमा कराई जायेगी एवं निविदा का प्रथम भाग में निविदा शुल्क व धरोहर राशि जमा का साक्ष्य यथोक्त न्यू.टी. आर. पे-इन-रिलेज मूल की प्रति, बैंक गारंटी मूल की प्रति (इश्युमें बैंक के कम्प्लेनमेंट मेल की प्रति) पेन कार्ड, जी.एस.टी., टेन्कोकॉम/सिंलिंग शॉर्ट ई-टेंडर प्रपत्र के साथ अनुभवान्वय मेक 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्रों पर अधिस्त 06 नं. केवी इन्टरनेट 11 केवी क्रोमनमेक 1200 एम्पियर एवं 04 नं. केवी इन्टरनेट 11 केवी स्टील मेक वी.सी.सी. के अधिस्त वैक्यूम इन्टरनेट के स्थान पर नया वैक्यूम इन्टरनेट स्थापित करने का कार्य बाध्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से कराए जाने हेतु कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु.-2000/मात्र। निविदा शुल्क रु.-1180.00 मात्र। 2. ई-निविदा संख्या 69/ 2020-21- अधिस्तारी अधिनियम, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम, मुजफ्फरनगर के अधीनस्थ उपखण्ड अधिकारी विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड-द्वितीय, मुजफ्फरनगर के कार्यक्षेत्र में विद्युत 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्रों पर अधिस्त 06 नं. केवी इन्टरनेट 11 केवी क्रोमनमेक 1200 एम्पियर एवं 04 नं. केवी इन्टरनेट 11 केवी स्टील मेक वी.सी.सी. 1600 एम्पियर के अधिस्त वैक्यूम इन्टरनेट के स्थान पर नया वैक्यूम इन्टरनेट स्थापित करने का कार्य बाध्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से कराए जाने हेतु कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु.-2000/मात्र। 3. ई-निविदा संख्या 70/ 2020-21- अधिस्तारी अधिनियम, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, मुजफ्फरनगर के अधीनस्थ उपखण्ड अधिकारी विद्युत वितरण उपखण्ड-प्रथम, मुजफ्फरनगर के कार्यक्षेत्र में 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्रों सहित तान पर स्थापित 33 केवी वी.एच.ई.एल./ सोमिन्स मेक 02 नं. वी.सी.सी. एवं कंट्रोल पैनेल के सहि प्रकाश से कार्य नहीं करने पर 33 केवी वी.सी.सी. एवं कंट्रोल पैनेल के अधिस्त समान के स्थान पर नया समान उपलब्ध करने हेतु परमत्त का कार्य बाध्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से कराए जाने हेतु कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु.-2000/मात्र। निविदा शुल्क रु.-1180.00 मात्र। हस्ता./- अधीक्षक अभियंता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-प्रथम मुजफ्फरनगर पत्रांक: 3489/विद्युत.प्र.मु.नगर/केम्प दिनांक: 14.09.2020

## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
In many ways and in many areas of your life, you show a unique capacity to turn circumstances to your advantage. Yet, now, perhaps for the first time, it seems that you have temporarily lost control. Ironically, this may be no bad thing. Allow a little chaos into your life, and you'll be flooded with fresh opportunities.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Today's lunar alignment is designed to boost your psychological immune system, protecting you from whatever fate may throw at you. It should even be enough to get you through the week's domestic tension and family meetings. Your romantic mood is scheduled for a welcome shift later in the week, so take it easy for now.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
There is no question that financial pressure is intense, yet not all of you are passing through a cash crisis. Others are still buoyed up by an innate optimism and determination to succeed. It could be Friday before confusion or chaos is cleared up so, until then, you may want to leave vital matters to the experts.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
If ever there was a time to use your imagination, trust your intuition and amaze everyone with your vision, it is now, just as the planets are completing an inspired ten-year cycle. Don't worry about the confusion which seems to be coming in view, like some hazy sea-mist. It brings its own pleasures and pleasures.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Passions run high, but bearing in mind that love and hate are two sides of the same coin, the question is - which way will you jump? It is impossible to escape the fact that the wise will take the path of love. Within two weeks Venus, bringer of affection and ruler of seduction, will be safely in a fresh part of your chart.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
Be ready to change the direction of your life. At any rate, the motivation to implement a number of positive improvements in your lifestyle is now pressing. Social contacts may strengthen your resolve, yet you should keep your diary relatively free and open to last-minute arrangements.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
A stroke of financial good luck should come as some compensation for the stress and strain of recent times. At least you can now see that your professional ambitions are likely to work out. A legal or marital matter moves to the top of your agenda, so see to it that whatever agreements are reached are in your favour.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
You can afford to be confident now that the Moon shifts the balance firmly in your favour. Plus, a superb relationship between the Sun and your sign ought to get matters moving and enable you to exercise considerably more influence over your affairs than in the recent past. Do protect yourself against accusations or excessive demands from employers.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
Your spirit will be lifted by certain key developments. Specifically, you may be the fortunate recipient of a financial windfall, possibly one whose source is far from clear. Secret, generous gestures will work in your favour, and you'll soon come to realise that giving and taking work well together!

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
There's still no let-up from dynamic planetary aspects. What can be said, though, is that the key to success or failure lies totally in your own capacity to organise your priorities and arrange your affairs. If recent events have taught you anything, it is that in the final analysis, you are in control.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
So much has been concealed from you over the past few weeks that you may have given up hope of ever uncovering the answer to a particular question. Concentrate on what you can do to improve working conditions and don't let pessimistic people put you off.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
When the Moon forms spectacular relationships with other planets, as it does with excitable Uranus, Saturn and intense Pluto, you are bound to benefit. You will begin to wonder why you ever lacked confidence or doubted your ability to succeed either socially or professionally. The world lies at your feet, Pisces.

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

MAJ BHAGAT SINGH, VrC  
19 Mar 41 - 15 SEP 65

We pay homage to our noble martyr, who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the enemy in the 1965 operations in J&K. His dauntless courage and sacrifice will forever inspire the organisation.

CO and all ranks 6th Battalion Brigade of The Guards.

Maj VS Ahlawat  
(01 Nov 1978-15 Sep 2017)

This historic day fills our hearts with pride and sorrow alike when in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, you laid down your life in Counter Insurgency Area of Assam. World is a lesser place without you but we know that you are with the gods above and even heavens have improved by your gracious presence.

Fondly remembered by  
CO and All Ranks of 3 RAJPUT

Martyr of CISF on 15th September  
CT/GD SHUBALP NAGARGOJ ECL,  
SEETHALP 15-09-1994

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with armed criminals to safeguard the national property. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noblest deed.

82772/HRV

## MEMBER SECRETARY, HARYANA STATE PROTECTION SOCIETY WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT BAY 15-20 (POCKET-2), SECTOR-4, PANCHKULA

After several players tested positive for COVID-19, United Arab Emirates football club Al Wahda had its results wiped from the Asian Champions League on Monday. The club was judged to have withdrawn from the competition when it failed to travel to Qatar to resume games in a tournament bubble, the Asian Football Confederation ruled.

AP

## England haven't forgotten BLM movement, insists Archer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 14

ENGLISH CRICKETERS "have not forgotten" the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, "assured pacer Jofra Archer, responding to Micheal Holding's criticism of his side which did not take a knee before matches against Australia and Pakistan. West Indies fast bowler great Holding did not appreciate that fact that England have now stopped taking a knee during matches. The BLM is a political and social movement, advocating non-violent civil disobedience in protest against incidents of police brutality and racially motivated violence against black people.

"We have not forgotten, no one here has forgotten about Black Lives Matter," Archer was quoted as saying by Sky Sports. "I think it is a bit harsh for Michael Holding to not do some research before criticising. I'm pretty sure he doesn't know what is going on behind the scenes." "I don't think he has spoken to (CB chief executive) Tom Harrison. I have spoken to Tom and we have stuff running in the background," he said but did not specify what it was.

Having faced slurs for missing England's second Test against the West Indies for bio-secure breach in July this year, Archer urged social media platforms to extinguish racial abuse. "I think a lot of stuff is being put into place now," said Archer.

### Australia crumble

APADDS: Australia batted itself into a winning position before dramatically collapsing as England won the second one-day cricket international by 24 runs to stay alive in the series. England's decision to bat first at had appeared to backfire with the world champions limited to 231-9 and Australia reaching 143-2 with 20 overs left on Sunday.

**BRIEF SCORES:** England 231 for 9 (Morgan 42, Zampa 3-36) beat Australia 207 (Finch 73, Labuschagne 48, Woakes 3-32, Archer 3-34, S Curran 3-35) by 24 runs.

# Thiem comes true

Austrian cracks the Slam code and fulfills dream after triumphing in a thrilling final against Zverev

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 14

A US Open unlike any other finished unlike any other, with an unprecedented fifth-set tiebreaker as Dominic Thiem became the first man in 71 years to win the final after dropping the opening two sets.

So close to defeat in a nearly empty Arthur Ashe Stadium as fans were banned because of the coronavirus pandemic. Thiem slowly but surely turned things around against a faltering Alexander Zverev and pulled out a 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(6) victory at Flushing Meadows for his first Grand Slam title.

The match ended with both men fighting leg cramps and, clearly, nerves.

"Somehow," said Thiem, a 27-year-old from Austria, "the belief today was stronger than the body, and I'm super happy about that." When a backhand from Zverev landed wide on the third championship point, a weary Thiem dropped to his back way behind the baseline and covered his face with his hands. When he arose, he was met by Zverev, who walked around the net to clasp hands, then embrace his friend and foe, two sights rarely seen in this era of social distancing. Thiem then rested his head on the shoulder of the taller Zverev, who himself came within two points of what would have been his first major triumph.

"I wish we could have two winners today," Thiem said. "I think we both deserved it." He is the first man to win the American Grand Slam tournament after trailing 2-0 in sets in the final since Pancho Gonzalez did it against Ted Schroeder in 1949 at an event then known as the U.S. Championships and held in Forest Hills. The event never had been settled by a fifth-set tiebreaker; no major tournament ever had until Novak Djokovic edged Roger Federer that way at Wimbledon in 2019.

"I was a few games away, a few points away," said Zverev, who was trying to give Germany its first male Grand Slam champion since Boris Becker in the 1990s. "I'm 23 years old. I don't think it's my last chance." Zverev choked up when he mentioned that his parents hadn't been able to travel to New York



Dominic Thiem fought back from two sets down in a four-hour contest to beat Alexander Zverev 2-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(6). USA TODAY Sports

**I achieved a life goal, a dream [for] myself, which I had for many, many years. Of course [I had that dream] as a kid as well when I started to play tennis. But back then it was so far away."**

**DOMINIC THIEM**  
2020 US OPEN CHAMPION

because they tested positive for COVID-19, although he said they are now healthy.

As Thiem stepped forward to pose for pictures with his shiny new bit of hardware, Zverev remained a few feet behind, one hand clutching his less-impressive silver tray, the other hand on a hip.

The proceedings took 4 hours, 2 minutes. And to think: After just 1 1/2 hours, Zverev was up by two sets and a break in the third at 2-1. "The match turned when he broke me for the

**Want to congratulate Dominic on the first of many Grand Slam titles. I wish you could have missed a little more so I could be holding that trophy up, but here I am giving the runner-up speech."**

**ALEXANDER ZVEREV**  
2020 US OPEN RUNNER-UP

first time in the third set," Zverev said.

"He started playing much better, and I started playing much worse," Zverev, of all people, should have known what might have seemed like an impossible hill to climb for Thiem was, indeed, achievable. After all, in Thursday's semifinals, it was Zverev who trailed 2-0 in sets against Pablo Carreño Busta before coming back to win.

Thiem began the day 0-3 in Grand Slam finals, but always faced a member of the Big

Three of men's tennis in those others. This time, he was the favorite and came out jittery, but eventually worked his way out of that, while Zverev went from cool and confident to passive and pushed around.

The fifth set was just as back-and-forth as the other four, the mistakes rising with the tension and the history in the offing.

Thiem broke in the opening game when Zverev shanked a pair of forehands. Zverev broke right back when he pushed a volley into the net. That began a three-game run for Thiem, who broke to lead 6-5, earning his own chance to serve for it when Thiem netted a backhand, followed by a long forehand.

After having a trainer check on his right leg during the ensuing changeover, Thiem couldn't seal the deal, either, and on they went to the tiebreaker. Zverev double-faulted twice and offered up one second serve at 68 mph, about half the speed he's capable of.

While this was the No. 7-ranked Zverev's first Slam final, this was the first one the No. 3-ranked Thiem was supposed to win, following losses to 12-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros in 2018 and 2019, then to eight-time Australian Open champion Djokovic at Melbourne Park this February? back before the pandemic upended the world and put tennis on a five-month hiatus.

Instead of wild applause and loud shouts greeting great exchanges, the soundtrack Sunday mainly came from outside the largest court in tennis, courtesy of roaring airplanes, rumbling trains, revving car engines, honking horns and wailing sirens.

There was the occasional polite applause from the dozens of tournament workers allowed in the stands and, deep into the match, yells from the players' entourages. But the louder crowd noise heard by TV viewers was fake, added by the broadcaster.

## Thomas Uber Cup likely to be postponed

SHIVANI NAIK  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

MALAYSIAN MEDIA The Star has reported that the Thomas Uber Cup is likely to be postponed and take place post the 2021 Olympics. "The Thomas Uber Cup finals are virtually off. The finals scheduled to be held in Aarhus Denmark from Oct 3-11 is set to be held after next year's Tokyo Olympics," the Kuala Lumpur based paper reported. BWF had huddled till late on Sunday, to discuss the future of the tournament riddled by large scale withdrawals.

Indosport.com had hinted that Japan could be the next one to pull out, saying the federation was discussing whether to go ahead or not. The website quoted the chairman of Nippon Badminton Association as saying, "The decision will be made next week, but considering the teams withdrawing, this year's Thomas - Uber Cup is still (looking) very difficult to hold." September 18 is the last date for confirmation.

Chinese media Aiyuke and Japan's Daily Star reported the development earlier. Meanwhile BWF were to discuss the fate of TUC, according to Malaysian thestar.com.my.

In India, former World No 1 and Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal tweeted, "7 countries have withdrawn from tournament cause of the pandemic... Is it safe enough to conduct this tournament during this time? ... (Thomas and Uber Cup 2020) #coronavirus" Thomas Cup titans Indonesia and eternal contenders Korea's withdrawal came after Thailand and Australia had withdrawn while Singapore and Hong Kong had declined an invite.

Malaysian media also speculated that China was in the process of a rethink. Over the weekend Malaysian legend and former great Rashid Sidek also sounded a dissenting note. "If four teams have withdrawn, it's better to just postpone it. Thailand and Taiwan can be considered strong teams for the Thomas and Uber Cup, but if they pull out and are replaced by a lower ranking team, that quality is definitely lacking," indostar.com quoted him as saying.

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