

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



## ADDRESS AT B20 SUMMIT

# Create global framework for ethical use of AI: PM

Raises concern over algorithmic bias, seeks integrated approach on crypto

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday called for a global framework to ensure the ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) as he flagged concerns over algorithmic bias and its disruptive impact on society.

Emphasising the need to deepen mutual trust and cooperation between countries, Modi called for a similar, integrated approach to deal with issues related to cryptocurrencies.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the Business 20 (B20) Summit organised by the



PM Modi at the B20 Summit in New Delhi. Amit Mehra

Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), ahead of the G20 Summit next month.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Delhi seeks to help frame discourse on AI regulation

ANIL SASI  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

WITH G20 SUMMIT less than two weeks from now, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a global framework on expansion of "ethical" artificial intelligence (AI) tools aims at taking a leadership position on the evolving debate over the need for convergence amongst all countries

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## No permission for Nuh yatra: Haryana CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 27

HARYANA CHIEF Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Sunday that permission has not been granted for the proposed yatra in Nuh district on Monday, in view of the violence last month. He appealed to devotees to offer prayers at local temples instead.

The district administration has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144, and said the district's borders will be sealed. The "Braj Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra" had been called by the Sarv Jatiya Hindu Mahapanchayat.

FULL REPORT  
PAGE 5



Rajesh Ramesh, Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Anas came second in the 4x400 m relay heat to qualify for the World Athletics final in Budapest. AP

## India's winning 4: Three fought injuries, fourth is a footballer-turned-sprinter

ANDREW AMSAN  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

AFTER 2 minutes and 59.05 seconds on the track at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest on Saturday night, the Indian 4x400 metre relay quartet of Muhammed Anas, Amoj

Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi and Rajesh Ramesh became household names.

The unheralded Asian record not only broke the Asian record but also became the first Indian team to reach a World Championship final. The Americans were in the same heat as the Indians. But instead

of getting bogged down by the pressure, the Indians ran the race of their lives. On air, commentators were thrilled with the unexpected result and the mighty scare the US got.

The lasting image, though it was just for a fleeting second, was Ramesh overtaking

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**IDEA EXCHANGE**

'We really like each other and need each other. The world needs us to like each other and work together'

ERIC GARCETTI  
UNITED STATES  
AMBASSADOR TO INDIA  
PAGE 16

## Muzaffarnagar school where boy was beaten on teacher's orders sealed

JIGNASA SINHA  
MUZAFFARNAGAR, AUGUST 27

AUTHORITIES IN Muzaffarnagar on Sunday sealed a private school in Khubbapur village, where a seven-year-old boy was beaten by other students on instructions from their teacher earlier this week.

The teacher, Tripta Tyagi (60), had allegedly referred to the boy's faith and talked pejoratively about "Mohammedan children" as she asked other students to beat the boy "hard". The boy's family said he was beaten up for a mistake in multiplication tables.

Tyagi, who also owns Neha Public School where the incident took place on Thursday, has been booked under IPC sections 323 (causing hurt) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace). Police said

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

### A TEACHER'S HEARTSET

BY AMEETA MULLA WATTAL  
PAGE 10

she has not been arrested yet since the sections are bailable.

A video of the incident went viral on Friday, leading to calls for action against the teacher and the school. In the video, asking the classmates to beat the boy, Tyagi is heard purportedly saying, "Maine toh declare kar diya, jitne bhi Mohammedan bachche hain, inke wahan chale jao (I have declared — all these Muslim children, go to anyone's area)..."

On Sunday, Basic Education Officer Shubham Shukla said, "We have conducted an inquiry... We found that the school doesn't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Hear Ruchir Sharma link politics, economy, world at Express Adda today



Investor and author Ruchir Sharma

firm focused on emerging markets, will be the guest at Express Adda in Mumbai on Monday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

WALL STREET investor, author, fund manager and political commentator Ruchir Sharma, who is now the Chairman of Rockefeller International and Founder and Chief Investment Officer of Breakout Capital, an investment



## Amarmani's home turf calls his release a gamechanger, kin keep plans under wraps

PAGE 1  
ANCHOR

ASAD REHMAN  
GORAKHPUR, MAHARAJGANJ,  
AUGUST 27

AMARMANI TRIPATHI'S influence over his home turf Nautanwa can be gauged from the streets — despite the former Uttar Pradesh minister staying away for the past 20 years, bar-



The residence-cum-office of Amarmani Tripathi (right) at Nautanwa in Maharajganj district. Vishal Srivastav



ring a brief visit in 2006 while on bail. The small town in Maharajganj district, located around 300 km from Lucknow, today awaits the return of its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Nowhere to be found.

Aaj Tak is now yesterday's news.

No matter how they play with numbers, News18 India remains way ahead of Aaj Tak.

**TV viewership**

Aaj Tak: 7.4 Cr  
NEWS 18 इंडिया: 8.6 Cr  
16% ahead

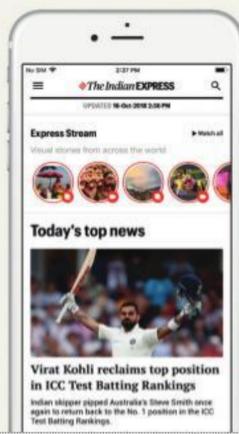
News18 India is **27%** ahead of Aaj Tak on

News18 India is **12%** ahead of Aaj Tak on

**NEWS 18**  
**इंडिया**

India's No. 1 Hindi News Channel

SOURCE: BARC | METRIC: AVG. WEEKLY AMA'0005 | TG: NCCS ALL 15+ | PERIOD: WK 26-33'23, 24 HRS, ALL DAYS | MARKET: HSM | 13 CHANNELS CONSIDERED  
SOURCE FB: VIDEO VIEWS, CROWDTANGLE, JULY'23  
SOURCE YT: VIDEO VIEWS, DATABEINGS, STATS AS OF AUGUST 5 FOR ALL VIDEOS UPLOADED IN JULY'23



DOWNLOAD APP

- VISUAL STORIES
- DAILY BRIEFING
- PODCASTS
- CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE

Indian Express  
★★★★ 4.6



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



WEB EXCLUSIVE

HOW DAVID'S 'LEONIDAS AT THERMOPYLAE' CAPTURES THE SOUL OF SPARTA

Behind the Art: Leonidas at Thermopylae by Jacques-Louis David immortalises a defining moment in ancient Greek history. The battle has inspired several works of art over time including the 2006 film "300" - an epic action movie, and more.

TECHNOLOGY



LG TONE FREE FIT REVIEW

For a fitness-focused earbud, this has a very active noise cancellation



UPSC SPECIALS

Scan the QR code and get 'the express edge' in your civil services preparation with our UPSC specials

EXPRESS AUDIO

Fuelling change: Sports Revolution through Sports For All

In 3 Things, we discover how Vishwas Choksi and Rishikesh Joshi, the founders of Sports For All, are transforming the landscape of school sports and learn about the impactful mission of SFA.

India will lead world in 2047, says Dhankhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR, AUGUST 27

INDIA WILL be on top of the world by 2047 thanks to the young generation's "commitment", "directional approach" and "service to society", Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said Sunday.

Addressing students at an event at Sainik School in Jhunjhunu district, he said the country is rising like never before and will lead the world when it celebrates the centenary of Independence in 2047.

"You are the future of this country, you will shape this country. But you are fortunate that you are here at a time when India is rising as never before. Rise of India is unstoppable, we are going to be world's number one when we celebrate the centenary of our Independence in 2047," Dhankhar said.

Citing the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the south pole of the Moon, the vice president said, "History was created."

Dhankhar asked the students to not be afraid of failure, citing the example of Chandrayaan-2.

FROM PAGE ONE

Create framework for ethical use of AI: PM at B20 summit

Days after the BRICS Summit, Modi also reiterated the importance of India's role in setting up resilient and inclusive global supply chains.

Noting the excitement around AI, Modi pointed out some ethical considerations. "The world has to come together to solve the challenges of skilling and reskilling, and algorithmic bias and its impact on society. Global business communities and governments have to ensure the expansion of ethical AI across different sectors... the disruption is beyond our thinking, and we have to create a global framework," he said.

He cited the examples of the aviation and financial sectors which have seen global coordination. Positioning India as a crucial element in the global supply chains which were disrupted during the pandemic, he said: "We have seen some irreversible changes since Covid-19, global supply chains cannot be seen like earlier. Can a supply chain be called efficient if it breaks when the world needs it the most... The

solution to that problem is India. Efficient and trusted supply chains in India have an important place."

Stressing on mutual trust, he pitched India as a key player internationally. "Mutual trust needs the most investment... and the country that can function with humility and sensitivity is India," he said. "Your partnership with India is very important... if your friendship is strong with India, it will result in prosperity for both," he added.

Cautioning against a "self-centric" approach, Modi said that if businesses and governments don't shoulder global responsibility, it could result in a "new colonial model".

"If our focus is self-centric, we won't be able to help ourselves or the world... We are seeing that in the case of rare earth metals - some regions have them in abundance, while some don't, even as the whole world needs them. This could become a new colonial model," he said.

"A profitable market can be sustained when there's a balance

in the interest between producers and consumers. Consumers can be both individuals and countries. Treating countries just as a market will not work. Making everyone equal partners in progress is the way forward," he said.

Modi also urged business leaders to look beyond consumer rights, and focus on consumer care. "Can we talk about consumer care? It will send a positive signal and will resolve consumer rights issues. We need to boost trust between businesses and consumers," he said, and suggested that a day should be observed as "international consumer care day".

The Prime Minister also highlighted the contribution of various Indian MSMEs and private companies in the success of the country's lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3. "Many components that were needed to make the mission a success were developed and provided by private companies and MSMEs in time... it is the success of science and the industry," he said.

School where boy was beaten on teacher's orders is sealed

meet the criteria of the department. We have issued a notice to the school to seal it and authorities are conducting an investigation to take further action. Notice has also been served to the teacher for hitting the child."

Another officer, who refused to be named, said, "It's an under-construction building and the teacher taught the students at her home. There were no fans or lights for the children. There were no sections for classes 1 to 5. We have sealed it for now."

Sources said notices have also been sent to de-recognise the school from the UP Education Board. "All the 50 students will be moved to a government school [in the village] or other schools in the district within a week," said the officer. The boy's family has already taken him out of the school and is looking for a new school.

When contacted, Tyagi and her family members refused to comment on the sealing of the school. They said they were upset with the villagers and "dis-

turbed". The village has close to 375 families and only two schools - a government school with classes 1 to 5, and Neha Public School, which was registered in 2019.

Villagers in Khubbapur told The Indian Express that all other private schools were some distance away and relatively expensive. The parents paid Rs 300-500 per month at Neha Public School while other schools charge a monthly fee of Rs 1,500-Rs 2,000, which many families cannot afford.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), meanwhile, has directed the Muzaffarnagar Senior Superintendent of Police to initiate an inquiry and lodge an FIR against the teacher. The officer has also been instructed to submit an action taken report within a week.

The NCPCR has also directed the Muzaffarnagar District Magistrate to initiate action in the matter under Section 17 (child being subjected to physical punishment/mental harassment) of the RTE Act, 2009.

Hear Ruchir Sharma link politics, economy, world at Adda today

Known for the way he joins the dots between politics, economy and global affairs to identify emerging patterns and better focus on the big picture, Sharma has written extensively on the global economies, giving deep insights about their growth and slowdown. His observations are keenly followed by policy makers and governments across the world, including India.

In his best-seller 'Breakout Nations: In Pursuit of the Next Economic Miracles' and other books, Sharma has made a compelling argument for which nations will thrive, and which will falter, in a global economy reshaped by the crisis of 2008. "No one can forecast the next century with any credibility and, more importantly, be held accountable for it," he says in the book.

Sharma had moved to Rockefeller in 2022 after a 25-year career at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, where he was Head of Emerging Markets and Chief Global Strategist.

At the Express Adda, he will be in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express group, and Shyamal Majumdar, Editor, Financial Express. He is likely to share his views on the latest global and national economic trends post the Covid-19 pandemic and when inflation and interest rates are at elevated levels - all in the run-up to general elections in 2024.

"My disappointment with India as somebody who loves this country so much that even if my base is New York, at the slightest excuse I come to India, is that I wish we were much more of an economic success story. I wish our politicians thought much more about giving people economic freedom," Sharma had said in an Express Adda in September 2020. "But unfortunately, I don't think it's just about this government, but at a state level what this episode has shown me, including the ability to hoard power. You don't want to give up power, that is such an obsession, and you have so many supremos at the state level as well," he said.

He is passionate about politics and has covered every national election in India, and many major state contests, going back to 1998. He led the first trip with three journalist friends,

Winning 4: Three fought injuries, fourth is a footballer-turned-sprinter

American Justin Robinson in the final leg. Whether they win a medal or not in the final on Sunday night, the viral video has joined the list of iconic moments in Indian sport. In fact, Robinson had to nudge back Ramesh who was snapping at his heels.

"Since 2016, we were expected to run 2:59 but it never happened. It happened today," Anas told reporters in the mixed zone, minutes after the team hugged on the track when the time flashed on the big screen.

Their coach, Jamaican Jason Dawson, had given them a simple but tough target - stay just behind the lead runner, Jacob said. "I was focusing on the US guy. I had to be with him. Our coach had said whoever is first, you have to be behind him," he added.

All four runners were out to prove a point. The 4x400 metre relay squad, one of the stronger teams at the Asian level, hasn't enjoyed success recently. There was no medal at the Commonwealth Games, they did not qualify for the final at last year's World Championship, and they didn't win the gold at the recent Asian Championship.

But they tore apart the form book in Budapest on the biggest night for Indian relay on a global stage.

While Ramesh, from Tamil Nadu, is the youngest at 23, Anas, from Kerala, is the oldest at 28. Anas, an Asian Games silver medalist in the 400 metres, had been written off after loss of form and injuries.

Ramesh's career has been a rollercoaster. He participated in the 2018 U20 World Championship but faded away. Injuries, work commitments - he worked full-time as a ticket collector at the Trichy railway station - and Covid-19 nearly ended his career in 2020.

Since the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Jacob, 25, originally from Kerala but raised in Delhi, was troubled with injuries. At one point, he contemplated quitting the sport.

Ajmal, also 25, from Palakkad in Kerala, is a footballer-turned-100m sprinter, who switched to the one-lapper just two years ago. He has dreams of winning a major medal via the relay route.

Anas's gold in the 400m individual event at the Bhubaneswar Interstate Meet in

June marked his comeback. "After Covid, I had an injury from the Tokyo Olympics. I have recovered now and come back to form. I feel so good," he said.

Saturday night was redemption for Jacob, his father, P A Jacob, said. "He was really frustrated. He was working very hard but the results were not showing. He has gone through some difficult times. But now, he has found an excellent team and is doing well. I am so pleased with the way he has progressed," he said.

After the heats, Jacob, who ran the fastest split, boldly proclaimed that they would go after a medal in the finals. "We are coming," he said.

National coach Premanand Jayakumar, who works alongside Dawson, worked closely with the men's team at the national camp in Thiruvananthapuram. Although he did not travel to Budapest, he was glued to the television. When a mental barrier - sub-3 minutes -- was broken, he was ecstatic.

"Chasing down the Americans was a race plan. We did not care if our opponent was from the US or even a divine be-

ing. Coach Dawson's plan was to fight it out. When I watched Rajesh push the American, I felt so proud. At that moment, I felt that India is surely coming up in athletics. We are very close to the global level. It was a historic moment," Jayakumar said.

"Everyone in the team ran as per Coach Dawson's plan. We were astonished but glad to see that everyone played their role to perfection," Jayakumar said.

What also worked for the team was that they got time to acclimatise. Although most of the pre-Worlds training took place in Thiruvananthapuram, the Athletics Federation of India decided to send the relay team 20 days in advance to Budapest. "It was like a foreign exposure training for us. We could acclimatise well, and that is one of the reasons we have performed well. Also, since the boys did not have any individual events, we had fresh legs," Jayakumar said.

After the race, Ramesh was so exhausted that he needed assistance to get off the track. "I was shouting 'you die but let us reach the final'," Jacob said later. And Ramesh did give it his all to make it a memorable night for India.

Amarmani's home turf calls his release a gamechanger, kin keep plans under wraps

"tallest leader", who they believe was "framed" in the 2003 Madhumita Shukla murder case.

On Thursday, the Uttar Pradesh government ordered the release of Tripathi, 66, and his wife Madhumita, 61, who had been serving life imprisonment in the murder case since 2007 - although large periods of it were spent at the BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur on health grounds.

"Woh humare kaddawar neta hain. Unka koi dosh nahi tha. Phasa diye gaye thay. Aur agar dosh tha bhi toh 20 saal ki saza mein vyakti badal jaata hai (He is a big leader. He was not guilty, spending 20 years in jail changes a person)," Shailendra Bamwal, 26, who sells noodles near the railway station, told The Indian Express.

Bamwal was aged just six on May 8, 2003, when two assailants shot dead Madhumita - with whom Tripathi was alleged to have been in a relationship - at her Lucknow residence. Although he has not seen Tripathi's active days in politics, Bamwal is certain that his comeback "will be huge for politics in eastern Uttar

Pradesh". "I have heard from elders that he is a great leader and that everything in Maharajganj is because of him. He built the roads here, brought electricity, gave a bypass," said Bamwal, watching reels on his phone as he awaited court orders.

Brijesh Mani Tripathi, chairman of Nautanwa Nagar Palika, who is close to the Tripathi family, said the former minister's release will be a gamechanger for the 2024 general elections in eastern Uttar Pradesh. "Whether he contests or not, or if he campaigns, it doesn't matter. Even if he stands on the stage, it will change the samikaran (political equation)," he said.

Many consider Tripathi's release as a move by the BJP to appease the influential Brahmin community - to which he belongs - in eastern Uttar Pradesh ahead of the general elections. The BJP has been accused of being anti-Brahmin by Opposition parties at different times, and Tripathi's release, many said, will help it garner support of the community.

A four-time MLA, Tripathi has been associated with all four major parties in the state - Congress,

SP, BSP and BJP - and also won an election from jail.

However, his family is keeping the plans - if Tripathi will return to politics and for which party - under wraps for now. Tripathi's son Aman Mani, 32, a former MLA from Nautanwa who is out on bail in the murder case of his wife Sara, is currently the face of the family in public.

In Pahunu, the Tripathi's ancestral village, the support for their leader is stronger - across religions and castes.

"Buss ek baar bol de woh ki kisko vote dena. Usi ko vote jayega. Har ek vote usi ko denge. Agar woh khud khade hongeh toh ek record banega (He just has to say who we should vote for. We will vote accordingly. And if he stands in the elections, he will create a new record)," said Sohail Khan, a 35-year-old tailor.

Across the village, there is excitement over their leader's return. "The day he comes here will not be less than Diwali for us. People from the whole district will gather to welcome him," said Om Prakash Shukla, a 68-year-old farmer with 10 acres of farm land.

Aman Mani, however, preferred to play down speculation around his father's comeback in politics. "We haven't decided anything or thought anything so far. We are a political family," he said.

In the 2022 Assembly elections, Aman Mani, who contested from Nautanwa as an Independent, stood third, securing 20.46% votes. Rishi, the candidate of NISHAD party, a BJP ally, won the election, garnering 40% votes.

Asked if there is an understanding with the BJP, considering that the current government released his parents, Aman Mani said, "It is not about any understanding. But we have very good family relations with Maharaj ji (Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath). The relations are not political."

"Our only priority is that my parents get the best treatment and come out of here (BRD Medical College) as per doctor's advice," he said at the family home in Gorakhpur's Durgavani locality.

Although formally released, the Tripathi couple continue to remain in a private ward at the hospital. Aman Mani said his father

has a neurological disorder along with spinal cord and orthopedic issues, while his mother has psychiatric issues.

Dr Rajesh Kumar Rai, Chief Medical Superintendent of BRD Medical College, said, "They are undergoing treatment and their discharge is in the hands of the doctors treating them."

While Tripathi, considered by many as a "bahubali" or strongman, continues to enjoy the image of a "messiah" in his home turf, the family of Madhumita Shukla are still not done with their fight for justice.

Madhumita's sister Nidhi Shukla has written to President Droupadi Murmu and Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, opposing the release, citing an ongoing Supreme Court hearing in the matter, and accusing Tripathi of misleading the authorities. According to her, she feared for her life after his release.

After SP leader Kannaaj MP Dimple Yadav has also questioned the government's decision to release the Tripathis, equating it to the remission of sentence for the Bilkis Bano case con-

blueprint for AI governance in India earlier this month. Titled "Governing AI: A Blueprint for India", the paper proposed regulations prescribing safety and security requirements, then chart out deployment for permitted uses in a licensed AI data centre with post-deployment safety and security monitoring and protection. "India is experiencing a significant technological transformation that presents a tremendous opportunity to leverage innovation for economic growth. This paper offers some of our ideas and suggestions as a company, placed in the Indian context," said Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President of Microsoft in the foreword to the paper released August 24. Microsoft has offered to share its "specialised knowledge" about advanced AI models to help the government define the regulatory threshold.

These developments come as policymakers across jurisdictions have stepped up regulatory scrutiny of generative AI tools, prompted by ChatGPT's explosive launch. The concerns being flagged fall into three broad heads: privacy, system bias and violation of intellectual property rights.

The policy response has been different too across jurisdictions, with the European Union having taken a predictably tougher stance by proposing to bring in a new AI Act that segregate artificial intelligence as per use case scenarios, based broadly on the degree of invasiveness and risk; the UK is on the other end of the spectrum, with a decidedly 'light-touch' approach that aims to foster, and not stifle, innovation in this nascent field. The US approach falls somewhere in between, with Washington now setting the stage for defining an AI regulation rulebook by kicking-off public consultations earlier this year on how to regulate artificial intelligence tools. This ostensibly builds on a move by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in October last year to unveil a Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights. China too has released its own set of measures to regulate AI.

This also comes in the wake of calls by tech leaders Elon Musk, Steve Wozniak (Apple co-founder) and over 15,000 others for a six-month pause in AI development in April this year, saying labs are in an "out-of-control race" to develop systems that no one can fully control. They also said labs and independent experts should work together to implement a set of shared safety protocols.

Tripathi's main political rival Kunwar Kaushal Singh, a former SP MLA, alleged: "He is a man convicted of murdering an innocent woman after being in a relationship with her. He has so many criminal activities attached to him that if I sit down telling you, it will take hours."

"Now, the people are happy that he is coming back. I don't understand this kind of society where murderers and convicts are celebrated for being development oriented. The only development he has done is for his family," said Singh, 53, who had stood second in the 2022 polls in Nautanwa with 33.23% votes. Tripathi's "office" in Nautanwa, like his residence in Gorakhpur, is spread over one acre land. The premises has an office, a house, a temple and parking space.

A CBI court in Uttarakhnad, where the murder case was transferred by the Supreme Court, had in 2007 convicted the Tripathi couple and two others, including his nephew Rohit Chaturvedi. In July 2012, the Uttarakhnad High Court upheld the life term awarded to the four convicts.

# Soon, a subway to bridge gap between 2 airport terminals

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

TO ENSURE a hassle-free experience for travellers who disembark at the IGI Airport Metro station (T3) and want to head to Terminal 2 or vice-versa, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is planning to construct a subway to connect the two.

Currently, passengers have to get out of the station near Terminal 3 and either walk half a kilometre to T2, wait for a shuttle bus provided by the airport, or depend on other modes of transport. With the subway, there will be direct connectivity between T3 and T2, helping passengers save time.

According to officials, the subway will be 70 metres long. In May, DMRC signed an MoU with Delhi International Airport

### CONNECTING IGI AIRPORT METRO TO T2

THE PROJECT		
Length	Width	Height
70m*	10m	4.2m
*approx		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current update: MoU signed between DMRC and DIAL, tender floated</li> <li>Construction timeline: 21 MONTHS</li> </ul>		

Limited (DIAL) for construction, operation and maintenance of the subway and floated a tender.

Officials said cost of construction, including utility shifting work, if any, will be borne by DIAL. The Delhi Metro will bear system operation and maintenance costs of the subway including electrical and mechanical aspects.

The subway will be constructed using the 'box-pushing' method, said officials. "In this method, vertical excavation or large-scale digging is not required. It's much faster than the conventional 'cut and cover' technology used generally for subway

construction," said officials. This method was selected keeping in mind the presence of utilities, buildings etc., in the surrounding areas, limited space availability, and traffic management concerns, said an official. Officials said it will take 21 months to complete the structure after work is awarded.

According to DIAL officials, while the walk from T3 to T2 is five minutes, there are golf cart services between the two terminals for people who cannot walk long distances, like pregnant women, senior citizens etc.

As per the Delhi Airport website, there is also a complimentary bus which shuttles between terminals every 20 minutes. The daily average footfall at T2 is 38,000-42,000 while it is 1.19-1.24 lakh at T3, as per airport officials.

# No nod for Nuh yatra, pray at local temples: Haryana CM Khattar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 27

A DAY after the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) asserted that the planned Braj Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra will take place in Nuh district Monday, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Sunday said that permission for the yatra has been declined as a precautionary step keeping in view the violence that took place a month ago. He also appealed to devotees to offer prayers at local temples instead of going to other places in the state.

"... It's the duty of the government to ensure safety (of citizens). Our administration and police have taken this decision that instead of a yatra, people should perform jalabhishek (at the local level). It should be done where they (people) are living instead of staging demonstrations while going to other places in Haryana..." said Khattar.

He said an appeal has been made to people to ensure law and order. "Permission should be granted for jalabhishek prayers keeping in view the sentiments of the people," he added.

On Saturday, the VHP had said the yatra will be taken out even after the Nuh administration denied permission in the

wake of the G20 Sherpa group meeting, to be held in the district from September 3-7, and to maintain law and order following the July 31 communal violence that left six dead.

At Nuh, Deputy Commissioner Dharendra Khadgata announced the imposition of CrPC Section 144 in response to invitations for the procession by some organisations.

"If anyone is spreading misleading propaganda regarding participating in processions, it will be considered a violation of Section 144, and action will be taken... The District Magistrate stated that Sarv Jatiya Hindu Mahapanchayat's call for a Braj Mandal procession... poses possibility of tension... harm to human life... disturbance to public peace... Therefore, these orders have been enacted in the district for immediate implementation by Superintendent of Police, Nuh," the administration stated.

The DC clarified in the orders that anyone carrying weapons will be subject to the ban. All educational institutions and banks in the district will remain closed Monday.

Nuh administration officials also said borders surrounding the district have been sealed and entry would not be allowed to anyone except locals in the area.

# Gurgaon jhuggi gets 'death threat' notices, cops deployed in area

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, AUGUST 27

TWO NOTICES levelling "death threats" were stuck on the tin sheets of a jhuggi in Sector 69, police said. This comes weeks after the violence that hit the city following the Nuh clashes, which had prompted several migrant labourers to leave fearing attacks.

Residents of the slum cluster claimed the posters asked them to vacate their homes by Monday, on failure of which their houses would be set on fire. It also contained derogatory language against Muslims, they alleged.

The jhuggi is inhabited by migrant labourers from West Bengal, UP and Bihar. Said Jeena Khatun from Malda, who works as a domestic help in a residential society across the jhuggi, "One of

the residents found the posters and alerted others... The atmosphere suddenly changed and we were all scared. Around 9.30 am, police came and removed them."

Police from Badshahpur station assured residents of help and protection. "We've told them not to be scared. The posters are being checked and we'll arrest the culprits soon," said an officer. Eight policemen, a police car and a bike were deployed at the slum.

The notice was signed off as 'Bajrang Dal/VHP'. VHP Gurgaon president Ajit Yadav denied their involvement and said no member of theirs would commit such an act.

Meenu Singh, a domestic worker said, "Since the ultimatum is for tomorrow, many decided to stay put. After police came, we felt reassured... Some people have already left..."

### Condolence Meeting

**SREELATA NAMBIAR**  
Sreelata Nambiar, aged 61, resident of 24 A Pocket 6 MIG Flats Mayur Vihar Phase 3 Delhi 110096 passed away at her residence on 21.8.23.

She is survived by her husband A Hariharan, Son Hari Sagar, Daughter-in-law Karishma Kaushik, Grandson Aahan, Sister Shailaja, Brother-in-law K Gopalan Kutty, her Daughter Sneha, Son-in-law Karthik, Son Sachin Gopalan and Daughter-in-law Aishwarya.

A remembrance gathering will be held on September 5, 2023 from 3 to 5 pm at our residence to pay homage to her departed soul.

# Luxury brand relies on ChatGPT to fight trademark case

New Delhi: Artificial intelligence can substitute neither human intelligence nor humane element in the adjudicatory process, the Delhi High Court held. Justice Prathiba M Singh stated the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated data is still in the grey area.

The court's observations came while dealing with a lawsuit by luxury brand Christian Louboutin against a partnership firm involved in the manufacture and sale of shoes allegedly in violation of its trademark. The counsel for the plaintiff submitted that "Red Sole Shoe" was its

registered trademark in India and placed before court responses by ChatGPT with respect to its "reputation". "The said tool (ChatGPT) cannot be the basis of adjudication of legal or factual issues in a court of law. The response of a Large Language Model (LLM) based

chatbots such as ChatGPT, which is sought to be relied upon by the Counsel for the Plaintiff, depends upon a host of factors... Further, there are possibilities of incorrect responses, fictional case laws, imaginative data etc. generated by AI chatbots," said the court in a recent order. PTI

## DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BRIDGING DEVELOPMENT ELEVATING LIVES

Inauguration of

# FOOT OVER BRIDGES

connecting

**Madhu Vihar with Sector 4, Dwarka**  
&  
**Sulhakul Mandir with NSIT Dwarka**

and

# UTSAV PANDAL

at Sector 10, Dwarka

by

**Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena**  
Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi

Guests of Honour

**Shri Ramesh Bidhuri** Hon'ble MP, South Delhi  
**Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh** Hon'ble MP, West Delhi

August Presence  
**Shri Subhasish Panda**  
Vice Chairman, DDA

Date : 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 | Time : 4.30 pm

### SALIENT FEATURES

- Foot Over Bridges**
  - Large capacity lifts on both sides
  - Tensile fabric covered roof to protect pedestrians from sun and rain
  - Flood-lit deck for easy movement at night
  - Provision of ramp for differently-abled persons to access lift easily
- Utsav Pandal**
  - Open pandal (2475 sqm)
  - Party lawn (2000 sqm)
  - Double storey utility block with lift : 3 air-conditioned rooms
  - Ample car parking
  - Public toilet block

For more details dial Toll Free No. : 1800110332 | Visit : www.dda.gov.in | Follow us on [f](#) @ddaofficial [t](#) @official\_dda [i](#) @official\_dda [v](#) @Official\_dda

## India energising the robotics framework for healthcare: Dr. Vandana Talwar at ASSOCHAM Summit

"To herald the era of sustainably invested digital healthcare ecosystem, there's a strong need to design healthcare infrastructure that minimises environmental impacts, reduces waste, adopts renewable energy sources, utilises the technological advancements to pave the way for universal health coverage in the country."

— Dr. (Mrs). Vandana Talwar  
Medical Superintendent  
VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Healthcare Summit and Awards 2023

KNOWLEDGE PAPER RELEASE (L to R) Dr. Sudhir Kaihan, Ms. Pushpa Vijayaraghavan, Dr. (Prof.) Rajinder K Dhaniya, Chief Guest Dr. (Mrs). Vandana Talwar, Padma Shri Dr. (Prof.) D. S. Rana and Dr. Aashish Chaudhry

The second edition of the Healthcare Summit and Awards, organised by ASSOCHAM on August 22, 2023 at New Delhi, rang in a series of sessions on the giant strides India is making in healthcare. The summit highlighted how the advancements in AI in healthcare may reshape healthcare, optimise hospital operations and surgical procedures in the near future. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission achieved a significant milestone and continues to bridge the gap through the digital highways. Recently, at the Safdarjung Hospital, a robotic renal transplant was conducted and streamed live for 52 medical colleges in 20 countries.

SESSION 2: PROMOTING INNOVATION IN HEALTHCARE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS (L to R) Mr. Amit Bansal, Dr. Hema Divakar, Dr. Sudhir Kaihan, Mr. Omprakash Subbarao, Dr. Sushil Kumar Meher, Mr. Raj Prakash Vyas, Dr. Prashant Kulshrestha, Mr. Pravek Saxena

SESSION 3: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS (L to R) Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jain, Ar. Manu Malhotra, Mr. Satish Suri, Dr. Karan Thakur, Dr. Poornima Prabhakaran, Mr. Sanjeev Vashishta

SESSION 4: ROLE OF QUALITY STANDARDS FOR HEALTH CARE DELIVERY AND MANAGEMENT (L to R) Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jain, Ms. Sushmita Roy, Dr. Rajesh Kesari, Dr. Atul Kochhar, Mr. Pankaj Johri, Dr. Vijay Agarwal, Dr. Giridhar Gyani, Wing Commander M K Bose

SESSION 5: FUNDING FUEL – ACCELERATING CAPACITY AND SCALE-UP OF HEALTHCARE ECO SYSTEM (L to R) Mr. Sandeep Kumar Jain, Mr. Chirag Sachdev, Ms. Pushpa Vijayaraghavan, Dr. D K Gupta, Dr. Vishal Gandhi, Dr. Sunil K Khetarpal, Mr. Namit Chugh, Mr. Rahul Agarwal

Sustainability Partner

Silver Partners

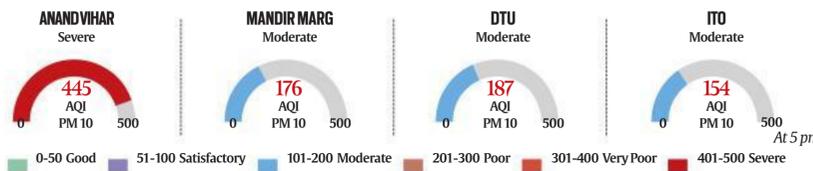
Hospital Partners

Knowledge Partner

Association Partners

Media Partners

# 6 THE CITY



**SKY WATCH**

**FORECAST: August 28**  
Partly cloudy sky

**MAX: 36** | **MIN: 26**  
1.9°C above normal | 0.5°C below normal

## SPECIALLY CREATED FOR SUMMIT

# Maps, tourist spots: Info in 110 languages on new police website

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

TO EASE communication for Summit attendees and residents, the Delhi Police has launched a special 'G20 Traffic Police' website that can be accessed in more than 110 languages.

As per police, the website offers a comprehensive view of the city with essential maps, important contacts, weather and social media updates, traffic arrangements and police services.

SS Yadav, Special CP (Traffic), said the virtual helpdesk — <https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/dtpg20info/> — has been specially created for the Summit as the Lutyens' area will be partially sealed for residents. Police said the entire New Delhi district has been declared a controlled zone from September 8 till September 10. Only bona fide residents, authorised vehicles and emergency services will be allowed.

The website also provides route options from the airport to hotels and from hotels to the G20 Convention Centre in Pragati Maidan for invitees. Names, contacts and routes for guests staying at the Taj Palace Hotel, Imperial Hotel, The Leela, Shangri-La Eros Hotel, Le Meridien, etc., are mentioned on the site.

Routes for people using metro, bus and taxi services are displayed along with an essential map showing hotels, hospitals, markets, venues and railway station locations.

"All buses will operate on Ring Road and the road network



Lights around the Bharat Mandapam, Sunday. Abhinav Saha

beyond the Ring Road towards the borders of Delhi. These will be allowed to enter/exit Delhi but can't enter the New Delhi area. Any non-destined vehicle will be diverted to eastern and western peripheral expressways. They can't enter Delhi as most borders will be partially sealed. We will, however, facilitate movement of passengers to the airport, New Delhi and old Delhi railway stations. We advise such passengers to take suggested routes..." said an officer.

Visitors to the website can browse the 'Delhi At a Glance' section and check out the lists of tourist attractions, places of worship and popular markets.

Qutub Minar, Akshardham Temple, Lotus Temple, Jama Masjid, Jantar Mantar, Red Fort

and other places will remain open for all visitors.

Police said Khan Market and Janpath Market will be closed to the public from September 8-10. However, Karol Bagh, Chandni Chowk, Sarojini Nagar, Dilli Haat and Lajpat Nagar market will be open.

The website also provides details and travel information for outstation visits such as the Taj Mahal in Agra, City Palace in Udaipur, Amber Fort, Neemrana Fort etc.

The traffic police have also launched a WhatsApp number — 91 8750871493 — that can be used 24x7 by the public. Helpline numbers for senior citizens, women, complaint status, medical emergencies and missing person reports, can be accessed on the website.

It also has a map with information on the district, 50 traffic circles and names of relevant officers.



# History, mythology, dance forms come to life on city walls, courtesy local street artists

**SAMAN HUSAIN**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

IRFAN KHAN (26) periodically soaked his brush in azure blue, dabbing it expertly on a wall at a road under bridge 13 of the Indian Railways that leads to the G20 Summit venue. He carefully painted abstract waves, wielding stroke after stroke with finesse. All the while, he kept glancing at his phone to ensure his art matched the picture given to him.

Khan, a self-taught street artist, and several others have been hired to give the national capital an artistic makeover for the mega event.

Showing the picture, which is of gods sitting on a boat, Khan, who is from a small town in Uttar Pradesh, said, "My contractor sent me this for reference. I think it's a picture of Radha-Krishna sitting on a boat with some gopis... I have contributed in making other huge pictures of Krishna, Bajrangbali, Shri Ram and other deities."

He prides himself on transforming the most ordinary walls with a brush. "I have worked as a street artist in many cities across India. I currently work as a daily-wage artist for which I am paid Rs 700 for 8 hours a day in the Pragati Maidan area. I have been working on this for the last one-and-a-half months," he said.

Khan gets work for six months. For the rest of the year, he earns by painting walls at construction sites.

To offer the city a creative and visual facelift for the Summit, civic bodies in Delhi have employed local artists to spruce up walls in bright colours. According to officials stationed around Pragati Maidan, between 20-30 street artists had been assigned work in the area around the Bharat Mandapam convention centre to paint murals on drab walls and give the area a vibrant appearance.



Abhinav Saha



(Clockwise from top) A mural at Bhairon Marg; outside Mandi House Metro station; street artist Irfan Khan at work



A number of walls now sport colourful and geometric murals.

Under railway under-bridge 13, where the road divides into 3 sections, each side of the wall is being decorated with eye-catching colours. One such wall depicts a steam engine train crossing a bridge against a forested backdrop, while the opposite wall depicts the Vande Bharat Express chugging through against a backdrop of multi-storey buildings, depicting an image of modern India.

Another wall depicts towering and graceful figures performing various poses from Kathak, Kathakali, Bharatnatyam, Ghoomar, Manipuri, and Mohiniyattam dance forms as well as a representation of the Natraja.

Other wall paintings include graphic representations of famous historical figures such as Ahilyabai, Maharana Pratap, and Prithviraj Chauhan; popular Indian monuments; paintings of peacocks, trees, lotuses, cows, fish, and deer in tradi-

tional art styles such as Madhubani and Warli art. Dumpyard walls too are being spruced up with artwork.

Currently, artists are racing to meet strict deadlines. "The Lieutenant Governor has been making regular visits to the area. We have 2-3 days to complete these paintings. Many paintings were spoiled due to the downpour last week. Others have paint stains since bridges in the area were painted after the murals had come up. All finishing touches

should be completed in a week's time if we work day and night," Santosh, a street artist, said.

Commuters, meanwhile, were seen taking photos in front of the doodled walls outside the Mandi House metro station. Prakash Sharma, a trained artist, was in the midst of finishing a painting with the help of many other artists. "I have worked all over India... I've been working on this wall for the past week and I need another week to finish..." he said.

## BRIEFLY

### 5 teens go on stabbing spree to rob people, 1 dead

New Delhi: A group of five teenagers allegedly went on a stabbing spree in a Northwest Delhi locality and injured four persons, one of whom later died on Saturday. The Delhi Police apprehended three of the boys and are conducting raids to nab the others. The incidents took place within 15 minutes of each other. As per the police, the first PCR call came around 12 pm after three persons alleged they were waylaid by five boys and stabbed. Police said the injured persons were rushed to a hospital and are stable. They sustained minor stab injuries on the abdomen. In the next 10-20 minutes, the accused targeted a 25-year-old man in the same area and tried to snatch his purse and phone. When he resisted, one of them allegedly stabbed the man in the chest. He died later, said police. Police nabbed the three boys from their homes later. **ENS**

## 2020 riots: Prosecution rapped for not submitting evidence

New Delhi: A Delhi court pulled up the prosecution for not submitting a video pertaining to the identification of the accused in connection with a 2020 Northeast Delhi riots case. Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Pulastya Pramachala, hearing a case on Friday, said it was "unfortunate" that the prosecution was "befooling" the court. He also warned the investigating agency not to repeat such conduct in future. **PTI**

## POLICE DATA ON CASES SHOWS

# 200% spike in cyber fraud this yr, recovery, arrest low

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

IN MAY, Delhi saw one of its biggest cyber scams after a 34-year-old doctor was duped of Rs 4 crore by a gang posing as officials from the Narcotics Control Bureau. As per police, the accused told the woman that large quantities of MDMA and other pills were found in a FedEx courier under her name. The woman was threatened that her "packages" had been seized in Mumbai and that Maharashtra Police would make an arrest. She was then told to empty her bank account as her details had been compromised. Scared, the woman shared her bank details — only to find that the accused had made off with her cash.

It's been three months and no arrest has been made yet. This case is one among over 25,000 cyber fraud cases filed till August this year — a 212% increase compared to the 8,000 cases filed last year in the same period, as per data released by the Delhi Police.

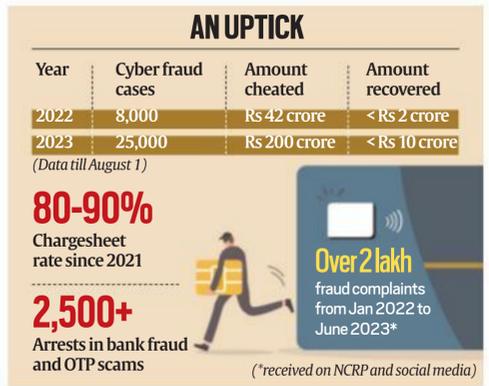
The cases, ranging from UPI fraud to bank and email scams, have meant a financial loss exceeding Rs 200 crore this year, police said. Besides, only 2-8% of the cheated money has been recovered, said sources.

As per data, Rs 8-10 crore has been recovered this year after arrests were made from Delhi, UP, Haryana, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Karnataka. Last year, Rs 1-2 crore of the cheated sum was recovered.

Incidentally, the number of complaints received is even higher. Sources said since January 2022, more than 2.2 lakh cyber fraud complaints have been received through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) in Delhi.

Investigation in a majority of these is pending since only 1-2% of the complaints are converted into FIRs, said a source. Police said this is because each FIR is registered by clubbing together similar complaints and victims also lodge double or false complaints.

With the multiplicity and variety of scams, and crime syndicates operating from different states,



the Delhi Police's IFSO unit has its task cut out. Officers in the unit said while their chargesheet rate is high (not including NCRP complaints), recovery of cheated money isn't possible in all cases.

Here are some notorious scams that have come to light in the past year:

### 'Fake call' scam

Police said the accused pose as bank officials, investment company executives, or tech executives to get information from targets. Once they get confidential data such as credit card details, OTPs, net banking passwords, or other details, they siphon off the money.

"We have unearthed several such fake call centres and caught their handlers, people who give bank accounts to the gang to receive money, and other associates. However, the issue is that recovering the cheated amount is hard as these gangs distribute money to their associates within 10-15 days of the crime and/or send the money to offshore accounts," said an officer from the IFSO.

### Cryptocurrency and investment scams

In such scams, the accused create fake websites that lure people to invest in stocks or Bitcoin. Using Telegram and WhatsApp groups, the gangs send mass invites to people to invest money. "Victims think they are investing in genuine stocks, companies, or cryptocurrency only to be duped.

One of the major problems is that such criminals often operate from outside India or different states. They also convert the money to legit Bitcoin or cryptocurrency to confuse police about the money trail," added the officer.

### 'Work From Home' job scams

With the pandemic leading to job losses across the country, many gangs hit upon this scam to target job applicants on social media portals. Police said they have received multiple complaints from Delhi, Noida, and Gurgaon with victims claiming they were cheated of lakhs of rupees.

In one such scam, the accused created "movie-rating websites" and "hired" victims to rate movies and earn money. "The victims were asked to deposit some money to start the job and/or access the website. They later realised it was a scam. By then, they had lost their money," said another officer.

Gangs also target students and job seekers on multiple social media portals by creating fake jobs or posing as recruiters. "The money is handled by the accused who either live in Dubai or have fled to Dubai and other countries. We have made arrests in such cases but the kingpin is never found and the recovery is low," said a senior police officer.

Other frauds include Chinese app scams, email takeovers, e-wallet scams, and extortion scams, said police.

## 360 seats on offer under three new BTech programmes at DU, no takers for over half

**VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

DELHI UNIVERSITY has filled less than half of the total seats available under its three newly introduced BTech programmes even though the second round of seat allocation has concluded, *The Indian Express* has learned. The university is now pinning its hopes on the third round of allocation for seats to be filled.

A total of 360 seats are available under the three programmes — Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, and Electrical Engineering — with 120 seats per course. Approximately 100 candidates have enrolled so far, with

Computer Science being the most popular, according to DU officials.

As per data accessed by *The Indian Express*, in the second list of seat allocation, JEE candidates ranked between 38,576 and 45,839 were shortlisted in the general category for admissions to Electrical Engineering. In Electronics and Communication Engineering, candidates ranked between 38,090 and 42,072 in the general category were shortlisted, whereas in Computer Science and Engineering, applicants ranked between 21,499 and 38,020 made the shortlist.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said: "We've received many applications for DU's engineering programmes. Most are from students who do not live in Delhi. These are not being processed further as

they want hostel accommodation. Currently, we are unable to provide hostel accommodation to anybody. This is the only reason why seats are being filled so slowly for B.Tech programmes."

"Computer Science has seen the highest enrollment so far. When it was launched, students had three other options — DTU, NSIT and IP college. Counselling at these institutions is underway and will be finalised. The picture of BTech admissions will be clear in the next one week," said an official on condition of anonymity.

"We've also provided a fee waiver. Students who want to opt for it have been asked to come to the university for physical verification. These courses are not self-financed; the government has approved teaching and non-teaching posts under these pro-

grammes and it's fully funded by the government," Gupta added.

Students from economically weaker sections, whose family income is Rs 4 lakh or less will receive 90% fee waiver at the time of admissions while applicants with family income between Rs 4-8 lakh will receive a 50% fee waiver. Students can also claim reimbursement of up to Rs 50,000 on purchase of a laptop.

The varsity had extended the admission schedule of the first and second rounds from August 22 to August 25. The third list was to be declared on August 23.

"Many students and parents said they live away from Delhi and are unable to appear for physical verification, but are showing interest. Hence, we decided to extend the admission schedule," said an official.

## At far end of Qutub complex, 13th C.E gateway offers a lesson on architecture

**VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

ALAUDDIN KHILJI had ambitious plans for the Qutub complex — he wanted to expand the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque and build four doorways leading up to it. As fate would have it, by the time the first one, Alai Darwaza, was built in 1311 AD, he died.

Situated at the southern end of the complex, with the Qutub Minar towering over it, the small domed building has been chipped away by time — there are cracks on the outer walls and dome while carvings have chipped off. Despite this, the structure remains an architectural marvel. As per the Archeological Survey of India's website, it is the first building to employ Islamic principles of construction and ornamentation.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, author Rana Safvi said, "Alauddin Khilji had developed an ambitious plan for expanding the mosque complex to meet the needs of the growing congregation in Delhi. The Alai Darwaza was one of the four gates to the complex, now



The ASI will begin the first phase of conservation work on Alai Darwaza by mid-September. Abhinav Saha

known as the Qutub complex. It marks a significant development in Indian architecture — not only was red sandstone and white marble used together for the first time, but it's also said to be the first true dome or the first example of a dome built on principles of arcuate (curved or arched) architecture."

"It's also significant for its adaptation of local symbols — we



can see lotus buds used as decorative elements at its entrances," she added.

The ASI will begin the first phase of conservation work on the Darwaza, as part of which intricate carvings of red sandstone that have eroded over time will be replaced. Work is to begin by mid-September.

The main structure comprises a single hall. The domed ceiling

rises to a height of 47 feet. Author Sohail Hashmi expanded further on how the gateway came to be built: "The gate was the main entry to the expanded mosque. Originally, a mosque was commissioned by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, which was later partly expanded by Shamsuddin Altamash. This addition, however, had collapsed by the time the Khiljis came to power. Alauddin wanted to expand this further."

"He even wanted to build a minaret that was twice as tall as the Qutub Minar; the unfinished tower on the other side of Qutub Minar is the Alai Minar. To the south of the original mosque, he built a huge gate — the Alai Darwaza. If his project had been completed, then the entry to the mosque would have been from the south," he added.

Hashmi further said, "The importance of that gate architecturally is that traditional Turkish art was used for the very first time in India (while building it). It is the earliest surviving dome in Delhi. I would think that would also mean it is the earliest surviving dome in the subcontinent..."



# Realising the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' through growing Youth empowerment

**10 Lakh** appointments in Government  
through **Rozgar Mela**

Distribution of appointment letters to more  
than **51 thousand** candidates selected in  
Government Jobs across the country at 45 venues

by  
**Prime Minister  
Narendra Modi**

**28 August, 2023 | 10:30 AM**  
(via video conferencing)



5 Lakh youth appointed in  
Government so far



Easy, fair and transparent  
selection process



Continuous monitoring of  
vacancies and recruitment  
process through online system



Special benefits to women,  
specially abled persons and  
candidates from Aspirational  
Districts



All appointments through  
agencies like UPSC, SSC, Railway  
Recruitment Board, IBPS



Online orientation courses for  
all new appointees in various  
Government Departments through  
Karmayogi Prarambh Module



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



CONGRESS CONUNDRUM

THE CONGRESS is upbeat about its prospects in the upcoming elections but one of its strongholds seems to be facing an unusual issue. Some of its MPs from Kerala — the Congress and its allies had won 19 of the 20 seats in the state in last Lok Sabha elections — are in two minds about the next general election. At least three sitting MPs have expressed their hesitation in contesting the 2024 polls. While one has cited health reasons, the other two are not keen on coming to the Lok Sabha because they see brighter prospects in state politics. With Vadakara MP and senior party leader K Muraleedharan publicly reiterating that he will not contest the next Lok Sabha election, the Congress leadership is concerned that such remarks could adversely affect the party prospects in the 2024 polls.

OUT OF ITINERARY

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's weekend visit to Bengaluru, there had been discussions on how the BJP state unit would receive the PM and who all would meet him. But the leaders were a dejected lot when informed that there was no such programme on the PM's itinerary. Not only that the state unit leaders could not get an audience with Modi, many of them, including the party's state chief Nalin Kateel and former deputy chief minister R Ashoka, were seen standing among the crowd to greet the PM.

Next week, SC to hear pleas against provisions of PMLA

APURVA VISHWANATH NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

A YEAR after the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of anti-money laundering laws and powers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), a fresh batch of petitions challenging provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, are lined up before the court next week.

In July 2022, a three-judge bench comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar had upheld the PMLA and the vast powers of the ED. However, the bench had left the validity of amendments to the PMLA through the Money Bill route open for a larger Constitution bench to hear.

The petitions include those filed by Congress MLA and Madhya Pradesh Leader of Opposition Govind Singh, Congress MP Karti Chidambaram and former ICICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar, among others. Singh's fresh plea filed this year was tagged with several other petitions seeking a review of the 2022 ruling.

These essentially challenge Section 50 of the PMLA that gives the ED powers to summon individuals and their statements are treated as evidence in court. While a larger bench is yet to hear the Money Bill aspect which impacts several other cases, the fresh batch of cases seeks to question the correctness of the 2022 verdict.

Since the 2022 verdict came from a bench of three judges, a bench with equal strength will have to refer the case to a larger bench. The hearing is scheduled for August 29.

In Telangana, Shah targets Cong, AIMIM, BRS: '4G, 3G, 2G parties'

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, AUGUST 27

DELIVERING A speech in Khammam on Sunday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah targeted the BJP's political opponents in Telangana — the Congress, the AIMIM, and the ruling BRS — saying they were dynastic parties playing family politics, and labelled them "4G, 3G, 2G" parties.

At the BJP's 'Rythu Gosa-BJP Barosa' public meeting, he said Congress was the "4G party" because of the four generations of a family who have been its leaders — Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi. "Similarly, in Telangana, we have the 2G party of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and his son, minister K T Rama Rao. In AIMIM, we have a 3G party, which has been run for three generations," Shah said. With Assembly elections set



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Khammam. ANI

to be held in the state later this year, Shah said the BJP was "poised to come to power in Telangana".

"The 2G government, taking the help of 3G, will be defeated. People will reject 4G also. It is time for the BJP, and for the lotus to bloom in Telangana," he said.

Shah also said that the BJP would never join hands with the BRS. He said the steering of KCR's car — the BRS's election symbol is a car — was with AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi.

Shah's public meeting on Sunday is set to be the first in a series of rallies to be held in the state by senior BJP leaders in the runup to the election. BJP sources said PM Narendra Modi and BJP president JP Nadda will be among the senior leaders to address public meetings over the next few weeks. Shah will also address more such meetings in several districts of Telangana.

In his speech in Khammam, Shah hit out at the BRS government. "The BRS government is corrupt, and the countdown has started for its departure. KCR talks about sacrifices for Telangana, but he and BRS have ruined the lives of the people of Telangana. They (the state government) have not even bothered to take care of the families of people who lost their lives during the protests for a separate state," he said. "BRS will go, and the next CM will be from the BJP under the leadership of Narendra Modi," Shah said.

MANN KI BAAT PM: G20 meet to be biggest ever, will show India potential

Says Chandrayaan's success showed that suns of resolve rise on Moon too



BJP chief J P Nadda, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama and party leader Dushyant Kumar Gautam listen to PM's Mann Ki Baat programme, in Haridwar on Sunday. PTI

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

CALLING IT a display of India's "potential", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the G20 Summit in New Delhi next month will be the "biggest" in the grouping's history, with heads of 40 countries and many global organisations set to attend. With India's recent Moon landing success adding to the "air of celebrations", citizens must now ensure the Summit, which marks the culmination of India's G20 Presidency, brings "glory" to India, he said.

"The month of September is going to witness the potential of India. India is fully prepared for the G20 Leaders' Summit next month... This will be the biggest participation ever in the history of the G20 Summit," the PM said in his monthly Mann Ki Baat address.

Listing out the achievements of its G20 Presidency, the PM said the grouping achieved "much more" in just one year after taking over from Indonesia last year. The G20 is now a "more inclusive" group, he said.

"The African Union also joined the G-20 on India's invitation and the voice of the people of Africa reached this important platform of the world," he said. "Since India took over the Presidency of the G20 in Bali last year, so much has happened, which fills us with pride. Moving away from the tradition of big events in Delhi, we took it to different cities of the country. About 200 meetings related to this were organised in 60 cities of the country," he said.

Calling India's G20 Presidency "the people's Presidency", he said, "In one way or the other, more than 1.5 crore people are associated with the events being organised across the country regarding this (G20)." Sharing examples, he said the participation of "1,25,000 students from 800 schools in the G-20 Quiz held in Varanasi became a new world record". "I urge all countrymen to come together to make the G20 Summit successful and bring glory to the country," he said.

Calling the Chandrayaan-3 a "symbol of the spirit of New India", the PM said "the success is so grand that any amount of discussion about it would be inadequate". "On the 23rd of August, India and India's Chandrayaan proved that some suns of resolve rise on the Moon as well. Mission Chandrayaan has become a symbol of the spirit of New India, which wants to ensure victory, and also knows how to win in any situation," he said.

The PM said the lunar mission was also a "live example" of "woman power". "Many women scientists and engineers have been directly involved in this entire mission... When the daughters of a country become so ambitious, who can stop that country from becoming developed."

During his address, the PM spoke to three spokespersons — Pragati, Amlan and Abhidanya — those who won medals at the recent World University Games in China.

Classifieds

PERSONAL PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Monika Pathak D/o Jagdish Chandar Wason R/o C1/20, Janak Puri Delhi-110058. I have changed my minor son's name from Jai Vir Pathak to Jai Pathak and he shall hereafter be known as Jai Pathak for all future purposes. 0070861247-1

I, Mr. Mohd Bilal S/O Mohammad Abdullah, R/o J-3/143, Second Floor, J-Extension, Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohammed Belal. 0070861271-1

I, Sangeeta, W/O Rakesh Sharma R/o Flat No.101, Jai Apartments, Plot No.102, I, P. Extension, Patparganj, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sangeeta Sharma 0070861264-1

I, Shambhu Dayal Singh S/O Sohan Lal, R/o M-487 Second Floor, Guru Harkishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar S.O, West Delhi-110087, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shambhu Dayal Aggarwal. 0070861256-1

I, Drishti Raisal, D/o-Mr. Kishore Kumar Raisal, Age 18 years, R/o A-2/446, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085 has changed my name from Drishti Raisal to Drishti for all future purposes. 0040685659-1

I, Mahendra Kumar Gupta S/O Shri Radhey Mohan Gupta, R/O B-603, Puja Apartment, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Mahendra Kumar Gupta. 0040685659-2

I, Santosh/Santosh Devi, W/O Ganesh Das R/O B/60, Geeta Colony, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Usha Arora, for all future purposes. 0040685659-11

I, hitherto known as ARSHI, D/O MOHAMMAD SHAKIR, W/O SARTAZ AHMAD, R/O B-384, F/G, GALI NO.15, SUBHASH-MOHALLA, NORTH GHONDA, GARHI MENDU, NORTH EAST-DELHI, DELHI-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ARSHI FATIMA. 0040685659-3

I, Jyoti D/O Dharmendar Kumar, R/O F-73, Vishwas Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059. Declare that the name of My Father has been wrongly written as Dharmen Das Kumar in my 10th and 12th Class Certificate. The actual name of My Father is Dharmendar Kumar, which may be amended accordingly. 0070861243-1

I, Babita D/o Jagdish Kumar R/o 508 LG flats Sanjay Enclave Jahangir Puri Adarsh Nagar New Delhi 110033, have changed the name of my minor son aged 13 on Achintya to Achintya Kumar. 0070861269-1

I, Sanjay Kumar S/O Bhagwati Prasad, R/o 18/80 Block 18, Kalyan Puri, Chilla, Saroda Khadar, East Delhi-110091. I have changed the name of my minor Son Soumya Dubey aged about 13 years and He shall hereafter be known as Adarsh Dubey 0070861261-1

My client Shri Gopi Ram Sharma s/o Late Shri Bilash Rai Sharma R/o House No. D-19, Lala Colony Nr Aggarwal Dharamshala, Meethapur Extension Part-1, Badargar, South Delhi-110044 Has discovered that Late Sharma and his wife Mrs. Aratee Sharma, R/o D-19, 1st Floor, Lala Colony Near Aggarwal Dharamshala, Meethapur Extension Part-1, Badargar, South Delhi-110044, from all movable and immovable properties & also severed all relations with them. My client will not be responsible for the acts and action of their son and his wife, if anybody deals with them shall be responsible for his/her own risk & consequences. Syed Shakeel Husain, Advocate 235, Patiala House Court, New Delhi. 0070861271-1

General public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Laxman Das Gambhir S/o Sh. Hari Chand Gambhir R/o G-2169, Grand Floor, Sector-2, Rohini, North West, Delhi-110085, have severed all relations with his son Mr. Himanshu Gambhir due to his bad habits behavior. My client has disowned/abandoned and severed his said son Himanshu Gambhir from all his movable and immovable properties/assets etc. whichever wherever situated. Anybody whoever dealing with Mr. Himanshu Gambhir will do so at his/her own risk & responsibilities and my client will not be held responsible for any such activities. Sd/- Anand Nath Shukla Advocate Ch. No. 717, 7th Floor, Lawyers Chamber Block, Delhi-110085. 0070861264-1

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tendering Notice Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical/Gatishakti Unit), North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of Government of India, invites online (E-Tendering) "Open" tenders for the following work: S.N. 1- Tender Reference No. E-Tender-GSU-L-27-23-24. Name of work: Provision of Electrical work under MEA for Station development of BSBS, BCY, GCT, BUI & SIP of BSB Division under Amrit Bharat station scheme. Approx. cost (In Rs): ₹ 24128733.91, Earnest Money (in Rs): ₹ 2770700.00, Completion Period: 06 Months. S.N. 2- Tender Reference No. E-Tender-GSU-L-28-23-24. Name of work: Provision of Electrical work under MEA for Station development of MAU, AMH, BLTR, SRU & BT of BSB Division under Amrit Bharat station scheme. Approx. cost (In Rs): ₹ 29669085.38, Earnest Money (in Rs): ₹ 298400.00 Completion Period: 06 Months. S.N. 3- Tender Reference No. E-Tender-GSU-L-29-23-24. Name of work: Provision of Electrical work under MEA for Station development of SV, MW, THE, CPJ & DEOS of BSB Division under Amrit Bharat station scheme. Approx. cost (In Rs): ₹ 29790146.15, Earnest Money (in Rs): ₹ 299000.00, Completion Period: 06 Months. S.N. 4- Tender Reference No. E-Tender-GSU-L-30-23-24. Name of work: Electrical work connection to: (i) provision of lifts at BLTR station (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) & allied works under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme of BSB Division, (ii) provision of lifts at MW station (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) & allied works under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme of BSB Division, (iii) provision of lifts at BUI & DEOS station (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) & allied works under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme of BSB Division, Approx. cost (In Rs): ₹ 728325.53, Earnest Money (in Rs): ₹ 14600.00 Completion Period: 04 Months. For S.N. 1 to 4 Date & Time of Closing Tender: 18.09.2023, 14.30 Hrs. For S.N. 1 to 4 Date & Time of Opening Tender: 18.09.2023, 14.30Hrs. For full details of above E-Tender works and to participate in tenders please visit Indian Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (GSU) CPRO/Elect-128 Varanasi About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794849555 Never travel on roof and foot boards. 0070861261-1

Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon E-TENDER NOTICE K.B.C. N.M.U., Jalgaon invites tender for "E-tender documents for rate contract for Printing of Answer Books for the period of two years" from Registered Printers/ Press to participate in the competitive bidding process. For the detailed tender documents, interested bidder should visit https://mahatenders.gov.in and www.nmu.ac.in (Only for information). The filled in tender must be submitted online on or before 18/09/2023 up to 17.00 hrs. Any extension of tender, corrigendum or change in schedule will not be published in news paper, it will be published only at above mentioned website only. Ref: KBCNMU7-A/ET/Answer Book/3605/2023 Director, Date :26/08/2023 Board of Examinations & Evaluation

ARULMIGU MARIAMMAN TEMPLE, SAMAYAPURAM, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT - 621 112. License to Collect Tonsured hair fasali 1433 Dated: 25.08.2023 Samayapuram, Arulmigu Mariamman Temple and its sub temples By E-Tender (2nd call) Advertisement

DEV INFRASTRUCTURE PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Sahara India Commercial Corporation Ltd., (SICCL) having its office at Third Floor, Executive Office, Sahara Star, Vile Parle East, Mumbai, Maharashtra, has through its authorized representative, entered into an Agreement to execute a sale transaction (ATS) dated 20 January 2021, with Dev Infrastructure, a registered partnership firm with its office at Arpan Complex, Opposite Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalawad Road, Rajkot, through its partner. Under the ATS, Sahara India Commercial Corporation Ltd. has agreed to sell Dev Infrastructure all that piece or parcels of total plots of N.A. land (except internal roads, common plots etc.) out of agricultural lands measuring about 143.535 acres and non-agricultural land measuring about 2.88 acres totalling to 146.215 acres on 45 mtr. wide road towards Rajkot, at the outskirts of Village Dhunvav & Nagarsim, Taluka & District - Jamnagar, Gujarat, India (Property). Any person having any title, right or any interest whatsoever in respect of the said Property is hereby called upon to make the same known in writing, along with documentary proof to the undersigned at Arpan Complex, Opposite Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalawad Road, Rajkot, within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which all alleged claims to right, title or any interest whatsoever in the Property will be considered to have been given up and waived. Sd/- Smitkumar Purushottambhai Kaneria 202, Arpan Complex, Opposite Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalawad Road, Rajkot - 360001. Place: Rajkot - Date: [28-08-2023]

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that one male was found Unconscious Condition and Admitted in LNJP Hospital on 19/08/2023. Who was declared dead during treatment by the Doctor. In this regard a DD No. 16A Dated 19.08.2023 has been lodged at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved 72 hours at MAMC Mortuary, New Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown, Age: about 40 years, Height: 5'4" Feet Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Grey Colour Pajama & naked foot Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned. S.H.O P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23274683, 23279331 DP/9686/CD/2023

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that one male was found Unconscious Condition and Admitted in LNJP Hospital on 19/08/2023. Who was declared dead during treatment by the Doctor. In this regard a DD No. 16A Dated 19.08.2023 has been lodged at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved 72 hours at MAMC Mortuary, New Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown, Age: about 40 years, Height: 5'4" Feet Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Grey Colour Pajama & naked foot Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned. S.H.O P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi. Ph.: 011-23093040, 23093294 DP/9671/ND/2023

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED Tender Notice No : CGM/PROJ/JARDSS-AMISE-I/SP-12/2023-24 Bids through eprocurement.gov.in are invited from eligible bidders for "Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Service Provider (AMISP) for Smart Prepaid Metering by replacing the existing meters to Domestic-(Confining to Amrut Cities) and Commercial services under Phase-II in the erstwhile Revenue Districts of Krishna, Guntur & Prakasam Districts in the Jurisdiction of APCPDCL in TOTEX mode on DBFO basis" under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). The Tender information will be made available in AP E-procurement Portal from 28.08.2023, 18:00 Hrs. Last date for Bid submission online is 11.09.2023, 16:00 Hrs. Sd/- Chief General Manager/Projects APCPDCL-VJAYAWADA E-mail: cgmpjrcpdcl@apcpdcl.in

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD. A Navratna Company (A Govt. of India Undertaking) NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) CONCOR invites E-bid through Two packet Open tendering for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Welding panels, tender panels, LED lights and laying of cables with associated civil works in between Line No 1-2 and 3-4 of Wagon examination facility at ICD Dabri. Details are as follows: Bid Reference Tender No. CONDERT/AGONIL/WAPANEL/2023 Estimated cost ₹1,87,03,731.80/- (Inclusive of GST) Earnest Money Deposit ₹3,74,074.63/- (As per para 3.0 of Section-II of the tender document.) Cost of Document ₹1,000 through online payment gateway to CONCOR. Tender processing fee (Non-refundable) ₹4,720/- Inclusive of GST through online payment gateway to CONCOR. Period of Tender Sale (online) From 28/08/2023 after 11:00 hrs to 18/09/2023 up to 15:00 hrs. Last date and time of Submission of Bid On 18/09/2023 up to 18:00 hrs. Date and time of opening of Bid On 18/09/2023 at 12:00 hrs. Place of Opening and Commissioning Address Office of GROUP GENERAL MANAGER/Tech/Area-1, Container Corporation of India, NSIC, MDBP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station, New Delhi-110020 CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor. For complete details log on to www.tenderwizar.com/CCL. Group General Manager/Technical (Area-1)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Mohd Imamuddin, S/o Mohd Nijamuddin, R/o LRB-177, Village Khori, Sarajkund, Faridabad, Haryana, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 232/2020, U/s 188/269/270 IPC, registered at P.S. Pul Prahladpur, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Mohd Imamuddin, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Mohd Imamuddin, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mohd Imamuddin, of case FIR No. 232/2020, U/s 188/269/270 IPC, P.S. Pul Prahladpur, Delhi, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 26.09.2023. By order Himanshu Tanwar, Metropolitan Magistrate, Room no. 307, Saket Courts, Delhi DP/9647/SE/2023 (Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that one male was found lying unconscious at Sulabh Sauchalay near Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Bus stand on 26.08.2023 at 06.35 A.M. He was admitted to RML Hospital vide MLC No. 171341/23 and Who has been died on 26.08.23 during treatment. In this regard vide DD No. 10-A, Dated 26.08.2023 has been lodged at P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown Age: 60 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, ID Mark: MA Written on Right Hand in Heart Shape, Wearing: White and Blue Colour Checkdar Shirt and Brown Colour Pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned. S.H.O P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi. Ph.: 011-23093040, 23093294 DP/9671/ND/2023

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that one male was found lying unconscious at Sulabh Sauchalay near Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Bus stand on 26.08.2023 at 06.35 A.M. He was admitted to RML Hospital vide MLC No. 171341/23 and Who has been died on 26.08.23 during treatment. In this regard vide DD No. 10-A, Dated 26.08.2023 has been lodged at P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown Age: 60 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, ID Mark: MA Written on Right Hand in Heart Shape, Wearing: White and Blue Colour Checkdar Shirt and Brown Colour Pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned. S.H.O P.S. North Avenue, New Delhi. Ph.: 011-23093040, 23093294 DP/9671/ND/2023

TALODA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, Taloda, Dist.Nandurbar (Maharashtra State) E-Mail ID : conp.tldr@gmail.com Phone No.:02567-232231 Date : 18/08/2023 E-Tender Notice No. 7/2023-24 (Online) The Chief Officer, Taloda Municipal Council, Dist.Nandurbar, Maharashtra State inviting E-Tender in B-1 form from contractors registered with public work department of Maharashtra State / Unregistered contractor for the construction of cement concrete roads and gutter work under the assistance scheme for providing civil amenities in the newly expanded frontier areas. Last date of submission of tender is 11/09/2023 up to 4.00 PM. Details of E-Tender Notice No.7 is available on www.mahatenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Officer Taloda Municipal Council, Taloda

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Footpath in front of IRCON Appt Sec-18, Dwarka, Delhi on 24.08.2023 at 09.40 PM. In this regard a DD No. 140A IPC Dated: 24.08.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Dwarka North, Delhi The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown, Age: About 47 Years Height: 5'6" Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Hair: Black & White, ID Mark: A mole in over right hand side Neck, Wearing: Badami Colour Checkdar Shirt, White Sandow Baniyan and Grey Colour Lower. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned. S.H.O P.S. Dwarka North, Delhi Ph.: 011-28031878, 9968477747 DP/9658/DW/2023

Classifieds LOST & FOUND IPrabha Rani a relinquishment deed no. 6451 dated : 21/12/2015, stamp no. S085182 Duly registered at sub-registrar office Tigoan, district Faridabad related to my property at Faridabad has been lost in Delhi, Police notified. If found please contact Prabha# 9818434214 005025726-1 "IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (IP) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.



MP CM Shivraj Chouhan in Bhopal on Sunday. PTI

### Chouhan raises govt job quota, aid to women, calls it his gift on Raksha Bandhan

ANAND MOHAN J  
BHOPAL, AUGUST 27

MADHYA PRADESH Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday raised the financial aid given to women in the poll-bound state under the Ladli Behna scheme from Rs 1,000 per month to Rs 1,250, saying it was a Raksha Bandhan gift.

Chouhan also announced increased reservations for women in government jobs, and said cooking gas cylinders would be made available for Rs 450 in the state this month. "Regardless of caste or religion - whether Hindu or Muslim - all are sisters, and all will receive equal benefits from the schemes," Chouhan said.

"Women will get cooking gas at Rs 450 in the holy month of Sawan. Later, a permanent system will be evolved in this regard. I have also transferred Rs 250 into the accounts of 1.25 crore women so that they can celebrate Rakhi well. The rest of the Rs 1,000 (under the Ladli Behna Yojana) will be credited in September," Chouhan said.

Ahead of the state elections set to be held later this year, the BJP considers the Ladli Behna scheme as one of its trump cards, with the CM promising in election rallies to eventually bring the amount distributed under the scheme to Rs 3,000 per month. The scheme is estimated to have an impact on 48% of women voters in the state.

On Sunday, Chouhan announced that reservations for women in government and police recruitment would be increased from 30% to 35%, and that in teacher recruitment, this would go up to 50 per cent. He also announced that women will get tracts of land in industrial areas to open small scale units, adding the aim was to raise the income of women to Rs 10,000 per month.

State Congress president Kamal Nath said, "I never thought that a person could use a sacred festival like Raksha Bandhan in an attempt to fulfil his hunger for power."

## Ukraine 'conflict', India's UNSC aspirations in BRICS declaration, no mention of Afghanistan

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

AFGHANISTAN IS missing from the BRICS declaration, but the document mentioned the "legitimate" aspirations of India, Brazil and South Africa to be part of the UN Security Council, acknowledged G20 as a premier multilateral forum and called the Russia-Ukraine war a "conflict" this time instead of "situation".

These are some of the key takeaways emerging from the BRICS leaders' summit in Johannesburg as tough diplomatic negotiations and the informal meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping played out in the run-up to the declaration.

On UN Security Council reforms, the BRICS declaration introduced the phrase "legitimate

aspirations" and the word "democratic" in the paragraph. Last year, BRICS had merely talked about "aspirations" of India, Brazil and South Africa and making the UNSC "representative, effective and efficient".

It said: "We support a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of developing countries in the Council's membership so that it can adequately respond to prevailing global challenges and support the 3 legitimate aspirations of emerging and developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America, including Brazil, India and South Africa, to play a greater role in international affairs, in particular in the United Nations, including its Security Council."

### EXPLAINED Shift in BRICS focus

AFGHANISTAN'S ABSENCE from the declaration shows how the Taliban-ruled country is no longer a major geopolitical priority after the chaotic exit of the US. BRICS is instead now focussed on the pressing challenges facing the world economy after the pandemic and the consequences of Ukraine war.

On the issue of the Russia-Ukraine war, the BRICS declaration used the word "conflict in and around Ukraine", instead of last year's formulation of the "situation in Ukraine".

"We recall our national positions concerning the conflict in and around Ukraine as expressed at the appropriate fora, including the UNSC and UNGA. We note with appreciation relevant proposals of mediation and good offices aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, including the African Leaders Peace Mission and the proposed path for peace," the declaration said this time. There was, however, no mention of the Black Sea Grain Initiative which was an important issue this time.

Afghanistan was a noteworthy miss in the 94-paragraph declaration running into 17 pages, especially considering that there was an extensive paragraph on it in the June 2022 declaration.

Last time, the BRICS declaration had said it strongly supports a peaceful Afghanistan while em-

phasising on national reconciliation, an inclusive political structure and rights of all Afghans including women and children. It said Afghan territory should not be used for acts of terror.

BRICS - largely portrayed as an anti-West platform - acknowledged G20 as a "premier multilateral forum" and the "Indian Presidency" this time. It helped that two more BRICS countries - Brazil and South Africa - will preside over the G20 in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

"We reaffirm the importance of the G20 to continue playing the role of the premier multilateral forum in the field of international economic and financial cooperation... We note the opportunities to build sustained momentum for change by India, Brazil and South Africa presiding over the G20 from 2023 to 2025," the declaration said.

### B20 SUMMIT

## Jaishankar warns: Crisis in making in Global South

Seeks re-globalisation that is more diversified and more democratic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday made a strong pitch for a "more diversified and more democratic" re-globalisation, saying the Global South can no longer be at the mercy of a few suppliers.

Addressing the B20 Summit organised by trade association Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), he said the Global South was largely reduced to being a consumer rather than being a producer and could not reap the full benefits of economic change.

"They (Global South) not only did not reap the full benefits of economic change, but often ended up saddled with unviable debts emanating from opaque initiatives. This was a gradually unfolding crisis in the making, but one that was accelerated rapidly by the multiple shocks of debt, Covid and conflict," Jaishankar said.

"As a result, the endeavour now is to seek re-globalisation that is more diversified, more democratic, where there would be multiple centres of production, not just of consumption. That is where business can make a crucial difference," he said addressing a session on 'Role of Global South in Emerging World 2.0'.

Jaishankar said the core mandate of G20 was to promote economic growth and development and it cannot advance if the cru-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the B20 Summit in Delhi, Sunday. PTI

cial concerns of the Global South in areas such as debt and finance, sustainable development, climate action, food security and women-led development were not addressed. "We cannot be at the mercy any longer of a few suppliers whose viability could come into question by unanticipated shocks. This was starkly apparent when it came to health during the Covid pandemic, but it pretty much applies to everything else as well," he said.

Jaishankar said the compulsion to create more resilient and reliable supply chains was a really pressing one. "Its counterpart in the digital domain is driven more by anxieties about trust and transparency. The volatility of the last few years have brought home to us the importance of strategic autonomy," he said.

He said a more just, equitable and participative global order will only happen when there was commensurate investment, trade and technology decisions directed at the Global South.

## No row over Chandrayaan-3 landing site naming: Somanath

'Other countries too name spots after accomplishments'

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
AUGUST 27

ISRO CHAIRMAN S Somanath on Sunday said the space agency has got critical and interesting data from the Chandrayaan-3 mission, which would be explained in the coming days.

Addressing the media after participating in special prayers at Sri Bala Tripura Sundari Devi temple at Venganoor near Thiruvananthapuram, Somanath said there is no controversy regarding the Prime Minister naming the Chandrayaan-3 landing site as 'Shiv Shakti point'.

"The rover is moving as planned. We have been getting very interesting data from the rover which was never obtained in the past," he said.

On the naming of the landing site, he said: "The country has every right to name the landing site. Several Indian names are already there on the moon. We have Sarabhai crater on the moon. Other countries have also named places related to their scientific accomplishments. All places related to even minor experiments would be named. That is a tradition."

Describing the mission, Somanath said it was very risky considering the valleys and hills on the south pole of the Moon and that sunlight is available only for 14 days.



ISRO Chairman S Somanath at the Pournamikavu temple in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. PTI

## Lander reports variation in lunar surface temperature

Bengaluru: ISRO on Sunday released a graph of the temperature variation on the lunar surface and a senior scientist of the space agency expressed surprise over the high temperature recorded on the Moon.

The space agency tweeted that the Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) payload onboard Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander measured the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole to understand the thermal behaviour of the Moon's surface.

Speaking about the graphic illustration, ISRO scientist B H M Darukesha said: "We all believed that the temperature could be somewhere around 20 degree centigrade to 30 degree centigrade on the surface but it is 70 degree centigrade."

Scientist Darukesha explained, "When we go two to three centimetres inside the Earth, we hardly see two to three degree centigrade variation whereas there (in Moon), it is about 50 degree centigrade variation. This is something interesting." PTI

## 'Some artefacts are important to country of origin... must repatriate on ethical grounds'

THE G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting concluded Saturday with an outcome document recognising the significance of repatriation of cultural property to their countries of origin. Spain's Culture and Sports Minister MIQUEL ICETA, who was in Varanasi for the meeting, spoke to DIVYAA on a range of issues - from the legal and ethical issues relating to repatriation of antiquities, to G20 nations' stand on Ukraine war, and how the world views India today. Edited excerpts:



THE EXPRESS  
INTERVIEW  
WITH  
MIQUEL ICETA  
SPAIN CULTURE MINISTER

Indian antiquities have landed abroad because of various reasons. Beyond the legal issues of smuggling and theft, there are ethical issues pertaining to colonial plunder. What's your view?

Well, we do have general agreements regarding these things but sometimes we must look at specific cases and see if it's not just legal but ethical. And it's not easy sometimes, because there's a commercial transaction with a perfectly written contract. But there are artefacts or

goods that are so important to the cultural identity of the country of origin that even if the legal transaction was correct they should still recover it. However, it's pertinent to start conversation or dialogue or deliberations at some level between the two countries involved, and then things can be viewed on a case-by-case basis.

One of the themes of the G20 cultural track is about destruction of cultural heritage due to war.

Countries have to first try to stop the wars. In the war Russia has imposed on Ukraine, we are working closely with the Ukrainian government to preserve their heritage and, in some cases, restore it. I feel if a country takes the initiative of launching a war, it must be held responsible.

In all G20 communiqués so far, there were disagreements on some specific references to Ukraine war. How can a consensus be reached?

It's very difficult. We are now heading towards the Leaders' Summit. All of us are sad about not being able to reach an agreement (on Ukraine), but we did try to have... a consensus on other subjects... I know it's frustrating, but I think it's better to agree on some things.

Do you think that, of late, the world's view of India has changed vis a vis its civilisational strength?

There's a feeling that India is making a great effort to develop economically. And there's an increased interest in what India thinks, what India wants and also, sometimes, in what we can take from India...

What we love about India is that it is a democracy. We know the growth of its GDP, we know that in Asia, India is central. But no, I'm not so sure that the world knows what India represents in terms of history and culture. That's why we want to deepen the cultural cooperation between the two countries.

FULL INTERVIEW  
www.indianexpress.com

COEP Technological University (COEP Tech) A Unitary Technological University of Government of Maharashtra (Formerly College of Engineering Pune (COEP)) Wellesley Road, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411 005, Maharashtra, India Ph. - 020-25507000 / 7001 Website- www.coep.org.in

Admission Notice for Institute Level Spot Round for First Year MBA Programmes for the Academic Year 2023-24

COEP Technological University Pune (COEP Tech.) is conducting Institute Level Spot Round for admission to First Year MBA programmes for All India, Maharashtra State Candidates and also CIWGC/OCI/PIO/FN/NRI category students for the Academic Year 2023-24. This Institute level spot round will be conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 at 9.30 AM. The round will be further extended on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 if seats remain vacant. The detailed guidelines, notification and vacancy position is available on COEP Tech website and interested candidates are instructed to refer the following link: https://www.coep.org.in/admissions/graduateprogram Registrar Date: 26/08/2023 COEP Technological University Pune

RAJMATA JIJAU SHIKSHAN PRASARAK MANDAL'S ARTS, COMMERCE & SCIENCE COLLEGE Landewadi, Bhosari, Pune - 411039 Ph. No.: 020- 66998968 | www.rjspmcollege.ac.in

WANTED (Permanent Post / Permanently Non-Grant Basis)

Sr.no.	Post	No.of Post	Category
1	Principal	01	Open to all

• Educational Qualifications, API Score, Experience, age & pay scale for the above post will be as per UGC / Savitribai Phule Pune University/ Government of Maharashtra norms.  
• Apply Only / Strictly - Fully Qualified and Eligible Candidate.  
• Reserved Category candidate should submit one copy of applications to the Dy. Registrar Reservation Cell, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune-411007 and copy to this college along with the certified copy of their caste certificate issued by the competent authority.  
Applications along with attested copies of all certificates and completed bio-data should reach The President, Rajmata Jijau Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Opp. Amphenol Company, Near Datta Mandir, Landewadi, Bhosari, Pune-411039; within 15 days from the publication of this advertisement.

The Indian EXPRESS JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

RELIGARE Values that bind

Presents The Indian EXPRESS AQDA

Co-presented by FRR IMMIGRATION 3P 3P INVESTMENT MANAGERS

WHERE NEWSMAKERS DROP IN FOR A CANDID CHAT.

The Express Adda hosts Ruchir Sharma Chairman of Rockefeller International; Founder and Chief Investment Officer of Breakout Capital

in conversation with Anant Goenka Executive Director The Indian Express Group Shyamal Majumdar Editor Financial Express

By invitation only

Associate Partner VTP Experience Partner

Use #ExpressAdda & join the conversation, live and exclusive on: Indianexpress.com twitter.com/IndianExpress facebook.com/IndianExpress



**WORDLY WISE**  
PART OF DIPLOMACY IS TO OPEN DIFFERENT  
DEFINITIONS OF SELF-INTEREST.  
— HILLARY CLINTON

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
**RAMNATH GOENKA**

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# A teacher's heartset

Muzaffarnagar video is a reminder: Teachers come from society, but today, we also need them to challenge it



AMEETA MULLA WATTAL

## STATE OF PLAY

Delhi-Beijing negotiations must be less opaque. Modi government, which has stood up to pressures, must not go back to old days

**T**HE CONFUSION ABOUT which side requested the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the margins of the BRICS summit in Johannesburg last week might have little substance. The protocol one-upmanship is quite normal for diplomacy between Delhi and Beijing. But it underlines the current edgy state of the bilateral relationship, in a freezer since the Galwan incidents in eastern Ladakh during the spring of 2020. The episode underlines the dense fog that envelops negotiations between the two nations on managing their border. It also points to the complex nature of the dispute — Delhi and Beijing don't agree on the length of the border. Sixty years after the 1962 war, the two sides have no shared understanding of where the line of separation, or the Line of Actual Control, is. The negotiating record on the dispute is not public in either country. The diplomatic code in which the two sides speak is hard to crack. Combine all this with the traditional romantic notions about China relations in the Indian political class and entrenched geopolitical contradictions between their interests, and you have unending mixed messages from Delhi.

Whether it was an "informal meeting", "pull aside", a mere "conversation", or a "candid and in-depth exchange of views", the readouts from the two sides after the meeting underline the deep and well-known divergence on ending the current stalemate. India has insisted that until peace and tranquillity is restored on the border, there will be no return to normal in the rest of the relationship. In other words, progress on the border is a precondition for reviving the rest of the relationship. China, on the other hand, argues that the border dispute is only part of the problem, and India must restore full business relations and a political dialogue. From what was heard about the Johannesburg encounter between Modi and Xi, there is no apparent give by either side. Yet, intense negotiations between the military commanders on reducing tensions in the Ladakh region report considerable progress, raising the possibility for an agreement on military disengagement and a roadmap for de-escalation that could be blessed by the two leaders when Xi comes to the G20 summit next month.

The government's political opponents and critics, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, claim that India has been making all the military concessions to reduce the tensions on the border and has virtually acquiesced in China's 2020 landgrab in Ladakh. Indian officials who have dealt with China over the years caution against agreeing to meet the artificial G20 deadline. It is unclear what the Chinese terms are for military disengagement and what Beijing wants in return elsewhere in the relationship. The government's reluctance to disclose the details of the current negotiations with Beijing is very much in sync with the long-standing diplomatic tradition of non-transparent dialogue on the border with China. It makes little sense for the Modi government, which has signalled a strong resolve to stand up to Chinese pressures, to take policy back to the bad old days. Instead, it must take the country into confidence on the state of play with China.

"Look what she did to my song, Maa/ It was the only thing I could do half right/ she shamed me in everyone's sight/ Look what she did to my song/ Look what she did to my brain, Maa/ she let them pick it like a chicken bone, which drove me half insane, Maa/ look what she did to my brain/ I wish I could find a real book to live in /Then I would never have to come to school to fit in/ Look what she did to my song, Maa."

— With apologies to Melanie Safka

I WAS PLANNING to give you a surprise on Teachers' Day, but I got one myself. You dehumanised me by turning my friends against me. We are all your victims — those who hit me on your instructions and I, who was shamed by your actions and words.

Ms Tyagi, it is bad enough that you don't help me to read or write. I cannot paint, dance, breathe, meditate or even relax when you are in class.

You have never helped me cope with anxiety or aggression. Because of you, I cannot express tenderness and trust. Why have you never spared any concern about the situation around me, that because of it, I don't know who I am anymore? Or whether I even have a self to find anymore?

If you are running a school where the basic skills have nothing to do with my health, happiness, sanity or survival, whose interest is my education serving?

Harold S Kushner wrote in *The Lord is my Shepherd*: "Our first ancestors chose to be human rather than live forever. They chose a sense of morality, knowledge of good and evil, rather than immortality. They spurned the tree of life which would have given them eternal life, in favour of the tree of knowledge which gave them a conscience. As compensation, humans were given the freedom of choice and power to create new lives. We cheat death, not by living forever, but by bearing and educating children to keep our souls, our values and even our names alive." The National Education Policy 2020 con-

tinues to emphasise the importance of teacher empowerment and well-being. We go on endlessly about mindsets and skill sets when what we need to do the most is unpack a teacher's "heartset", because it is this that will affect the emotional compass of a child.

If the entire approach to life, nature, oneself and the other gets fragmented, then how do we integrate sensitivity towards gender, identity, religion, social justice, and peaceful linkages in school systems?

Teachers come from the same milieu that encompasses society. Today, more than ever, we need them to dare to challenge prevailing societal conditions. Majority versus minority, rich versus poor, abled versus disabled. The list is endless. The greatest teachers of all times — Jesus, Nanak, Buddha, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Yogananda, Muhammad and Krishna (on the battlefield of Kurukshetra) had no tools to work with, no blackboards, no maps or charts. They used no subject outlines, kept no records, gave no grades. Their only text was universal and well-worn. Their students were the poor, lame, deaf, blind and outcast. Their methods were the same for all who came to hear and learn. They opened eyes with faith, ears with simple truth, hearts with love. They asked for no honours or awards.

And yet, these quiet teachers fed the needs, fulfilled the hopes and changed the lives of millions.

No guidebook can automatically sort out the dilemmas arising from caring for children in our complex society. Teachers need to reflect and analyse the impact of their preferences and decisions on the life of a child.

We need to ensure that teachers first get educated about the interdependence of life, of how to live together in a common understanding of being human, in the belief that every person is meant to live both for and thanks to the other.

The time has come for us to rethink what we mean when we say we belong to a partic-

ular religion, faith or tradition. Doesn't it all ultimately boil down to a striving for truth, the pursuit of justice, and the recognition that some things are good and some are bad? All these values are supposed to be taught in schools and yet the perpetrator sometimes is the adult who transacts learning in the classroom. A heartset shines when children see their school as a safe space, a place of joy where their identity is recognised and where they are made visible not through violence and abuse, but through confidence and creativity. This helps them to move from self-centeredness to other-centeredness because that is what a heartset is about: Seeing yourself as an integral part of the other.

The thoughts and actions of a teacher affect young minds. A child can develop a tendency to believe that a teacher's attitude towards him or her is the total of his or her identity. As a result, the child gets imprisoned for life. Teachers need a form of hygiene which brushes their brains every day, the way we clean our bodies. Doing so will promote the compassion circuits of their brains and help them to develop reflection and sensitivity towards their students, by delivering a more humane education.

Not only do we need such a practice, but our children yearn for it. It is up to us to make a world fit for children. As educators we should encourage our children to sing, dance, weep and sweat life, sleep, eat, paint, sculpt, hammer and read life; wash, iron, sow and pickle life; compute, touch, bend and fold life; learn and play, work and rest, fast and feast on life; argue and talk, whisper and shout, swim, cook and digest life; relax and recover life, breath and become life — but never mutilate or delete their life. For, our children are our offering and their life is a prayer.

In deep anguish, ahead of Teacher's Day

The writer is Chairperson and Executive Director Education, Innovations and Training DLF Foundation Schools and Scholarship Programme

## ON THE MAT

Wrestling Federation of India's suspension by world body is a warning. Sports governing bodies must put their house in order

**A**SPORT THAT has won India medals at each of the last four Olympics finds itself in a seemingly irrevocable downward spiral. Since the start of the year — when the country's top wrestlers launched protests against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh — the sport has been stumbling from one controversy to another. On Thursday, it touched another low after the United World Wrestling (UWW) suspended the WFI for failing to conduct its elections. For months, the world body had been urging India's top sports administrators to set the WFI's house in order. They threatened to suspend India in June and followed up again in July. However, owing to factionalism within Indian wrestling, the courts stayed the elections and the UWW ran out of patience, finally putting their words into action.

On the face of it, the WFI's suspension does not immediately impact the wrestlers. They can continue to participate in international tournaments, with the World Championships — a Paris Olympics qualifier — around the corner. But even as the wrestlers give their all to the game, they won't be allowed to display the tricolour on their jerseys. India's flag won't fly at major events and the national anthem will not be played if they finish on top of the podium. Once again, the ineptness of sports officials is the cause of international embarrassment for India. It must be noted, though, that the suspension will not impact Indian wrestlers at the Asian Games in any way.

Alas, wrestling isn't the only federation with administrative issues. Just last year, world football's governing body, FIFA, suspended India for not conducting timely elections while the International Olympic Committee and International Hockey Federation threatened to ban their corresponding Indian bodies for the same reasons. In June 2020, the government was forced to withdraw recognition of 54 national federations for not complying with the Sports Code and last year, the Delhi High Court pulled up nearly two dozen bodies for flouting rules. Wrestling, in that sense, is one among the many federations caught in the unholy web of sports and politics. Worryingly, there is no immediate end in sight to the saga but the officials must find a way to quickly resolve the mess. The longer the suspension lasts, the more it will impact the sport — invitations to international tournaments will reduce, funding from the world body will take a hit and the wrestlers, in the long run, will be the ultimate losers.



RAJIV BHATIA

## BRICS 2.0

Addition of six new members will give more heft to the grouping

AMONG THE 15 BRICS summits held so far, the meet that concluded in Johannesburg last week received the most attention globally. It was a milestone that probably outshone the founding summit in Yekaterinburg (Russia) in 2009 and the third summit in Sanya (China) in 2011 when South Africa joined the grouping. The decision to invite six countries — Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE — to join BRICS as full members and keep its doors open for further expansion has opened a new era. BRICS 2.0 will have global repercussions: On the role of the US-led Western alliance centred around G7, the emerging economies and developing countries, and the engagements between the two worlds.

At Johannesburg, BRICS increased its membership to represent a larger share of world population, global GDP and international trade. This was initially driven by China with the backing of Russia and South Africa. But once India and Brazil accepted the principle of expansion, the choice of six new members was based on consensus. The accommodation was important, given that at least 23 countries of the Global South had conveyed interest in seeking BRICS membership. This was a recognition of the grouping's value, notwithstanding the negative view taken by the West.

Two questions need answers. First, is the expansion good for BRICS? Its leaders think so. The new BRICS-XI will have more political clout, but the extent of its increased influence will depend on building inner unity. Second, why were these six countries chosen? Argentina was brought in to expand Latin

American representation. Egypt, given its excellent ties with China and India, was a natural choice. Ethiopia was a surprise, the result of a compromise between the claims of Nigeria and Kenya. The inclusion of Saudi Arabia and the UAE will help in recapitalisation of the New Development Bank, enhancing its capacity to finance development projects. Iran's entry reaffirms its strategic location as a bridge between West, Central and South Asia. BRICS 2.0 will also have six of the top 10 oil-producing countries of Saudi Arabia, Russia, China, UAE, Brazil, and Iran — a definite global power shift and one not defined by the West.

At Johannesburg, the leaders decided to direct the foreign ministers to "further develop the BRICS partner country model". In line for admission are Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Nigeria, Kenya, and a Latin American country. The immediate re-balancing focus is UNSC membership for the original BRICS members — India, Brazil, and South Africa — articulated in Paragraph 7 of the Johannesburg Declaration. This requires the support of the permanent members, China and Russia, or it will further expose their doublespeak on this issue.

The question of a common BRICS currency also dominated the pre-summit headlines, despite the BRICS itself not seeking to create it. Instead, paragraph 44 of the joint statement makes clear that the grouping will encourage local currencies in trade and financial transactions "between BRICS as well as their trading partners" and for "fast, inexpensive, transparent, safe and inclusive payment systems." Should it contribute to de-dollarisation, the

outcome may not be unwelcome to a large segment of the international community.

Both UNSC membership and local currency trade are welcome to India. Two other possibilities discussed are favourable too. First, it was reiterated that G20 is the premier multilateral forum for "international economic and financial cooperation". China and Russia conveyed their support for the successful hosting of successive G20 presidencies by India, Brazil, and South Africa. This generates hope that these two states may become a little more conciliatory, and a consensus-based Delhi Declaration is delivered at the G20 summit in September.

Second, the meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the summit's side lines, may offer fresh impetus for expediting a workable resolution of the border issues in the western sector of Ladakh. After Covid, Galwan, and Ukraine, BRICS faces a changed world in which its two members — Russia and China — are heavily involved in confrontation with the US-led West. The other BRICS members do have differences with the existing global order, but they prefer reform through dialogue. As the six new members join BRICS, these inner dynamics will evolve further. India will have a seminal but challenging role, given its growing cooperation with the West on the one hand and its active articulation and pursuit of the interests of the Global South on the other.

The writer is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, and a former High Commissioner to South Africa

## FREEZE FRAME

EP UNNY



## AUGUST 28, 1983, FORTY YEARS AGO

### NO TALKS WITH ZIA

PAKISTAN OPPOSITION PARTIES will not have any dialogue with the Zia regime or accept any compromise to end the current crisis, their leaders said amid speculation that such a dialogue was likely to be initiated by the regime. Prominent leaders of opposition parties said there is no question of talks unless the regime decided to restore democracy.

### 'KAM ROKO' AGITATION

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT has ordered the closure of all educational institutions, includ-

ing schools, polytechnics and industrial learning institutes, all over the state on August 29 in view of the proposed one day "kam roko" agitation by the Akalis. Institutions have been closed to prevent students from taking part in the agitation which the authorities apprehend could take a violent turn.

### FLOOD DANGER

THE CONTINUALLY RISING Yamuna flooded three Delhi villages and ravaged fresh areas in the Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh, while the Burhi Gandak was threatening to demolish the Chitauri-Piprasi bund in Deoria dis-

trict on the Bihar border, endangering 200 villages. In Bihar, the Ganga and the Mahananda breached embankments, threatening the habitations of people in 200 villages.

### AIRPLANE HIJACKED

FOUR ARABIC-SPEAKING GUNMEN who hijacked an Air France Boeing 727 to Geneva released 37 of 111 passengers on board before taking off for Athens, an airport spokesman said. The hijackers, believed to be Lebanese, at first asked to be flown to the Bulgarian capital of Sofia, the spokesman, Robert Vieux, told reporters.

# 11 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Let's debate Basic Structure

The doctrine must be reviewed and dissected in the public sphere for Indian democracy to function unhindered



SUBRATA MITRA

DOES A FREE nation have the right to shape its present and determine its future, unhindered by some "universal" values of external provenance, and unshackle itself from the "mind-forged manacles" of received ideas? The debate, which had raised great passions in 1951 during the discussion on the First Amendment of the Constitution has now been resuscitated by the assertion of Ranjan Gogoi that the "Basic Structure Doctrine" has "a very debatable jurisprudential basis". The depiction of his maiden speech in the Rajya Sabha by this newspaper ('MP Gogoi v Justice Gogoi' IE, August 9) as merely "partisan" (Gogoi, a former Chief Justice of the Indian Supreme Court was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the NDA government) needs careful questioning. It is this form of censorship that stymies debate on the proper functioning of the Constitution.

The issue that led to the debate in the Rajya Sabha concerns the competence of the Union executive, acting through Parliament, to curtail the power of the Delhi Government over services. With its adverse effect on the federal balance — a key component of the Basic Structure Doctrine — the Bill appeared to contravene current judicial practice. As such, though it was ultimately passed — the Union government had the numbers — its legitimacy remains compromised by a soupcon of constitutional impropriety.

The significance of the larger issue can hardly be overstated, particularly at the current juncture in Indian politics. Those who underestimate the significance of the issue would do well to remember that the Supreme Court will revisit this spot once the hearings on the abrogation of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019 gather steam. At issue today are three essential questions: How fundamental are specific fundamental rights in practice? Can such rights be amended? And, who would have the last word on their application?

This brings us back to 1951, when Parliament debated the First Amendment, seeking curtailment of the fundamental right to freedom of expression. It is not a moot question. As one can gather from the Constituent Assembly Debates, Article 21 of the Constitution privileges "procedure established by law" over American-style "due process", policed by the Supreme Court which has the last word. This, and Article 368, were designed as a joint mechanism to keep the state and society in sync through suitable and incremental amendments to the Constitution. Both articles are comprehensive, with no "no-go" area excluded from their purview. A critical dissection of the discourse around the political usage of the Basic Structure Doctrine shows how putting it above politics helps those opposed to specific legislative measures, who instrumentalise it in order to bolster their interests. That calls for an urgent review of the whole doctrine and to bring it back in again to the public sphere for dispassionate dissection.

The Basic Structure Doctrine emerged from the *Kesavananda Bharati* judgment of the Supreme Court, delivered by a majority of 7:6 on April 24, 1973. It held that Parliament could not alter the basic structure of the Constitution by an amendment. There is no exclusive and definitive list of what the basic features are, for the judiciary decides this on



C.R. Sasikumar

a case-by-case basis. In consequence, as cases accumulate, the list of areas off-limits to the executive gets longer. This creates a peculiar political environment where frenzied elections generate tall mandates that are undeliverable. The executive remains hamstrung, constrained not just by limited material resources but bound by limited and uncertain legal room to manoeuvre. The consequence of this gap between parliamentary competence and executive impotence knocks the wind out of the power and capacity of electoral democracy. The political culture it breeds is known as "cheap talk" in game theory, seen in such emphatic gestures as grandstanding and heady rhetoric followed by inaction, empty rhetoric and costless, non-binding, unverifiable communication between politicians and the electorate.

The Basic Structure Doctrine puts "procedure established by law" below "due process" in the functioning of the legislative process. Its political profiling as "sacrosanct" puts it beyond the ken of politics. In 1951, right at the outset of post-colonial India's journey into uncharted territory, no less a democrat than Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had taken the bold step to initiate the process to restrict the freedom of speech and expression and got Parliament to pass the First Amendment. In retrospect, one is grateful for his boldness and sagacity in undertaking the necessary changes in the core principles of the Constitution for the validation of zamindari abolition laws and provisions that stipulated that the right to equality does not bar the enactment of laws that provide special considerations for underprivileged sections of society. Article 368 of the Constitution clearly stipulates that "Parliament may in exercise of its constituent power amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of this Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down in this article." (Emphasis added).

The countervailing forces of Indian politics — a watchful judiciary and an empow-

The Basic Structure Doctrine puts 'procedure established by law' below 'due process' in the functioning of the legislative process. Its political profiling as 'sacrosanct' puts it beyond the ken of politics. In 1951, right at the outset of post-colonial India's journey into uncharted territory, no less a democrat than Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had taken the bold step to initiate the process to restrict the freedom of speech and expression and got Parliament to pass the First Amendment.

ered legislature, itself replete with control mechanisms such as the committee system, accountability to two different electorates, following different electoral cycles — are built into the political system through the intricate scheme of the separation of powers. At its best, the political system operates on the principle of the joint family — no one hand holds all the cards. This is the bulwark that buttresses the deepening and resilience of Indian democracy. If the political system freezes its capacity to adapt the Constitution to challenging times, the state would not be able to withstand the pressures emanating from the deeper layers of society and history. What one needs in India today is more debate, not less, and political discourse focused on facts and logic, and not on diffuse, emotive categories of love and hate.

The "cancel culture" of foreclosing debate serves neither the cause of justice nor of democratic deepening and consolidation. In the acrimonious political atmosphere in which the country finds itself today, it is important to remember the words of that visionary — Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his 'Freedom at Midnight' speech — "when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance". Parliament is the instrument of that collective voice. Its autonomous and unhindered functioning are essential for Indian democracy.

Seen in this light, the Basic Structure Doctrine, in the apt metaphor of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, is the "Pole Star" of Indian politics. A competent navigator in a stormy night would be well-advised to use it to fix his own location and steer his ship as well as he can. Those who do nothing except keep gazing at the Pole Star are likely to go down with the gathering storm, of which one can already hear the distant rumbling.

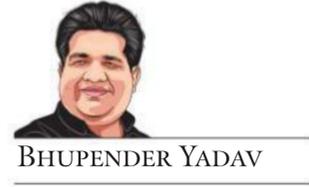
The writer is an Emeritus Professor of Political Science, Heidelberg University, Germany. He is the author of *Governance by Stealth: The Ministry of Home Affairs and making of the Indian state*

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"As we celebrate the lunar landing by a close neighbour, we should not hesitate to seek collaboration in advancing science and technology while developing a temper for innovation in science and technology." — THE KATHMANDU POST

## A shoot-and-scoot Opposition

Governments in healthy democracies must be held to account. But stalling Parliament, shifting goal posts and avoiding debate is not the way



BHUPENDER YADAV

INDIA IS ABOUT nine months away from elections to the 18th Lok Sabha. Going to the people to seek their mandate every five years is an exercise that seeks to keep alive the democratic spirit of the country enshrined in the Constitution. It is a time for incumbent governments to present report cards and for Opposition parties to point out what they may deem to be lacunae in the government's performance. Responsible Opposition parties are then supposed to lay out an alternative model of development before the people. This system helps a democracy thrive and people realise their aspirations.

A responsible Opposition is thus crucial for this system. Unfortunately, the people who failed to realise the people's aspirations while they were in power for close to seven decades have ended up being a drag on the country's development even in Opposition. The Monsoon Session of Parliament which wrapped up recently is just one among the many examples when the Opposition tried to derail the democratic systems in place.

The architect of the Indian Constitution, BR Ambedkar said, "The debates in Parliament are a vital part of the democratic process. They help to ensure that the laws are made in the best interests of the people." Parliament is a place where dissent is welcome and wanted. However, the Congress-led opposition believes only in disruptions both inside and outside Parliament.

Parliament passed crucial pieces of legislation in the Monsoon Session, including the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023, The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the Registration of Birth and Death (Amendment) Bill, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill, 2023, among several others. But the Opposition remained absent from all discussions barring the one on the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023. Had the future of their coalition not depended on participation in the NCT (Amendment) Bill, the Congress and its allies would have spent time giving sound bites to television channels outside Parliament instead of participating in the debate. Even in this debate, a member of the INDIA camp resorted to "gross violation of rules, misconduct, defiant attitude and contemptuous conduct", a phenomenon unparalleled in the legislative history of India.

Unable to digest its loss in 2014, and a

repeat drubbing in 2019 — thanks to mistaking electoral mandate to be its divine right — Congress has not participated in any parliamentary discussion constructively for the past nine years. By their own admission, the Opposition brought in the No-Confidence Motion without having any confidence in the motion. They argued that the intention was to hold the government to account. All governments in healthy democracies must be held to account. None less than Prime Minister Narendra Modi has welcomed questions on his government's performance. So the argument for holding the government to account was noble. The same, however, wasn't true for its intent. The Opposition chose to walk out of the discussion on the trust vote.

The Congress MP who moved the motion in Lok Sabha did not even exercise his right to reply after the PM had spoken. And that is because the Opposition never really had a case. They have only followed the policy of shoot-and-scoot over the last decade. Make an allegation, launch personal attacks on the PM, spread falsehood and then hide. This has become a policy that Congress and its allies have adopted.

Since 2014, in session after session, the Opposition has picked up one issue after another only to stall Parliament. This time they chose Manipur and kept shifting goalposts to avoid any meaningful debate on the matter. The Opposition began stalling proceedings on the ground that a discussion on Manipur be held under Rule 267 and not Rule 176. When Home Minister Amit Shah announced in Parliament that the government was ready for a discussion on Manipur with time being no constraint, the Congress shifted the goal post, knowing it had much to hide from its own misdeeds in not just Manipur but the entire Northeast, and demanded that the PM be present in the debate. Ironically, the Congress was not even present in Parliament when the discussion on Manipur was initiated. Sitting in television studios, they lied to the people that the government did not want to discuss Manipur. India has seen unprecedented development under PM Modi in the last nine years. The Opposition knows it cannot fight with facts. So, it resorted to name-calling. But beyond sully individual reputations, the use of indecent language in Parliament undermines the institution of Parliament — the highest people's institution.

An Opposition devoid of imagination and constructive politics is detrimental to democracy. It believes in confusing voters and misleading the nation. A nation of 140-crore aspirations has no room for this negative politics. All politics, of the incumbents and those opposing the incumbents, must be pro-India. And on that count, the Congress has been as big a failure in Opposition as it was when in power.

The writer is Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MAKE CAMPUS SAFE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'End ragging' (IE, August 26). The practice of harassment and humiliation on campus must be done away with immediately. The suspected suicide of a first-year student of Jadavpur University has jolted back to reality the educational fraternity across the nation. Victims' rural and marginalised backgrounds make them an easy target for their tormentors who, in most cases, belong to affluent families. Freeing campuses and hostels of ex-students could help solve the problem to a large extent. Higher education institutes must form committees comprising faculty, students, counsellors, and SDM-rank officers as representatives from the local administration. It is because the campus authorities turn a blind eye to ragging that students have been able to continue this for so long. Campuses all over India can be free of ragging by following the SC and UGC rules in letter and spirit.

SH Quadri, Bikaner

### OUR DIPLOMACY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The new discourse of Global South' (IE, August 26). As a political or economic concept, the Global South is likely to remain a talking shop like the now defunct NAM in the diplomatic arena. The so-called Global North used the tailwinds generated by the industrial revolution to plunder the rest of the world and make substantial material gains to reach its current superior economic status. While the phenomenon of globalisation brings some parity in this equa-

tion, for the gap to actually reduce and disappear, the South needs to perform on multiple fronts of politics, education, infrastructure, medicine, industry etc. Given its present status, most of the South is unequal to and unprepared for this task. For a country like India that is on the move, it makes sense to depend more on bilateralism at a functional level while diplomatically trumpeting grand concepts like the Global South.

H N Bhagwat, Chiplun

### NO SMOKING

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Misplacing the Warning' (IE, August 25). The writers correctly question the rationale behind the Union health ministry's recent notification requiring OTT platforms to display anti-tobacco warning messages and disclaimers in the prescribed manner and at the prescribed spots within their content. In order for these rules to appear just, fair, and meaningful, the government should ideally have held prior consultation with all stakeholders. Just yesterday, the National Medical Commission was forced to rescind its earlier order, though well-intentioned, requiring all physicians to prescribe medications only by their generic names, and not in their brand names, after legitimate objections from leading medical bodies. When every pack of cigarettes and bidis already contains a graphic health warning reminding both current and potential smokers of the debilitating health risks associated with smoking, there is no added benefit to carrying anti-tobacco messages with OTT content, viewed in private.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

## Shoring up the foundations

Duration of early literacy programmes should be increased, not reduced



DHIR JHINGRAN AND SHAILAJA MENON

MORE THAN HALF the children in India are unable to read fluently with comprehension or do basic mathematical operations by the end of primary schooling. To address this, the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) suggested a national mission to ensure that all children attain foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3. Accordingly, the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) programme was started by the Centre in 2021 to improve the foundational learning of five crore students in government primary schools. NIPUN Bharat, despite certain limitations, has begun to slowly improve the learnings of children in Grades 1-3 in several states.

However, in a recent decision, the Ministry of Education has rolled back the scope of NIPUN Bharat to children in Grades 1-2, leaving out children in Grade 3. The rationale provided for this shift is to bring about the alignment between NIPUN Bharat and the curricular structure suggested by the NEP 2020 and the National Curricular Framework (NCF 2023). These latter documents envisage a "foundational stage of learning" that would

include three years of preschool education and the first two years of primary schooling. Hence, the argument is that the NIPUN Bharat programme should also end at Grade 2.

Anganwadi centres catering to three to six-year-olds focus largely on health, immunisation and nutrition, and only a small proportion of centres provide pre-school education with any regularity or quality. In this context, the setting up of a three to eight-year block in which children receive well-planned, high-quality educational services is still a distant goal. The reality is that approximately 68 per cent of children in the three to six-year age group are not able to access educational services in India. Most children come from poorly literate home contexts and encounter literacy for the first time in Grade 1. Thirty-five per cent of children spend several years of primary schooling navigating complex gaps between home and school languages. Therefore, to roll back a programme that supports the learning of children in Grade 3 is to let go of a bird in hand (support for children currently in Grade 3), for two in the bush (the hope of a unified, functional schooling block for the three to eight-year-olds).

If anything, we should be providing extra support for children through Grades 1-5 so that they have enough time to establish robust foundations for language and numeracy learning. The NCF has merely argued for appropriate pedagogical practices to be followed for children in the three to eight-year age group, for example, a focus on play-based learning, flexible pace of learning, and the like. The foundational stage described in the NEP and NCF does not intend to target the development of the whole range of literacy and numeracy skills, attitudes and knowledge required for all future learning in school by the end of Grade 2. In fact, most research conducted across the world and especially in Indian contexts show that these understandings develop slowly during the first four or five years of schooling.

Perhaps one of the reasons for such decisions is an inadequate understanding of what it means to establish strong foundations for early literacy and numeracy. It is possible that literacy, for example, is being understood as the ability to blend letters to read words at a certain pace by a certain age. Programmes like NIPUN Bharat have also

contributed to the emergence of such an imagination. But rather than cutting back on such programmes, it becomes all the more important to broaden our vision of early foundational learning to include a focus on the relevance of literacy to children's lives, strong oral expression, deep, inferential comprehension, enjoyment and appreciation of literature, and capabilities to engage in written composition.

Can foundations for these be expected to be established by the end of Grade 2 or even Grade 3? Rather, we should be arguing for lengthening the duration of programmes designed to strengthen early literacy and numeracy learning to include children in Grades 4 and 5 and to broaden their vision in terms of educational aims and outcomes. By cutting back on existing programmes we run the risk of falling further behind in our effort to improve foundational learning.

Jhingran is Founder & Executive Director, Language and Learning Foundation, Menon currently leads the Centre of Excellence in Early Literacy at Tata Trusts. Views are personal

# 12 THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



**Women not observing correct way to wear hijab: Mohd Khalid Hanafi's ministry**

**AFGHANISTAN**  
**Women barred from visiting national park**

**Kabul:** The Taliban will use security forces to stop women from visiting one of Afghanistan's most popular national parks, according to a spokesman for Vice & Virtue Ministry. It alleges that women have not been observing the proper way to wear hijab, when going to Band-e-Amir in Bamian. This comes a week after minister, Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, visited province and told officials and clerics about the same, asking security personnel to stop women from visiting the tourist hotspot. **AP**

**JAPAN**  
**Radioactivity below limits near Fukushima: Govt**

**Tokyo:** Tests of seawater near Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant have not detected any radioactivity, the environment ministry said Sunday, days after authorities began discharging into the sea treated water. Japan and scientific organisations say the water is safe after removing radioactive elements except for tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen. Samples from 11 points near the plant showed concentrations of tritium below lower limit of detection, ministry said, adding that it "would have no adverse impact on human health & environment". **AP**

**IRAN**  
**'Enrichment of uranium based on domestic law'**

**Tehran:** Iran's enrichment of uranium continues based on a framework established by the country's parliament, nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami said on Sunday when asked about reports regarding Tehran slowing down its 60% enrichment. "Our nuclear enrichment continues based on the strategic framework law," Eslami said, referring to a related law. It was earlier reported that Iran had slowed accumulating near-weapons-grade enriched uranium and diluted some stockpile, moves that could ease tensions with US and revive talks over Iran's nuclear work. **REUTERS**

**NORTH KOREA**  
**Citizens allowed to return home from abroad**

**Seoul:** North Korea said Sunday it will allow its citizens staying abroad to return home in line with easing pandemic situations worldwide, as the country slowly eases its Covid curbs. In a brief statement carried by state media, the State Emergency Epidemic Prevention Headquarters said those returning to North Korea will be put in quarantine for a week for "proper medical observation." North Korea banned tourists, jettied out diplomats and severely curtailed border traffic and trade after the pandemic began. **AP**

## GENETIC TESTS SHOW HE WAS AMONG 10 KILLED IN JET CRASH: OFFICIALS

# Russia confirms: Prigozhin dead

**AGENCIES**  
MOSCOW, AUGUST 27

THE RUSSIAN authorities have officially confirmed the death of the Wagner mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, with investigators saying on Sunday that genetic testing showed that the victims of a plane crash last week matched all the names on the jet's manifest.

Prigozhin was presumed to have died in the crash on Wednesday, an incident that came two months after he launched a failed mutiny against Russia's military leadership and which US and Western officials believe was the result of an explosion on board.

However, the Russian authorities had said they were awaiting the results of an investigation before confirming the identities of those on board.

Svetlana Petrenko, a spokeswoman for Russia's investigative committee, said in a statement posted on the Telegram messaging app Sunday that the identities of all 10 dead had been established and that they corresponded to those listed on the flight log.

President Vladimir Putin



At a makeshift memorial for Wagner mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin in Moscow. **Reuters**

Thursday, in his first comments on the crash, spoke obliquely of Prigozhin's death, referring to him in past tense, but didn't confirm it. "He made some serious mistakes in life, but he also achieved necessary results," Putin said.

Some European leaders, many Western news outlets and

people close to Wagner have speculated that Putin had Prigozhin killed in retaliation for his brief mutiny in June — suggestions the Kremlin on Friday dismissed as an "absolute lie."

The Wagner fighters have now left Ukraine and some have relocated to neighbouring Belarus un-

der the terms of a deal that ended their mutiny. Some are expected to be absorbed into Russia's armed forces but many will be angry over the demise of the group's founder who inspired a high degree of loyalty among his men.

The crash came two months to the day after Prigozhin and his

## SHIPS RETURN FROM PACIFIC PATROLLING

MOSCOW: A detachment of Russia's navy warships returned from more than three weeks of joint-patrolling of the Pacific Ocean with Chinese navy ships, the Russian *Interfax* news agency reported on Sunday. Warships of Russia's Pacific Fleet, together with a detachment of Chinese navy ships travelled more than 7,000 nautical miles through the Sea of Japan, the Sea of Okhotsk, the Bering Sea and the Pacific Ocean, *Interfax* reported citing the fleet's press service. **REUTERS**

Wagner troops staged a mutiny against Russian military commanders in which they took control of Rostov, and advanced towards Moscow before turning back 200 km from the capital.

Muscovites laid flowers on Sunday at a makeshift shrine festooned with Russian flags and photographs set up a short distance from the Kremlin to the memory of Prigozhin and Utkin.



US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo (left), with Lin Feng, Director General of China's Ministry of Commerce, and US Ambassador to China Nick Burns in Beijing, on Sunday. **Reuters**

## TO HOLD MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS TODAY

# US Commerce Secy arrives in China for talks on trade boost

**DAVID SHEPARDSON**  
BEIJING, AUGUST 27

US COMMERCE Secretary Gina Raimondo arrived in Beijing late on Sunday for a four-day visit aimed at boosting business ties between the world's two largest economies while declaring American national security trade measures off-limits for debate.

"If you wanted to put a tagline to the trip and the mission, it's protect what we must and promote where we can," Raimondo told reporters on Friday before departing for China. "I'm not going to pull my punches next week when I am there but I intend to be practical."

Relations are tense as the United States works with allies to block China's access to advanced semiconductors, while Beijing is restricting shipments from prominent chip company Micron Technology and raided and fined US firm Mintz Group \$1.5 million for doing "unapproved statistical work."

Raimondo, who was greeted upon arrival by Chinese Commerce Ministry official Lin Feng, will hold bilateral meetings

## EXPLAINED Working on ties

RAIMONDO, THE fourth high-level US official to visit China recently, is the first commerce secretary to make the trip in seven years. China and the United States agreed this month to double the number of flights permitted between them - still a fraction of the number before the pandemic.

with Chinese officials on Monday and Tuesday in Beijing before she heads to Shanghai. She will be joined by US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns.

"We want to have a stable commercial relationship, and core to that is regular communication," Raimondo said. "We need to communicate to avoid conflict."

China's ambassador to the US, Xie Feng, who met Raimondo last week, said China seeks "mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation". **REUTERS**

## Conservative UK lawmaker formally quits with scathing attack on PM



Nadine Dorries is a close ally of ex-PM Boris Johnson

**REUTERS**  
LONDON, AUGUST 27

UK MEMBER of parliament Nadine Dorries has delivered a scathing attack on Conservative Party's leader Rishi Sunak in her formal resignation letter, accusing the prime minister of running a "zombie parliament" and lacking any political vision.

Dorries, a close ally of former leader Boris Johnson, had announced in June she would quit and then faced mounting criticism for not actually doing so, preventing the election to replace her from being held alongside three other local votes last month.

Dorries formally quit late on Saturday with a lengthy resignation letter that tore into Sunak. The by-election to replace her will likely take place in the autumn, presenting the Conservatives with another test of their popularity when they are trailing the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls.

"Since you took office a year ago, the country is run by a zombie parliament where nothing meaningful has happened. What exactly has been done or have you achieved?" said Dorries.

"You hold the office of prime minister unelected, without a single vote, not even from your own MPs. You have no mandate from the people and the government is adrift. You have squandered the goodwill of the nation, for what?"

A spokesman for Sunak declined to comment.

## Imran says lost diplomatic cable he had cited as 'evidence' of US 'plot to oust him'

**SAJJAD HUSSAIN**  
ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 27

JAILED FORMER Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan admitted misplacing a confidential diplomatic cable as he was interrogated by Pakistan's top investigative agency at the Attock Jail in a case filed under the Official Secrets Act for wrongful use of the classified document, according to media reports on Sunday.



Imran was interrogated under Official Secrets Act

Khan, 70, is currently serving a three-year jail term after he was sentenced by a court in a corruption case earlier this month.

The cable in question was the same document Khan had for long mentioned as evidence of a

US-backed conspiracy to remove him as the PM last year.

Khan had waved a document at a rally days before his ouster as prime minister in April 2022, saying it was proof of foreign conspiracy.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's interrogation in the matter comes days after he was booked under the Official Secrets Act for making the content of a confidential diplomatic cable from the country's embassy in the US public.

During interrogation, Khan admitted to losing the cypher, saying he couldn't recall where he kept it, *The News* newspaper reported.

Khan also denied that the paper he waved at a public gathering last year, days before the ouster of his government, as proof of the conspiracy was the diplomatic cable.

"The paper I gestured in the public were Cabinet meeting minutes and not cypher," the paper quoted Khan as saying. **PTI**

## Zimbabwe's President declared polls winner, Opp rejects result

**NYASHA CHINGONO & NELSON BANYA**  
HARARE, AUGUST 27

ZIMBABWE'S ELECTIONS commission said late on Saturday that incumbent Emmerson Mnangagwa had won this week's presidential election with roughly 53% of the vote, but the opposition and analysts immediately questioned the result.

Mnangagwa, who took over from longtime leader Robert Mugabe after a 2017 army coup, was widely expected to secure re-election for a second term as ana-



Mnangagwa won with 53% of the vote. **Reuters**

lysts said the contest was heavily skewed in favour of the ZANU-PF ruling party, which has been in power for more than four decades.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) said Mnangagwa's main challenger, Nelson Chamisa, who leads the opposition Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC) party, secured 44% of the presidential vote.

A CCC spokesperson said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, that the party rejected "any result hastily assembled without proper verification".

Mnangagwa also narrowly defeated Chamisa at the last presidential election in 2018. The opposition alleges that election was rigged but the constitutional court upheld the result. **REUTERS**

## 3 US Marines dead as Australia aircraft crashes during exercise

**SAMUEL MCKEITH**  
SYDNEY, AUGUST 27

THREE US Marines died in an aircraft crash off the coast of northern Australia Sunday while transporting troops during a routine military exercise, officials said.

Five others were "transported to Royal Darwin Hospital in serious condition", Marine Rotation Force - Darwin said.

They were among 23 Marines on the MV-22B Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft when it crashed, the statement said, adding the cause of the crash was being investigated.

The crash occurred on the Tiwi Islands at around 0730 IST. Australian PM Anthony Albanese called the incident "tragic", saying the Osprey was supporting the Exercise Predators Run 2023 military exercise.

No Australian personnel were not involved in the crash, he said.

About 2,500 personnel from Australia, the US, the Philippines, Indonesia and East Timor were taking part in exercises. **REUTERS**

## Three Black people die in racially motivated attack, shooter kills self

**JASPER WARD & PATRICIA ZENGERLE**  
JACKSONVILLE, AUGUST 27

A WHITE man armed with a high-powered rifle and a handgun killed three Black people at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Florida, on Saturday, before shooting himself, in what local law enforcement described as a racially motivated crime.

"This shooting was racially motivated, and he hated Black people," Jacksonville Sheriff TK Waters told a press conference.

The suspect, whom Waters described as a white male, was not identified. Waters said all three victims — two men and a woman — were Black.

Waters said authorities believed the shooter acted alone, and that before the shooting he had authored "several manifestos" for media, his parents and law enforcement detailing his hatred for Black people.

Waters described his weapons



Residents gather for a prayer near the scene of shooting in Jacksonville, on Sunday. **AP**

as a Glock and an "AR-15 style" rifle, with swastikas on it, referring to a lightweight semi-automatic long gun used in mass shootings.

He said the shooter was spotted at a local historically Black college, Edward Waters University, where he put on his vest and a mask before going to the branch of a discount store.

Sherri Onks, special agent in charge of the Jacksonville FBI office, said officials had opened a civil rights probe and would pursue it as a hate crime. **REUTERS**

## IN CANADA, MOVEMENT TO FIGHT WILDFIRES BY MAKING FORESTS RESILIENT GAINS GROUND

# How indigenous techniques saved a community from wildfires

**IAN AUSTEN**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA, AUG 27

THE WILDFIRE was blazing a clear path toward a Canadian lakeside tourist spot in British Columbia with a population of 222,000 people.

The fire advanced on the city of Kelowna for 19 days — consuming 976 hectares, or about 2,400 acres — of forest. But at the suburban fringes, it encountered a fire prevention zone and sputtered, burning just a single house.

The fire prevention zone — an area carefully cleared to remove fuel and minimize the

spread of flames — was created by a logging company owned by a local Indigenous community. And as a new wildfire has stalked the suburb of West Kelowna this month, its history with the previous one — the Mount Law fire, in 2021 — offers a valuable lesson: A well-placed and well-constructed fire prevention zone can, under the right conditions, save homes and lives.

It's a lesson not only for Kelowna but also for a growing number of places in Canada and elsewhere threatened by increased wildfire amid climate change. "When you think about how wildfire seasons are playing

out, if we invested more into the proactive, then we would need less of that reactive wildfire response," said Kira Hoffman, a wildfire researcher at the University of British Columbia. "We're not going to see probably the effects of a lot of this mitigation and treatment for 10 or 20 years. But that's when we're really going to need it."

Wildfires are an essential component of the natural cycle of forests, but in recent years, more of them have grown so big that containment is nearly impossible. Fire prevention zones — created in the off-season — can help slow approaching blazes so



The fire advanced on the city of Kelowna for 19 days, consuming 976 hectares, or about 2,400 acres of forest. **NYT**

that people can escape, and can also enable firefighters to gain control over some areas.

The creation of these zones is being greeted with renewed interest in parts of Canada, including in the western provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Interest has especially peaked in Indigenous communities, which have been most affected by the country's wildfires.

Ten times as many acres have burned in Canada this year than all of last fire season, at times sending smoke as far south as Georgia and as far east as Europe. The current fire in West Kelowna has breached areas that lack fire

prevention zones, consuming 110 buildings and upending the lives of 30,000 evacuees in the area.

By contrast, the 50-acre fire resistant zone starved the in 2021 fire, allowing firefighters to suppress it, keeping it away from houses.

The logging company, Ntityx Development, that created that fire prevention zone drew in part on traditional Indigenous forestry practices, including thinning the forest; cleaning up debris on the floor; and burning debris and ground cover in a controlled way to prevent it from becoming fuel for wildfires — an act once banned by provincial government. **NYT**

**'HUNG UPSIDE DOWN' ON SUSPICION OF THEFT**

# 2 minors among 4 Dalits beaten up in Maharashtra village, 2 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PUNE, AUGUST 27

FOUR YOUTHS, including two minors, from the Dalit community were allegedly semi-stripped, hung upside down from a tree and beaten up in a village in Ahmednagar district over the suspicion of stealing goats and pigeons, following which two persons were arrested, police said.

Six persons, including two from an upper caste community and two from a Scheduled Caste (SC) community, have been booked under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act as well as under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections for attempt to murder, kidnapping, wrongful restraint, and rioting, police said.

"The accused suspected that the four youths had committed the theft of some domesticated pigeons and goats. Probe suggests that they dragged the victims out of their homes and took them to a farm where their shirts were removed and hands and legs were tied before tying them upside down from a tree and thrashing them," said the Ahmednagar police in a statement.

Local residents rescued the four and took them to a hospital in Shirirampur, where they are undergoing treatment, police said. Later in the day, purported videos of the assault were circulated on social media.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Prakash Ambedkar, president of Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA), said, "This is a clear cut case of caste atrocity... we demand that strict action be initiated against the accused."

Tweeting a purported video of the incident, Ambedkar stated, "Another day in Maharashtra, another caste atrocity... where a Dalit youth is seen pleading his innocence with folded hands... It is ABSOLUTELY UNQUESTIONABLE that this incident is a caste atrocity". "I spoke to one of the boys... He told me that the police said 'the Mahar community should be treated like this only'," Ambedkar said.

Superintendent of police, Ahmednagar, Rakesh Ola, told *The Indian Express*, "We have arrested two persons in the case and further investigation is on." Local organisations protested blocking the Shirirampur-Newasa Road, while several shops were closed.



## JUMBO PARTY

An elephant-feeding event at Thirunakkara Mahadeva temple in Kottayam, Kerala, Sunday. PTI

**23 DEATHS IN 2023**

# Kota: 2 NEET aspirants die by suicide

This year's count is highest in 8 years

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, AUGUST 27

TWO TEENS died by suicide in Rajasthan's Kota Sunday, police said, taking this year's student suicide count at the coaching hub to 23 — already the highest in the last eight years.

One of these students was a 17-year-old NEET aspirant who jumped to his death from the sixth floor of a coaching institute.

The class 12 student hailed from Maharashtra's Latur district and had been staying with his grandparents in the city for the last three years, police said.

"It appears he went to his coaching institute to appear for a test. After the test, he jumped off the sixth floor of the institute," said Devesh Bhardwaj, SHO of Kota's Vigyan Nagar police station.

Later in the evening, an 18-year-old student from Bihar, also preparing for the medical entrance, was found hanging in his hostel room.

"The student was living with his sister and cousin, who are also coaching students in Kota. He was preparing for NEET," said

an official from Kota's Kunadi police station.

Thousands of students enroll at coaching centres in Kota every year to prepare for competitive exams.

According to Kota Police data, 17 students had died by suicide in 2015. The figures since then are 16 in 2016, seven in 2017, 20 in 2018 and eight in 2019.

The pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 saw a fall in suicides — four and none, respectively — as students left the city amid the lockdowns. In 2022, the figure was back up to 15.

But by just August this year, student suicides cases have far outstripped last year's number even as the district administration scrambles to introduce measures to stop the deaths — with little effect.

Earlier this month, the administration made it compulsory for hostels to install spring-loaded fans to stop students from hanging themselves.

It has also introduced measures such as counselling and biometric attendance in coaching centres to keep tabs on students.



A safety net in a Kota hostel to stop suicide attempts. PTI

**RAJASTHAN**

## Woman alleges rape, harassment of daughter; BJP leader among six booked

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, AUGUST 27

A BJP leader and five others were booked for allegedly raping a 45-year-old woman and harassing her minor daughter in Rajasthan's Pali district, police said on Sunday.

Mohan Jat, BJP district general secretary in Pali, said the allegations against him were false and baseless. According to the complaint against him, the alleged incident took place on Thursday (August 24). Police registered a case the next day.

"The complainant has said... she was asked by one Mohan Jat to come to see a plot (of land). He and some of the other accused later allegedly raped her, the complainant said. Apart from Jat, three women have also been named as accused, as well as another man and an unknown person," said the SHO of the police station in Pali where the case was lodged. The SHO added that the woman also said Jat had photos of hers that he had allegedly clicked previously.

The woman also alleged that the accused misbehaved with her minor daughter, the SHO said.

"The FIR was registered on August 25 against the accused for offences including gangrape, rape and offences under the POCSO Act. We are presently investigating and no arrests have been made," the SHO said.

When contacted, Jat said: "I have built a colony and there are plots there which I sell. Whenever people contact me expressing interest in purchasing the plots, I ask them to visit the site, where my employees show them around. I don't meet them myself. The allegations against me are false and baseless." Pali district BJP president Mansharam Parmar said that the case against Jat was politically motivated.

# West Bengal: 7 killed, many injured in explosion at illegal firecracker unit

SWEETY KUMARI  
BARASAT, AUGUST 27

AT LEAST seven persons were killed and several others injured in an explosion at a house in Nilgunj's Moshpole area in North 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, on Sunday morning. Hospital sources said the death toll could increase with the condition of several injured being critical.

According to police, the house was used as an illegal firecracker unit where several people were at work at the time of the explosion. "The explosion ripped through the house used for storing raw materials for firecrackers. The intensity of the blast was so huge that at least four to five adjoining houses were severely damaged," said police. A forensic unit, a CID bomb squad, personnel of the disaster management department and a contingent of police are at the spot, police added.

"The explosion was so powerful that it damaged several nearby houses. One of the victims' hand was blown off and his face was



The site of the blast at Moshpole area in North 24 Parganas district on Sunday. Partha Paul

unrecognisable," said a fire brigade official at the blast site.

A family member of an injured person said the house was used for packaging firecrackers. "After that blast in Egra, where so many people died, the work had stopped here. Just a month ago, more labourers were called from Murshidabad to work," said the mother of the injured.

After a similar blast in

Paschim Medinipur district three months ago, the state set up a committee under the chief secretary, to look into such illegal units.

Governor CV Ananda Bose, who visited a hospital in Barasat where those injured in the blast have been admitted, said, "It is not just a sporadic accident. Many precious lives have been lost. The police are investigating. Effective measures will be taken."

According to Minister Rathin Ghosh, the house was used to stock firecrackers. "This is not an area where firecrackers are produced. The main manufacturing hub is in the Narayanpur area of Nilgunj which is far from here," said Ghosh, who has been accused by the BJP of running such illegal units in the constituency.

BJP also demanded a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and plans to move the High Court for the same. Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari said the state was sitting on a powder keg.

State Congress chief Adhir Chowdhury also accused the TMC government in the state of giving free run to those using explosives.

Reacting to the allegations, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh equated the BJP with a "culture" and said it is a useless political outfit that pursues politics over bodies. "They are... waiting for someone to die so that they can come and maul the carcass. They should stop jumping to conclusions and let police complete the probe," Ghosh said.

## Lt Gen Dhillon is IIT-Mandi BoG Chairperson



Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon

New Delhi: Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon (Retd) was appointed as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (BoG) of Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, on Friday, for a period of three years. Dhillon will succeed Professor Prem Vrat, the founding director of IIT Roorkee, in the position.

Dhillon retired from the defence services in January, 2023. He served as DG Defence Intelligence Agency and Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff under the Chief of Defence Staff responsible for international military cooperation and strategic intelligence.

Dhillon has been a recipient of several awards, including the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal. ENS

## 14-yr-old kills sister for speaking with Dalit youth; parents, brother also held

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 27

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy in a village in Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh, allegedly killed his 15-year-old sister with an axe on Friday night when he is said to have found her speaking with a Dalit youth over the phone. On Saturday, he went to the local police station and surrendered.

Police have also arrested three adult members of the family — the boy's father (48), mother (45) and 19-year-old brother — for allegedly being involved in the murder.

"The girl's parents and an

elder brother have also confessed to the crime. The minor boy will be produced before a Juvenile Justice Board," said SP Kaushambi Brijesh Kumar Srivastava.

According to the police, the 15-year-old girl, who belongs to the OBC, was in a relationship with a Dalit youth for some time, and the family opposed it. They had also sent her to a relative's place in Delhi so that she would stop meeting the Dalit youth.

The local station in-charge said that on Saturday morning, the 14-year-old boy reached the police station and claimed to have killed his elder sister after he caught her speaking to a Dalit youth over the phone. "A police

team reached the village and found the girl's body lying in the house.

"On Friday night, the boy told the family members that he had seen his sister speaking with the Dalit youth over the phone... The family members questioned the girl, she denied having any cell-phone with her. The girl's mother then started to search her clothes and found a cell-phone from her... The family members then tied her hands and started beating her up. She was allegedly hit by an axe and a hammer by her brothers... The next morning, the youngest son reached the police station and surrendered," said the officer.

## Minor boy found hanging at Silchar MP's residence

Guwahati: The body of a 10-year-old boy was found hanging at BJP MP Rajdeep Roy's house in Assam's Silchar on Saturday. The boy was the son of a domestic worker at the MP's residence, and had been living there with family.

Cachar district ASP, Subrata Sen, told PTI that the body was found with a cloth wrapped around the neck. "We are investigating the matter," Sen said.

MP Roy told reporters that the boy's mother and her two children had been living in his house for the past three years. "I had gotten him admitted to school," he said. He said was at the party office when the body was found. ENS

# Poet-writer Jayanta Mahapatra dies at 95, state funeral today

SUJIT BISOI  
BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 27

EMINENT LITTÉRATEUR and poet Jayanta Mahapatra passed away on Sunday late evening at SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. He was 95.

Mahapatra was admitted to the said hospital on August 4 due to old-age related complications. He was shifted to the ICU after his condition deteriorated.

Mahapatra was the first Indian poet to win a Sahitya Akademi award for English poetry. He was also conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2009.



Jayanta Mahapatra. File

However, he returned it in 2015 to protest against "rising intolerance in India".

The author of 'Indian Summer' and 'Hunger', considered as classics in modern Indian English literature, Mahapatra penned 27 books of poems, of which seven are in Odia language and the rest in English. Born on October 22, 1928, in

Cuttack, Mahapatra started his career as a lecturer in physics and served in many government colleges across Odisha.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief on the passing away of Mahapatra, describing him "a legendary author and poet who was prolific in both English and Odia literature". "He had successfully elevated the reach of Odia literature to a wider circle. His intellect and knowledge was a guiding spirit for many youngsters to write in English literature," said the CM. Mahapatra's funeral will take place on Monday with full state honours, the CM said.

# Battered by rains & landslides, Shimla is on a slippery slope; here's why

SAURABH PARASHAR  
SHIMLA, AUGUST 27

THE MORNING of August 24 saw multi-storey buildings fold like a pack of cards in Kullu district as heavy rain triggered another round of landslides in Himachal Pradesh. About 200 km away, state capital Shimla had witnessed similar scenes between August 14 and 17. Twenty-seven deaths were reported during this period from Shimla, including seven from one family in a cloud-burst incident at Shiv Bawadi temple.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had blamed these disasters on unchecked construction, inadequate drainage systems and excessive rain. In an interview to *The Indian Express*, he had said, "People construct houses without applying scientific methods. In recently made buildings, the drainage system is very poor. People believe they are draining the water without knowing that water is going nowhere but into the hills, making them fragile. Shimla is more than one and a half century old, and its drainage system is excellent. Now there are buildings in *nallas* (runlets). The houses which are collapsing these days have not gone through stan-

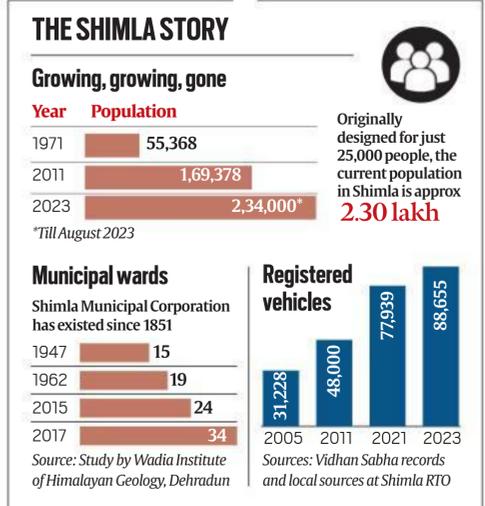
dards of structural engineering."

This was an admission — at the highest levels of the government — of a problem that has stared in the face of every visitor to Shimla and every resident of the hill town since late 2000s. While the CM blamed faulty structural design and indiscriminate construction work for the recent destruction faced by his state, much of the blame for Shimla's unchecked growth lies at the doors of governments past and present.

## Red flags ignored

When the British built Shimla on the grasslands they had retained after the 1814 Gurkha War, the hill town was a place where the troops rested. However, its cool climate and picture-postcard beauty made it popular as a summer resort. Being declared the country's summer capital from 1865 to 1939 led to Shimla's exponential growth.

Ashwani Kumar, an assistant professor in Department of Architecture & Planning at Jaipur's Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), said, "The structural destruction of the hills was evident in 2009, when I did my first study on Himachal. There are many reasons why Shimla is sinking — weak implementation of building bylaws, regularisation of violations, cutting of slopes at 90 degrees and lack of scientific



Army and NDRF personnel carry out rescue and relief work at the site of landslide in Summer Hill area of Shimla where 21 people died earlier this month. PTI file

2011 and is nearly 2.34 lakh today.

To meet their demands and those of the hordes of tourists who descended every summer, Shimla grew alongside. Today, the town has 236 hotels and over 100 bed & breakfast accommodations. Its rural areas have nearly 1,000 homestays. According to a 2018 Household Survey, town's three bus terminals see a footfall of 49,633 on a usual day.

The first warning signs of this

overburden were seen in the early 2000s, in the form of cracks on the sprawling Ridge, which houses landmarks like Christ Church and State Library.

Efforts to repair the Ridge, which covers a British-era 10-lakh gallon water reservoir, have been on since then. Taking a serious note of the situation, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had implemented a comprehensive construction ban in 2017 across

Shimla's core and green areas.

Of the nearly 100 hectares under Shimla's 17 green belts, 75.83 hectares fall on government land.

A review plea by the state seeking relaxation on the construction ban was dismissed by the NGT in July 2018. In response, the state moved the Supreme Court. In February 2022, the Town & Country Planning Department notified the draft SDP, titled 'Vision 2041'. The plan permits concrete construction in 17 green belts with "restrictions" and also opens the door for new satellite towns around Shimla, particularly near the four-lane highway, to ease congestion in the core area.

Eight months on, the NGT passed orders quashing the SDP. In May 2023, the apex court allowed the state to notify the SDP but with "restrictions", including no felling of trees in green areas; and no construction beyond two floors with attics and parking in core zones, and more than three floors with parking and attics in non-core regions.

A senior Town and Country Planning Department officer said, "The apex court allowed us to notify the SDP. We have assured full protection of Shimla ecology and environment in the plan. Construction in green belts will be restricted and be done without felling trees."

Between July 7 and August 17, when monsoon fury was at peak in Himachal Pradesh, Shimla Municipal Corporation received at least 300 applications urging authorities to axe "vulnerable trees" across town.

## The way ahead

Emphasising the need to alleviate the population pressure on Shimla, Panwar, former Deputy Mayor who is a vocal critic of the urbanisation of Shimla and recent notified Shimla Development Plan, suggested, "The High Court and the Directorate of Urban Planning Department, which attract a significant footfall daily, can be partially relocated out Shimla."

Activist Dimple Oberoi Vahali said, "SDP provisions on environment protection in Shimla are mere eyewash. It states that it will not allow felling of trees in green areas, but allows construction. What happens when trees pose a threat to these houses? I am sure it will be amended to allow cutting. Similarly, it talks about planting trees on area that is same in size as the one on which construction has taken place in green areas. How will planting on land located far from Shimla make up for the loss in green areas?"

Full report on  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

# Dengue vaccines under development in India: a status report

**ANONNA DUTT**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

WITH THE expanding geography of dengue infections in India as well as the world, the need has increasingly been felt for a vaccine that can protect against all four serotypes, or strains, of the virus. Nearly half the world's population lives at the risk of dengue at present.

The disease in India has spread from just eight states and Union Territories in 2001 to all states by 2022 — Ladakh was the last bastion, from where two infections were reported last year. This year, 31,464 dengue cases and 36 deaths have been reported across the country till July, as per the latest data.

Several efforts are underway within the country to develop a vaccine against the mosquito-borne disease, which can cause internal bleeding, circulatory shock, and death. The dengue virus is called DENV, and its serotypes are DENV1, DENV2, DENV3, and DENV4.

## Human trials stage

At present, three vaccine candidates are being tested on humans in India.

First is a vaccine by Panacea Biotech, based on live weakened versions of the four dengue serotypes. These versions were developed by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the US — they deleted parts of the genetic code of DENV1, DENV3, and DENV4 and then genetically engineered a DENV2

backbone using parts from the weakened DENV 4, on which the others were tacked.

These were grown in cell culture by Panacea Biotech to develop the vaccine.

The company has completed a phase I/II study in 100 healthy adults between 18 and 60 years of age. This showed no severe adverse events and more than 75% of the participants developed antibodies against all four of the dengue serotypes.

A larger phase III trial is likely by December this year, after the vaccine manufacturing capability is scaled up. The trial will be conducted across 20 sites, enrolling 10,335 healthy adults between the ages of 18 and 80 years.

A second vaccine candidate was developed by the Serum Institute of India with the same weakened virus from the US. A phase I trial with 60 healthy adults of 18 to 45 years has already been completed, showing the vaccine to be safe and well-tolerated.

The same technology has also been used by Indian Immunologicals Limited to develop a vaccine. This has started the phase I clinical trial in 90 persons between the ages of 18 and 50 years.

## In early stages

There are at least two indigenous vaccines under development in research insti-

tutes. Both have used similar ideas to come up with the vaccine.

One of the main challenges of developing a dengue vaccine is antibody dependent enhancement (ADE) — a person with low levels of antibodies against one serotype of dengue may end up getting a more severe infection with another serotype. This was what led to the controversy surrounding the first dengue vaccine to be approved. Only after a vaccination programme had been rolled out in the Philippines was it found that the vaccine could actually increase the risk of severe disease in the people who had not been infected before.

To tackle this problem, both the Indian research teams selected a specific part of the envelope protein known to not cause ADE.

The team from International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, created a Virus-Like Particle using these parts of the virus. The vaccine was shown to offer almost 100% protection against all four serotypes. This has been tested on mice and monkeys, but is yet to be tested on humans. The vaccine was developed in collaboration with Sun Pharmaceuticals.

The other team, which has researchers from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (Mumbai) and Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (Thiruvananthapuram), among others, used the same envelope parts of the four viruses, along with another part called non-structural-1, and built a genetic sequence.

## EXPLAINED SCI-TECH

# 4 ASTRONAUTS FROM 4 NATIONS REACH ISS: THE CREW, THE MISSION

**ALIND CHAUHAN**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

FOUR ASTRONAUTS from four countries, including the US, Denmark, Japan, and Russia, launched aboard a SpaceX rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Saturday, reached the International Space Station (ISS) a day later.

Making up 'Crew-7', the four are NASA astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli, European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Andreas Mogensen, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut Satoshi Furukawa, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Konstantin Borisov.

They will replace four astronauts living at the ISS since March, and stay there for the next six months.

## The four astronauts

Born in Germany and raised on New York's Long Island, Jasmin Moghbeli is the daughter of an Iranian couple who had to flee their country during the 1979 revolution.

The first-time space traveller earned a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering with information technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, following which she joined the Marines and flew attack helicopters in Afghanistan.

A Master of Science in aerospace engineering and graduate of the US Naval Test Pilot School, Maryland, Moghbeli was selected as a NASA astronaut in 2017. As the mission commander, she is responsible for all phases of flight, from launch to re-entry.

Mogensen is an ESA astronaut who became the first Dutch person to go to space in 2015 — he was part of Russia's Soyuz spacecraft for a 10-day mission to the space station. A doctorate in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, Mogensen has also worked on oil rigs off the West African coast.

"He told people puzzled by his job choice that 'in the future we would need drillers in space' like Bruce Willis' character in the killer asteroid film *Armageddon*. He's convinced the rig experience led to his selection," the news agency *Associated Press* reported.

As the pilot on Crew-7, he is responsible for spacecraft systems and performance aboard the station.

Furukawa is on his second trip to space — he spent 165 days aboard the space station as part of Expeditions 28 and 29 in 2011. He worked as a surgeon for over a decade before making Japan's astronaut cut in 1999.

Like Moghbeli, Borisov is also a first-time space traveller. An engineer turned businessman, the Russian runs a freediv-



The SpaceX rocket going to the ISS is launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. AP

ing school in Moscow, in which divers do away with oxygen tanks and hold their breath underwater. He joined the Roscosmos Cosmonaut Corps as a test candidate in 2018.

## The ISS

The Crew-7 mission is a result of the ongoing cooperation among different countries in space, especially since the launch of the space station in 1998. The International Space Station Program involves the US, Russia, Canada, Japan, and the participating countries of the European Space Agency, and is one of the most ambitious international collaborations ever attempted, according to NASA's website.

The program "brings together international flight crews, multiple launch vehicles, globally distributed launch, operations, training, engineering, and development facilities; communications networks, and the international scientific research community," it added.

## The mission

During their stay at the space station, the Crew-7 astronauts will conduct more than 200 science experiments and technology demonstrations to prepare for missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. The research will include a collection of microbial samples from the exterior of the space station. The team will also analyse how sleeping in the microgravity environment differs from Earth by examining astronauts' brain waves while they sleep.



HARISH DAMODARAN

IT'S CLEAR that El Niño is now emerging as a major economic risk in India — and ahead of the national elections scheduled for April-May 2024, a political risk too.

The effects of the abnormal warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean waters towards Ecuador and Peru — generally known to suppress rain in India — are already beginning to be felt.

August so far has seen the country as a whole register 30.7% below-normal (i.e. the historical long-period average for a given interval) rainfall. As a result, the overall 4.2% surplus during the first two months of the southwest monsoon (June-September) has turned into a cumulative 7.6% deficit as of August 27.

The India Meteorological Department anticipates no significant monsoon revival during the next five days, putting this month on course to end up as the driest-ever August — even surpassing those of 1965 and 1920.

## Why things can worsen

In July, the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) — which measures the average sea surface temperature deviation from the normal in the east-central equatorial Pacific region — touched 1 degree Celsius. This was twice the El Niño threshold of 0.5 degree.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted a 66% probability of the ONI exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius during October-December and a 75% chance of it remaining above 1 degree in January-March 2024. El Niño is, thus, projected to not only persist, but strengthen through the 2023-24 winter.

That, in the worst-case scenario, could lead to an intensification of the current dry conditions in September (when the southwest monsoon season ends) and beyond. It would also mean subpar rainfall during the northeast monsoon (October-December) and winter (January-February) seasons.

## What that can do

The southwest monsoon rain is crucial for not just the kharif season crops, sown mostly in June-July and harvested over September-October. It is required also to fill up dam reservoirs and recharge groundwater tables that, in turn, provide water for the crops cultivated during the rabi (winter-spring) season.

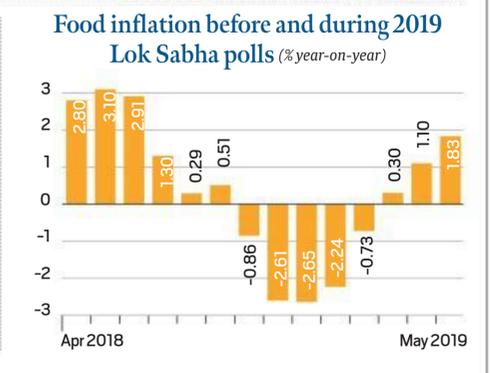
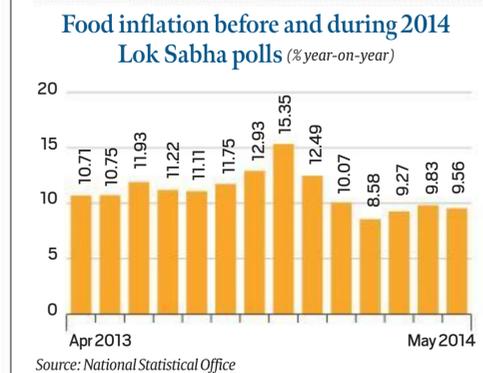
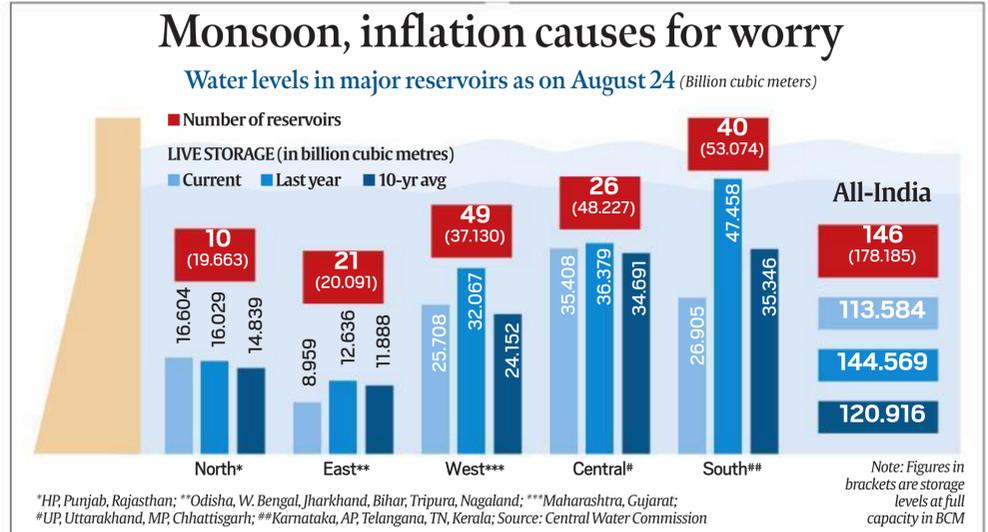
The rabi crops are mainly wheat, mustard, *chana* (chickpea), *masur* (red lentil), *matar* (field pea), barley, potato, onion, garlic, *jeera* (cumin), *dhaniya* (coriander) and *saunf* (fennel). They also include maize grown in Bihar and rice in West Bengal, Assam, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

The table shows water levels in 146 major reservoirs as on August 24 to be 21.4% lower than a year ago and 6.1% below the last 10-year average for this date. The area sown under most kharif crops this time has been higher than last year, thanks to the 12.6% rain-

## EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

# El Niño in election season

The current month is set to be the driest-ever August. Along with a strengthening El Niño, this poses a serious food inflation challenge for the Modi government ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.



fall surplus in July that made up for the monsoon's late onset and 10.1% deficit in June.

The dry weather in August can affect yields of the already-planted crops now in vegetative growth stage. But farmers may still be able to salvage these with one more shower, or even the available moisture. The real issue would be not with the kharif, but the upcoming rabi crops, largely dependent on water in the underground aquifers and reservoirs.

## The economic risk...

Reservoir water levels are precarious in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and much of southern and eastern India, which have also recorded below-average/deficient rain.

In the ordinary course, these wouldn't matter too much. But with rice and wheat stocks in government warehouses at 65.5 million tonnes (mt) on August 1, a six-year low for this date, and retail food inflation in July at 11.5% year-on-year, there is cause for worry.

For policymakers, food inflation isn't a big concern as long as it is transitory or limited to, say, tomatoes or vegetables suffering temporary supply disruptions and likely to self-correct with the new crop's arrivals. The problem is when inflation becomes persistent and broad-based.

Last year, public wheat stocks fell to their

lowest since 2008, but there was enough rice to keep the overall cereals inflation in check. The scenario is different today, when there's pressure on both rice and wheat stocks, besides the El Niño factor. Wholesale prices of *chana* have risen by nearly a fifth in the past one month, not due to low stocks, but because inflation in other pulses is rubbing off on it. When scarcity in one product starts influencing the prices of others, the threat of generalised food inflation arises.

## ...and the political

The accompanying charts show consumer food price inflation rates for two periods — the 12 months leading to the Lok Sabha elections of April-May 2014 and that of April-May 2019. The annual retail food price increase averaged 11.1% in the former period and a mere 0.4% in the latter.

While not the only factor, the difference between the two numbers would have played some part in the UPA's massive defeat in 2014 and the BJP's spectacular return to power in 2019. The implications of the above cannot be lost on the government. Consider the various "supply-side" actions it has taken since May 2022, roughly the time when food inflationary pressures began building up:

- On May 13, 2022, wheat exports banned.
- On May 24, 2022, sugar exports moved from "free" to "restricted" category. Total shipments capped at 11.2 mt in 2021-22 (October-September) and 6.1 mt in 2022-23 sugar years. No exports undertaken after May 2023.
- On September 8, 2022, exports of broken rice prohibited and 20% duty levied on shipments of other white (non-parboiled) non-basmati grain. On July 20, 2023, ban extended to exports of all non-parboiled non-basmati rice. On August 25, 2023, 20% duty imposed on exports of parboiled non-basmati rice. Minimum price of \$1,200 per tonne, below which exports wouldn't be allowed, made applicable for basmati shipments.
- On June 2, 2023, stock limits put on *arhar* and *urad*, with traders not permitted to hold more than stipulated quantities. On March 3, import duty on whole *arhar* cut to nil.
- On June 12, 2023, stockholding limits imposed on wheat.
- On August 19, 2023, 40% duty slapped on exports of onions.
- As El Niño bites and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections near, one can expect more such measures from the government. That many of these go against the letter and spirit of the farm reform laws it enacted (and subsequently repealed) barely three years ago is another thing.

**YOUR GO-TO INSTITUTE FOR GENERAL STUDIES PREPARATION**

**VAJIRAM & RAVI**  
Institute for IAS Examination

Prelims cum Mains	Prelims cum Mains	Optionals
General Studies Comprehensive Programme	General Studies Fledgling Comprehensive Programme	Optional Subjects Course
10 Months	2 Years	5 Months
21 <sup>ST</sup> SEP 2023	15 <sup>TH</sup> SEP 2023	OCTOBER 2023
011-4100-7400 <a href="http://www.vajiramandravi.com">www.vajiramandravi.com</a>		

# Finding 'Nessie': behind the fresh hunt launched for the Loch Ness monster

**ARJUN SENGUPTA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

FEW CREATURES in history have fascinated humans as much as the Loch Ness monster. Also called Nessie, the monster is believed to live in the Loch (lake in Scottish) Ness, in the Scottish Highlands. This weekend, Loch Ness Exploration, a volunteer research group, is leading the latest search for the monster, billed as the largest conducted from the surface of the lake since 1972.

With the help of heat-detecting drones

and a hydrophone, which detects acoustic signals under water, the group hopes to detect "unusual" movements in the lake.

## First mention

Loch Ness is the United Kingdom's largest lake by volume. Its water is murky and visibility exceptionally low due to the high peat content in the surrounding soil.

Nessie made its first recorded appearance in the biography of Saint Columba, a Catholic missionary from Ireland who travelled to the Scottish shores. His account recounts the burial of a man killed by a "wa-

ter beast". When the monster attacked another swimmer, Saint Columba, as per his biography, made the sign of the cross, causing the beast to swim away.

The earliest depiction of the monster's form dates to the 12th century. Unlike the modern dinosaur-like representation, this painting portrays it as similar to a bear.

In 1933, a local newspaper, *The Inverness Courier*, reported a couple sighting a "fearful-looking monster" as they were driving along the loch.

This was followed by a flurry of sightings. In 1934, the *Daily Mail* published the now famous photo of the Loch Ness monster, bringing global attention to Nessie. While later revealed to be a hoax, the grainy black and white image continues to inspire conspiracy theorists.

In 1934, the photo prompted what is recognised as the first organised search for the Loch Ness monster, when a rich businessman sent 20 people armed with Kodak cameras and field glasses to watch the loch. The crew reportedly sighted

Nessie 22 times. So far, as per the Loch Ness Centre, there have been 1,100 officially recorded sightings of the monster.

## No evidence found

In 1976, a well-funded American investigation dampened the enthusiasm for Nessie somewhat. Using underwater cameras and sonar equipment, the month-long search scoured the bottom of the lake for potential skeletons and carcasses. It yielded nothing.

An even bigger expedition in 1987 also found no new evidence to explain the Loch Ness monster. Neither did a 2003 search by

the BBC. In 2018, a DNA survey on water samples collected from across the lake found no evidence of any large animals in Loch Ness.

In 2021, a scientific paper reported the discovery of plesiosaur fossils in what was once a freshwater river in Morocco. Plesiosaurs had till then known to be exclusively marine reptiles. This paper got a lot of attention among Nessie enthusiasts, who claimed that such an aquatic dinosaur could have existed in the freshwater Loch Ness.

**Longer version**  
[indianexpress.com/explained](http://indianexpress.com/explained)

# 15 ECONOMY

MARKET WATCH

3 OF TOP-10 Cos LOSE M-CAP

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of three of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 82,082.91 crore last week, with Reliance Industries taking the biggest hit. PTI

RAINS DAMPENED INDIA'S DOMESTIC PETROLEUM DEMAND

## Uptick in petroleum exports help refiners maintain high run rates

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

WITH DOMESTIC demand for fuels and other petroleum products witnessing a slump due to the monsoon rains, India's refined products exports has witnessed an uptick, helping the country's refiners keep refinery runs high at a time when refining margins are robust globally, shows an analysis of data shared by commodity market analytics and intelligence firm Kpler.

The cumulative clean product exports from India in August have so far been the highest since May 2022, with jet fuel exports at a historic high. In oil industry parlance, clean products refer to the class of petroleum products that are uncontaminated and not previously used in any application. Most major crude oil-based fuels like diesel, petrol, jet fuel, kerosene, and naphtha are categorised as clean products. Dirty refined products refer to the likes of fuel oil, low sulphur waxy residue, and carbon black feedstock.

So far in August, India's jet fuel exports have averaged at a record high of 242,382 barrels per day (bpd), Kpler data shows. The previous peak of 206,871 bpd was in



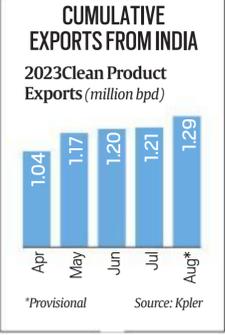
Demand for fuels usually tempers during the monsoon. File

June 2018. Last month, India's jet fuel exports were 198,968 bpd. In June, which marked the onset of the southwest monsoon, jet fuel exports stood at a robust 183,661 bpd. As for cumulative clean products, India exported 1.29 million bpd in August, the highest since May last year when the export volumes stood at 1.32 million bpd, as per Kpler. In July and June, India's clean product exports were also strong at 1.21 million bpd and 1.20 million bpd, respectively.

"Jet fuel exports out of India are hitting an all-time high in August and in general, clean product exports out of India are the highest since May 2022. So, even though domestic demand is

shaky because of the monsoon season impact, Indian refiners seem to be running quite high, availing themselves of refinery margins being well in the double digits," Kpler's Lead Crude Analyst Viktor Katona told *The Indian Express*.

Demand for fuels and other petroleum products usually tempers during the monsoon in India due to lower demand for transportation fuels and refined products used in some industries where work slows down because of the rains. This year, the season's pattern has been more disruptive than usual, including some extreme weather events in some parts of the country, which ap-



pears to have had an enhanced impact on fuel demand, a senior official with a public sector fuel retailer said. Indian refiners expect the demand to recover from next month and improve further with the upcoming festival season.

According to data released by the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India's consumption of fuels and other petroleum products in June declined 6.4 per cent from May to 19.36 million tonnes. It further declined to 18.09 million tonnes in July. The official data for August is likely to be available in the second week of September.

Domestic diesel consumption was down 3.7 per cent sequentially in June and 12.9 per cent in July, as per the PPAC data. Diesel is the most-consumed petroleum fuel in India with a share of nearly 40 per cent in the country's petroleum product consumption pie. In the case of petrol, domestic consumption fell 5.9 per cent month-on-month in June and 5.3 per cent in July.

India, the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil, depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its oil requirement. The country is a net exporter of petroleum products thanks to its refining capacity of 250 million tonnes per annum, or around 5 million bpd, which is higher than its domestic demand.

While public sector refiners Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation have traditionally been more focussed on the domestic market, private sector players Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy are relatively bigger exporters. Having enough export outlets during the lean monsoon season helps Indian refiners maintain high capacity utilisation levels even when domestic demand is subdued.

## 'At \$5 trn, the country itself becomes an asset class and can't be avoided anymore'

AS INDIA'S economy is expected to touch the \$5 trillion mark in the next 4-5 years, the foreign attractiveness of the country will continue to grow, with FDI and FII inflows becoming more dependable, says ANSHU KAPOOR, President and Head Nuvama Asset Management. In an interview with HITESH VYAS and SANDEEP SINGH, Kapoor says pick-up in global trade can push the country's GDP to 6-8 per cent. Edited Excerpts:



Which sectors of our economy are seeing traction?

One area where it is visible infrastructure - railways, highways, airports. The next big piece is renewable. There are green hydrogen projects partly led by the government and partly by the private sector. There are activities in the commercial real estate and residential projects. What is not visible today is the manufacturing part, but it will take 3-5 years to show up very meaningfully. It will show up in the export data soon.

How do you see all this with respect to the mutual fund industry and for players like you?

The top 10 mutual fund players control about 80 per cent of the AUM (asset under management). It has not changed in the last 10 years. The top 10 or top 12 has changed only two or three times, as some new players came in and made a place in the top 10. So, this list doesn't change.

Second, the structure of the industry - that 80 per cent of AUM goes to the top players and everyone else fights for the 20 per cent - doesn't change. Now, one thing which is happening is that this industry doubles every five years. So, let's say that mutual funds put together are Rs 45 trillion (AUM) now. It is given that the industry will become Rs 90 trillion in five years from now.

In five years, Indians will be saving a trillion dollars a year. Let's assume that the GDP is \$3.75 trillion now. Of this, about 22 to 25 per cent is saved which is about \$750 billion dollars, and this will become \$1 trillion. And then there is an inflow of new capital.

So, with a very small market share also the pie can be huge. You don't need to have 5, 7 or 10 or 15 per cent of all equity flows. You may need to have just 50 basis points or just one per cent. The round-robin thing will keep happening... people will come, try for 5 years and figure out what they want to do.



However, we will be the only country to reach the \$5 trillion mark without having the export engine firing behind us. If the global trade lifts, we can shoot between six to eight per cent. If the global trade recedes, we will be somewhere near 5-6 per cent. In the last few years, we have seen positive levers such as quality of balance sheets, deleveraging, institutions becoming stronger and a pristine banking system. Job creation and income certainty are leading to consumption.

Our real estate is in a big boom cycle. Real estate is the only sector today other than agriculture that employs unskilled workers and they can earn more than MNGREGA or daily wage. If this cycle continues for seven or eight years, I think it will create its own positive impact.

How do you see the impact of global slowdown on GDP growth?

Rising trades help us. Right now, global trade is contracting so that is not available to us...the export push is not available to us.

As the economy grows and more levers are added to the economy, foreign attractiveness will continue to grow, regardless of whether our GDP is growing at 5 per cent or 6 per cent or 7 per cent. I think we are in a good period right now.

In 2021, we got about \$70-75 billion, but now the run rate is anywhere between \$55-60 billion. The shift will go up and it will become \$80-90 billion a year.

The government last year provided Rs 5,000 crore capital to three insurers -- National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company.

The Budget 2023-24 has not provided for the capital infusion for insurance companies.

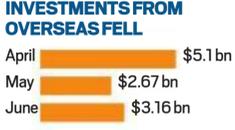
"We do not think there is a need for capital infusion as of

### FDI equity inflows dip 34% during Apr-Jun '23

Inflows during Jan-Mar '23 too had contracted 40.55%

\$10.94 bn Apr-Jun 2023-24

\$16.58 bn Apr-Jun 2022-23



### US concerned about India's import curbs on tech devices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 27

WITH THE US flagging concerns over India's decision to impose import restrictions on certain electronic devices, both countries have agreed to find a solution to the issue that addresses the concerns of both nations, according to a statement of USTR.

The issue was flagged during a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai here on August 26.

The two ministers also directed their officials to continue their discussions to mutually resolve the last pending trade dispute with regard to certain poultry products at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"Ambassador Tai also raised concerns related to India's import licensing requirements for technological equipment. She noted that there were stakeholders that needed an opportunity to review and provide input to ensure that the policy, if implemented, does not have an adverse impact on US exports to India," according to a readout of Ambassador Tai's meeting with Goyal.

"Ambassador Tai and Minister Goyal agreed to explore this issue further and find a solution that addresses both countries' concerns," the statement said.

### India UK bilateral investment treaty to differ from 2016 model

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

AS INDIA and the UK inch closer towards finalising a free trade agreement (FTA), the contours of the much-debated and contentious bilateral investment treaty (BIT) are likely to be finished around the same time and are expected to vary significantly from the model BIT of 2016, changes for which would require approval of the Union Cabinet.

"We cannot be closer to the model BIT because that is from 2016 and as it is it has not found many takers. In today's times, the demands of many countries are far removed from the BIT, so we cannot stick to the model format of the treaty," a person aware of the matter said, adding that changes to the investment treaty will be sent to the Cabinet for approval.

The investment treaty has been seen as one of the sticky points in the ongoing negotiations of the FTA between the two countries, raising concerns if both the agreements would come through at the same time. A separately revised investment treaty for the UK could set the stage for revision of investment modalities with other countries going ahead. The European Union has already stated that it has proposed an investment court system for dispute resolution and is awaiting India's response for its proposal for dispute resolution under the bilateral investment protection pact that is being negotiated along with the

FTA between the two countries. Investment treaties are crucial for promotion and protection of investors as they make investments in each other's countries. At present, the model BIT of India from 2016 mandates exhaustion of domestic remedies prior to initiation of international arbitration proceedings, a measure which is likely to see some tweaks in the upcoming revised version, an official said.

The model BIT was last revised in 2016. The government had received dispute notices from investors on the BITs signed on the basis of the old model text. In order to minimise such investor related disputes in future, the government then revised its model BIT text aimed at providing investor protection within the overall framework of laws and policies regulating foreign investment in India keeping in mind the interests of the nation, which has been viewed as protectionist by some countries. The changes in erstwhile BIT were also prompted by several international arbitration proceedings by global majors such as Vodafone and Cairn against the Indian government in different tax disputes.

Under the India and UK FTA negotiations, out of the total 26 chapters in the proposed FTA, 19 have been closed. UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Kemi Badenoch, who was in Jaipur last week for the G20 trade ministerial meeting, met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday. FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE GOVERNMENT has called a meeting of senior officials from states, public sector banks and State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) on Monday, to discuss the implementation of the Rs 13,000 crore 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme, which seeks to support traditional artisans and craftsmen.

The scheme, which would be launched on September 17, would be implemented by three ministries -- MSME, Skill Development and Finance. The target is to enrol as many as 3 lakh beneficiaries in the current fiscal, an official said.

"The Skill Ministry has called a meeting on August 28, in which principal secretaries of states,

managing directors of banks, and SLBC representatives have been invited.

"The meeting will discuss the roadmap for implementation of the scheme and process of identification of beneficiaries of PM Vishwakarma scheme," the official said.

Under the scheme, the skilled workers will be given training for 4-5 days to upgrade their skill, following which they will become eligible for loan.

"Our target for this fiscal is to give loans to 3 lakh beneficiaries," the official added.

The main thrust of the scheme will be on rural areas, where village-level and district-level committees will identify the beneficiaries. In urban India, municipal corporations will identify the beneficiaries.

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

AS INFLATION is moderating, diversified group ITC is seeing green shoots of volume growth and expects the momentum to continue sequentially, its Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Puri said on Sunday.

This will certainly lead to improvement in volume, but it will not happen overnight, said Puri here on the sidelines of the B20 Summit organised by the CII.

Over the ITC's plan for the demerger of its hotel business, Puri said it is going to benefit the existing shareholders by incorporating a wholly-owned new subsidiary ITC Hotels Ltd.

"It will be a pure-play, focused on hospitality, which can leverage the institutional

## Seeing green shoots of pickup on volumes as inflation moderates: ITC CMD Puri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27



ITC chairman and managing director Sanjiv Puri. File

strengths of ITC. And ITC in turn will be able to leverage the synergy on its hospitality business, or its FMCG businesses," Puri told PTI.

It is a "very robust" model, which will help the business to make the hotel business accelerate progress, whilst retaining synergies and it will improve the

financial metrics of ITC, he added.

Over inflation, Puri said this is mainly on account of two factors - the bigger one is more of the external factors in the geopolitical environment and the second is on account of the issues of climate change.

"However, now, India is much better placed in the rest of the world and I would like to compliment the government for stewarding management of inflation and being extremely proactive in taking the right steps to control that," he said.

In the recently concluded June quarter, ITC and several other FMCG makers reported volume gains and improvement in margins. ITC has 25 brands including Aashirvaad, Bingo, Sunfeast, Yipppee, Fama, Vivel, Savlon etc.

When asked about the re-

laxation of consumer sentiments and volume growth, especially in the rural market, Puri said, "So we are already seeing green shoots of pickup on volumes as inflation is moderating. I think as inflation moderates, we are also seeing the prices in the market growing or climate is improving."

He expressed concerns that the operating environment continues to remain volatile on the weather front.

"Right now, the El Nino is the monitorable. The rains in August have not been very encouraging. That's the facet we need to be watchful about. But overall, I think we have been able to manage it quite well," said Puri.

The Kolkata-headquartered firm reported a 16.08 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 5,180.12 crore in the June quarter.

### BRIEFLY

#### DLF to launch 2 luxury housing projects

New Delhi: Realty major DLF Ltd will launch two luxury housing projects worth Rs 15,000 crore in Gurugram during the second half of this financial year to expand its business amid strong demand for premium homes, its Managing Director Ashok Kumar Tyagi said. PTI

#### IOC, ONGC, GAIL fined

New Delhi: Stock exchanges have slapped fines on state-owned oil and gas firms including IOC, ONGC and GAIL for not meeting listing norms of having a number of independent directors and women directors. PTI

### FPIs pull out over ₹15,800 crore from cash market in August

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investors (FPIs) have pulled out over Rs 15,800 crore from the cash market in August amid the rise in bond yields and retail inflation.

The FPI withdrawal has come after they invested over Rs 69,000 crore in the May-July period, according to stock exchange data.

However, absorbing the FPI outflows, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have invested Rs 17,741 crore in the cash market in August.

The consolidated NSDL data shows the August FPI investment as of August 26 at Rs 10,689 crore. But this figure includes investment through the primary market and bulk deals,

which have been gathering momentum recently. Of this, FPIs invested Rs 10,690 crore in the stock market, including IPOs and bulk deals, and Rs 5,950 crore in the debt.

Analysts said strength in the dollar index at around 104 and the US 10-year bond yield remaining around 4.25 per cent are short-term negatives for FPI flows to emerging markets like India. "An important feature of FPI investment is their consistent buying in capital goods. And, of late, they have started selling in financials," said an analyst.

"In view of the strong dollar and rising US bond yields, FPIs are likely to continue selling in the cash market in the near-term. The poor monsoon in August and its skewed spatial distribution may keep inflation elevated, and this is becoming

an area of concern impacting sentiments in the market. This might impact FPI investment, too," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

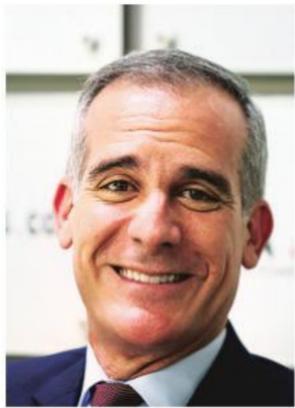
ICICI Securities said FPI outflows are likely to be short-lived as US bond yields rise, though limited by moderating inflation outlook, while India growth drivers remain intact.

US 10-year bond yields have been oscillating around the 4 per cent mark (3.4-4.3 per cent) over the past one year as the Fed approaches the end of its jumbo rate hike cycle driven by a moderating inflation outlook. The most recent surge in US yields from 3.75 per cent to 4.3 per cent was triggered by the rating downgrade by Fitch, putting pressure on FPI flows towards India. FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# 16 IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

When you have a war, you sometimes need friends of aggressors to help let them know how the war needs to end. The US can't go to Russia as a friend today... But countries like India, who keep better relations right now can play that role



WHY ERIC GARCETTI

AS the US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti has come to India at a time when ties between India and the US are growing closer as strategic partners. Back-to-back high-level visits — PM's to the US in June, Biden's visit next month for the G20 summit — have accelerated the relationship and put it on a higher trajectory. Garcetti,

as the US envoy, has an important role to play, as both Delhi and Washington confront significant challenges in the world. Handpicked by Biden, he has the confidence of the White House as he engages with Delhi's power structures at all levels and works on the opportunities ahead.



(With India), for any country, there's the suspicion and the legacy of colonialism... There are a lot of headwinds, but I think if there's one place where there are tailwinds, it's here with the US-India trade relationship

Could you reflect on your visits — in the '80s as a young adult and now as the US Ambassador to India — and the arc of India's journey, and its place in the world?

In 1985, I was 14 and due to bad weather, we landed in Karachi instead of Delhi. I'll never forget it because the Indians couldn't get off the plane but everybody else could. After reaching Delhi, it was the usual places and it was a world that I fell in love with. In college, my roommate's father, Bill Clark, was the US ambassador. He asked if I wanted to go to India and I came back at 19 as a more sentient adult. I didn't follow Indian politics back then but I wanted to know the history. I started studying Hindi and reading the Vedas and Upanishads, all the religious and cultural traditions. When I came as ambassador in April, about 50 per cent hadn't changed at all and the other half was completely different. The warmth, chaos, diversity, and sense of history, are looking backward in a way. There is still an integration of culture that is found in few places. But what had changed was the physical landscape, the roads, and the infrastructure. Not so much in Delhi but in smaller cities. Even now, there's a real love for America and knowledge about America from India. It's much stronger from here to us than it is from us to you, which is one of my goals to try and build.

Shubhajt Roy: What is the big idea behind the India-US global comprehensive strategic partnership?

It is because we really like each other and need each other. The world needs us to like each other and work together. It's an interesting moment in global relations. The world feels a little unmoored, a lot of change, some good, some bad. India is experiencing this and I think India is at a place where it is wondering who are we as a nation. There are stronger challenges both domestically and globally. We're both struggling with democracy and diversity. But we both want both of those things. It's better than the alternative. Who wants to live in an autocracy? In India, everybody has a connection to America. One in four Americans have been treated by an Indian doctor. While people of Indian descent are just one per cent of America's population, it's four million people, which is a lot for us, and it's six per cent of our tax base. We need each other for health, climate, security, and growth of the economy among other things. Be it the common threats we face or the common opportunities we have, we need each other.

Shubhajt Roy: Do you see China as a strong strategic glue which is driving a lot of the conversations, especially in defence, tech and semiconductors?

It is certainly for our militaries and for some of our international security personnel. But the relationship is much deeper. Sometimes it gets overly reduced to China. I hear people in Washington say that we need India because of China. We need India because of India. I'm from California. We grow almonds. Indians know four almonds a day is good for brain health. Minister Piyush Goyal and I were able to, with Katherine Tai, our trade representative, reduce the tariffs that were put on during the Trump administration. In terms of strategic needs, we face common challenges. I'd argue against the idea that any third country is the glue that keeps us together. We're the glue that keeps us together. We don't want an over-concentration of supply chains in any one country, be it China or anywhere.

Shubhajt Roy: Since the invasion of Ukraine, do you see India much closer to the US than it was in February 2022? Does India have the credibility to play mediator in the conflict?

Most countries have moved further away from a nation that's been a clear aggressor. I don't have to remind the Indians, who know the value of borders and of sovereignty as you live with that every single day on multiple sides. We're standing up for an unprovoked act of aggression. This wasn't about geopolitics and trying to lessen one country's power. This was about one country invading another and causing great suffering. It's very clear moral issue. I hope Russia sees just how much it has lost. It's not just Europe's problem. Food and energy have affected all of us and our economy. It affects Indians every single day. Maybe the governments have been in slightly different places. But when I talk to Indian people, it seems to be a pretty clear moral issue to them as well. When you have a war, you sometimes need friends of aggressors to help let them know how the war needs to end. We all can't play the exact same role. Obviously, the US can't go to Russia as a friend today. But maybe other countries like India, who keep better relations right now can play that role. PM Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar have men-

## 'We really like each other and need each other. The world needs us to like each other and work together'

Eric Garcetti, the United States Ambassador to India, on the India-US strategic partnership, how the relationship is wrongly overreduced to China and pushback from Indian government on the subject of democracy and minority rights. The session was moderated by *The Indian Express* Diplomatic Editor Shubhajt Roy



United States Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti was in conversation with *The Indian Express* Diplomatic Editor Shubhajt Roy Photo: Abhinav Saha

tioned that. The space between us, and I don't think it's as wide as it was on the Ukraine issue, hasn't stopped us from moving forward as two nations.

Shubhajt Roy: When President Obama talked about minority rights, there was a very strong pushback from the top brass of the Indian government. When anything is spoken about democracy, how do you read this pushback?

We live in a democracy in the US and we're always proud to exercise that. Whether it's former presidents or the average person on the street, they can speak their mind. There's been a great love for India. It's a remarkable thing in American politics to have across very different administrations and parties — a steady linear progression and the deepening of this relationship. People here in a democracy are free to speak their minds as well. I don't think Americans will stop speaking of our values, nor should we expect Indians to not speak. We need to learn that lesson to not preach. It was a big part of my job when I came here, to see the places where there was conscious paternalism of talking down to India when Americans think that India is this country only in need of aid and development. That's not the India of today. But sometimes we're unconscious about it. Where Indians will hear an American and just think, I know where they're coming from, and criticise them without hearing, we do the same.

Anil Sasi: There are still some things that fester — export restrictions on India and the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) benefits. When do you see this relationship on the strategic side being elevated to something we see between, say, the US and Japan or the US and Taiwan?

I have high ambitions in this space. It takes time for all sorts of complicated reasons. Our bureaucracy, your bureaucracy. India is still the highest tariffed major economy. Even if you're not American, for any country, there's the suspicion and the legacy of colonialism. It's the anti-free trade kind of consensus between both our parties in the US. There are a lot of headwinds, but I think if there's one place where there are tailwinds, it's here with the US-India trade relationship. I agree that the GSP would be low-hanging fruit. We've got one more of the seven trade disputes left on poultry. I'd like to see that get resolved. There are certain things that we can't do. Certain products and certain issues are just too important to the Indian way of life and economy. But let's go everywhere else. And let's talk about how we get there for semiconductors or

when we have policies that come out on things like laptops. What can we do in pharma and pharmaceuticals? About nuclear liability?

Soumyarendra Barik: What is India doing right in the chip space and what are the fields where it's lagging behind? What is the reason for no real interest from any eligible company vis-a-vis semiconductor device fabrication?

There's a lot of focus in Indian policy, rightfully so, on price. If we help the price to be cheaper through incentives or tax breaks, the investment will eventually come. But three other things need more focus. Semiconductors are far more complicated. You have to have the workforce and it's not a workforce that can be trained in a six-month course. This is very complicated engineering and more importantly, manufacturing. I think India recognises that. When I talk to companies, they want that. It (India) is still an unpredictable place to do business. Labour regulation might change, taxes might change overnight, you might not have any heads up on something when a new regulation comes in. Every CEO is both excited and has one foot in, but they don't have two feet in yet because they all have some horror story. Maybe there's a state government or maybe it's the Centre, somebody did something where that investment suddenly wasn't along the lines. Not just American but I think most multinational companies need like 10 years of predictability, especially in the semiconductor space where you don't turn a profit early on. So I suggest holding tight.

Ritu Sarin: After the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, what are the new levels of intelligence sharing that have been initiated? There were reports that real-

time US intelligence stopped a Chinese incursion in March this year.

This has never been closer. We're going to be very respectful when asked. Our countries have talked about how we can share more information to keep each other in the world safer. I'd say it's steadily progressing, formalising. We want to share intelligence on everything — this should be open source at least between governments — on food security, climate indicators and oceanic biodiversity. At the military level, it's never been closer. In law enforcement, it's breathtaking. We had multinational drug operations that were in Central California, which thanks to intelligence sharing, had us go after some really bad guys who were in the US. It's happening in intellectual property such as people who broke the law taking Indian artefacts. We've got a 500-pound Buddha waiting in Arizona to repatriate. We are talking about a long-range way to have a memorandum of understanding so that we can help more Indian artefacts and art come back. India has been wonderful on telephone scams. Over an estimated \$1 billion has been taken from Americans from Indian phone scam operators. The Indian government's been great. In the most strategic places, we will be there for India, as well as in the most human places.

Amrita Nayak Dutta: What has been the intelligence support from the US during the three-year-long military standoff with China. What are the other critical defence technologies that US is looking to share with India?

We're here with open ears whenever asked and have deeper personal relationships, and technological relationships than ever before. But I'll leave it at that. We never presume and we never go further than what India asks of us. We're on parallel

highways, once in a while weaving around, sometimes heading towards each other. Now we're in the same car. The Prime Minister's state visit was one stop. G 20 is the next stop, and then we're getting back in the car together and moving forward. The government can't control all this; some of it has to come from the private sector. Sometimes, we have to say we're just the US government, we can't make a private company produce that widget. But we'll push them and help because we know how important it is to the relationship. Obviously, the historic engine steel is the biggest game changer in our military production history. There's certain things that GE has that they wouldn't even share with the US government. But the 100 per cent of everything we can control is being shared and it really changes, I think, the next 30 years. We would love to do that in other realms but they're complicated by democracies.

Liz Mathew: PM Modi, in two of his internal meetings, mentioned that countries like the US are engaging with India and trying to sign new deals because they are seeing that the BJP is coming back to power next year.

We engage with governments, not parties. The engagements have been effective, productive and I think they're material.

P Vaidyanathan Iyer: Restrictions in the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act have been an area of concern. Many NGOs and think tanks are not getting funding. There have been raids on organisations like Oxfam or the Centre for Policy Research besides minority concerns. Have these been voiced by people outside of the government?

Democracy, human rights, a strong civil society are cornerstones of American values. Whether it's an India or any country, we engage on those at the highest levels, and at the lowest levels. We engage with them, not just government to government, but government to civil society besides particular cases too. Sometimes they're American international NGOs with whom we engage to just try to find out if there is a violation of law and how we can help rectify that? And if not, why is this happening? We just hope these don't become irritants, and are quickly resolved. And we respect India and India's laws. If anybody's not adhering to specific laws, we will be the first to help out. What makes it more difficult is when you don't know why. And that's when we engage at a higher level.

Manoj CG: What is the level of engagement that you have with India's

Opposition leaders?

I've had great conversations. I've gone to different states that have different leaders not of the majority party. We have very free, frank, open conversations. I was a mayor so I understand that all the power doesn't always exist in the nation's capital, as much as our national leaders always feel that way. It is just our protocol that governments engage and that winds up being majority parties. Opposition figures are absolutely free to engage with us.

Anil Sasi: What are your views on the Data Protection Act and interest from the already invested American companies in the new e-commerce policy.

There's been a lot of positive movement from where it was first drafted to what actually passed. What I hear from many American companies, there's a great deal of satisfaction and protections that they thought they were lacking. If we play by certain rules, these are perfectly reasonable things for any nation to protect its people, data, etc. I am inspired by India's digital public infrastructure. India has leapfrogged even the US in getting the *chaivala* to accept a UPI. These things really expand access to capital and reduce corruption. There have been many positive things that I hope the US will learn, and will maybe be a partner with India. At the same time, we look very closely at legislation and its impact on American companies. I hope that India will recognise that American companies, retail or financial, have invested a lot to make access to capital easier, faster, and stronger. We care a lot about reducing the cost to consumers. So sometimes you'll have American companies who have very different perspectives — one that wants to see the price of a transaction come down, and another who lives off of the price of transactions. We have to balance that too. I think India's got it right in that you want to empower the citizen and protect the citizen.

Muzamil Jaleel: You are on the board of Human Rights Watch and studied ethnic conflicts and nationalism. Is there anything that you saw or heard, which worried you?

When you see suffering based on whatever it is, it could be a woman not safely getting to work, it can be between religious groups, I feel that pain and suffering as a human being. But I also want to be very careful. America has a long tradition of talking down sometimes to countries. We need to be equals. We need to come from a place of humility about the challenges we face and engage with each other.



We need to learn to not preach. There was conscious paternalism of talking down to India. Americans think that India is this country only in need of aid and development. That's not the India of today

FOOTBALLERS SKIP NATIONAL CAMP

Sixteen out of the 28 footballers called for the national camp in Bhubaneswar ahead of the AFC U-23 Championships did not turn up, leaving the head coach Clifford Miranda to appeal to the clubs to release their players. The players have not joined the camp, which started on Friday, "due to club commitments".

BRIEFLY

Verstappen equals Vettel's F1 record

Zandvoort: Runaway Formula One leader Max Verstappen won a rain-marred Dutch Grand Prix on Sunday to equal Sebastian Vettel's F1 record of nine straight victories. The Red Bull star clinched his third straight victory from pole position at the Zandvoort track, with veteran Aston Martin driver Fernando Alonso finishing second and picking up a bonus point for the fastest lap. Alpine driver Pierre Gasly crossed the line in fourth place behind Red Bull driver Sergio Perez, but the Frenchman moved up to third because Perez was given a five-second penalty for speeding in the pit lane.

Durand Cup: Mohun Bagan enter semis

Kolkata: Reigning Indian Super League champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant came up with a fine performance to outplay Mumbai City FC 3-1 in the fourth quarterfinal of the Durand Cup here on Sunday. For Mohun Bagan, the goal-scorers were Jason Cummings, Manvir Singh and Anwar Ali, whereas Jorge Pereyra Diaz scored the consolation goal for Mumbai. The former will be up against FC Goa in the semifinals here on Thursday.

Murugappa Cup: CAG, RSPB, Army Red win

Chennai: Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) defeated Indian Navy 4-1 in a Pool A match of the Murugappa Gold Cup hockey tournament here on Sunday. While Darshan Gawkar (24th and 53rd minutes) scored twice, a goal each by Yuvraj Walmiki (22nd) and Pratap Lakra (39th) ensured RSPB's control in the game. Walmiki hit the board in the 22nd minute to give RSPB the lead before Gawkar doubled it a couple of minutes later. A penalty corner conversion in the 25th minute by Sushil Dhanwar pulled one back for the Navy side. But in the 39th minute, Lakra successfully converted a penalty corner to extend RSPB's lead before Gawkar made it 4-1.

India beat Thailand in Asian Hockey 5s

Salalah: India continued their unbeaten run in the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier after registering a hard-fought 5-4 win over Thailand in their third match of the tournament here on Sunday. For India, skipper Navjot Kaur (1st minute), Monika Dipi Toppo (1st, 7th), Mahima Choudhary (20th) and Ajmina Kujur (30th) were on target. Thailand's goals were scored by Priesram Anongnat (3rd), Sunjai Natthakam (10th, 14th) and Suwapat Konthong (19th).

Messi scores in MLS debut for Miami

Harrison: Lionel Messi needed just a few seconds for his unparalleled skills to shine, a flash of brilliance that capped a memorable Major League Soccer debut. Messi's dazzling goal in the 89th minute helped a transformed Inter Miami beat the New York Red Bulls 2-0 on Saturday night and end an 11-match league winless streak. Messi entered in the 60th minute along with former Barcelona teammate Sergio Busquets.

PTI & AP

Olympic champion Neeraj now world champ

With a best effort of 88.17m, javelin thrower creates history by winning India's first gold medal at the World Athletics Championships

NIHAL KOSHIE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

EVERYTIME Neeraj Chopra starts galloping from the top of the runway with a javelin in his hand there's a sense of inevitability. That he will medal. He had won almost every medal that mattered when he reached Budapest for the World Championship final.

On Sunday night at the National Athletics Centre, Chopra, 24, added the coveted medal missing from his collection - the World Championship gold, his second after last year's silver. Chopra's winning throw was measured at 88.17 metres, not even in his top 5 best. Yet, what makes him a special athlete is his innate ability to gauge the conditions and do enough to medal. This time a gold at the Worlds to go with his Olympic gold.

On the night it was Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem who went closest to challenging Chopra. Nadeem won the Commonwealth Games gold with a 90-metre plus throw. Nadeem started slowly with 74.80 metres, moved to 82.18 and then came up with his best of 87.82 to move into second place. Nadeem is more of a physical thrower so there was a danger of a late burst from him. But it was not to be.

Chopra had a no mark in the first round, but bounced back like only he can. Wearing a white headband to keep his hair from falling into his eyes, Chopra smoothly released what was to be his best throw of the evening in round 2. Even before the javelin landed, Chopra turned around, faced the crowd and raised his arms in the air. A trademark celebration that is a sure shot sign of a big throw from the Indian. He embraced the pressure, didn't look hassled and as he does so often produced his best when he needed it the most.

Over the years, investing emotions in Chopra's success is even more tension-free than locking one's savings in gold. That is due to his almost-unbelievable consistency, a rare quality in Indian athletes.

Numbers don't always define greatness, but they do tell a story. Chopra's is staggering. He isn't satisfied with one big performance, however impressive it may be, and backs it up with another time after time.

Consider this: Chopra's historic gold-medal winning distance of 87.58 metres at the Tokyo Olympics two years ago is not among his top 10 throws.

Nine of his 10 best throws have come after the Summer Games. Of these, 89.94m is the best and 88.13m the shortest. In his career, Chopra has thrown over 88 metres 10 times, over 85 metres 26 times and over 82 metres 37 times. These numbers make consistency his middle name, something not always seen in Indian athletics littered with examples of stars failing to live up to the expectations on the global stage. The last time Chopra didn't finish in the top three of a competition was nearly five years ago.

Come rain or shine or even a niggle, Chopra knows how to find the flight path to success. He started the year with his fifth-best throw ever, 88.67m to top the Doha Diamond League event. Despite not being at 100 percent during his comeback event, the Lausanne Diamond League, Chopra managed 87.66 metres. In the qualifying round for the Budapest World Championships, Chopra's 'easy throw' was measured at 88.7m, his fourth-best throw ever. What makes Chopra so good? Consistency in technique is one aspect.

"Other athletes are inconsistent in technique, but Chopra is more consistent and consistency is a great base for a thrower," his coach Klaus Bartonietz had told this paper.

Chopra's athleticism makes him a very flexible thrower, which means outright

**Chopra's athleticism makes him a very flexible thrower, which means outright power is not his calling card, like Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem or Germany's Johannes Vetter.**



Neeraj Chopra in action during the World Championships in Budapest. AP

power is not his calling card, like Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem or Germany's Johannes Vetter. The Indian ace is also blessed with elasticity, is an all-round athlete and good at sprinting, jumping and lifting. Even decathlon could have been a good career choice for the javelin star.

Another standout Chopra virtue is self-belief. When a competition begins, his physio Ishaan Marwaha says that Chopra switches on the 'Neeraj Chopra Inside the Stadium' button. "He is a different guy when he goes inside the stadium," Marwaha had said about how the Olympic champion enters 'the zone'. With his golden arm, Chopra has inspired a generation of Indian throwers to dream big. What was considered impossible earlier is being seen as doable.

Rohit Yadav, 22, is part of a growing club of 80m-plus javelin throwers in India. He has a personal best of 83.40m. Rohit has trained overseas alongside Chopra since 2019 and says the latter's success is rubbing off on him and other upcoming throwers. Rohit would have been at the Worlds if not for an elbow injury, which needed surgery.

"When you train next to someone like Chopra who is consistent with the big throws, you believe you can do it too. I have closely seen him train and the hard work he puts in. All the big throws are a result of the way he prepares and also the experience he has gained from competing abroad. I am inspired by the way he has performed in the big competitions. He isn't an athlete who has one big throw and then the level drops. The overall quality of Indian javelin throw has improved because of him," Rohit said.

Samarjeet Singh, javelin coach at the national camp, remembers how everyone was talking about Chopra being a talented thrower when he broke the inter-university record in 2009. "I threw 75 metres and it was a big deal back then. I used to search for videos of foreign throwers and while watching them would wonder how they throw 82-85m-plus throws. Eighty metres used to be a huge mental barrier in India. Now we have a champion thrower."

3 Indians in final, javelin gets a running start in Chopra's village Khandra

NAMIT KUMAR  
KHANDRA (PANIPAT), AUGUST 27

ON SUNDAY, when athletes lined up for the start of the javelin throw finals of the World Athletics Championship in Budapest, three Indians — Neeraj Chopra, D P Manu and Kishore Jena — featured in the 12-man field.

The moment — India became only the fourth country ever to have three finalists — underlined the country's rising stature in a sport that was relatively unknown until August 2021, when Chopra won the Tokyo Olympics gold medal. And nothing signifies the pace with which javelin throw is picking up than its spreading popularity in the hometown of the man who made it all happen.

In Khandra, near Panipat, where Chopra spent his formative years, athletics is the latest obsession. His world-leading exploits are a source of inspiration for the young boys and girls in the village.

Harinder Kumar, a former decathlete, has known Chopra for over a decade now, having trained together between 2012 and 2015 at Panchkula. He started providing after-school track-and-field coaching to children at the Sanskriti Public School between 2019 and 2020. Initially, he had just a handful of students, all from Khandra. Today, that number is close to 45. Given that most are young children practising different disciplines, Khandra is yet to become Bongaon -- the 'Little Finland' of javelin throwers in Haryana producing junior champions -- but Chopra's influence and the popularity of javelin among the young athletes is evident.

Harinder says Chopra made it known years ago that he wanted to help, and often returns from abroad with equipment, including javelins, for the children. But, other than the monetary support, Chopra's most significant contribution is as a source of inspiration.

"Every time he's in town, in India, he visits the ground, trains there himself. Then he talks to the children and passes on tips. He



Youngsters train at Sanskriti Public School in Khandra, where Neeraj Chopra continues to drop in. Namit Kumar

also lets us know what we are doing right or wrong at the academy. For the children, that interaction is a big thing," says Harinder.

That effect has rubbed off on the parents as well. "Post-2021, the mentality of parents has changed. If someone from the village goes all the way to Olympic gold, achieves something nobody else from here has achieved, then it obviously causes people to take the sport seriously," he says.

Satish Kumar is one such parent. Both his children, as well as his nephews and nieces — all aged between 9 and 16 years — train at the school. If he considered sport to be a hobby or distraction earlier, he now considers it a necessity. "I see it in the children, how they've been motivated by what Neeraj achieved. They want to replicate his achievements, even if it happens in some other field... it has made them hungry." The point is not to become a champion athlete, but to stay interested and driven," he says.

MR. CONSISTENT

SINCE WINNING the Tokyo Olympics gold medal two years ago, with a throw of 87.58m, Neeraj Chopra has gone from strength to strength. Below is a list of his top-10 throws and performances.

\*Does not include Sunday night's World Championship final

\*\*Throws in qualification rounds

Distance	Year	Pos	Venue
89.94	2022	2	Stockholm
89.30	2022	2	Turku
89.08	2022	1	Lausanne
88.77	2023	1**	Budapest
88.67	2023	1	Doha
88.39	2022	1**	Eugene
88.44	2022	1	Zurich
88.13	2022	2	Eugene
88.06	2018	1	Jakarta
88.07	2021	1	Patiala

Source: World Athletics

When you train next to someone like Chopra who is consistent with the big throws, you believe you can do it too."

ROHIT YADAV  
JAVELIN THROWER, INDIA

Harinder says Chopra made it known years ago that he wanted to help, and often returns from abroad with equipment, including javelins, for the children

The sentiment that sport must be enjoyed and engaged with before worrying about success runs deep within the community. And Chopra subscribes to it.

"Every time I have spoken to him (Chopra) about the children, he tells me, 'reduce their workloads, don't enter them in competitions if they're not ready, let them have fun,'" Harinder says. "We mostly work with young children. So Neeraj's point is that we don't need to push them yet, we need to keep them happy and make sure they want to come to the ground every day. If their interest levels continue to be high, the medals will come on their own."

"It's a kind of revolution," says Chopra's great uncle, Ishwar Chopra. He pulls out his phone and scrolls through dozens of videos of children training at the school — from practising javelin motions by throwing balls on the wall, to long jump and triple jump in makeshift sandpits, and high jump using bamboo sticks. He firmly believes it's the "Neeraj Chopra effect".

On Sunday afternoon, hours before the final, the crisis of the moment in the Chopra household was to fix the ground-floor television. There were no plans to hold a screening, but drinks and snacks were being bought and seats were being arranged, just in case.

"In our community, we don't take permission to enter each other's houses. Our doors will be open, and the TV will be on. Everyone is welcome," says Chopra's uncle, Bhim Chopra. Given the late-night start for the final, he doesn't expect a huge turnout. But he is confident that most of the crowd will be children.

With three sprint golds, Lyles begins his Olympic-sized run at stardom

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BUDAPEST, AUGUST 27

THE AMERICAN men who had won the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 relay at world championships before this year are known to track fans: Tyson Gay and Maurice Greene.

But some of the American men who have gone 3 for 3 in those races at the Olympics are known far beyond the shadow of any track stadium — think, Jesse Owens and Carl Lewis. The sizable gap between "track star" and "global icon" is the one Noah Lyles is hoping he can bridge between now and next year at the Paris Olympics.

Lyles capped off his own historic world championships by anchoring the men's 4x100 relay team to victory Saturday night to capture his third gold medal in the sprints, joining Gay and Greene, but also track's last true superstar, Jamaica's Usain Bolt, who last accomplished that feat eight years ago.

Lyles made no secret that he would like to fill the void left by Bolt — a once-in-a-generation character who transcends sports and stands out as much on red carpets as on the track. Lyles also confronted the uncomfortable truth that since Bolt retired in 2017, his sport has struggled to maintain an audience outside the hardcore track fan.

"It's a conversation I have every day with my agent, about how we're going to better

this sport," Lyles said.

It's a plight felt most keenly in the United States, which is now only five years from hosting the Olympics in Los Angeles. In one sign of the hurdles the sport faces, track and field has yet to find a viable host city for a major event — i.e., Olympic trials, national championships or worlds — outside of Eugene, Oregon.

Much has been made in the States this summer about how nationals and even some of these world championships have been aired on NBC's harder-to-find cable affiliates instead of the main network. That might not matter anymore in an era of ever-fragmented viewing options.

Still, the numbers tell the story: The opening two days of world championships on the main network in the USA drew fewer viewers than preseason football, NASCAR, the final of the Women's World Cup and a Little League World Series Game. (But more than bull riding and a USA-Germany tune-up game for the basketball World Cup.) Last year at the worlds in Eugene, World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said the organization's goal was to make track a "top four" sport in the U.S. by 2028, which means it would have to rise by at least four notches, according to WA's own studies.

"If you ask me, are we in better shape to promote the sport than we were just a few years ago, my answer is, unequivocally, Yes," Coe said in an interview, one year later, before



Noah Lyles celebrates after leading the USA to the 4x100m gold medal. AP

the start of the championships in Budapest.

Some of that has to do with Lyles, the 26-year-old from Florida who has no problem positioning himself as the man trying to turn track into a must-watch proposition again. It's hard to pinpoint exactly what makes one person a can't-miss TV product while others miss the mark. But if Lyles falls short, it won't

be for lack of effort.

He is currently featured in two behind-the-scenes docuseries about track — one that was his own brainchild, and another that began as a cobbling together of the world's fastest people. "They weren't talking about me in that documentary," Lyles said of the second one. "Then, as soon as I won (a Diamond League meet) in

FIRST SINCE BOLT

Noah Lyles became the first sprinter since Usain Bolt to win both, 100m and 200m, titles at a World Championship. Bolt did it in 2009, 2013 and 2015. Lyles also is the first American to win 3 golds at a single World Championship since Tyson Gay and Allyson Felix in 2007.

Noah Lyles and Sha'Carri Richardson are absolute rockstars. No one is going to replace Usain Bolt but there is a range of talent coming through in track and field."

SEBASTIAN COE  
PRESIDENT, WORLD ATHLETICS

Paris, they got real buddy-buddy with me." He is curating a fashion sense, doing everything from picking the wardrobes to setting up the photo shoots for himself and other runners. He says he wants people to look for him in GQ as much as on the track.

"I want people to say Wow, this isn't just a fast guy, he's well-rounded and has a good

personality and I just want to follow him for that," Lyles said.

He is a growing presence on social media, though his most-celebrated posting there this summer had nothing to do with wardrobes or music or red carpets. It was a declaration that he can run 9.65 in the 100 and 19.10 in the 200.

That he accomplished neither goal in Budapest is beside the point. That he put those numbers out there — the 9.65 would be the third-fastest of all-time and the 19.10 would shatter Bolt's 14-year-old world record — is what set the stage for his triumphant run through the championships.

The 100-meter goal was audacious, given that Lyles had a thin resume at the shorter distance. When he won the title, he crossed the line and shouted out what could very well be his mantra over the upcoming year, at least in that race: "They said I couldn't do it. They said I wasn't the one. But I thank God I am!" Six nights later, as he crossed the finish line first in the relay, he kept the messaging down to one word, as he jabbed three fingers into the air: "Three!" he shouted.

He is savvy enough to know that if any of the off-the-track fame is going to come, taking care of business on the track has to be a given. So far, he's making good on that part of the deal.

"Yes, the medals are first, because if you don't have the medals, who's going to want to pay attention to you?" Lyles said.

# Prannoy turns second wind into a storm

Putting fitness issues to bed, the 31-year-old is outmuscling opponents on bigger courts to catch them by surprise

SHIVANI NAIK  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 27

AS IF playing HS Prannoy's power & deception game isn't challenging enough, there is another wicked statistic he's racked up that makes opponents deeply uncomfortable. Nine times against the very top names in the past two seasons, Prannoy has lost the opening set and then turned the tables to take the next two. The list of those that fear taking the first set lead against him after facing reverses includes Viktor Axelsen this week, Anthony Ginting at Australia, Srikanth at Japan, Chou Tien Chen and Li Shifeng at Malaysia, Lee Zhi Jia at Mixed Asian Team Championship, Lakshya Sen at Malaysia last season, Axelsen at World Tour Finals end of 2022 and Rasmus Gemke at the Thomas Cup. It's bad enough for opponents if Prannoy wins the first, but keeping them guessing, it's even more ominous if he doesn't.

Weng Hong Yang and Kunlavut Vitidsarn buck the trend and themselves came back from a set down against Prannoy, so he's clearly not unbeatable. At 31, his fitness has obvious limitations, so a bronze it was. But there's a dread on the circuit these days when they get drawn in his half, that a lurking Prannoy might more often than not make life terribly difficult. Two former champions in Loh Kean Yew and Axelsen found out this week that the erstwhile disruptor-in-chief, who nicked a marquee scalp here and there few years ago, can turn into destructor-in-chief and steal their medals.

"Prannoy just keeps getting better as a match progresses, and he finds rhythm as it gets longer," explains coach Guru Saidutt. The term late-bloomer can be applied not only to his career, but to every match he plays as it is not uncommon to watch his quality of shot-making get better in the decider than it was in the first. Guru has watched closely from sitting behind how this rising-phoenix-ability breaks opponents' resolve, and wasn't surprised when Prannoy pulled it off against Axelsen. It's been a season of rope-a-dope tricks of lulling opponents into believing they are on top, before pulling the rug from under their feet.

Guru recalls a semifinal at Malaysia Masters, Prannoy's first significant Tour title in May this year, against Kenta Nishimoto. "Prannoy looked really tired around 12th, 13th point of the second. But the moment the third game started, by 3rd, 4th point he had gotten tremendous, and told me he had a lot of fuel



HS Prannoy in action during his semifinal against eventual world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand. AP

left. I could see opponents' level dropping and them giving off give-up vibes," he says. He got tired against Vitidsarn, but for large number of wins this season, Prannoy's fitness has actually held strong. "It's the effect of three years of disciplined strength & conditioning training, not just one or two months," Guru says.

Prannoy is an attacking player, but Malaysia, just like at the Copenhagen World's, posed tough conditions to players. The usually fast, drifty courts where short matches would play out and much fitness wasn't needed in previous years, had morphed into very slow conditions. "We realised early that Prannoy is coping better than others and after quarters knew he could go all the way." At the tournament, he had come from behind wins against former Worlds silver medalist Chou Tien Chen (16-21) and Chinese All England champion, Li Shifeng (13-21). "He had adapted to not winning in two games, and his 5th, 6th points were better than the 1st. All his opponents got im-

patient in the third and lost," Guru says.

Prannoy's success at big events though is also down to how much he enjoys and thrives playing in large arenas, and just how dangerous his game is in those conditions. "In the bigger halls where these Major tournaments happen, not everyone has a big smash that they can play at the end of a long, tiring rally," Guru explains of the sheer explosive power that can help him muscle through after an endurance rally. "As an opponent, you realise this man doesn't get tired and then he has that smash. He can make opponents feel unconfident in these situations, and he drives them into corners where players think they don't have enough left at that point," Guru says.

Against Axelsen, brawn combined with a sharp brain. Prannoy had a clear strategy of what worked and what didn't, what was coming at him, and where he could test the Dane. At Japan Open where the Indian played two probing sets of 19-21 and 21-18 before run-

ning out of steam, he had rattled the defending champion, and it was evident that he was closest amongst all players to beating Axelsen. "Prannoy combined great plans and his own instincts to beat Viktor at World Championships. We saw Viktor cracking once the game got longer and slower. With each point in the second, Prannoy got better and the momentum changed as he played an intelligent, tactical game." He's gained a reputation of sowing doubts and following through on that mind anarchy he triggers in opponents.

## Surprise stroke

Then there is the matter of surprise strokes, that he has courage to play at the clutch. Playing the Swiss Open semifinals in 2022 against Anthony Ginting, one of the quickest movers and anticipators on the circuit, Prannoy unleashed wicked deception in returns and changes in pace that boggled the Indonesian at the finish. Against Loh Kean Yew this week

# Rodri comes up with another big goal for Man City

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SHEFFIELD, AUGUST 27

RODRI CAME up with another big goal for Manchester City, scoring in the 88th minute to secure the champions a 2-1 win at Sheffield United on Sunday and a third straight victory to open its Premier League title defence.

After Erling Haaland responded to missing a first-half penalty by breaking the deadlock in the 63rd, it looked like City would be dropping points in a game it dominated when a mistake by captain Kyle Walker gifted Jayden Bogle an unlikely 85th-minute equalizer. Walker made amends by winning the ball back on the right wing and crossing to Phil Foden, whose mis-control went straight to Rodri, and the midfielder made no mistake with a fierce left-foot shot into the top corner. Rodri was the scorer of City's winner in the Champions League final last season and has already scored twice this campaign, having netted at Burnley in the opening round.

City is the only team with a maximum of nine points so far. City, and specifically Haaland, endured a frustrating afternoon at Bramall Lane until the Norway striker's opener, with a physical Sheffield United team defending deep and ruggedly. A 36th-minute penalty — awarded for a handball against John Egan that blocked Julian Alvarez's cut-back — was City's first real chance and Haaland wasted it by dragging it against the post, with goalkeeper Wes Foderingham diving the other way.

The game continued to be one-sided in the second half, with Haaland shooting wide from Walker's cross and then seeing a deft chip clawed away by Foderingham in the 61st. City manager Pep Guardiola — watching the match in Barcelona as he recovers from back surgery — might have been feeling uncomfortable at that stage, but Haaland delivered in the end like he usually does.

Jack Grealish stood up a cross from the left, and Haaland nodded in at the back post, breathing a huge and ostentatious sigh of relief after doing so. A City fan got onto the field and jumped on the back of Haaland after the goal, the striker's third already this campaign after 36 in the league last season. Haaland laughed it off, and the supporter was escorted away. Walker, a former Sheffield United player, made a silly error for the equalizer by deciding to backheel the ball into play in his own area.

# Djokovic vs Alcaraz: New chapter of new rivalry set to unfold in New York

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NEW YORK, AUGUST 27

BASED ON the reactions on social media, it seems everyone in the world of tennis was riveted by Novak Djokovic's victory over Carlos Alcaraz in the final of the last tournament for both ahead of the U.S. Open.

It was a titanic, 3½-hour-plus showdown between the two titans of the men's game at the moment — the third time they've played each other in Djokovic's past three events, each on a different surface — and set the stage for what will be an expected meeting to determine the champion at Flushing Meadows, where play begins Monday and finishes on Sept. 10.

Last weekend's contest at the hard-court Cincinnati Masters, in which Djokovic, who is 36, saved a championship point in the second set and Alcaraz, who is 20, saved four in the third before succumbing 5-7, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (4), also served to symbolize the state of change the sport currently finds itself in, a year removed from Serena Williams' farewell match in New York and Roger Federer's retirement announcement soon thereafter.

Alcaraz is The Next Big Thing, the winner of the 2022 U.S. Open who grabbed his second Grand Slam title last month at Wimbledon by beating — yes, that's right — Djokovic. And Djokovic, the owner of 23 major trophies, is the only member of The Big Three competing nowadays, what with Federer (who has 20) done and Rafael Nadal (22) out since January with a hip problem but eyeing a return for one last hurrah in 2024.

"For so many years, the game has been dominated by legends of the sport, but Father Time is undefeated. Everyone has to kind of go on to their next stage and they have to put the rackets down. We're seeing that unfortunately with Serena, with Roger, with Rafa. There is going to be a bit of a transition period," said Chris Eubanks, a 27-year-old from Atlanta who reached the Wimbledon men's quarterfinals. "It leaves a lot of parity and it leaves a lot of opportunities for other players in the men's and women's games to kind of make a name for themselves." No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek, who is 22, No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, 25, and No. 4 Elena Rybakina, 24, appear poised to stay near the top of the women's game — Swiatek already has won four Slam titles, including the 2022 U.S. Open; the others have one apiece — and No. 6 Coco Gauff, just 19, might be ready to etch her name on one of the four most prestigious trophies in tennis.

"Tennis is evolving and constantly changing, and there is always room for new players, new champions. I think it's great and it's difficult for me to say that there will be a group of young players that will compete like Novak, Roger and Rafa did, or that there will be a female player better than Serena," Swiatek told the AP. "It's (hypothetical), so I would say I'm just excited about the future



Novak Djokovic (L) and Carlos Alcaraz can meet in the final of the US Open. AP

## US OPEN: ORDER OF PLAY

### ARTHUR ASHE STADIUM

- 1-Iga Swiatek (POL) vs Rebecca Peterson (SWE)
- 10-Frances Tiafoe (USA) vs Learner Tien (USA)
- 6-Coco Gauff (USA) vs Laura Siegemund (GER)
- 2-Novak Djokovic (SRB) vs Alexandre Muller (FRA)

### LOUIS ARMSTRONG STADIUM

- 18-Victoria Azarenka vs Fiona Ferro (FRA)
- 19-Beatriz Haddad Maia (BRA) vs Sloane Stephens (USA)
- 9-Taylor Fritz (USA) vs Steve Johnson (USA)
- 7-Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE) vs Milos Raonic (CAN)
- WC-Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) vs Tatiana Prozorova

Live on Sony Sports Network, 8.30pm onwards

and being a part of it." No one definitive heir to Williams or the top male players has been established, but one thing is clear.

"There is a shift," said France's Caroline Garcia, who reached the semifinals in New York a year ago. "There are young players coming, like Alcaraz and Iga." Frances Tiafoe, the 25-year-old American who reached the U.S. Open semifinals in 2022 and recently made his Top 10 debut in the ATP rankings, put it this way: "Game is in a little different place. A little different dynamic. I'm happy to be in this era, for sure." The sport's leaders believe there are players who will step forward.

"For those of you who have long wondered about the future of tennis as we transition out of a golden age where you have had some of the best men and women of all-time competing against each other simultaneously," said Lew Sheer, the CEO and executive director of the U.S. Tennis Association, the national federation that runs the U.S. Open, "we saw 2022 as a year of emerging stars." Perhaps. It's true there were 10 first-time Masters 1000 champions on the men's side over the past three seasons, a group that includes Alcaraz, of course, but also another 20-year-old, Holger Rune, and Jannik Sinner, 22.

"We're starting to see new faces at the Grand Slams and Masters. It's kind of the last step to dethrone players like Djokovic and Nadal — and it's coming," said Felix Auger-Aliassime, a 23-year-old Canadian who was a U.S. Open semifinalist two years ago. "Carlos probably is beginning a bit of a switch of the guard. But Djokovic probably hasn't said his last word." That certainly appeared to be Djokovic's message in Cincinnati, where he ripped off his shirt and roared after finally dispatching Alcaraz.

All in all, it was perfect preparation for Djokovic as he returns to the U.S. Open after being unable to travel to the United States last year because he isn't vaccinated against COVID-19.

Djokovic said Alcaraz reminded him of taking on Nadal in their primes — which was quite some time ago.

"Boy, you never give up, man. Jesus Christ," Djokovic said, drawing a laugh from Alcaraz not long after the Spaniard was crying into a towel.

"I mean, I love that about you, but sometimes I wish that you'd maybe play a few points just like this, you know?" Djokovic continued, waving his right hand without purpose.

**The world today accepts superiority of India's intelligence, wisdom and talent.**

In ancient times, our forefathers developed and passed on to us the knowledge for development of brain and prevention of brain diseases. Working in the interest of humanity, we carried out further scientific researches and created research and evidence based medicines for brain diseases.

Take research and evidence based Patanjali Medha Vati, Memorygrit, Neurogrit and Organic Omega for Insomnia, Stress, Depression, Migraine, Parkinson's, Dementia, Alzheimer's, OCD, Mild Autism, Epilepsy and to improve memory power. These medicines make the brain system healthy by correcting the neurons, snaps and signals of the brain.

For information on latest research visit: [www.patanjali.res.in](http://www.patanjali.res.in)

**All our medicines are available at Patanjali Stores, leading medical, ayurvedic and other stores across India.**  
The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.