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MEASURES TO BOOST CONSUMPTION

Govt targets Rs 1 lakh cr spend by March-end, announces new LTC voucher, festival advance

But experts say demand impetus will be small, need bigger stimulus

SUNNY VERMA & ANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

TO STIMULATE growth in the economy, the government on Monday announced a twin set of measures to boost consumption demand and capital expenditure, which along with participation of the private sector, are estimated to result in quick spending of more than Rs 1 lakh crore by March-end.

Through the Leave Travel Concession (LTC) voucher scheme, which can be availed by private sector employees as well, and a festival advance for government employees, the Finance Ministry has tried to advance consumption of non-essential, relatively high-value goods and services in the economy.

Like in the earlier leg of its relief package in May, the series of announcements made by the Finance Ministry on Monday continued with the basic design of leveraging a degree of stimulus with minimal fiscal cost to the exchequer.

Announcing the package,

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said supply constraints in the economy had eased over recent months, but consumer demand remained affected — and these measures were aimed at advancing consumer spending and capex in a “fiscally prudent way”. Capital expenditure steps are “directly linked to increase in economic output (GDP), given their high multiplier effect”, she said.

Some economists argued that the amounts were too small to have any meaningful impact on economic growth, and that there was no additional spending push from the government itself. In response to a query, Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj said these measures would not require any extra borrowing by the central government.

An additional Rs 25,000 crore is being provided for capital expenditure on roads, defence infrastructure, water supply, urban development, and domestically produced capital equipment. This is expected to come through re-allocation of resources.

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PROJECTED CONSUMPTION/CAPEX BOOST

LTC voucher scheme	28,000
Festival advance scheme	8,000
Centre and state capex	37,000
Est. private sector spend	28,000
TOTAL	1,01,000

Figures in Rs cr



Sitharaman in New Delhi on Monday. Prem Nath Pandey

GST deadlock on, Centre says can enable borrowing for Option 1 states

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE STANDOFF between Opposition-ruled states and the Centre over compensation shortfall in Goods and Services Tax continued at the GST Council meeting Monday with both sides failing to arrive at a consensus on the borrowing options made available.

The Centre stated its intent to facilitate borrowing under Option 1 — Rs 1.1 lakh crore through a special window facilitated by the RBI and Finance Ministry — for the 21 states that agreed to this route while the other states termed the process as illegal.

Stating that borrowing by the Centre will lead to a rise in G-sec yields and borrowing costs for states and the private sector, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that borrowing falls under Article 293 of the Constitution, and it is “a state’s right to decide what they want to do”.

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Bid to put money in hand, then tying it too

P VAIDYANATHAN IYER
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

JUST THREE DAYS ago, a consumer confidence survey by the Reserve Bank of India said discretionary spending was expected to remain low in the near

future even though people expected an improvement not just in economic situation but also in employment conditions and income scenario. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s announcement on measures to boost consumer spending is clearly an acknowledgement that people going out and spending is key to a faster turnaround of the economy.

But then, two things stand out in the announcement: One, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Family members of the Hathras victim arrive at the High Court, in Lucknow on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

Cremation against our wishes, Hathras victim’s family to HC

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 12

THE FAMILY members of the 19-year-old Dalit woman, who died after being assaulted and allegedly gangraped by four upper-caste men in Hathras, told the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Monday that the district administration carried out her cremation “against their wishes”.

“Her family told the court that the cremation was done by the Hathras district administration against their wishes,” said senior advocate Jaideep Narain Mathur, who was appointed *amicus curiae* in the case.

“In his statement, Hathras District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar told the court that

they had inputs about a huge law and order problem the next morning, following which they took the decision to carry out the cremation. The District Magistrate denied having sought any direction from Lucknow or got any guidance from Lucknow in the decision regarding the cremation. He told the court that the decision was taken (by officials) locally, including him,” said Mathur.

A PTI report quoted Seema Kushwaha, counsel for the family members, as saying that they wanted the case to be transferred out of the state. “The family

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JOURNALIST HELD UNDER UAPA: MOVE HC, SAYS SC PAGE 8

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

In pandemic, Centre waved red flag on trafficking, but key states yet to take action

From UP to Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh to Jharkhand, eight states fall short in setting up anti-trafficking units



COVID ABUSE — 2

DIPANKAR GHOSE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THREE MONTHS ago, the Ministry of Home Affairs sent an advisory to all states laying down several markers to combat human trafficking — especially of children from families left in the lurch by the economic distress triggered by the lockdown. The key, it said, was the creation of Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in every district on a “most urgent basis”.

But official records investigated by *The Indian Express* show that eight states, including Covid hotspots UP and Maharashtra, and J&K are yet to put these units in place.

In fact, records show, UP and Maharashtra are among six states in this group that have not reached a basic norm first mapped out ten years ago: set up AHTUs in at least 50 per cent of police districts. UP had only 35 units for 75 districts, and Maharashtra just 12 for 36 districts.

And, except for J&K and Jharkhand, the others on the list

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



SETTING UP AN AHTU

An Anti Human Trafficking Unit includes:

POLICE: 1 Inspector, 2 Sub-Inspectors, 2 Head Constables, 2 Constables

STATE GOVT: When required, 1 representative each from the departments of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, and Labour and Employment, apart from a prosecution member and a counselling expert

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

— UP, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Mizoram and Nagaland — have not set up a single unit since March, when the lockdown was imposed.

This inaction by the states is glaring as cases of child trafficking have surged over this period. On Monday, *The Indian Express* reported that officials manning Childline’s 1098, the national helpline for distress calls, tracked 1.92 lakh interventions by rescuers and law agencies between March and August. In those six months, the helpline logged 27 lakh distress calls.

The Home Ministry’s letter, signed by Deputy Secretary Arun Sobti and dated July 6, warned: “Traffickers often exploit the vulnerabilities of people by making false promises of a new job, better income, better living conditions and support to their families, etc. While such promises of perpetrators appear legitimate to people, unfortunately it makes many men, women and children easy prey for exploitation.”

It also indicated to DGPs and Chief Secretaries that lack of funds can no longer be used as an excuse.

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PART 3: SOURCE TO DESTINATION: WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE



POLLS & PANDEMIC

Volunteers pack Covid-19 kits for poll officers, in Patna Monday. ANI DECISION 2020 PAGE 9

Covid-time demand helps whittle down FCI grain stocks

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

COVID-19 MAY have unleashed all-round economic devastation, but has also turned into an opportunity for whittling down the Food Corporation of India’s (FCI) massive grain mountain.

At 68.49 million tonnes (mt), the total wheat and rice stocks in the Central pool as on October 1 stood way below the record 97.27 mt at the start of June. The gap between the current and year-ago stocks, too, has narrowed down from over 15 mt to 1.5 mt between June 1 and October 1.

Much of this inventory draw-down is the result of the Narendra Modi government’s efforts at disposing of surplus foodgrains — including by distributing these free under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

As against an overall grain offtake of 65.91 mt from public godowns in 2018-19 and 62.19 mt in 2019-20, the Modi government has made an aggregate allocation of 94.72 mt for this fiscal. That includes 55.24 mt under the Targeted Public Distribution System (or TPDS, which entitles beneficiary families to a monthly

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EXPRESS NETWORK

POWER OUTAGE BRINGS MUMBAI TO A STANDSTILL PAGE 7

Top Bollywood producers move HC for curbs on 2 news channels

Named in lawsuit, editors of Republic, Times Now hit back

SOFI AHSAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THIRTY-EIGHT LEADING cinema associations and production houses, including Karan Johar’s Dharma Productions, Ajay Devgn Films, and those owned by Salman Khan, Aamir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, on

AMID TALKS with the Chinese to resolve the military standoff along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Monday that China and Pakistan have been creating border disputes “under a mission”.

Inaugurating 44 bridges built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in seven border states and Union Territories, and signalling the start of work on the Nechipu tunnel on the road to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, Singh said, “You are aware of the situation on our eastern and northern borders. It appears as if border disputes are being created under a



Singh at the inauguration of the bridges on Monday. ANI

mission, first by Pakistan and now even China.”

“The two countries share 7,000 km of border with us and often in some sector or the other, there is tension. Despite such problems, the nation, under the able and visionary leadership of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Top Bollywood producers move HC for curbs on 2 news channels

Named in lawsuit, editors of Republic, Times Now hit back

Monday moved the Delhi High Court against Republic TV and Times Now and their senior editors, seeking “perpetual and permanent” injunction against them from making or publishing “irresponsible, derogatory and defamatory remarks” against the film industry and those part of it.

The civil suit, filed via DSK Legal, is against Republic TV, its

Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and Consulting Editor Pradeep Bhandari; and, Times Now, its Editor-in-Chief Rahul Shivshankar, and Times Network Group Editor, Navika Kumar. Social media platforms have also been added as parties to the case.

The petitioners have sought the court’s intervention to ensure

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EXPLAINED



SIMPLY PUT THE ECONOMICS OF AUCTIONS PAGE 13

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

THE HATHRAS ‘CONSPIRACY’

BY ALOK RAI PAGE 10

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

GARGI VERMA
BASTAR, OCTOBER 12

LESS THAN 4 km from the roadside memorial to the victims of the 2013 Maoist attack in Chhattisgarh’s Jhiram Ghati lies a giant *sal*, its full 150 feet sprawled on the forest floor. Off the road that winds through the jungle, several small and big trees bear signs of recent hacking. On October 5, at least 108 trees in this forest were felled to build the chariot that is traditionally used during the Dussehra festivities in Bastar, local people said.

Trees in the area around Jhiram Ghati were cut for this

year’s celebrations because the village custodians of another patch of forest some 5 km away as the crow flies, which has supplied the chariot’s timber for the past 20 years, decided to no longer allow the practice.

On September 1, the gram sabha of Kakalgud resolved they would not give any more trees from the forest around their village.

“The 1,000-odd acres of jungle around our village is called Gadiya Malaang. The name was given by our forefathers because it was full of *sal* trees,” said Rambati, a former sarpanch of Kakalgud — “*gadh* (home or bastion in the local

language) *tha unka*”.

For years, trees from the forest were cut for the Dussehra chariot of Jagdalpur, Rambati said. Another villager, Ramuram (30), said, “We applied for community forest rights in 2017, but we never heard back from the government. But we do know that we can take decisions about our part of the forest. We will not let any trees be cut.”

Sadhu (28) said the villagers had submitted a letter to the collector of the district. They had tried “everything”, he said, but all they got from government officials was talk about “right and wrong, tradition and disrespect”. Bhagwan, one of the village



Residents of Kakalgud in Bastar have resolved not to let any of the trees around their village be cut. Gargi Verma

elders locally referred to as ‘*siyaan*’, described how the tree-felling tradition came to be. “The royal house (of Bastar) assigned each village specific tasks for Dussehra. For the cutting of trees, seven villages were identified, from where people would gather at Gadiya Malaang, and the trees would be cut. The tradition continued even after the royals were no longer there, as a form of respect to the king.”

However, “respect should not become a cause for destruction”, Bhagwan said. “The village has unanimously decided to not give the trees. We are not disrespecting tradition, and are still giving rope, which too was assigned to

us long ago.” In the face of the villagers’ decision, the Dussehra committee of Bastar decided to respect the boundaries of the village, and cut trees from a different part of the forest — around Jhiram Ghati. There, villagers of Kakalgud pointed to at least 10 smaller, leaner trunks of *sal* lying abandoned by the road. “The smaller tree trunks are not even counted, so many of them are used as just levers (to pull down and roll bigger trees),” Sadhu said.

The huge 150-foot *sal* was not taken away apparently because the trunk’s core was found to be hollow. But Kakalgud’s villagers

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VIDEO OF THE DAY



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Delhi continues to witness 'poor' air quality

FULL COVERAGE



REOPENING CINEMAS: STATE-WISE STATUS

A look at states where theatres will reopen from October 15

EXPRESS AUDIO

The impact of shifting a major metro rail project in Mumbai

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode we look at the Maharashtra government's decision to move a metro rail project from a green lung of the city to a dried salt pan

FROM PAGE ONE

Govt target

Special assistance will be provided to states in the form of interest-free 50-year loans of Rs 12,000 crore, which can be used only for capex purposes, with certain conditions.

"It (the package) will help a little bit on the demand side, but amounts are very small... There will be some demand impetus, but how much it will be, I don't know. It will be very small I guess... Also the Rs 12,000 crore, when divided among all the states, comes to nothing," Prabh Sen, former Chief Statistician of India, said.

"This is really not the stimulus that is required. Now we need a much stronger stimulus. This involves virtually no additional expenditure for the central government. After all, somebody has to make the additional expenditure," Sen said.

Sitharaman argued steps were being taken keeping in mind that these "must not burden the common citizen with future inflation", and "must not put government debt on an unsustainable path".

Central government employees will be provided tax benefits on LTC component without having to actually travel. The employees would be required to spend three times the LTC fare component to purchase items that attract 12% or more Goods and Services Tax (GST). What this effectively means is that if you forego component of LTC is Rs 40,000, you need to spend Rs 1.2 lakh on goods that fall in the 12% or more GST slab in order to save tax on Rs 40,000.

As for the leave encashment component of LTC, the employee will have to spend an equivalent amount towards purchase of goods that attract GST of 12% or more.

Through the LTC consumption boost plan, the government expects a demand generation of Rs 28,000 crore in the economy. While it expects additional demand creation of around Rs 19,000 crore on account of demand from central government employees, another Rs 9,000 crore is estimated from state government employees. Private sector employees can also avail of this scheme.

"The AtmaNirbhar package that was announced earlier addressed the requirement of essential goods for needy sections of the society. Now these measures aim at promoting consumption of high-value items by those employees whose salaries and jobs have not been affected by Covid-19 pandemic," a senior Finance Ministry official said.

Since most employees have not been able to travel after the start of pandemic, the shifting of the LTC benefit is expected to generate demand elsewhere, although it may impact the travel and tourism industry — where demand has already been severely dented — negatively.

Under the festival advance scheme, all central government employees will get interest-free advance of Rs 10,000 that will be recovered in 10 instalments. It will be given in the form of a pre-loaded RuPay card of the advance value. The government expects to disburse Rs 4,000 crore under the scheme by March 31.

According to the Finance Ministry, if all states provide similar advances, another Rs 8,000 crore is likely to be disbursed.

Money in hand

much of it (the consumer spending part) is front-loading of expenditure, or in other words, re-purposing of government spending, and the size of the overall package is nothing much to talk home about (compared with the Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Yojana and the AtmaNirbhar Bharat package); and, two, by specifying how and where to spend, the Finance Ministry just doused any excitement among the 35 lakh-odd Central government employees, and almost ensured an sub-optimum outcome in terms of its impact on growth.

The headline numbers looked good: total Rs 73,000 crore demand infusion, of which Rs 36,000 crore is additional demand from consumer spending, and the balance Rs 37,000 crore is additional Central and state capital expenditure. But in terms of additional fiscal spending, it is just 0.2 per cent of GDP.

It is also interesting how the government chose to package a largesse to its own employees during times of Covid-induced fiscal and economic stress. While announcing the measures, the Finance Minister said, "The (government employees) need to be incentivized to contribute to the revival of demand for the benefit of the less fortunate."

But will the 35 lakh-odd government employees spend the money given the many restrictions the ministry has proposed?

Allowing payment of cash in lieu of Leave Travel Concession (LTC) entitlement for the 2018-21 block (air or rail fare plus leave encashment for 10 days), the Finance Ministry said employees must buy goods and services worth three times the fare (air or rail depending on their slabs) and as much as the leave encashment. They must do it before March 31 next year, and further they must spend only in goods attracting GST of 12 per cent or more from a GST-registered vendor through digital mode. They will also have to produce the GST invoice for the goods or services purchased.

The strategic intent seems to be direct spending towards items for which demand had slumped during the period of lockdown. But this may defeat the larger purpose of reviving demand. "The choice or decision of how to spend and where to spend is best left in the hands of the consumer... This is not really a cash transfer, it's their entitlement that is being paid in advance. True, the government is being sensitive to the conditions that during the pandemic, people may not travel, but by specifying conditions, it may end up holding them back from spending," said a senior government official, who did not wish to be named.

The capital expenditure for the Centre and states will certainly help, given the multiplier effect of spending in infrastructure projects, and its impact over the longer-term. "But this is too small to make any meaningful difference. The economy contracted 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter this financial year, and the RBI has estimated GDP for 2020-

Centre waved red flag on trafficking

"An amount of Rs 25.16 crore was released to states from 2010 to 2019 for setting up AHTUs in 332 districts. Recently, a decision was taken to establish AHTUs in all districts of states and UTs and also establish AHTUs under the border guarding forces such as BSF and SSB in border areas to check and curb transnational trafficking. Rs 100 crore were allocated from the Nirbhaya Fund for setting up new AHTUs and for strengthening existing AHTUs, covering all districts of states/UTs," the letter said.

AHTUs were initiated in 2006, to be set up by the states with funds from the Centre. Each unit typically comprises seven to 12 trained personnel from the police and state administration, and is usually headed by a police officer.

The Home Ministry's letter followed directions from the Supreme Court to frame guidelines after the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), founded by Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi, filed a writ petition on April 29 flagging the crisis.

The petition warned: "Once the lockdown is lifted and normal manufacturing activity resumes, factory owners will look to cover their financial losses by employing cheap labour, the easiest of which is children. Numbers of street children pushed into begging will also spike... Underage girls will be bought and sold into prostitution."

In its letter to states, the Home Ministry wrote: "States/UTs are advised to immediately set up new AHTUs and upgrade the infrastructure

of existing AHTUs in all districts of their state with the financial assistance provided by the Central government and make these units functional on a 'most urgent basis'."

And yet, these administrations have failed to get their act together:

Uttar Pradesh DISTRICTS: 75. AHTUS: 35 UNITS SINCE MARCH: 0

DGP Hitesh Chandra Awasthy said there were "just 16-17 units seven-eight years ago". "These units require vehicles, infrastructure and workforce, and everything cannot be obtained in one go, so we have been developing in phases. The scheme is Centre-funded, and we will keep increasing the numbers based on resources provided. To cover more areas, units are sometimes given charge of more than one district, and the areas left over are covered by the local police," he said.

Recently, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (IC-SSR) selected six districts — Bahraich, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shravasti, Gonda, Maharajganj and Pilibhit — to launch the initial phase of a study on human trafficking, child labour and child marriage.

Maharashtra DISTRICTS: 36. AHTUS: 12 UNITS SINCE MARCH: 0

Officials said the state plans to have 47 AHTUs in place that will cover commissionerates in cities as well as the 36 districts. "We sent a proposal to set up six more AHTUs four months

ago. Another proposal was sent two weeks ago to set up 29 more units after the central government released funds of Rs 4.62 crore," said Pratap Dighavkar, special IG (Prevention of Atrocities Against Women), the nodal authority.

Chhattisgarh DISTRICTS: 29. AHTUS: 8 UNITS SINCE MARCH: 0

Senior police officers said work is still on to set up three more units sanctioned in 2018-19. In June 2020, the central government issued Rs 3.6 crore for setting up of 16 more units. "Setting up a new unit depends on the central government budget allocation. We didn't have money to set up more than eight from 2010-2013. The state's own anti-human trafficking unit has been working to stop trafficking," said RK Vij, Additional DG.

Jharkhand DISTRICTS: 24. AHTU: 12 SINCE MARCH: 4

Since the lockdown came into force, units were set up in Sahibganj, Giridih, Latehar and Godda. "We have submitted applications for AHTUs in the other 12 districts as well. Since the funds have only been released now, we will work on setting them up," said Anil Palta, ADG (CID).

Haryana DISTRICTS: 22. AHTUS: 7 UNITS SINCE MARCH: 0

"Recently, we got approval from the state government to set up 15 more AHTUs to cover every district. They will be set

up soon," said a senior police officer.

Jammu & Kashmir DISTRICTS: 20. AHTUS: 8 UNITS SINCE MARCH: 1

Seven AHTUs are operational currently with a new unit set up in Ganderbal in August, officials said.

Uttarakhand DISTRICTS: 13. AHTUS: 7 UNITS SINCE MARCH: 0

DG (law and order) Ashok Kumar said that a proposal has been to the government to set up AHTUs in the remaining six districts. The last AHTUs were set up in 2015 in Dehradun, Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi.

Nagaland DISTRICTS: 12. AHTUS: 6 UNITS SINCE MARCH: 0

A senior official said that the state has got approval for upgrading the existing six AHTUs and creation of five new units. "Each AHTU is headed by the Additional SP of the district, and there are 15 police personnel, including five women police officers," the official said.

Mizoram DISTRICTS: 11. AHTUS: 4 UNITS SINCE MARCH: 0

A senior police officer said that steps are being taken to establish units in all districts after the state received more central funds recently.

(WITH AVANEESH MISHRA, SADAF MODAK, GARGI VERMA, VARINDER BHATIA, LALMANI VERMA, NAVEED IQBAL & ABHISHEK SAHA)

21 will contract 9.5 per cent. Only big fiscal intervention by the government in the infrastructure space or direct support to those who lost jobs during the pandemic can be meaningful," another policy expert who advises the government said.

GST deadlock

"No consensus has been arrived on options presented to states in meeting the GST compensation shortfall... While concluding, I said that while I respect there is no unanimity, I asked the Council whether members can stop other members from doing what they want to do. Can the Council stop a member from wanting to borrow and say the cess will repay that borrowing?" Sitharaman said.

"We are open to anyone who wants us to facilitate any loan... a lot of people have already said about Option 1, today also they said we are approaching tomorrow morning, so we are ready to deal with it," she said.

The Opposition-ruled states objected to the process, with Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac saying that the announcement that 21 states will be allowed to choose Option 1 is "illegal". "Option one involves deferral of compensation payment beyond 5 years for which a Council decision is necessary as per AG's opinion. No such decision has been made in the Council," Isaac posted on Twitter.

"It is unfortunate that Union FM does not propose a decision in the Council or even make a statement (about) what she is going to do but chooses to make the announcement in the press conference. Why does the Centre refuse to take a decision in Council? Total disregard for democratic norms," he wrote.

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal said that 10 opposing states asked for a dispute resolution mechanism and formation of a Group of

Ministers on the issue, but there was no agreement at the meeting.

Sitharaman said there are differences but they cannot be termed as a dispute. "There wasn't any battle there. The GST Council is a very respected federal institution. A lot of discussions happen, definitely there can be differences. But where unanimity is not there, that doesn't mean there is going to be a dispute... I have also said whoever wants to talk, please talk," she said.

The reluctance to term the compensation issue as a dispute stems from the concern that states may use it as a stepping stone for activating the dispute resolution mechanism and a further legal challenge, a senior state government official said.

Rajnath

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is not just dealing with these challenges with great determination, but also bringing about crucial changes in all sectors," he said.

The bridges in J&K (10), Ladakh (8), Himachal Pradesh (2), Punjab (4), Uttarakhand (8), Arunachal Pradesh (8) and Sikkim (4) were dedicated to the nation by Singh at a virtual conference.

He said these bridges will help in the movement of ration and military equipment for security forces posted in remote border areas even during winter when heavy snowfall often cuts off supply lines. He said the bridges will also ease the life of civilians living in remote border areas.

"These roads are not only for strategic needs, but they also reflect equal participation of all stakeholders in the development of the nation," Singh said.

He complimented the BRO for working tirelessly even during the pandemic.

Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. The BRO continued its work while ensuring that snow clearance is not delayed at remote locations," he said.

"I am happy to know that over 2200 km of roads have been cut by the BRO during the last two years, using the latest technologies, and state-of-the-art equipment. Also, surfacing was carried out on about 4200 km of roads," he said.

Amid the border standoff with China, India is expediting work on several key projects, including a strategic road linking Darchin in Himachal Pradesh with Ladakh that will criss-cross a number of high-altitude snow-bound passes. The nearly 290-km-long road will be crucial for the movement of troops and heavy weaponry into the frontier bases of the Ladakh region, and will provide a crucial link to the Kargil region.

Singh also laid the foundation stone of the strategically important Nechiphu tunnel on the road to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. This 450 metre, two-lane tunnel will ensure all-weather connectivity, besides providing safe and secure passage through accident-prone areas.

Bastar's tribals

believe it was strong and had many years to live.

"Sal grows slowly, and this tree had grown for decades. We worship these trees, and to see them destroyed is painful," Ramuram said. Sukaru, one of the younger, college-going villagers, said, his voice rising in agitation: "They cut the trees and leave them to rot or shrink if they are not to their liking. They damage tree barks, uproot small, lean trees, and leave them by the road. Why should we allow our jungles to suffer in this way?"

Tribal activist Arjun Nag explained the deep emotional connect that tribal people feel with

the forest: "They have co-existed for so long, otherwise we wouldn't have the jungles in the first place. The *adivasi* takes only what he needs, and ensures that it is given back to the jungle. The committee has been cutting trees around Kakalgud for years, but has not planted a single tree yet."

On October 5, when the tree-cutters came in their 23 trucks, the villagers of Kakalgud were out on the road. Local officials had assured them that their forest would not be touched, and that trees would be taken from elsewhere — but the villagers were still fearful.

"We decided to follow the vehicles. For more than eight hours, every man, woman, and child stood on the road, covering our forest, waiting to see how many trees they would carry away this time," Rambati said. In the end, they counted the trunks of more than a hundred trees.

At Jagdalpur, more than 50 men from two villages in Bakawand block were labouring on the Dussehra chariot. One of them, Baldev Bhagat of Jharumar in Bastar, said: "This year we have been brought to work four days late, because the trees were cut late. We are working day and night on a strict deadline."

Bhagat has another concern. "Traditionally, we are not paid for this work. We are fed and given a place to sleep, and at the end, the entire village might get a goat or a few hundred rupees. But I need money for my children's school fees. Why can't we be compensated for being part of this big tradition?" he asked.

Nag, who has been working with Bastar's tribals for many years, said: "As part of the tradition, villagers were assigned tasks, and at the end of the festivities, the king held court with the *siyaams* and *manjhis*, the village elders, at the *Mudiyi Darbar*. The celebration and the *Darbar* are still there, but the villagers, who are expected to keep doing their duty,

have to pay an entry fee."

Deepak Baij, the Congress Lok Sabha MP from Bastar, who is part of the Dussehra committee, claimed that only 50-60 trees were cut. "Every year we cut only the minimum number of trees that are needed. Not more than 50-60 trees have been cut," Baij said. The festivities too, would be low-key due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, he said.

Madhu Ramnath, a botanist and activist who has worked for years in the Gadiya Malaang forest, said: "Due to the annual cutting of trees, the biodiversity and native fauna of this jungle has been severely impacted. It was important for the village to understand the damage and stand up against it."

FCI grain stocks

per-person ration of 5 kg wheat or rice at Rs 2-3/kg) and 5.24 mt under the Mid Day Meals, Integrated Child Development Services and other regular welfare schemes.

But over and above these have been the 32.11 mt earmarked under PMGKAY, 0.8 mt for migrant labourers returning to their home states and 1.33 mt of additional Covid-related allocations. The 5 kg extra grain per month to 80 crore persons under PMGKAY (during April-November) and 8 crore returning migrant labourers (for May-June) are being given free of cost.

The Food Ministry's latest data shows actual offtake under TPDS at 25.14 mt during April-September. In the case of PMGKAY, the migrants' and Covid-related schemes, the lifting figures were 20.68 mt, 0.64 mt and 0.97 mt, respectively till August-end.

But in spite of all these special schemes, the current stock of 68.49 mt in the Central pool is still 2.2 times the required buffer of 30.77 mt for October 1. The 68.49 mt comprised 43.74 mt wheat and 19.26 mt rice. In addition, the FCI and state government agencies held 8.19 mt of un-milled paddy, whose rice equivalent, at an outturn ratio of 67 per cent, worked out to 5.49 mt. Outturn is the share of rice extracted from paddy grains after removal of the outer husk and inner bran layers.

Seeking direction to restrain the two channels from conducting "media trials of Bollywood personalities" and interfering with their right to privacy, the suit states it has been filed in the wake of the channels using "highly derogatory words and expressions" for the industry.

The channels, it stated, are conducting and publishing "parallel private investigations" and effectively acting as courts to condemn persons associated with Bollywood as guilty.

"Bollywood is unique and stands on a different footing from any other industry in as much as it is an industry that is dependent almost solely on goodwill, appreciation and acceptance of its audience. The livelihood of persons associated with Bollywood is being severely impacted by the smear campaign being run by the Defendants," the suit contended.

It also stated that the pandemic has resulted in extreme revenue loss and work opportunity loss for people associated with Bollywood. "The privacy of the members of Bollywood is being invaded, and their reputations are being irreparably damaged by painting the entire Bollywood as criminals, seeped in drug culture, and making being part of Bollywood as synonymous with criminal acts in the public imagination," the lawsuit stated.

Responding to this, Arnab Goswami, on a show on the Republic, said: "Our pursuit of the truth will only become stronger, more intense, and more focused."

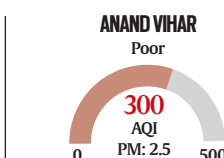
Rahul Shivshankar, in a Twitter post, said the case was a "bad precedent" and will not "weaken the resolve" of Times Now. Navika Kumar, tagging actors Aamir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan and producer Karan Johar in her tweet, said, "If fighting for justice invites court cases, bring it on."

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

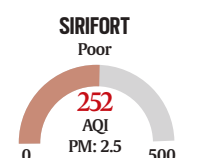
EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY			
TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No. Com/Lease/VP/Proposal/DNR/201/Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of The President of India invites quotation, for temporary leasing space of 24 tonnes at LVPH on round trip basis on payment of lumpsum freight for loading of parcels in train no. 02393/02394 for a period of 30 days.			
S.N.	Train No.	From-To-From	Reserve Price per round trip (in ₹)
1.	02393/02394	RJPB-NDS-RJPB	1,51,460/-
2.	Date, time and place for dropping of quotation documents in quotation box	21.10.2020 11.00-14.00 hrs	Dropping and Open at the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager's office Danapur
3.	Date and time of opening of quotation	21.10.2020 14.30 hrs.	
PR/0748/DNR/Comm/T/20-21/40 Divisional Railway Manager (C)/ECCR/Danapur			



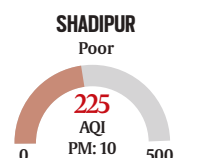
0-50 Good



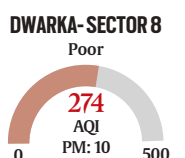
51-100 Satisfactory



101-200 Moderate



201-300 Poor



301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

CBI prosecutor accuses top official of assault, court issues summons

Tells court: Punched, strangled by DIG-rank officer at CBI headquarters, allegedly over delay in framing of charges against ex-principal secy to CM

ANAND MOHAN J & SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

A CBI prosecutor has told a Delhi court he was "punched and strangled" by a DIG-rank officer of the investigative agency inside the CBI headquarters, allegedly over a delay in framing of charges against Rajendra Kumar, former Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Kumar is facing trial in a corruption case.

The CBI prosecutor, Sunil Kumar Verma, accused DIG Raghavendra Vats of assaulting him inside his office on October 9 when he visited at 10.30 am.

Verma filed a police complaint at Lodhi Road police station. The court has issued summons to Vats, observing that it

was a serious matter, and asked the DIG to explain his alleged conduct.

"On October 9, following orders of my seniors, I reached the CBI headquarters around 10.30 am. I met DLA... there, and following his instruction, went to meet the branch head Raghavendra Vats in his room. As soon as I reached, he punched me on the face after enquiring who I was. Then he asked me to sit down and have a chat. I didn't, and walked straight out of his room. I started shouting that I have been assaulted and I came straight to you (police). I want you to take appropriate action," Verma's complaint reads.

A senior police officer said, "We have received a complaint and are conducting an enquiry before taking legal action."

On Monday, Verma ap-

peared before Special Judge Rakesh Kumar Sharma through video conferencing and made the allegations.

Advocate Rahul Tyagi, counsel for Rajendra Kumar, told the court, "Let the DIG be called on the next date of hearing... how can he beat the PP? I have never heard this in my entire career. What is happening in this place we don't know."

Special Judge Sharma ordered, "It is submitted by the learned PP that he was called by DIG for discussing the present matter... where he was beaten up by Vats, who also tried to strangle him. It is submitted by him that the DIG asked him why charges have not been framed in the present matter so far and also sought to initiate departmental enquiry against him if charges are not framed on the

next date of hearing. This is a very serious matter. The DIG shall appear on the next date of hearing and explain his conduct." The next date of hearing is on October 19.

Rajendra Kumar, a 1989-batch IAS officer has been booked by the CBI for alleged criminal conspiracy under Indian Penal Code besides provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act along with eight others and Endeavour Systems Private Limited. It has been alleged by CBI in the FIR that the accused persons entered into a criminal conspiracy and caused a loss of Rs 12 crore to the Delhi government in award of contracts between 2007 and 2015.

The CBI spokesperson, when asked about the allegations against Vats, said, "A fact-finding enquiry has been ordered by the CBI."

KEJRIWAL SAYS INDUSTRY BODIES WILL BE 'CUSTOMERS'

Delhi govt's new univ has key aim: Graduates must get jobs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

DELHI GOVERNMENT'S new Skill and Entrepreneurship University will make courses in consultation with industry bodies to make sure that those who graduate from the institution are employable, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday.

Calling industry bodies its "customers", Kejriwal said those designing courses will ask companies if students who learn this will get jobs. "Job providers will be this university's customers. The courses will be designed after discussion with companies. We will ask, 'If we teach this, will you give jobs?' If they say no, the course is not right. Courses should be such that companies are ready to hire graduates," he said.

The government has appointed Dr. Neharika Vohra, chairperson of the Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) at IIM Ahmedabad, as vice-chancellor.

The university is expected to start admitting students from the coming academic session.

Board members include Dr. Pramath Raj Sinha, founding dean of the Indian School of Business



Kejriwal at a meeting of the Skill and Entrepreneurship University with Sisodia and other officials; (right) Dr. Neharika Vohra, chairperson of the Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship at IIM-A, is the V-C.



and Founder of the Ashoka University; Genpact founder Pramod Bhasin; Naukri.com founder Sanjeev Bikhchandani; entrepreneur Shrikant Sastri; IP University founder Vice-Chancellor K K Aggarwal; and Professor G. Srinivasan, who teaches in the Department of Management Studies at IIT-Madras and whose key research has been in operational research and supply chain management.

Kejriwal said that during the lockdown, a lot of industries shut and people were rendered jobless.

"Once lockdown lifted, we met people who didn't have jobs,

and we met business owners who didn't have employees. We made them meet through our job portal. Lakhs of people got jobs. The same concept applies here. Many youngsters don't have jobs. Industry owners say they don't have skilled/trained labour. If we can impart skill, industries will hire students. There are many sectors in which new businesses and services can be started. If we train students in entrepreneurship, many people will get jobs," he said.

The last university that the Delhi government started, which was not upgraded from an existing institution, was Ambedkar

University. Kejriwal said the university will have one ideology — those graduating from here should get jobs and those who want to start business should be able to start it. "Our first evaluation will be after the first batch graduates and the measure will be how many of them got jobs," he said.

The Chief Minister said that over the past few years, models such as mohalla clinics and doorstep delivery of services had become a model for other states. "I am sure this university will also become a model and similar universities will come up across the country," he said.

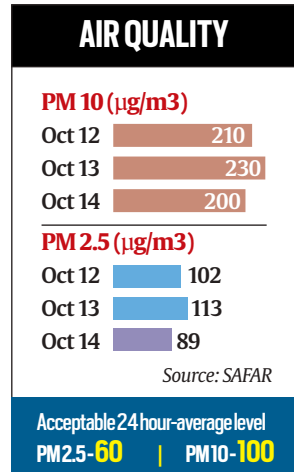
Eye on hotspots, Rai says all individuals, agencies must follow dust-control norms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE DELHI government said Monday that it has started "micro monitoring" all 13 air pollution hotspots across the capital, directing deputy commissioners of municipal corporations to coordinate clean air efforts in these areas.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai met all nine deputy commissioners and asked them to meet government agencies concerned by October 13. Six out of the 13 hotspots come under South Corporation, five under the North body while two fall under the jurisdiction of the East corporation. "Every government agency should stay in touch with these DCs for any work in these hotspots. We will also monitor these spots from the green war room," Rai told a press conference.

The Central Pollution Control Board and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee had identified the hotspots — Rohini, Dwarka, Okhla Phase-2, Punjabi Bagh, Anand Vihar, Vivek Vihar, Wazirpur,



Jahangirpuri, R K Puram, Bawana, Mundka, Narela and Mayapuri — and specific action plans for them were drawn up in 2019 by the EPCA.

Rai reiterated that every agency under the Delhi government, Centre as well as individuals should follow the anti-dust pollution directives at construction sites. "Firstly, 10 metre thick tin sheds should be installed in all construction sites to contain dust. These shades should be

covered with green sheets. The agencies should sprinkle water at the area and outside the area too. For areas more than 20,000 square metres, anti-smog guns should be installed. Smaller sites should sprinkle water regularly. Construction sites and adjacent areas should be covered with a net. Lastly, vehicles carrying construction material should also be covered and wheels of these trucks should be washed regularly," Rai said.

Every year, fines running into crores are imposed by DPCC and civic bodies on agencies flouting dust pollution norms. In 2019, by the first week of November, fines over Rs 2 crore were imposed.

He said, "Today, I want to request all government agencies and individuals to follow these five norms. Maintaining these norms is not expensive; if everyone follows these norms, it will help every citizen in the time of Covid to fight toxic air. But if anyone does not follow these directives of the Delhi government, we will take stringent action against such agencies and individuals. I have witnessed agencies are only

putting covers at the sites when they are getting the news that the Delhi government teams will be visiting. This is not the right attitude. This is a collective responsibility of every citizen."

He added that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will launch the spraying of the bio-decomposer to prevent stubble burning at Outer Delhi's Narela's Hiranki Village Tuesday. "Initially, we had decided to start spraying work at Najafgarh but due to water in the farmland that will not be possible," Rai said.

According to the Centre's System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research, impact of stubble burning on PM 2.5 concentration in Delhi on Monday was 3%. Impact is likely to be negligible in the coming two days as well, it said.

In 2016, an IIT-Kanpur study had estimated the total PM10 emission load in the city at 143 tonnes per day and listed the top contributor as road dust (56%) and the PM2.5 load at 59 t/d, the top contributors being road dust (38%) and vehicles (20%), followed by domestic fuel burning and industrial point sources.

Lok Nayak a Covid facility, MAMC docs say 'training, clinical services at a halt'

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE RESIDENT Doctors' Association of Maulana Azad Medical College and associated hospitals has written a letter to the dean of the medical college raising concern over disruption in clinical activities with the hospital being converted into a Covid-only facility.

In the letter, a copy of which is marked to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the association has highlighted how medical students have not been able to complete their training for clinical activities, which in turn is hampering their academic skills.

"The decision of the Delhi government to designate Lok Nayak Hospital exclusively for Covid-19 patients was a proud moment for all of us. However, this has led to halt of other clinical activities and is seriously hampering the academics and skills of the residents on the whole. Standstill of clinical activities is just not academic loss, but also putting a dent on hopes and dreams of medical students studying in MAMC," the letter states.

Observing an uptick in the number of daily Covid cases, the Delhi government had in April converted its biggest hospital, Lok Nayak, into a Covid-only hospital with 2,000 beds.

Since then, general OPD services at the hospital have been stalled and elective surgeries have been put on hold for an in-

In a letter, a copy of which is marked to CM Kejriwal, the RDA highlighted how medical students have been unable to complete training for clinical activities, which in turn is hampering academic skills

definite period.

Dr. Keshave Singh, president of MAMC RDA, said, "While we are extremely happy to play such a crucial role in the country's fight against the pandemic, we cannot ignore the importance of medical education. We have not been able to use our academic knowledge in practical life. It's been six months and I have not performed a single orthopaedic surgery. Once we complete our medical education, we will be straight out on the field and directly dealing with patients. With no focus on clinical activities, it can affect our career as well as the lives of patients."

Doctors have requested top authorities to take immediate steps to reinstate clinical education for medical students. While the medical college is responsible for providing academic support to students, practical implementation is carried out at associated hospitals such as Lok Nayak, GB Pant and Guru Nanak Eye Centre.



Staff at Hindu Rao Hospital have been protesting over delay in salary by over three months. Praveen Khanna

Hand over hospitals if unable to pay staff, govt tells MCDs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

OFFICIALS AT Delhi government's Urban Development department have written to the three MCDs to "consider" handing over their hospitals to the Delhi government if they are unable to pay their staff and to avoid "further anguish to medical, para medical and other staff."

Delhi government and civic bodies have been at loggerheads over the past few months over non-payment of salaries to employees. Staff members at Hindu Rao Hospital, meanwhile, have been protesting to get their pending salaries. While MCDs allege the government has not paid them what they owe, the government denied the charge and said it has already given to the corporations what is owed to them.

The letter, written by the Additional Director (Local bodies), Urban Development department, addressed to the MCD commissioners said, "Serious concerns

have been raised regarding non-payment of salaries/wages/other dues to medical, para medical and other staff working in Hindu Rao Hospital, Kasturba Hospital and other hospitals of DMCs. It has been mentioned that inability to pay salaries and other dues in time has led to a situation where proper treatment to Covid patients is not being given and Covid patients are forced to shift from Hindu Rao Hospital to Lok Nayak Hospital of GNCTD for continuum of medical care."

The additional director also wrote that two instalments of Basic Tax Assignment have already been released to the MCDs, and since the corporations have their own source of revenue, they should ensure sufficient provisioning of funds to pay salaries.

North MCD Mayor, Jai Prakash, however, said the government wants to create an atmosphere of anarchy in Delhi by not giving funds so that they can take advantage of it in the upcoming corporation elections. The claim was refuted by the government.

EXPRESS Careers

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SHIBPUR
भारतीय अभियांत्रिकी विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, शिवपुर
ভারতীয় প্রকৌশল বিজ্ঞান এবং প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যা প্রতিষ্ঠান, শিবপুর
(An Institute of National Importance under MHRD, Govt. of India)

Walk-in Interview for Temporary Faculty positions
Advt. No. RO/OC/20/61 Date: 12.10.2020
Applications are invited for the walk-in Interview (in online mode) for the Temporary Faculty positions of Department of Mining Engineering and School of Management Sciences. For eligibility criteria, specializations and other details please visit www.iiests.ac.in
Registrar

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, PTI Building, 4-Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

F.No. NHIDCL/2(7)/Rect Tech & Fin/2020/HR

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has been set up by the Government of India as a Corporation under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to fast pace construction/ up-gradation/ widening of National Highways in the North-Eastern Region and areas that share International boundaries with neighbouring countries.

Applications are invited from dynamic, effective and experienced eligible retired Officers from Central Government Ministries/ Departments, Army, Navy, Airforce, BRO (GREF), Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings on Engagement on Contract basis on the Terms & Conditions indicated below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts & Place of Postings	No. of Vacancy*	Pay Matrix Level in CDA Pattern
1.	Executive Director (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	02	Pay Matrix Level-14 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400 - 67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.10,000/-]
2.	General Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-13 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400 - 67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.8,700/-]
3.	Deputy General Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/-] plus Grade Pay Rs.7,600/-]
4.	Manager (T/P) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	20	Pay Matrix Level-11 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised Pay Band-3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/- plus Grade Pay Rs.6,600/-]
5.	General Manager (Land Acquisition & Coordination) [For NHIDCL HQrs]	01	Pay Matrix Level-13 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 4 of Rs.37,400 - 67,000/- plus Grade Pay Rs.8,700/-]
6.	Deputy General Manager (Fin.) [Regional Offices of NHIDCL located in North Eastern States, A&N Islands etc.]	06	Pay Matrix Level-12 of 7th CPC [Pre-revised PB - 3 of Rs.15,600 - 39,100/- plus Grade Pay Rs.7,600/-]

* The number of vacancies in the Posts may vary, depending upon the requirement. Further, NHIDCL reserves the right to prepare Panels (one for Roads Sector and another for Infrastructure Sector) of selected Candidates for filling up the indicated and future vacancies that may arise in NHIDCL. Panel would be valid for a period of 12 months, unless further extended.

Last date for submission of Application: 02.11.2020 (Monday) up to 18.00 hrs.
For detailed Terms and Conditions please visit - www.nhidcl.com

NOTE 1: Officers presently serving in the Central Government Ministries/ Departments, Army, Navy, Airforce, Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government Departments and State Government Public Undertakings and satisfying the prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply for the post on Deputation basis in the prescribed proforma along with copy of APARs for last five years, No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Vigilance Clearance (VC).

NOTE 2: Any change or amendment to this Vacancy Circular will be posted on the NHIDCL Website only.

NOTE 3: Incomplete applications or those received after the prescribed date shall be summarily rejected.

Dy. General Manager (HR)

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

TOTAL CASES	Total		Vacant	
	HOSPITAL BEDS	16,123	10,939	
3,11,188	VENTILATORS	1,353	608	
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Oct 11	2,780	3,057	29	48,753
Oct 12	1,849	2,975	40	35,947
Total	20,535*	2,84,844	5,809	36,59,366

*Total active cases

Declare DU results by Nov 6, says High Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE DELHI High Court Monday ordered the Delhi University to declare the results of all final year undergraduate courses by November 6 and postgraduate courses by October 31.

During the hearing of a case before the division bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad, the university said that results of 16 PG courses have already been declared on the official website and the results of two more courses — MSc Geology and MSc Geography — would be declared in the next couple of days. The university also informed the court that the results of the remaining 32 PG courses will be declared on or before October 31.

With regard to the undergraduate courses, the university told the court that the results for 17 courses of BSc (Honours) will be declared from October 20 onwards, and for the 26 BA (Honours) courses, the results will be announced from October 24. The university did not inform the court about the BA (Programme) results.

Observing that the dates cannot be open ended, the court said the results of all the courses, including BSc (Honours), BSc (Programme), BA (Honours), BCom (Honours), BA (Vocational) and BCom (Programme) should be declared from the tentative dates with a buffer period of three days for each. If the results of BSc (Honours) courses are declared from October 20, the process for the particular courses should end by October 23, as per the order.

The results of the BA (Programme) courses shall be declared on or before November 6, said the court. DU had earlier submitted the date for it may be set for November 15.

33 yrs after armed robbery, tip-off leads police to 3 accused

SAKSHIDAYAL
GURGAON, OCTOBER 12

THIRTY-THREE YEARS after a group of 20-25 men held a family in Nuh hostage and looted their home of all valuables, and shot dead one person who tried to put up a fight, police have arrested three of the men involved in the crime.

According to police, the incident took place on the night of August 30, 1987, in Pinangwan block of Nuh, when 20-25 men, armed with sticks and guns, barged into the home of money-lender Swamiram and held eight members of his family hostage.

The accused allegedly gathered up all the gold and silver in the house — amounting to over 100 kg, said police — and any cash they could find. When a neighbour, identified as Jagdish, tried to put up a fight, the accused allegedly shot and killed him.

An FIR had been lodged at Punhana police station under relevant sections of the IPC and the Arms Act, and two of the men allegedly involved in the incident



Students line up at a help desk set up by DU students union Monday. Praveen Khanna

1,628 APPLICATIONS APPROVED ON DAY 1

Despite high cut-offs, DU sees steady flow of applications

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

ON THE first day of undergraduate admissions, several Delhi University colleges were unable to complete the candidate approval process as they struggled to adapt to a new online system. Student applications, however, continued to flow in throughout the day.

Shri Ram College of Commerce principal Simit Kaur stated that colleges are following a three-stage application approval process — first the department teacher-in-charge, then the college's admission convener and finally the principal — because of which her college would only start giving final approvals on Tuesday morning. "I would like to emphasise that the number of

applications we received on the first day itself reflects that we had released realistic cut-off percentages. Till 5 pm, we received just a little under 200 applications for B.Com (Honours) and around 135 for BA (Honours) Economics. Around 60% of these are currently being processed... the final number of seats filled in the first list will be known only at the end of Friday," she said. SRCC has a total of 626 seats for B.Com (Honours) across all categories — 99.5% cut-off for general seats — and 155 seats for BA (Honours) Economics — 99% cut-off for general seats.

Lady Shri Ram College for Women has the highest cut-offs across all colleges at 100% for Political Science, Psychology and Economics. Principal Suman Sharma said that as of Monday evening, the administration was still processing applications, and

stated that the college is taking its time to avoid any mistakes.

Principal of Miranda House Bijayalaxmi Nanda also said the process is more time-consuming due to overburdened servers, and getting used to the new process. While the college was still processing applications as of Monday evening, it had received more applications than seats available in some of its popular courses.

The college has a 99% cut-off for unreserved seats in Political Science and had received a total of 87 applications against a total of 68 seats. It also had a 99% cut-off for English, where it has received a total of 51 applications against 78 seats.

At Ramjas College, Principal Manoj Khanna said the admission team struggled with a few issues. "The university network was a little slow and we were also

having issues with opening the CBSE marksheets because of which we were not being able to verify the details. Because of that, these applications are halted at the convener's level but it should be resolved soon," he said.

He said that as of Monday evening, 150 admissions had been approved across departments. In Political Science — 99% cut-off for general seats and a total of 78 seats — the college has received around 150 applications out of which processing has been completed for 20, he said.

According to data provided by the university, 19,086 applications had been received across colleges by late evening but only 1,628 of these had been approved by the end of the day. The complete admission process, including fee payment, had been completed by 920 candidates.

3 held for duping people with Air India job promise

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THREE PERSONS, including a 22-year-old woman, have been arrested for allegedly duping over a hundred people on the pretext of getting them a job with Air India. The accused would pose as employers and approach job aspirants on job portals online.

DCP (South West district) Devender Arya said the accused have been identified as Shahdab Malik (26), Kumud Ranjan Kamlesh (40) and Priyanka Goswami (22). "Malik, the mastermind of the gang, has worked with several MNCs in the past, including a leading e-wallet based in Noida. Kumud has in the past worked with several BPOs while Priyanka worked with an RO company in Laxmi Nagar," Arya said.

He said the cyber cell has recovered a laptop which they used to allegedly create fake proposal letters, 10 phones and SIM cards, 14 debit cards and two cheque books.

Police said action was taken after they received a complaint from one Anwesha Datta, who worked with an online food delivery company and lost her job during the pandemic. "She was looking for a job and received an email from a purported Air India address regarding a job opening. They asked her to share her resume and deposit Rs 1,875 in their account. After depositing the money she received an offer letter and was asked to deposit Rs 1,875 initially for arranging an online interview and job offer letter. After that they used to induce the victim to further transfer Rs 18,500 on the pretext of security, Rs. 15,700 on pretext of uniform and then Rs 35,000 for 'verification'," an officer said.

Police then scanned the details of bank accounts used by

The victim received an offer letter and was asked to deposit verification fee, uniform fee and others. She alleged they took Rs 71,800 by the time she realised she had been cheated

the accused.

"With the help of technical surveillance, police traced their locations and arrested them. Police found that Priyanka was living with Malik in Noida posing as a married couple. She told her landlord she was with the Air India HR department," the officer said.

According to police, during questioning, Malik told them that he and his associates had made an employer account on a job portal after using forged documents.

"They would obtain job seekers details, including their email addresses, name and phone numbers. Priyanka would then convince them to transfer money in their account. Kamlesh had made a forged Aadhaar card and registered multiple bank accounts using it. They approached job seekers through email and on phone and duped hundreds of unemployed youths who lost their jobs during the pandemic. One of them posed as an HR employee to conduct their interview. He would ask to deposit Rs 1,875 initially for arranging an online interview and job offer letter. After that they used to induce the victim to further transfer Rs 18,500 on the pretext of security, Rs. 15,700 on pretext of uniform and then Rs 35,000 for 'verification'," an officer said.

CM suggests SAD fooling the people on farm bills

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE AAP Monday staged a protest against the farm law at Jantar Mantar, where Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal hit out at the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), accusing it of "fooling" the people in the name of opposing the policy "which it helped draft as part of the Union Cabinet".

Demanding the withdrawal of the new policy, enforced through a set of three bills passed in both Houses of the Parliament, Kejriwal said the BJP, which had promised to implement the MS Swaminathan Commission report on hiking MSP, has "ended MSP altogether".

The farm policy, said the AAP chief, amounted to "backstabbing the farmers". He said a few big private companies will derive benefits out of it at the cost of farmers.

"They (BJP) say only 6 per cent farmers sell their produce at MSP. It is a matter of shame. When we came to power, government schools and hospitals were in bad shape. We worked on improving them, we did not close them



CM addresses protesters at Jantar Mantar Monday. Amit Mehra

down. If only 6 per cent farmers benefit from MSP, then they should ensure the share goes up to 100 per cent. This is what the farmers want," Kejriwal said.

However, the SAD, which quit the BJP-led NDA front over the farm bills, was at the receiving end of Kejriwal's criticism. SAD MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal had quit the Union Cabinet over the issue. The AAP is the principal opposition party in Congress-ruled Punjab, which goes to polls in 2022.

Without taking names, Kejriwal said, "Some parties are indulging in politics. They say something in Parliament, some-

thing behind closed doors and then enact drama before the public. There's a national party in Punjab with a big leader. Their leader was a part of the committee formed by the BJP government to draft the bills. They helped draft the bills, got it passed in the Cabinet and the Parliament and then staged opposition. You think the people are fools? They are fooling the public."

He demanded the roll back of the policy, asserting that "there will be no compromise". "Bring another law mandating that 100 per cent harvest will be procured at MSP," he added.

MCDs fear ending health trade licence will hit their finances

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

DELHI GOVERNMENT'S decision that restaurants need not get health trade licences from municipal corporations will cripple the already struggling civic bodies further, MCD officials said.

The three corporations earn over Rs 16 crore per annum — North (Rs 5 crore), South (Rs 8.5 crore) and East (Rs 3 crore) — by issuing these licences. Renewal of the licence costs between Rs 10,000 and Rs 30,000, depending on seating capacity.

Last week, in a meeting with restaurant industry representatives, where commissioners of municipal corporations were also present, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said that the practice should be "abolished within 10 days" as licences from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, which restaurants already have to take, would suffice.

But officials are also worried that in the absence of this licence, there is a chance that business owners will skip paying property

and conversion charges as well.

A senior official of North MCD said, "People who have to procure health trade licences have to give an undertaking, in which they declare that they have given conversion charge and property tax... This is a self declaration but also acts as a legal document... Though we do not ask for proof, business owners mostly ensure that they have paid taxes before making such a declaration," he said.

North MCD Mayor Jai Prakash said that the Delhi government is doing this to paralyse the corporation in an attempt to come to power. He said that North MCD would forfeit the trade licence if the Delhi government pays all the money that is due to the MCDs as well as the money that it gets from health trade licence.

"If the Delhi government wants to limit licensing, why doesn't it start with excise department?" said Leader of the house of South MCD Narendra Chawla.

"The Delhi government is simply supporting Ease of Business guidelines of Centre," said AAP chief spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj.

BRIEFLY

North MCD wins HUDCO award for street lighting

New Delhi: North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash said the civic body has received the HUDCO Award for efficiency in street lighting. He said the civic body was competing with several other Indian local bodies for the award under the theme "Environment management, Energy Conservation & Green Building" for one of India's biggest replacement of approximately 2 lakh conventional streetlights with automation-based LED lighting systems.

High Court nod for revision of DSGMC electoral rolls

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday permitted the authorities in the capital to carry out revision of the existing electoral rolls for holding of elections for the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, which are scheduled in March 2021, and said the fresh electoral rolls can be prepared after the polls next year. The election cannot be held before March 30, 2021, when the term of the existing Committee expires, if a direction is passed for preparation of fresh electoral rolls, it was argued. The issue before the High Court was whether to prepare fresh electoral rolls for the upcoming elections or revise the existing one.

FB probe: Assembly panel meets 2 journalists

New Delhi: The Delhi Assembly committee on peace and harmony Monday examined on oath NewsClick editor Prabir Purkayastha and AltNews co-founder Pratik Sinha as part of its ongoing proceedings on the alleged role of Facebook during the February communal riots in Northeast Delhi.

New MCG office to come up on MG road

Gurgaon: The new office of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) will come up on Mehrauli-Gurgaon (MG) road and will be "fully modern and equipped with several facilities," said commissioner of the civic body, Vinay Pratap Singh, during the MCG's house meeting on Monday. The current office of the MCG is located in a building owned by the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) in Sector 34, with the MCG paying a rent of around Rs 20 lakh per month for occupying the premises. **ENS**

14 DAYS AFTER GIVING BIRTH

Ghaziabad's officer for Covid returns to office, with newborn in tow

AMIL BHATNAGAR
GHAZIABAD, OCTOBER 12

MODINAGAR SUB-DIVISIONAL magistrate Saumya Pandey (26) was seven months pregnant when she was appointed as the Ghaziabad district nodal officer for Covid in July. At a time when the district was reporting around 100 cases every day, the officer had the option of availing paid maternity leave. Instead, she continued with field visits and coordinated implementation of Covid-related district schemes.

On September 17, she gave

birth to a girl at a Meerut hospital and rejoined office 14 days later — along with the infant — on October 1. Those visiting the camp office attached to her residence can find the newborn sleeping peacefully in her arms as the officer makes calls or notes for meetings and visits.

"There are many people working tirelessly for the cause of Covid... doctors, nurses and many others. At such a point, I could not abandon my official duty. The best I could do was take every precaution for myself and the baby. I hoped I wouldn't contract it as pregnant women are in the

vulnerable group. I took only 22 days of necessary leave and joined within two weeks of delivery," she said.

Saumya cleared the UPSC exam in 2016 with all-India rank 4, after completing engineering from NIT in Allahabad. A gold medalist in LBSNAA civil services training academy, her start-up project on 'Innovations in defence excellence' was also awarded during her training in the Ministry of Defence. In October 2019, she was given charge of joint magistrate in Ghaziabad.

Even before handling the Covid department directly,



SDM Saumya Pandey in her office. Prem Nath Pandey

Saumya was part of lockdown-enforcing measures and oversaw movement of migrant labourers. In the weeks to come, she would visit markets for monitoring essential supplies and ensure functioning of community kitchens to feed more than 10,000 people. In the final days of her pregnancy, she focused more on data as she "could not move".

"Being the nodal officer, I had to streamline working between the administration and medical department. I visited Covid hospitals and interacted with doctors and patients and collated data accordingly. The DM and all of us

other officials set up the Covid helpline to further help in passing information. I wore a face shield, mask, and gloves at all times, especially during hospital visits, hoping the precautions would suffice," she said.

Saumya remains on administrative Covid duty as she rejoined as SDM after foregoing her maternity leave. From visits to Covid hospitals to public meetings in the tehsil office, she interacts with hundreds on a daily basis. And with due precautions, the child's routine has now become a part of her own. "Pregnancy is a physiological process but there is a gen-

eral taboo around it. Devoting time to the baby is part of my daily time management as I do with work. We are facing an unprecedented crisis... and every minute counts," Saumya told *The Indian Express*.

"I sanitise myself thoroughly every time I step inside from a visit, even if it means multiple times in a day. I try and feed her in the morning so she can sleep inside but babies this young have an odd pattern. So I keep shuttling between the office outside and the camp office so I can work with her. I haven't even had the time to decide a name for her," she said.

Bihar minister dies of post-Covid complications

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, OCTOBER 12

BIHAR MINISTER for backward and extremely backward class welfare Vinod Kumar Singh died on Monday at a hospital in Delhi due to post-Covid-19 complications, sources said. He was 55.

He is survived by wife Nisha and two daughters.

Singh, a BJP MLA from Prampur constituency in Katihar district, had tested positive for Covid-19 on June 28 and subsequently recovered.

Shortly after, however, he suffered a brain haemorrhage and had to be airlifted to a private hospital in Delhi, where he breathed his last.

Mourning Singh's demise, President Ram Nath Kovind tweeted, "Very sad to know about the demise of Bihar government's Cabinet Minister Shri Vinod Kumar Singh. He was a popular public representative and struggled for the development of Bihar and the well being of the people. My condolences to his family and supporters."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took to Twitter to express grief at Singh's death and said the BJP leader also played an important role in strengthening the party in the state. He also offered his condolences to the deceased's family member and supporters.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced that Singh would be cremated with full state honours.

"He was an efficient administrator and a popular leader. I am personally pained by Singh's untimely demise. His death has caused an irreparable loss to the states political spectrum and the society," Kumar said.

Among others, Bihar Legislative Council acting chairman Awadhesh Narayan Singh, Bihar BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal, agriculture minister Prem Kumar, information and public relations minister Neeraj Kumar mourned Singh's demise.

'Judge me by my work': Nitish sticks to development mantra in virtual rally

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 12

ADDRESSING HIS first virtual rally after the announcement of a seat-sharing formula by the NDA, Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) national president Nitish Kumar on Monday cautioned voters against those out to create ill-will and practising family politics, and asked them to judge him by his work over the last 15 years.

Monday's rally, the first of Nitish's such addresses, focussed on 12 constituencies in Banka, Munger and adjoining districts that vote on October 28. There will be similar virtual rallies for other sets of constituencies going to the polls in the first phase. The JD(U) chief spoke at length on development work done over the last 15 years under his governments and said, "People are the masters in a democracy. Please judge me by my work. Always bear in mind what was the situation before I took over as CM in 2005.... Whether it is roads and bridges, or electricity to every home now, the situation has changed drastically," he said.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar addresses a virtual rally in Patna on Monday. PTI

Nitish told the people that plans for the next phase of development of the state, especially under his pet scheme "Saat Nischay", has already been laid out. He promised water to every agricultural field if voted back to power.

Not naming either IJP president Chirag Paswan or Leader of Opposition and RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, who have routinely criticised him and his government,

Nitish said: "There are people who are out to create spite and ill-will. There are people who think only about sons, brothers and daughters. For me, the whole of Bihar is my family. You have to take a call (on who to vote for): ask yourself whether I have done a good job or not."

Nitish reiterated that the state government spent Rs 5,300 on each returning migrant worker who stayed in quar-

antine centres. "Over 15 lakh people stayed in quarantine centres. We have given foodgrain (5 kg rice and 1 kg pulses) to each of over 20 lakh people who returned home (during the pandemic). This was besides advance PDS ration that was distributed," he said. On the Covid-19 issue, which Opposition RJD says has been handled badly by his government, Nitish said, "We are now testing 3,000 (samples) more than the national average per 10 lakh population," he said.

With virtual rallies becoming a necessity in the coronavirus times, the JD(U) has engaged an auditorium for all such rallies. Six people were allowed on the stage during Nitish's speech.

On the technical front three high-speed internet lines were needed to air the rally. The party circulated the rally link to do a Facebook live. The party also put up at least seven LED screens in every Assembly segment to watch the virtual rally.

BJP EXPELS 9 REBELS WHO MOVED TO LJP

Patna: BJP Monday expelled nine leaders who switched to the LJP and will be contesting the polls, said the party's national spokesperson Sanjay Mayukh. The nine leaders are: Rajendra Singh (Dinara), Rameshwar Chourasia (Sasaram), Usha Vidyarthi (Paliganj), Ravindra Yadav (Jhajha), Shweta Singh (Bhojpur), Indu Kashyap (Jehanabad), Anil Kumar (Patna rural), Mrinal Shekhar (Amarpur) and Ajay Pratap (Jamui). **ENS**

52,000 OPT FOR POSTAL BALLOT

New Delhi: More than 52,000 voters, who are either senior citizens above 80 years of age or are people with disabilities, have opted for postal ballot in the first phase of Bihar elections to be held on October 28, the Election Commission said on Monday. **PTI**

BATTLE FOR BIHAR
FULL COVERAGE
PAGE 9

WILL HELP PROHIBIT TRANSFER OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN DISTURBED AREAS: GUJARAT

Changes to disturbed areas law get President nod

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, OCTOBER 12

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Bill amending the Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provisions of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act, passed by the Gujarat Assembly in 2019, stated an official release from Minister of State for Home, Pradeepsinh Jadeja, on Monday. The amended Act will help prohibit the transfer of immovable property in disturbed areas and



Pradeepsinh Jadeja

protect tenants from vacating the properties, the release added.

A Bill amending the Act was passed in the Gujarat Assembly by a majority last year. The ruling BJP had brought the amendment Bill to plug the loopholes in the Act and check polarisation of different areas in the state. The Act is in force in various parts of the state, including

Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Himmatnagar, Godhra, Kapadvanj and Bharuch. Under the Act, the transfer of any immovable property in disturbed areas cannot be done without permission of the district collector concerned.

The release quoted Jadeja saying that the amended Act provides to declare any area of the state as a disturbed area, wherein the tranquility and public order has been disturbed due to riots or mob violence. The amended Act has penal provisions of three to five years of imprisonment and fine of either Rs 1 lakh or 10% of the jantri rate

(ready reckoner of property prices in different parts of the state), whichever is higher.

It also said that the amended Act has a provision to constitute an advisory committee which will assess if there is a proper balance of people's clusters in a disturbed area. The committee may also give suggestions to the state government for effective implementation of the Act.

Jadeja said that earlier, while giving approval for the transfer of a property in a disturbed area, the collector had to check only two aspects - if the seller has sold the property on free volition and if he has got a reasonable price

for the same. Now, he added, the collector also has to ascertain if transfer of the property results in polarisation of a particular community in the area or has the possibility of the same.

The amended Act has also enlarged the scope of the term "transfer of property" in the disturbed area, while bringing the transfer of property through gift, exchange, lease or sale under its purview. The amendment allows the state government to review the decision of concerned collectors granting approval of transfer of a property in a disturbed area, even if there is no appeal against such an approval.

Pilot aide moves HC, seeks quashing of FIR against him in phone tapping case

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 12

RAJASTHAN'S FORMER deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot's media manager Lokendra Singh has moved Rajasthan High Court seeking quashing of the FIR lodged against him.

"We have prayed for quashing of the FIR. I say there is no offence," SS Hora, the counsel representing Pilot in court, told The Indian Express.

The case relates to the state police's FIR on October 1 against Lokendra Singh and Aaj Tak's Jaipur-based editor Sharat Kumar, accusing them of spreading "misleading and fake news" regarding tapping of phones of MLAs sequestered at a hotel in Jaaisalmer.

Hora said their case is a "demurrer - take their case to be completely true as it is," but even then the offence as claimed in the FIR is not made out.

"Second, the FIR claims that it creates enmity between classes. Which classes? Are MLAs a class," Hora said. "Third, the same news (was broadcast by channels), saying that the source (of news) is central agencies...and channels are not required to disclose their sources."

Hora said, "News 18 National and News 18 Rajasthan both telecast the same news - one at 8 am and the second at 10 am. And Rajasthan Aaj Tak telecast it at around 3.30 pm. Now they say Rajasthan Aaj Tak telecast it on an input received from him (Lokendra Singh)."

He said that by then the news was already being telecast across the country - "so what harm is done?"

He said the FIR has "political overtones" and hence should be quashed.

The matter is expected to be listed before the High Court on October 14. Sharat Kumar has not approached the High Court.

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And whereas the office of Director General Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has asked company to invite objections from existing bonafide Allottees regarding the said amendment in building plans. Accordingly, the objections are hereby invited from any of the Allottee in the said colony on the proposed revision in building plans. A copy of earlier approved building plans and proposed revised building plans are available on the website <http://www.kspropmart.com/old.html> (old plans) <http://www.kspropmart.com/new.html> (new plans) for perusal.

The said building plans can also be perused in the office of company on address mentioned above and in the office of Senior Town Planner, HUDA Complex, Sector 14, Gurugram.

Any bonafide Allottee having any objection/suggestion on revised building plan may file his/her/its objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Town & Country Planning Department, HUDA Complex, Sector, 14, Gurugram within 30 days of publication of this notice, falling which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision of building plans.

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Unlock 5.0 brings more relief for citizens

With the new unlock announcement, the government has opened the locks of cinema halls, multiplexes, relaxed limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings, reopened schools in a graded manner, among other measures

WITH the country opening on a month-on-month basis, it is clear that the government is keen on providing respite to businesses to spur economic activities in the country. In its latest set of relaxations, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has made some significant announcements. First, the month of October has brought cheers for the badly battered film industry as the movie theatres and multiplexes are set to reopen from October 15, with the condition being that these theatres and multiplexes should not be in the containment zones. The detailed guidelines regarding the exhibition of films have also been released, with

seating capacity capped at 50%, 6-feet physical distancing, staggered show timings to avoid crowding, sanitisation of the premises, and staggered entry and exit of audience being the major highlights of these guidelines.

Second, the states and UTs are allowed to reopen the schools from October 15 onwards. On the reopening of schools, the MHA said "State/ UT Governments have been given the flexibility to take a decision after 15th October 2020, in a graded manner."

"Where schools are conducting online classes, and some students prefer to attend online classes rather than physically attend school, they may be

permitted to do so. Students may attend schools/institutions only with the written consent of parents. Attendance must not be enforced and must depend entirely on parental consent. States/UTs will prepare their own SOPs regarding health and safety precautions for reopening of schools/institutions based on the SOP to be issued by the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education... keeping local requirements in view," the MHA said.

The guidelines further state, "For Centrally Funded Higher Education Institutions, the Head of Institution will satisfy herself/himself that there is a genuine requirement of research

scholars (PhD) and post-graduate students in science and technology stream for laboratory/experimental works. For all other Higher Education Institutions e.g., State Universities, Private Universities etc., they may open only for research scholars (PhD) and postgraduate students in science and technology stream requiring laboratory/experimental works as per decision to be taken by the respective State/UT Governments."

Third, from October 15, business-to-business exhibitions are also allowed. Swimming pools "being used for sportspersons" are also permitted to open, as are entertainment parks. All of these will have SOPs issued by their

governing ministries.

Fourth, the limits on both indoor and outdoor gatherings have also been relaxed by the MHA. "Now State/UT Governments have been given the flexibility to permit such gatherings beyond the limit of 100 persons outside Containment Zones, after 15th October 2020", the MHA said. However, the indoor gathering can't exceed 50 per cent of the hall capacity or 200 people. "For outdoor events, the guidelines say that the size of the ground must be kept in mind, though the MHA has not mandated a ceiling." In both cases, the guidelines prescribe masks, social distancing and other COVID-19 protocol.

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6 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



ALL FOR ALLIANCE

BHUPENDER YADAV, BJP general secretary in-charge of Bihar, is taking pains to dispel the impression that the party has propped IJP separately to dent the JD(U) in the Assembly polls. And a meeting with BJP workers in Jamui, IJP chief Chirag Paswan's Lok Sabha constituency, was one way to dispel the speculation before the first phase of the polls itself. Yadav met ground-level workers of BJP and asserted that the NDA would get a three-fourth majority in the Bihar elections.

TRUST IN TEMPLE

FACING FLAK over the Hathras crime, in which a Dalit woman was allegedly gangraped and subsequently died, the BJP seems to be trying to woo the community elsewhere. Delhi state BJP leaders Vijender Gupta and Ramvir Singh Bidhuri met Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday to thank him for the Delhi Development Authority allotting land to build a temple for poet and mystic saint Ravidas, who is worshipped by Dalits.

NO COMMUNICATION

A MONTH after he was appointed Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Randeep Surjewala was Monday named head of the party's election management and coordination committee for Bihar. He will be stationed in Bihar until the end of polls. Surjewala is also in charge of Congress's communication department, and has already conveyed to the party leadership to relieve him from that post. Party leaders are wondering why the central leadership is delaying the appointment of his successor. It is learnt that the leadership is thinking about handing over the reins of the communication department to a veteran. Names of heavyweights such as P Chidambaram and Jai Ram Ramesh are being talked about in this connection. Also in contention are Congress spokespersons Pawan Khera and Supriya Shrinete.

TAKING IT EASY

WEEKS AFTER an order was issued to transfer out several officials from the Railway Ministry, it seems many of them were present there till the end of last week. Officials said the thing about the big transfer order was that no one from the top was really "chasing" it for strict implementation, so the message that formed around the order was that it was perhaps alright to take it slow.

PROOF OF GOVT FAILURE ON COVID: CONG

Sudhakar gets health, Sreeramulu social welfare charge in BSY cabinet reshuffle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 12

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday effected a minor reshuffle in his cabinet by giving Medical Education Minister K Sudhakar the charge of the health portfolio too, amid rising Covid-19 cases in the state.

A doctor and first-time minister, Dr Sudhakar has been a key figure in the state government's efforts to control the spread of Covid-19.

In what is being widely seen as a demotion, ST community leader B Sreeramulu lost the health and backward classes portfolios and was made in charge of the social welfare ministry.

The reshuffle comes at a time when the Congress is demanding Yediyurappa's resignation over allegations of corruption against his family members.

The social welfare portfolio, earlier held by Deputy Chief Minister and SC leader Govind Karjol, was given to Sreeramulu and the backward classes portfolio he held was taken over by Yediyurappa.

"Technically, both health and medical education are one department. Other states and the Centre are also following the same model. It was difficult to manage the departments separately. The Chief Minister has taken this decision to hand over responsibility of both the departments to one minister,"



BS Yediyurappa

Dr Sudhakar said on Monday.

"My top priority is to control Covid-19 in the state and to reduce the mortality rate," he added.

The Congress termed the reshuffle a sign of the failure of the BJP government. "The cabinet reshuffle is proof of this government's miserable failure in handling the pandemic. The fact that the health minister has been changed adds credence to our charge that this government's incompetency has led to massive loss of life and livelihood," state Congress president D K Shivakumar said.

The BJP's decision to put Sreeramulu in charge of social welfare ministry is an effort to build up a larger political base among the ST community in the state and should not be seen as a demotion, party sources said.

Ahead of the 2018 Assembly election, Sreeramulu had been considered a contender for the Deputy Chief Minister post, but he was sidelined after the party failed to come to power on its own — losing ground in many ST constituencies in regions like Ballari where Sreeramulu was expected to deliver seats.

Khushbu joins BJP, says 'pushed, suppressed' in Cong

MANOJ CG &
ARUN JANARDHANAN
NEW DELHI, CHENNAI,
OCTOBER 12

HOURS AFTER she quit the Congress, saying some senior leaders were "dictating terms" and "people like me... are being pushed and suppressed", actor-turned-politician Khushbu Sundar joined the BJP on Monday. "A few elements seated at higher level within the party, people who have no connectivity with the ground reality or public recognition are dictating terms, and people like me who wanted to work for the party sincerely are being pushed and suppressed," Khushbu said in her resignation letter to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi. The Congress then announced her removal as party spokesperson.

Later in the day, after joining the BJP in New Delhi, PTI quoted her as saying: "You have 128 crore people actually believing in one man and that's our Prime Minister. I think they're doing something absolutely right."

Till just a week back, Khushbu, who was one of the Congress's spirited voices on social media, was targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "A Prime Minister who can feed peacocks cannot feed the poor in this country," she had tweeted six days ago.

Khushbu, who left the DMK to join the Congress in 2014, had also slammed the BJP government over the Rs 20 lakh crore package announced to tide over the impact of the lockdown. "So finally a package... 10% of GDP. Be ready... we have a long road ahead of steep rise in taxes, taxes and more taxes," she had tweeted.



Khushbu at the BJP office in New Delhi Monday. Anil Sharma

In April 2019, following the Supreme Court's verdict allowing leaked documents to be relied upon by petitioners seeking review of its Rafale judgement, she said this proved that "chowkidar chor hain". She had also called the BJP "Bharatiya Jumla Party".

In 2018, Khushbu, who is married to Tamil filmmaker Sundar C, had briefly changed her Twitter profile to "khushbusundar... and it's NAKHAT KHAN for the BJP." She said she had to do this because BJP trolls were claiming that her real name was Nakhath Khan and she was hiding it.

In September 2019, she tweeted: "Sadly, once again I have to edit my profile. Sanghi dumb idiots are so physically retarded that they do not understand simple basics... they are calling me a Muslim who does not have a place in my country, my India. Yes I am a Khan, I am a Muslim and India is my country... Koi shaq?"

But she has been unhappy with the Congress for some time now. In fact, the first indication came in September last year,

when actor-turned-politician Urmila Matondkar left the Congress.

"People who have loyally stood by any party tend to get overlooked in favour of political tourists," AICC media panelist CR Kesavan had tweeted then. And Khushbu responded. "You and I are loyal fools."

In July this year, she openly backed the New Education Policy unveiled by the BJP government. But even then she tweeted: "Sanghis can relax, p(ea)s(e) do not rejoice. I am not moving to BJP. My opinion might be different from my party but I am an individual with a thinking mind of my own..."

In July, she also came out in support of Sanjay Jha, who, after he was sacked as Congress spokesperson, said young leaders — like Sachin Pilot or Jyotiraditya Scindia — should have helmed the Congress. Scindia had left the Congress by then.

"Sanjay Jha speaks his mind without fear. And that's what makes him strong. Not a rebel.

Very well spoken. I second what he said about Pilot and Scindia," Khushbu had tweeted.

In Chennai, State Congress chief K S Alagiri said Khushbu's exit would not affect the party and "she was just seen as an actress, not a leader".

But with the Assembly polls due in Tamil Nadu next year, many in the BJP see her entry as an advantage. A senior party leader from Coimbatore said she was the most popular face to have joined the party recently.

Another party leader said state BJP chief L Murugan was instrumental in getting her to switch sides. "Murugan was consistent in pursuing her entry into BJP," he said. Murugan, who was in Delhi on Monday, wasn't available for comment.

"Talks were on for several weeks. The BJP approached her some time ago. She never said no, but Delhi leaders didn't want to give her any promise on posts — neither a Rajya Sabha berth, nor a key post in the national leadership. That is why talks were inconclusive until Friday. At her end, the pressure was building, she was in distress, how long could she fight rumours and questions," said a senior BJP leader. He said Khushbu may be made national spokesperson, a post she held in the Congress.

BJP insiders said Khushbu was expected to draw the crowds at their poll campaigns. "Maybe the national leadership will send her to campaign in Bihar too," said a party leader.

A Congress leader and former Union minister said he would not blame Khushbu. "She was tired of the indifference and inactive leadership of the Congress party," he said.

HC orders CBI probe into YSRCP leaders' 'derogatory comments' on court

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 12

THE ANDHRA Pradesh High Court on Monday directed the CBI to investigate some allegedly derogatory comments about the court and some judges made by leaders of the ruling YSR Congress Party on social media.

The HC had earlier directed the Registrar to lodge a complaint with the CID to investigate the comments after the court granted a stay on decentralisation of the state capital.

On Monday, a bench comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar and Justice Uma Devi observed that the CID's probe was not satisfactory and directed the CBI to register an FIR and submit a report in eight weeks. The court observed that in spite of lodging a complaint with CID, no case was registered against any YSRCP leader who allegedly made the comments.

The HC had directed the Registrar to lodge a complaint with the CID after it took cognizance of allegedly derogatory posts against some judges and the judiciary following judgments that were seen as a setback to the government. The Registrar submitted evidence of comments allegedly made by Assembly Speaker Tammineni Sitaram, Deputy Chief Minister Narayana Swamy, MPs V Vijayasai Reddy and Nandigam Suresh, and other leaders of the ruling YSRCP.

Taking up the matter again on Monday, the court asked why cases were not filed against them.

While referring the comments for investigation by the CID last week, the court had observed,



Tammineni Sitaram, Narayana Swamy

"Their comments are perilous to democracy and amounted to an attack on the judiciary. In a democratic State if such war is initiated against the judicial system by persons holding high positions, certainly it will create unnecessary doubt in the mind of citizen against the judicial system, which may cripple entire system if some ordinary person makes any comment against the government, cases are promptly registered... When persons in positions made comments against the judges and the courts, why have cases not been filed? Looking at things, we are left to infer that a war has been declared on the judiciary."

While directing the CBI to register an FIR, the court observed that since April they have noticed that HC judges and the judiciary were being abused on various social media platforms, and even in interviews in electronic media.

According to the FIR lodged with the CID, the allegedly derogatory comments on the HC and its judges started when the HC set aside a government order making English the medium of instruction in all government schools. More posts allegedly followed when the HC set aside an order removing the state election commissioner N Ramesh Kumar.

SC notice to Centre on pleas against farm laws

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE SUPREME Court on Monday issued a notice to the Centre on a clutch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the farm laws enacted by the Narendra Modi government.

The petitions came up before a three-judge headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde which sought the Centre's response within four weeks.

The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, was hearing petitions filed by Rashtriya Janta Dal Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Rajya Sabha member Tiruchi Siva, and another by a group of Chhattisgarh residents.

The petitions claim that the laws act against the interest of farmers and put them at the mercy of corporates by dismantling the Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) mechanism.

Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020 — took effect from September 27 after President Ram Nath Kovind's assent.

Farm unions meet today: one outfit set to go, another to skip

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 12

A DAY before the scheduled meeting of 29 farmer unions in Punjab to take a call on attending the October 14 meeting with the Centre over farm laws, a major farmer union in the state has announced that it will attend the Delhi meeting, while another significant outfit said it will skip it.

BKU (Ugrahan), one of the largest farmer unions in Punjab, has announced that it will attend the meeting called by the Union Ministry of Agriculture. However, Kisan Mazdoor Sangarsh Committee (KMSC) — another major union representing farmers and workers in Majha region — stated that it will not be part of the meeting.

BKU (Ugrahan)'s decision is significant as it a major participant in the ongoing protests.

KMSC president Satnam Singh Pannu said, "Our core committee has decided not to be part of this meeting as farmers from all across the country are affected... Agriculture Secretary has invited only 29 farmer unions of Punjab... BJP leaders in Punjab are giving repeated statements that no change will happen in these laws."

The remaining 27 farmer unions will take a decision on the issue on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the BJP has planned two programmes related to farm laws in the state on October 13 and October 14.



Protesters gheraoed Ashwani Sharma's vehicle at Cholang toll plaza near Tanda in Hoshiarpur district. Express

Punjab BJP chief blames Cong govt for attack on car

ANJU AGNIHOTRICHABA
JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 12

PUNJAB BJP chief Ashwani Sharma's vehicle was attacked allegedly by protesting farmers at around 7.15 pm Monday near the Cholang toll plaza in Tanda in Hoshiarpur district. Windowpanes of Sharma's car were damaged, though he did not sustain any injuries.

While Tanda SHO Bikram Singh said that protesting farmers were behind the attack, Sharma termed the incident as "state-sponsored", adding that the attackers could not have

been farmers.

BJP's national general secretary Tarun Chug later alleged that Youth Congress workers were behind the attack.

Condemning the attack in a tweet, Punjab CM Amarinder Singh directed the DGP to immediately identify the culprits and act against them, but dismissed the allegation that Congress was behind it.

Ashwani Sharma claimed that baseball bats and stones were used to damage his vehicle and his gunmen took it to safety. "The attack was only to defame the farmers' ongoing agitation," he said.

Sexual violence against transgenders: SC notice to Centre on plea for changes in law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE SUPREME Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre on a plea seeking changes in the criminal law to protect transgender people from sexual violence.

"This is a good petition," Chief Justice of India S A Bobde remarked as the plea by Advocate Reepak Kansal came up before the three-judge bench.

The petition cited the absence of any provision in the Indian Penal Code that deals with sexual

assault by any male, female or transgender on a transgender. It said that Section 354 of the IPC dealing with offence of sexual assault does not extend to transgenders.

"The Indian laws are for men and women and therefore, considering transgender... they generally could not get justice from the authorities due to lack of law/Act. The third gender... are being deprived of many of the rights and privileges which other persons enjoy as citizens of this country. The State cannot discriminate them on the ground of

gender, violating Articles 14 to 16 and 21 of the Constitution of India," the petition contended.

The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, asked Senior Advocate Vikas Singh, who appeared for the petitioner, to also apprise it about issues in which the court has "legislated" and laid down rules and guidelines in the past.

The petition has sought appropriate amendments in IPC provisions dealing with sexual assault to include transgender/transsexual/kinnar

in the definitions and to direct the government to make gender-neutral laws on sexual harassment.

The plea also said that statistics show shockingly high levels of sexual abuse and assault against transgenders. It claimed that one in two transgenders have been sexually abused or assaulted at some point in their lives.

Pointing out that the right to life includes the right to live with dignity, it said this was not possible for transgenders due to the sexual and other crimes against members of the community.

Students who missed NEET due to Covid can take it on Oct 15: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE NATIONAL Testing Agency will conduct National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (UG) exams again on October 15 for students who could not take it the first time, and the results will be announced on October 16.

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the agency to hold the retest for those who could not take the September 13 test as they were in containment zones.

The NEET was deferred twice due to the pandemic before being finally held on September 13 after the apex court rejected a plea to postpone it further. The court has said that life must go on notwithstanding Covid-19 and that "career of student cannot be put in jeopardy".

"The result may be declared on 16.10.2020," a bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian ordered after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought the court's nod for the proposal.

7 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



Jai Ram Thakur

Himachal CM tests positive for coronavirus

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Monday said he has tested positive for Covid-19. Thakur tweeted he had quarantined himself at his residence last week after coming in contact with someone infected by coronavirus. Earlier, ten MLAs in the 68-member Assembly tested positive for the infection. Urban Development Minister Suresh Bhardwaj tested positive on October 7. Before him, Power Minister Sukhram Chaudhary and Jal Shakti Minister Mahender Singh Thakur tested positive for Covid-19 — both ministers have now recovered. **PTI**

CHHATTISGARH 19-year-old abducted, raped; two arrested

Jashpur: A 19-year-old girl was abducted and gang-raped, allegedly by three men, in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur district, two of whom have been arrested, police said on Monday. On October 9, Arun Lakra, Sushil Chauhan and Firoz Bekal allegedly abducted the girl from her village, said Jashpur SP Balaji Rao. "She was found unconscious the next morning, gagged and bound by her own clothes," he said. On her complaint made from the hospital bed, a gang-rape and abduction case was registered and the two accused were apprehended, said the SP, adding that efforts are on to nab the third. **ENS**

Grid failure leads to massive power outage in Mumbai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

A MASSIVE power outage caused by grid failure disrupted normal life in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and beyond on Monday, bringing to a standstill for a few hours at mid-morning several essential services, including suburban trains ferrying essential services workers, online exams and water supply.

While power supply in many parts was restored within two hours, in some parts of suburban Mumbai and Thane, supply had

not been restored late into the evening. The last time Mumbai experienced such a long outage was in 2018.

Forty patients were shifted from Apex Hospital in Mulund after the generator caught fire due to overheating. The fire was extinguished in the evening.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray ordered an inquiry into the grid failure. He also held a meeting with Energy Minister Nitin Raut, senior government and energy officials on Monday evening. The probe will look into technical faults behind the outage in Mumbai and those responsible



Commuters wait at Mumbai Central station after train services were stalled during a power outage. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

for it, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

The outage began at 10.05 am. Power disruptions were reported from all parts of the island city and its suburbs, as well as from Thane, Panvel, Dombivili and Kalyan, and even as far away as Lonavala.

Suburban train services were hit immediately, with commuters stranded in trains in between stations. As the trains are open only for essential services workers because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the power cut had a domino effect on essential services as staff failed to turn up for work on time. A

statement from Central Railway (CR) said train services were restored at 12:26 pm. Western Railway (WR) said train services resumed from 12:20 pm.

The outage, at least two hours in many places but stretching to as long as five, six and even eight hours in others, caused disruptions in water supply in some areas.

The ongoing final-year online exams in Mumbai colleges had to be put off to another day, and hearings at the Bombay High Court and lower courts resumed after two hours. Equipped with solid back-ups, the airport and

stock exchange were unaffected.

Hospitals, with ICUs filled with Covid-19 patients, switched to generators immediately. In preparation for a potentially long wait for power to be restored, Mumbai municipal commissioner I S Chahal asked all hospitals to arrange for sufficient supply of diesel for at least eight hours.

A statement from CMO said the power supply to Mumbai was cut off at around 10 am due to breakdown of the power line. However, the power supply was restored, in major parts, within three and a half hours on "a war-footing", it said.

TOP US OFFICIAL SAYS CHINA 'ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM'

Can explore more issues in coming 2+2 talks: Biegun

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

CALLING CHINA the "elephant in the room", visiting US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E. Biegun on Monday said that the Quad is a partnership driven by shared interests, not binding obligations, and is not intended to be an exclusive grouping.

Biegun also made it clear that the security partnerships the United States and its partners explore today do not necessarily need to follow the model of the last century of mutual defence treaties with a heavy in-country presence of US troops.

Speaking at the Ananta Centre India-US Forum in New Delhi, Biegun said, "Any country that seeks a free and open Indo-Pacific, and is willing to take steps to ensure that, should be welcome to work with us."

On Monday, Biegun met Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and subsequently External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, among other scheduled meetings in the government during his three-day trip to India. His conversations are expected to set the stage for Indo-US 2+2 ministerial meeting between Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the Indian side, and US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark Esper.

Biegun said the US has already begun "increased foreign



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun. *Twitter*

military sales and intelligence sharing with India. But there is more that we can do, including strengthening India's ability to defend itself and by promoting interoperability among our militaries through regular exercises and exchanges, common defence platforms, and co-development.

"The upcoming 2+2 ministerial meeting between Secretary Pompeo and Minister Jaishankar and their respective defence counterparts will be an excellent opportunity to explore next steps on some of these issues," he said.

Stressing that the US post-World War II Pacific treaty alliances contributed to security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific for seven decades, he said, "But I should also be clear that the se-

EXPLAINED Signal to Beijing: India not alone

FIVE MONTHS into India's standoff with Chinese PLA in Ladakh and the Quad meeting in Tokyo, the comments by Stephen Biegun are a clear message to an aggressive China. New Delhi, too, is taking the step to signal to Beijing that it is not alone. Biegun's visit sets the stage for a possible Indo-US 2+2 in-person meeting later this month.

curity partnerships the United States and our partners explore today do not necessarily need to follow the model of the last century... Today we benefit from forging close links with countries, like India, that share our vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific..."

Biegun said, "Of course, as we advance in this direction, there is an elephant in the room: China." He said that "recent events in the region" reflect that the Indo-US work together in the Quad and in other multilateral groupings are "critical pillars", as "is formalising our cooperation — bilaterally and with others — in more regular and systematic ways that offer benefits to our nations' security".

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

India, China military commanders meet for 7th time over Ladakh standoff

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

INDIAN AND Chinese Corps Commanders met for the seventh time on Monday to discuss the ongoing military standoff in eastern Ladakh, which had begun in early May.

The meeting started at noon and took place on the Indian side of Chushul-Moldo Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) point — it lasted late into the evening. Sources in the defence establishment suggested that no major breakthrough was expected.

It was the last meeting of XIV Corps Commander Lt General Harinder Singh, as he would hand over the command to Lt General P G K Menon on October 14. Lt General Menon was part of Monday's meeting, as well as the sixth round of talks on September 21.

The Chinese delegation was led by Major General Liu Lin, Commander of the South Xinjiang Military District.

The Indian delegation also included Naveen Srivastava, joint secretary, MEA (handling East Asia), who has been representing India in the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC). He was also part of the last meeting.

For the first time, the Chinese side also had a representative from the country's Foreign

Ministry.

Sources in the government said there was another senior Army official, representing the headquarters from the operations branch as part of the delegation. Similarly, the sources said, the Chinese delegation also included an official representing their Ministry of National Defence.

In the last meeting both sides had agreed that neither will take steps that can lead to further escalation.

India has been demanding status quo ante, for troops from both sides to go back to their positions as of April-end. In the last meeting, China had insisted that Indian troops should step back from the positions occupied by them in August-end in Chushul sub-sector, allowing India to dominate the region, as the positions overlook not only the Spanggur Gap, but also China's Moldo Garrison.

India had insisted that the entire eastern Ladakh region be discussed, where both sides have around 50,000 troops each along with additional artillery, tanks and air defence assets.

With no solution to the stalemate, even as they agreed to not send additional troops, both sides have also prepared for deployment of additional troops through the harsh winters. While they may need to pull back some troops from their positions, especially on the heights, sources said India will only reduce troop strength only if China does.

PAC to visit Leh, meet soldiers

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

AMID THE standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, members of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) headed by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will go to Leh later this month and undertake a field visit to a forward area.

Chowdhury had earlier this month written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking permission for the committee to visit Ladakh to meet soldiers deployed there and understand first-hand their working conditions, given the fact that a CAG report -- had said that troops stationed in high-altitude areas like Siachen and Ladakh faced acute shortage of high-altitude clothing and equipment including snow goggles because of delay in procurement.



Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

Birla has given permission and the committee will be in Ladakh on October 28 and 29. Sources said the MPs will have informal discussions with representatives of the Defence Ministry and the Northern Army Command in Leh on October 28 on "provisioning, procurement and issue of high-altitude clothing, equipment, ration and housing". It will also visit the Defence Institute of High Altitude Research of the DRDO in Leh.

Tweets against Thackerays: HC directs man to deposit phone with police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday directed a 32-year-old man booked for posting tweets against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son and minister Aaditya Thackeray to appear before the Cyber Cell of the Mumbai Police on October 16 for questioning. The court also directed the Nagpur resident, Sameet Thakkar, to handover his mobile phone to investigators.

A division bench of Justice S S Shinde and Justice M S Karnik was hearing a plea filed by Thakkar through advocate Abhinav Chandrachud, seeking to quash an FIR registered against him over his tweets. Thakkar had sought interim protection from arrest, pending hearing in the case.

However, Public prosecutor Deepak Thakare for Mumbai Police told the court that Thakkar did not cooperate with the police and failed to comply with the previous court order as he ran away from the V P Marg police station without signing the statement. It was done at the behest of a lawyer who was present with Thakkar at the police station, said Thakare.

Thakkar told the court that he should be allowed to have an advocate along with him when he will go to the police station. After hearing submissions, the court directed Thakkar to attend the police station on October 16 and asked him to deposit his cell phone with police and posted further hearing to October 23.

TRP 'scam': Key accused arrested from UP's Mirzapur

MOHAMED THAVER
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

THE MUMBAI Police crime branch on Monday said they arrested Vinay Tripathi, a former Hansa Research employee, alleging that he played a key role in what the Mumbai Police is terming the "TRP scam". Police believe that Tripathi, arrested from Mirzapur in UP, was the one who paid 21-year-old Vishal Bhandari — the first arrest in the case — to fudge TRPs.

Police also recorded the statements of two senior Hansa officials in connection with the scam. Hansa is the agency that measures TRP of various channels for Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) that determines advertisement revenues for TV channels.

A crime branch team that had gone to UP looking for Tripathi arrested him on Monday. As per police, Tripathi has worked with Hansa for four years as a relationship manager. "As soon as he came to know about the arrest of Bhandari, he fled," said an officer.

As per the remand, Tripathi paid Bhandari Rs 1,000-2,000 for each of the five households to watch a particular channel — as commission to be paid to the households. Bhandari himself was paid Rs 5,000.

At Bhandari's home in Mumbai, *The Indian Express* found only his grandmother. A neighbour requesting anonymity said, "He is just a 21-year-old who kept to himself. He was one of the few youngsters from our area who can speak

English.... How could he carry this out on his own? His father Ved works as a driver and is generally out all day." The police had found two bar-o-meters installed at Bhandari's residence after his arrest.

"We are hoping that the questioning of Tiwari will help them clarify which channels were involved in rigging TRPs," the official said. The police are still on the lookout for two others in the case.

The police also seized four bank accounts related to *Fakt Marathi* and *Box Cinemas* — two of the three channels named by Mumbai police as allegedly rigging TRPs.

"After scrutinizing the bank details, we found there was more money in these accounts than what could be substantiated prima facie. A forensic auditing of these accounts will be carried out to ascertain the money flow," an officer said. A police team is already studying the bank account details of *Republic* to see if there are any transactions related to the TRP scam being probed by them.

The Mumbai police has also roped in the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) to study these account details and also look into any possible incidents of money laundering.

The police had said that they were also writing to BARC to check if there was any unusual activity in the TRPs of *India Today* in the Malad area where Bhandari was the relationship manager. So far none of the five households have named India Today during their interrogation by the police.

Why no statutory mechanism to regulate TV media: HC to govt

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

THE BOMBAY High Court Monday asked the Centre why it does not have a statutory mechanism for content generated on electronic media similar to the Press Council of India, which regulates print media in the country.

Referring to absence of action over media trial, the court said, "There are so many orders passed by the Supreme Court. Nobody cares."

The division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Girish S Kulkarni asked the Centre: "Is there a statutory mechanism for broadcasters? When you have a Press Council of India for print media, why do not you have a similar mechanism for electronic media? Why should they have an open hand?"

Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, representing the government, told the court, "It is not

as if the government is not doing anything. It does take action on complaints received against channels. There are other mechanisms. It is to ensure that the media remains independent. But ultimately, the government cannot control everything. The press has freedom and its rights."

Seeking responses from the Centre and the broadcasters' associations, the court posted further hearing to Wednesday.

The division bench is hearing multiple PILs related to media coverage in the probe into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, including one by activists Nilesh Navlakhia, Mahibub D Shaikh and Subhash Chander Chaba through senior counsel Devdatt Kamat along with advocates Rajesh Inamdar and Shashwat Anand. Their PIL states that the nature of reporting by TV channels is one of "sensationalism", which is adversely impacting the ongoing CBI probe into the case.

The court is also hearing

other PILs filed by eight former senior police officers from Maharashtra and an NGO, seeking restraining orders against "media trial" in the case.

In their plea, the activists submitted that news channels need to follow the Programme Code as per the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, and the Centre has to issue relevant directions in this regard.

Senior counsel Kamat argued that when a matter is pending investigation, or is at the stage of trial, publishing material that tends to portray a particular outcome amounts to contempt, and action is required against such acts. He said that when complaints were made to the Centre regarding TV media's coverage of the Rajput death case, instead of complying with its own mechanisms to deal with violation of Programme Code the government sent them to private organisations such as the News Broadcasters Association (NBA).

Aaj Tak fined Rs 1 lakh for attributing 'fake tweets' to Sushant, group to request NBSA to reconsider order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE NEWS Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) has imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on news channel Aaj Tak for attributing "fake tweets" to actor Sushant Singh Rajput in a broadcast related to his death.

The India Today Group, which runs Aaj Tak, told *The Indian Express* on Monday that it will request NBSA to recon-

sider its order.

The NBSA also ordered Aaj Tak, Zee News, News 24 and India TV to air an apology for violating its guidelines while covering Rajput's death. Aaj Tak was found in violation of NBSA guidelines in four separate complaints and will have to air an apology for each violation.

NBSA is an independent body set up by the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) and tasked with deciding complaints about broadcasts and hold its members

accountable. Retired Justice A K Sikri is its current chairperson.

In its detailed order dated October 6, NBSA found that Aaj Tak, in attributing fake tweets to Rajput, had violated its guideline on gathering information first-hand and from multiple sources. After discovering that it had been misled, the news channel deleted the tweets and took down its article. NBSA was of the view that Aaj Tak should have verified the information before airing the news report and not after.

"We are in process of filing a representation before NBSA while requesting to reconsider its directions issued vide its Order bearing No. 73(2020) on the issue of jurisdictional overreach," the corporate communications team of India Today Group said in an emailed response.

In a decision on another complaint, *Aaj Tak*, *Zee News* and *News24* were pulled up for airing offensive headlines while reporting Rajput's death, which the NBSA order noted affected the "dignity

of the deceased". They have been ordered to apologise on air.

Sudhir Chaudhary, editor-in-chief of Zee News, did not respond to a message seeking his comment on NBSA's order.

Aaj Tak and India TV have also been asked to apologise for showing visuals of Rajput's body. Chairman and editor-in-chief of India TV, Rajat Sharma, did not respond to a message seeking his comment.

FULL REPORT ON
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MEA: 7 Indians abducted in Libya released

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE MINISTRY of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday said that seven Indian nationals, who were abducted at Assherif in Libya on September 14, were released on October 11.

"We are happy to inform that the seven Indian nationals who had been abducted at Assherif in Libya on 14 September were finally released yesterday (October 11). Our Ambassador to Tunisia Shri Puneet Roy Kundal spoke to them over phone after they were handed over by the abductors to the company Al Shola Al Mudia. All of them are in good health and are currently staying in the company's premises in Brega. We are trying to complete requisite formalities to enable their return to India."

It also said, "We convey our sincere thanks to the Libyan authorities and the tribal elders from the region for their steadfast cooperation in securing the release of our nationals unharmed. Both our Ambassador to Tunisia and our local consular staff were in constant touch with them and the company all through the crisis."

The Ministry said that it would like to reiterate that there is ban on travel of Indian nationals to Libya, irrespective of the purpose, since May 2016, due to the security situation there.

J&K cops: Three school teachers held under PSA

Former student link to Pulwama blast put Shopian institute on police radar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12

THREE TEACHERS of a school in Shopian in south Kashmir have been detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and more are under surveillance, one year after the institute came on the police radar when one of its alumni was found involved in the Pulwama blast which left nearly 40 CRPF personnel dead, police said.

"The name of the school is Siraj-ul-Uloom," said Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar when asked about the school. "We have already booked its three teachers under the PSA. They are Abdul Ahad Bhat, Abdul Rouf Bhat and Mohammad Yusuf Wani." Answering another query, he said, "Around five to six other teachers of the school are under surveillance. We have warned them under 107 CrPc... The school is basically affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami (Jammu and Kashmir)." Section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code deals with any likely breach of peace or public tranquility.

The Ministry said that it would like to reiterate that there is ban on travel of Indian nationals to Libya, irrespective of the purpose, since May 2016, due to the security situation there.

One of the biggest seminaries in south Kashmir, Siraj-ul-Uloom runs a senior secondary school that imparts religious and modern education and is recognised by Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. While some of the members of the school are affiliated to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (Jammu and Kashmir), it is run by a separate body under the Siraj-ul-Uloom Educational Trust. The school first came under the scanner in 2019 when Sajad Ahmad, one of its former students, was found involved in the car blast at Lethpora — he provided the vehicle for the blast that killed 40 paramilitary personnel. Police said some other students and alumni of the school have also been found involved in militant activities.

"All militants are students of one or the other educational institute," said a senior police officer. "Over the last three-four years, over 500 boys have become militants in south Kashmir. It is true that 10-15 might have been students of this school, but others were from other schools. There are more students who were graduates or students of engineering colleges who have joined militants than the religious schools."



Smoke billows out of a house during the encounter at old Barzulla in Srinagar on Monday. PTI

2 LeT militants killed in encounter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 12

A COMMANDER of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from Pakistan, who was responsible for several recent attacks on security personnel in Kashmir, and his associate were killed on Monday in an encounter in Srinagar, J&K Police said. They identified the militants as LeT commander Saifullah and his associate Irshad Ahmad Dar of Pulwama.

According to officials, a joint team of J&K Police and CRPF cordoned off the city's Barzulla neighbourhood based on inputs about the presence of militants. While a search was on, the mili-

tants opened fire on the team, leading to the gunfight. J&K DGP Dilbag Singh told reporters, "The important thing about today's operation was that a top Lashkar commander (Saifullah) was killed in it." "Saifullah was part of three major attacks — an attack on CRPF some days ago at Kaisermulla, Budgam, in which our ASI was martyred. Some days ago, another CRPF party was attacked at Kandizal in which two jawans were martyred and three others injured. After that, another attack on a convoy in Kandizal that was repelled. Also, the attack near Nowgam in which two policemen of armed police were martyred, he was involved in that as well," DGP Singh added. This was the eighth encounter in Srinagar this year, he said. "In these eight encounters, we killed 18 terrorists so far," DGP Singh said in response to a question. "Lashkar and others are trying to get a foothold in the city but our int (elligence) network is good and quite effective. Because of that, our troops are able to take care of them," he added. Singh said that 180 militants have been killed in 75 operations across the Valley in this year so far, and 138 militants and their associates have been arrested. The Valley has seen a steep rise in 'shoot-and-run' attacks by the militants in recent months. Police say Saifullah was behind most of these attacks.

Jhansi: Eight students held for 'blackmail and gangrape' of teen

AVANEESH MISHRA LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 12

EIGHT STUDENTS of a college allegedly blackmailed and gangraped a 17-year-old girl in Jhansi district.

According to senior police officials, the accused used a video to extort Rs 2,000 from the girl. They also allegedly beat up another student the girl was going to meet, after he tried to stop the accused from sexually assaulting her on Sunday. While the FIR in the case named one accused and 10-15 unidentified people, eight students including the named accused have been arrested.

"The girl — a student — had come to meet another student. The accused saw them meeting and recorded their video to blackmail them. Using the video, they made the girl transfer Rs 2,000 to a local shop and took that money from the shopkeeper. As the girl was already in panic, they further blackmailed her and took her to a hostel room. When the boy tried to intervene, they beat him up," said District Magistrate Andra Vamsi.

SP City Vivek Tripath said that a wireless department constable was passing by when he noticed that the accused were beating up a boy. When he intervened, the accused ran away. The constable then informed the control room and additional police forces reached the spot. Senior police officials said that the presence of semen in the hostel room confirmed that the girl was sexually assaulted. The report of the girl's medical examination is awaited. The semen has been sent for DNA test, said the ASP. An FIR was registered on the girl's complaint against one named accused and at least 10 unidentified people under Sections 376D (gangrape), 120B (criminal conspiracy), 395 (dacoity), 386 (extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) of the IPC along with section of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. DM Vamsi told The Indian Express that the college hostel was shut but the premises were open that day because an examination was going on. SSP Dinesh Kumar P said that they have separately questioned the eight arrested persons, and further investigation is on. The State Human Rights Commission took cognizance of the matter. In an order letter to the Jhansi SSP, commission member Justice K P Singh said, "Prima facie the incident appears to be a clear example of human rights violation, and the commission is taking suo motu cognizance. In the incident, the SPP should get an investigation conducted and submit the report to the commission in four weeks."

MORE SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run a Special Trains as per schedule given below :-

Table with 4 columns: TRAIN No., STATIONS, ARR. DEP., TRAIN No. for return journey. Includes train 02033/02034 Kanpur Central-New Delhi-Kanpur Central Shatabdi Superfast Special Train.

Days of Run: 02033 Ex. Kanpur Central on daily (except Sunday) and 02034 from New Delhi on daily (except Sunday) from 20.10.2020 to 30.11.2020.

Accommodation: Executive Chair Car & AC Chair Car

02813/02814 Bhubaneswar-Anand Vihar (T.)-Bhubaneswar Duronto Special Train (Weekly)

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Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating. (This special train shall run fully reserved)

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Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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Online tenders are invited for Data Processing and Result Process for conduct of NTSE and NMMSS examinations (around 2.40 Lakhs Candidates are expected to appear in the examination) conducted by the BSE for the academic year 2020-21.

KEY DATES AND TIME To submit online tenders logon to https://mptenders.gov.in

- 1. Online Tender Publishing Date : 12.10.2020 at 5:00 P.M.
2. Online Tender Purchase and : 13.10.2020 at 5:00 P.M.
3. Bid Submission Closing Date : 03.11.2020 at 2:00 P.M.
4. Technical Bid Opening : 04.11.2020 at 3:00 P.M.
5. Commercial Bid Opening : 05.11.2020 at 3:00 P.M.

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E-Tender are invited from firms/ contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned.

- (A) 1. 50/GM/SM(WC-5)/2020-21, Name of Work:- M/o Drain (Raising of Boundary wall of Irrigation Drain along Gamma Vihar, Sector-35), Noida Cost - Rs. 33.86 Lacs
2. 54/GM/SM(WC-5)/2020-21, Name of Work:- Mastic Flooring work (P/L Mastic Flooring on U-Turn, T-Junction and Crossing on road between Sector-58, 59 and 60), Noida Cost - Rs. 69.92 Lacs
3. 59/GM/SM(WC-5)/2020-21, Name of Work:- M/o Drain (Repair of Drain and P/F Precast Slab on Drain (Sector-58/Bishanpura side) Road between Sector-57 & 58), Noida Cost - Rs. 99.31 Lacs
4. 33/GM/SM(WC-2)/2020-21, Name of Work:- M/o Road (Repair & Raising footpath Zonal Road No.-8 from MP-2 to MP-3 Road), Noida Cost - Rs. 69.71 Lacs
5. 21/E-Tender/GM/SM(WC-3)/2020-21, Name of Work:- M/o Road (P/L BM & BC of Internal road in Century Apartment and laying interlocking tile Sec.-100), Noida Cost - Rs. 81.99 Lacs
6. 22/E-Tender/GM/SM(WC-3)/2020-21, Name of Work:- D/o Village (C/o C.C. road and drain near Moolchand Public School, Khajoor Colony, Gali No.-7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & M.S. Jaal at different Location in Village Sadarpur), Noida Cost - Rs. 81.74 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 29.10.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 30.10.2020 at 11.00 AM.

- (B) 1. 48/GM/SM(WC-5)/2020-21, Name of Work:- Strengthening of Road (Providing and Laying D.B.M. and B.C. work on Internal roads in 5% Abadi, Sector-121), Noida Cost - Rs. 52.08 Lacs

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ARRESTED ON WAY TO HATHRAS Go to HC: SC to union seeking release of Kerala journalist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE SUPREME Court on Monday asked the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ), which had filed a plea seeking release of their member Sidhique Kappan — who was arrested by Uttar Pradesh Police while allegedly on the way to meet the Hathras victim's family — to move the Allahabad High Court first.

"Please approach the Allahabad High Court," Chief Justice S A Bobde told Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the journalists' body. Sibal said it was a habeas corpus matter when the petition was filed, but the police later added charges under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). "No court in UP will grant us bail. Let us approach you under Article 32 of the Constitution," the senior counsel told the bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian. But the bench told him "you approach the HC", and sought to

alloy his concerns saying the apex court is there in case something goes wrong. Kappan was arrested on October 5 along with three others, with the police alleging that they were associated with the Popular Front of India (PFI). The KUWJ said that Kappan is "a member" and "journalist with more than 10 years' experience presently working with" a "news portal and a member of the petitioner union". It said Kappan was on his way to report on the Hathras incident when he was picked up, and sought his release from "illegal detention".

The journalists' body contended that the arrest is in violation of earlier guidelines by the Supreme Court and "was with a view to obstruct the discharge of duty as a journalist". Kappan writes for a Malayalam news website. He earlier worked with Malayalam daily Thejas, which was run by the PFI. The paper shut its print edition since December 2018 citing lack of advertisement revenue.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

COVID-19 statistics for India: 224 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN. CASES: 71,20,538. RECOVERED: 61,49,535. DEATHS: 1,09,150. TESTS: 8,78,72,093. DOUBLING RATE: 69.34**

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited Vidyut Nagar, P.O. - DLW Varanasi-221004 E-Tender Notice E-tender are invited for the following material. Tender will be accepted up to 15.00 hrs. Please visit our website www.etender.up.nic.in

Kerala 1st in country with high-tech classrooms in govt, aided schools: CM

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 12

KERALA HAS become the first state in the country to have high-tech classrooms or high-tech labs in all government-run and aided schools, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Monday.

Under the state government's high-tech classroom scheme, 16,027 schools from primary to higher secondary level have been equipped with 3.74 lakh digital gadgets, according to the project document. As part of this flagship project of the LDF government, high-tech labs have been set up in primary and upper primary schools and 40,000 classrooms in high school and higher secondary schools have been converted into smart classrooms. High speed broadband internet has been ensured in 12,678 schools.

The Chief Minister said all students in Kerala can now use modern technology for their studies. The government, he said, was determined to give quality education to all sections of people. The government envisaged to ensure digital facilities for children in rural areas too and facilities at schools



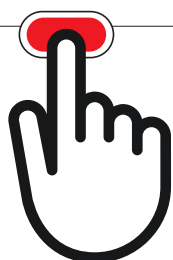
Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan

in rural areas being improved so that they are on a par with those in any high-end school, he said.

"In reviving the state's public education, the government has ensured people's participation. The three-tier local bodies have been entrusted with the task of reviving the public education system. Several government schools on the verge of closure have been revived. Kerala schools now have world-class facilities and this has brought in changes in the academic sector also," he said.

The Chief Minister said that as part of the project, 2 lakh laptops have been distributed in schools. "We haven't so far taken sole credit for all these achievements. Others might have done something and this government could complete that. It should be seen as the achievement of the state. No need for trying to cover up the achievements," he said.

The project was implemented by the state education department's Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education with financial aid from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board. Also, legislators and MPs have contributed from their local area development fund, an official statement said.



BIHAR: ECONOMY

Dragged by legacy issues, a slow, steady progress

Nitish's 15 yrs have seen high growth, especially in welfare indices, spending; industries slower to catch up

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

AS BIHAR heads into an election that promises to be a battle of proxies fought between former and present allies, on the state's economic conditions alone, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar seems to have a clear edge. The state has improved in the last five years in terms of growth of the gross state domestic product (GSDP), agriculture, expenditure on health and education, as well as infrastructure.

However, Bihar's legacy problems such as minimal industrialisation, clean water, sanitation, open defecation, rural housing, and microfinance for small and marginal farmers continue.

In the first decade of Nitish as CM, between 2005-06 and 2014-15, the GSDP of Bihar at constant prices grew annually at 10.5%. While this spike was attributed to a low-base effect, the GSDP continued to grow at an average rate of 9.8%, higher than the national growth rate, even between 2010-11 and 2014-15.

Before the 2015 Assembly elections, Kumar called off his decade-old relationship with the BJP-led NDA and opted to go to polls with his long-time political foe Lalu Prasad's Mahagathbandhan. The alliance got elected, but could not last the term. Two years later, in 2017, Kumar walked out of the Mahagathbandhan partnership to return to the NDA and continue as CM.

The political see-saw seemed to have had its effect on the GSDP. In 2015-16, the growth rate fell to 7.6%, much lower than Nitish's previous two terms, albeit still higher than the national growth rate.

Struggling industry

However, Bihar continues to remain plagued by negligible income and growth in its industrial sector -- reflected both in its liabilities and revenue receipts. In his 15 years, Nitish has not managed to make a major dent in the outstanding liabilities -- in just the period between 2015 and 2019, these grew from Rs 1.16 lakh crore to Rs 1.68 lakh crore. Bihar's revenue receipts, meanwhile, have consistently fallen short of budgeted estimates. The high of Rs 14,823 crore in 2017-18 had fallen to less than half, Rs 6,897 crore, in 2018-19.

At the beginning of this Assembly's term, 2015-16, when the industrial sector grew at 7.1%, it contributed only 19% of the GSDP. This was far below the national average of 30%, and nearly half the average contribution of the industrial sector even in neighbouring Jharkhand (when Bihar and Jharkhand split into two states, the smaller partner cornered the lion's share of its industries).

While rising since then, the contribution of the industrial sector to the GSDP was still only around 20% in 2017-18 (the national average was 31.2%, while the Jharkhand figure stood at 37.1%).

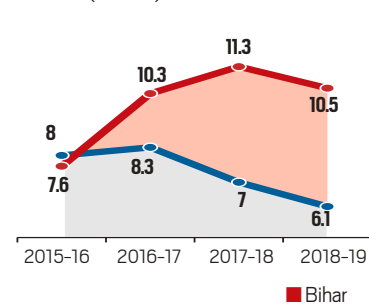
At the end of 2016-17, only about 2,900 of Bihar's estimated 3,531 factories were operational, employing on an average 40 people each. The national average is nearly dou-



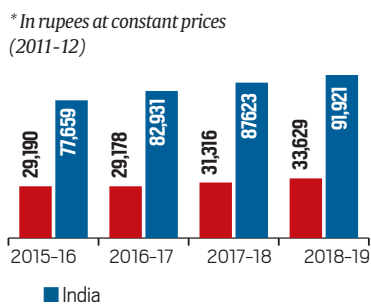
Cycles for schoolgirls was one of Nitish gov't's schemes. For 2020-21, it has doubled budget for health, family welfare. File

A STORY IN NUMBERS

GDP (in %)



PER CAPITA INCOME*



BIHAR'S EXPENDITURE ON KEY SECTORS

Sector/Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*
Education	19,385.6	19,713	23,656	28,080	35,942
Public Health	4,571	5,493	6,535	7,318	9,157
Social Services	38,684	44,329	58,492	58,284	-

All figures in rupees crores
Source: Bihar Economic Survey, RBI study of state budgets
* Budgeted Estimate

ble, 77 workers. The average salary per annum per worker in Bihar then was a dismal Rs 1.2 lakh, again less than half of the national average of Rs 2.5 lakh.

Growth in farming

The growth in agriculture and allied activities, on the contrary, a priority for the JD(U) government, has been slow but steady. About 70% of Bihar's workforce is dependent on agriculture. The share of agriculture in the GSDP stood at 20% in 2017-18, up from 18% five years ago. With an average annual

growth rate of 4.4% over the past five years, the production of major crops like maize, rice and wheat has grown despite a fall in the net sown area.

Agriculture has also done well despite the government's own fluctuating contribution. In 2015-16, the total expenditure on agriculture and allied activities stood at Rs 4,119.9 crore, or 11% of the state's total spend on economic services. In 2016-17, this came down to Rs 2,414.4 crore, while in the following fiscal, it jumped back to Rs 5,724.1 crore. Public expenditure on agricultural research has also

seen a decline over the past five years. Microfinance to small and marginal farmers remains an issue -- despite them making up 91% of the state's farming community, holding an average landholding of 0.4 hectares.

Boost to welfare

On the other hand, Bihar, historically in the lowest rungs of human development indexes such as health and education, has been catching up on spending in the social sector under Nitish. For 2020-21, Deputy CM and Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi has allocated Rs 39,351 crore for education, sports, arts and culture. This is substantially higher than the Rs 22,027.9 crore allocation in 2015-16 (17% of the state budget), of which Bihar managed to spend Rs 19,385.6 crore. The state has been trying to stem its high dropout rates, which stood at 52.5% for girls and 59% for boys at the secondary school level in 2015-16.

Similarly, the Nitish government's budget of Rs 10,602 crore for health and family welfare programmes in 2020-21 is more than double the Rs 4,971.6 crore allocation in 2015-16. The spending on health and family welfare in 2020-21 is likely to be considerably higher due to the Covid-19 pandemic, apart from the expenditure as Bihar tries to ramp up its district and referral hospitals, as well as the number of health centres from 114 per 10 lakh people currently.

The progress has been slow. Only one district hospital was constructed and made functional by the state government between 2012 and 2019, whereas the number of referral hospitals has remained stagnant at 70. The number of primary health centres also has remained virtually unchanged, with the last count 533 in 2019, same as for the previous seven years.

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INTERVIEW



K C TYAGI, JD(U) SPOKESPERSON

EXPRESS explained.

WHAT CONSTITUTES NDA IN BIHAR AND WHAT IS ITS SOCIAL COMPOSITION?

THE KEY PLAYERS AND WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR THEM, THE STATE

HASHTAG POLITICS

RJD releases campaign song



RJD on Monday released the party's campaign song *Is baar Tejashwi tay hai* (Tejashwi is certain this time). The clip, meant to circulate on social media, especially WhatsApp, projects party chief Lalu Prasad's younger son as Bihar's CM face. The 3:57-long clip has two shots of Lalu Prasad

6.7 K LIKES, 1.4 K SHARES, 539 COMMENTS IN 4 HOURS ON RJD'S FACEBOOK PAGE

PM Narendra Modi pays homage to Dr Ram Manohar Lohia on his death anniversary

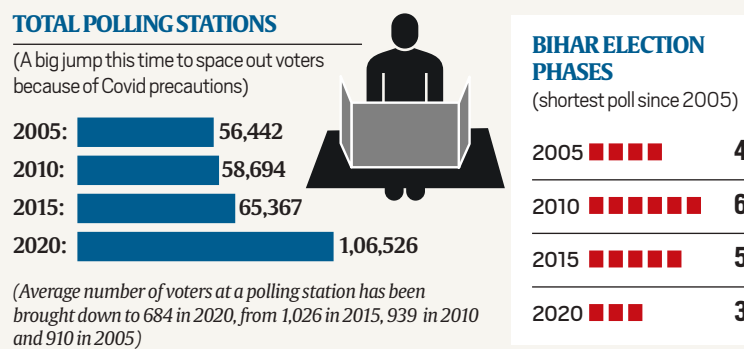
He tweeted that the socialist ideologue (who died aged 57 in 1967) was an inspiration for the country and "dedicated (his) life to strengthening democracy", and "put ideology above power"

19.8 K LIKES, 2,845 RETWEETS IN 3 HOURS

FB ENGAGEMENT

ON FACEBOOK, 532 POSTS ON 'BIHAR ELECTIONS' GENERATED 142,400 LIKES/COMMENTS IN 24 HOURS TILL 7 PM ON OCTOBER 12

BIHAR ELECTIONS AT A GLANCE



Only 21 of 70 seats decided, suspense in Cong over RJD's plans for it grows

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

OVER A week after the RJD and Congress announced a seat-sharing pact for the Bihar Assembly elections, the parties are yet to reveal the full list of seats that they will contest, triggering confusion and growing resentment in the Congress ranks.

The Congress has so far announced candidates for 21 seats, but most of the senior leaders are clueless about the rest of the constituencies that the party will contest, prompting many to wonder at the reason for the unusual secrecy. Several middle-rung leaders claim that the RJD has succeeded in giving the Congress "difficult" seats.

"We focused on the numbers... insisted on 70 seats. But the quality of the seats that we have been given... at least that is what I have heard since I have not seen the full list... is doubtful. I have been told that seats where the RJD has strong candidates have been taken by it. I don't know why the list has been kept a secret," a senior leader said.

For instance, sources said, the Congress is set to get the Supaul seat. State Energy Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav is the sitting MLA from here, having won in 2015 as a candidate of the JD(U) that was then with the RJD and Congress. In 2010, when Yadav had won as well, the RJD had contested the seat and had come second and the Congress third. "It is a tough seat for us," a Congress leader said.

Similarly, leaders say the Bihariganj seat in Madhepura is coming to the Congress. The RJD had come second in that seat in 2010. In 2015, it had gone to the JD(U) as part of the



Tej Pratap posted this photo on Facebook, "of receiving RJD symbol for Hasanpur seat" from mother Rabri Devi, adding "Miss You Papa". He last fought from Mahua

seat-sharing arrangement. "Our candidate, senior leader Ranjeet Ranjan, came third in 2010," a leader said, adding, "There is speculation that Sharad Yadav's daughter could contest from there." With Sharad Yadav having floated a party of his own (it announced plans to contest 51 seats on its own, on Monday) that would further split the votes.

Another leader said, "I am told the Sonbarsa reserved seat is being given to the Congress. We had polled less than 11,000 votes there in 2010. The RJD-IJP alliance candidate had come second then."

On the other hand, Alamnagar in the same district, where the Congress had come second in 2010 and where it fancies its chances, is likely to go to the RJD.

There is already much resentment in the Congress over the Bachhwara seat going to

the CPI. The seat had been won in 2015 by veteran Congress leader Ramdeo Rai, who died last month. The Congress leadership had promised his son the seat.

The Digha seat from where state Youth Congress president Gunjan Patel wanted to contest has gone to another ally, CPI(M-L).

A leader said the fact is that every day of silence is making matters worse. "One day we are told that the Govindganj seat in Motihari is coming to the Congress. One day it is said that the RJD will contest it."

Once its issues with partners are settled, the Congress will have in-house problems to resolve. Recently, party workers sat on a dharna at the Congress headquarters over the decision to give Gajanan Shahi the ticket from Barbiga. There have been protests with slogans like "Stop the sale of tickets".

KEY PLAYERS

The rise and rise of Nityanand Rai

Amit Shah's deputy in Home Ministry, the 54-yr-old is BJP's Yadav face in Bihar, heads its 70-member poll panel, and proved his worth in a Lalu bastion

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 12

CAMPAIGNING FOR the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in Ujjiarpur constituency in Bihar's Samastipur district, then BJP national president Amit Shah promised "giving some important" job to BJP candidate Nityanand Rai if he won and the NDA returned to power. Shah kept his word, making Rai a Minister of State in the Union Home Ministry. From just another BJP MLA until 2010, Rai became Shah's official deputy last year. His meteoric rise has stunned all.

Rai, 54, has emerged as the BJP's Yadav face and its leading contender for chief minister's chair, should it come to that, in Bihar, where traditionally the saffron party has been associated with upper castes and Yadavs have supported Lalu Prasad's RJD.

The son of a farmer, Rai has been associated with the Sangh Parivar since 1981, joining the ABVP that year as a student activist. He attended RSS *shakhas* while doing his graduation from R N College in Hajipur, and first caught attention of BJP patriarch Kailashpati Mishra, who noticed and groomed him.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Eventually, Rai would end the Congress's influence in the area, and repeatedly won the Hajipur Assembly seat between 2000 and 2010. The wins particularly counted as Hajipur is a constituency surrounded by RJD bastions Raghupur (Rabri Devi's three-time winning seat until 2010), and Mahua, Sonepur and Parsa (the last two constituencies represented by Lalu).

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, Rai contested from Ujjiarpur and again won, in an election that the BJP had swept in the state, winning 31 of 40 seats.

In 2016, Shah chose Rai to head the state BJP, the first time that the party had chosen

an OBC leader for the post after continuous terms at the top of upper-caste leaders like Radha Mohan Singh, Dr C P Thakur and Mangal Pandey.

Having affirmed his position among leaders such as Sushil Kumar Modi, Prem Kumar, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Nand Kishore Yadav and Giriraj Singh in the Bihar BJP, Rai is now the lead face among the second-generation party leaders in the state, ready to take over from the older clique. Last month, sealing that further, the BJP appointed him head of the 70-member election steering committee for the polls. Rai is also the chairman-cum-convenor of the committee.



The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

FIRST STEPS

Finance Minister's package to revive consumption and investment is modest, raises expectations of more to come

ON MONDAY, UNION Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a set of measures aimed at reviving consumption and investment activity in the economy. They follow a two-pronged approach: First, putting money in the hands of government employees so as to incentivise spending, and second, increasing capital expenditure by both central and state governments. According to the government's estimates, these measures are expected to boost demand by Rs 73,000 crore by the end of this financial year. Seen against the scale of economic destruction, the measures announced on Monday, while limiting the fiscal costs, are modest first steps. They are unlikely to provide any meaningful, durable push to economic activity. Yet they signal an acknowledgement on the part of the government of the need for measures to boost demand — and raise expectations that more measures are in the offing.

The provisions to boost consumer spending are of two kinds. First, the "Leave Travel Concession Cash Voucher Scheme" provides central government employees money in lieu of leave travel concession for the 2018-21 period. Employees can utilise this amount to purchase goods and services, subject to the spending being done through digital channels. Alongside, the Centre will revive a one-time festival advance scheme giving Rs 10,000 to government employees. Conditional upon their adoption, these two measures together are expected to boost demand by around Rs 36,000 crore. However, not only do the conditions imposed by the government restrict the avenues of spending, the measures are fairly limited in their scope, and don't address the distress in large parts of the labour market, especially the informal sector. The second set of announcements that aim to spur capital spending include a 50-year interest free loan of Rs 12,000 crore to states, and the enhancement of central government capital expenditure by Rs 25,000 crore. Considering that the total capital outlay of states was pegged at Rs 5.81 lakh crore in 2019-20 (BE), these loans to states are unlikely to boost capital spending, and will be inadequate to offset the shortfall in their tax devolution, though they could be used for clearing pending bills. Further, considering that the Centre's capital spending in the first five months of the year has been marginally lower than last year, to what extent this additional allocation can be released quickly is debatable.

The GDP data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) had revealed the extent of the collapse in household consumption and investment in the economy in the first quarter of the current financial year. For the full year, the RBI now expects the economy to contract by around 9.5 per cent. While the measures announced on Monday will not be enough to offset this loss, they do indicate the intent of the government to push both household consumption and public investment at this juncture. These announcements should be the first steps of a broader, more ambitious fiscal package, that addresses the needs of stressed segments of the economy.

OPEN THE CONVERSATION

Vaccine allocation will pose difficult questions, call for choosing between vulnerabilities. Let the deliberations begin

LAST MONTH, UNION Health and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan told the Rajya Sabha that he expects a vaccine against COVID-19 to be available by early 2021. But he added a note of caution about the time it could take to reach everyone. On Sunday, he spoke again on the issue: "Prioritisation of groups for the COVID-19 vaccine shall be based on two considerations — occupational hazards and the risk of developing severe disease and increased mortality." The minister has done well to indicate the government's priorities at an early stage — a vaccine for mass use is, by most estimates, at least three months away. But in the coming weeks and months, as the government gives shape to its plans, narrowing down the priority list, it will need to answer more questions. For instance, if the strategy is to give precedence to healthcare workers, should doctors who deal with infectious diseases get the first shot? Or should nurses, ward attendants, ambulance drivers be higher on the priority list? Among those with comorbidities, should the health of the elderly be secured first, or do relatively younger people, who need to travel more, have a more urgent claim? Should those who live in slums and congested areas get priority? Choosing from among different sets of vulnerabilities is never easy. It is important, therefore, that the government opens the conversation to a variety of specialists — epidemiologists, ethicists, economists, patient groups, social scientists.

The WHO's preliminary guidelines for vaccine allocation underline the significance of a deliberative procedure: "Employ best available scientific evidence, expertise, and significant engagement with relevant stakeholders for vaccine prioritisation... using transparent, accountable and unbiased processes to engender... trust in prioritisation decisions". A consensus also seems to be emerging globally that allocation strategies should be informed by wide-ranging discussions. In the US, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) to develop a plan "to fairly allocate" a vaccine. NASEM reportedly conducted a public hearing in the first week of September before releasing its first draft.

The Drugs Controller General of India said, last month, that it would approve a vaccine "of at least 50 per cent efficacy". Given the magnitude of the crisis, this low bar is understandable. But a less than 100 per cent sure inoculation could mean that plans to track the initial recipients will have to be developed in tandem with the allocation strategy. It's important that a range of specialists are called in to join the dots, think through the difficult issues.

GAME, SET, MATCH

There's a Nadal-sized French Open asterisk against Federer's GOAT claims

ITLL DO THE men's singles final at French Open an immense disservice if it is reductively recounted as Rafael Nadal's 100th match win at Roland Garros or 13th Grand Slam title on clay or 999th career win. Nadal's 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 triumph over Novak Djokovic was a classic which reminded the world that epic encounters don't always need to go to five sets. Nadal winning the first set 6-0 against an opponent who hadn't lost his last 38 matches wasn't some one-sided savage dismantling by the Spaniard on what is his stomping ground. It was a riveting short story with twists and turns.

This wasn't Nadal trying to extract errors from Djokovic. He was thinking hard, stretching every sinew, exploring all angles on the court. The drop-shot that had worked for Djokovic all week was also on show. Against Nadal on the day, it didn't work. He would read his mind, reach the ball and place it across the net. Even when Nadal's dominance grew, the presence of Djokovic on the opposite end left a tantalising possibility of a comeback. Djokovic wasn't giving up. Nadal wasn't giving in. It was that kind of a Sunday.

The 2020 Nadal win was nothing like his 12 previous triumphs at Paris. Not Federer's roasting of 2008, nor the titanic triumph of 2011 where the Spaniard drew the best out of Federer on clay, could match this one. The Spaniard unleashed an uncharacteristic geometric game, not beholden to percentage play, leaving Djokovic with no answers. Serving up a masterclass without being a slave to a five-set scoreline, while equalling Federer's 20, Nadal can now stake legitimate claim to his friend's Greatest Of All Time honour. For with all things being equal now, there's a Nadal-sized French Open asterisk against Federer's GOAT claims.

The Hathras Conspiracy



ALOK RAI

'Conspiracy' is the oxygen that keeps bankrupt regimes alive. Minus that, one confronts a miscellany of horrors

THE BARE FACTS of the Hathras incident, the facts attendant and consequent, beggar language. Mere rape, even gangrape, is hardly news in our India. There needs to be something special about the rape for it to even be noticed above the daily noise of atrocity. A child, maybe? The morning paper has a four-year old, kept in captivity, raped and, for good measure, starved. An old woman of 90?

But even in this challenging environment, is there something about the Hathras incident that compels attention?

It couldn't be the familiar and characteristically Hindu hybrid of caste arrogance and toxic masculinity — although the local politicians did hold meetings in support of the suspected rapists and some of the village Thakurs stationed themselves outside the house of the grieving family, and broadcast insults and threats, on loudspeaker and viral videos, under the benign supervision of the police. Or could it be the extravagant cruelty of the original incident, the bruised tongue of the raped woman, the broken spine? Could it be the palpable complicity of the local administration in the ultimately botched attempt to cover up the crime — the lying policemen, the uncivil civil servants? Unfortunately, none of this is news.

Instances even more extreme can be multiplied — and perhaps will be, by adepts at the whatboutery game, in the bizarre belief that matching atrocities, from opposite sides of some ideological divide, cancel each other out, rather than adding up. But, to be fair, the rushed cremation was rather special. It isn't everyday that the members of the grieving family — the mother prostrating herself before the ambulance, the father begging to see the face of his murdered daughter for one last time — locked in in fear, even as the body of their dead daughter, crucial evidence of atrocity, is burnt in the small hours of the night, under police guard. Atrocity upon atrocity.

How, then, may one approach the matter of Hathras, approach the makeshift pyre, hastily assembled on waste land, and now strewn with a few, sad flowers? Perhaps in a respectful, awed silence, baffled by the enormity of what one confronts — a pile of ash,

now blowing in the wind. I am reminded of Subhadra Kumari Chauhan's lines, admonishing the very Spring to enter Jallianwalla Bagh but respectfully: *Aao priya rituraj, kintu dheere se aana/ Yeh hai shok-sthaan, yahaan mat shor machaana.*

One could be legalistic about it — there is much sport for lawyers here. There is the fudging of the medico-legal evidence, the delayed samples submitted for forensic evaluation; the bureaucratic alacrity in obfuscating the narrative — "no rape", trumpeted by the policemen, this was "merely" murder; the DM bullying the family into silence, on record; and perhaps most egregiously, the rushed cremation — the callousness of course, but also the forensic complicity, the destruction of vital evidence.

Each of these merits full and separate treatment but, for now, I will follow the lead of the CM, UP, and take off on what might be called the Adityanath Tangent. After reluctantly handing over the investigation to a notionally independent agency, the CBI, the government of UP has launched multiple investigations — 21 FIRs and counting — in pursuance of the claim that while the original Hathras incident may or may not be common or garden rape — be *mere* murder — the outrage over Hathras is part of an international conspiracy, no less, to destabilise the provincial government.

The uniquely horrible nature of the events at Hathras has evoked widespread condemnation, nationally as well as internationally. But to interpret this widespread condemnation as evidence of conspiracy requires genius. Nefarious actors, we are led to believe, are seeking to "challenge" the legitimacy of the duly elected government by "defaming" it — but the government of UP is, evidently quite capable of defaming itself. Arguably, it does little else, lurching from one outrage to another. Now one may grant the "duly elected" part, albeit with some reservations, so it is true that it is properly legal. But "legitimate" is an altogether trickier matter than simple legality.

To put it bluntly, legitimacy cannot be challenged, legality can. Legitimacy, on the other hand, has to be earned — through good

governance, through being perceived by the people they govern as acting in their interests, and not in the pursuit of sectarian and nefarious agendas. And while legitimacy cannot be challenged, since it rests to a significant extent on performance and perception, it can be eroded, it can drain away. Now, there might well be people who argue that the performance of the Adityanath government has been spectacularly good, etc — certainly it isn't safe to suggest otherwise in UP itself, for fear of attracting the dreaded provisions of the NSA and the UAPA, reportedly at the whim of the Chief Minister — "NSA laga do!" The case of Dr Kafeel Khan, whose detention was eventually ruled to be illegal by the High Court is, well, exemplary.

Those who rule us are eager to make examples of sundry people, "to teach a lesson," they say. But through long years of teaching, I have acquired the sobering knowledge that the lessons learnt are frequently different from the lessons that are sought to be taught. And the lesson that I derive from the paranoia that is evident, in state and Centre, in the perceived "challenges" to legitimacy, and the consequent resort to allegations of conspiracy and sedition by the exponents of such pedagogic "nationalism" — essentially, "teaching a lesson", generally with sticks and stones, to people who are deemed to be "anti-national" — might well be different from the one intended.

"Conspiracy!" confers a kind of retrospective, derived legitimacy in situations where the real thing is perceived, with justification, to have drained away. After all, if there is a "conspiracy", there must be something there to be conspired against — in other words, recalling Descartes, *conspiracy ergo sum*. "Conspiracy" is the oxygen that keeps bankrupt regimes alive. Minus that, what one confronts is a miscellany of horrors, lies and incompetence. Behind the bizarre "international conspiracy" generated by the Adityanath Tangent, that pile of ash, which was once a young woman, awaits our attention.

The writer taught in the department of English, Delhi University



GAURAV BHATT

WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS

Two French Open champions, Nadal and Swiatek, restore order to an anxious year

IT WAS in mid-March, with sporting events cancelled and organisers scrambling, that French Open ditched its usual May-June slot and flung a handkerchief on the September-October dates. At the time, the unilateral postponement irked all tennis bodies. But this year has underlined that hindsight is 20/20. Looking back, there couldn't have been a better end to the Grand Slam tennis season than the heady mix of emotions we got in Paris on Sunday — the exhilaration of the unknown and the comfort of the familiar.

In an anxiety-filled world, it was a relief that Iga Swiatek and Rafael Nadal won the French Open with absolute authority. Dominic Thiem's US Open win last month was marred by a sub-par final. Naomi Osaka's triumph was about a message bigger than the sport. The fortnight in France, however, was about two athletes at their ruthless best.

"Congratulations Rafael Nadal! It's amazing to kind of share this experience with you. Am I even allowed to say this?" tweeted Swiatek minutes after the Spaniard's 13th French Open title on Sunday. There's a reason behind the politeness. Swiatek was four when her favourite player laid the first brick to his kingdom of clay. On Saturday, she picked up her first title in Rafa-like fashion: Showing no respect to the status quo of seeds, past winners, runners-up and reigning champions. Both were 19 and the similarities only begin there.

The dizzying RPMs Swiatek puts on the ball far exceed most women and rival many

men. The lasso-like forehand is another shared trait. But unlike a young Nadal, Swiatek already looks like a Wimbledon contender, and it isn't just the sparkling white garb. On clay, where only fools rush in, the Pole won 57 net points at a success rate of 78.

Yes, women's singles tennis has long been a carousel. Swiatek is the ninth first-time champion in the last 14 Grand Slams, and the fifth first-timer to win the French Open in as many years. She would do well to take another page out of her idol's playbook.

Coming into the French Open, the odds were against Nadal — concerns about the 34-year-old's long layoff and indifferent form, about the heavier balls and colder Parisian climes, both of which could, in theory, adversely affect his game. Nadal answered with a near-perfect campaign that ended by dismantling nemesis Novak Djokovic.

It's fitting that the two losing finalists — Djokovic and Sofia Kenin — were champions at the year's first Grand Slam. The Australian Open now seems ages ago. Happier times? Perhaps not, seeing how the tournament was played in the backdrop of the bushfires crisis. Simpler times, though. They got to lift their trophies in front of an audience, their wide grins not concealed by masks.

After her triumph, Swiatek was a rat in a maze. She sprinted up and down the stairs, climbed over barriers before making it to the box and the arms of her team. She fumbled her way through the speech before admitting, "I don't know what's going on." Nadal was at his regal best, swatting

aside queries about the 20-Grand Slam mark shared with Roger Federer: "It's all about Roland Garros today".

Off court, the two champions couldn't be any different. Swiatek spent the enforced break doing homework in a unicorn onesie, sharing Baby Yoda memes and booting up the PlayStation. Nadal struggled with ordeals like how to add a person to a video call. Comments spammed Nadal's feed as he tried for minutes to set up an Instagram session with fellow elder Federer. One, from a certain Andy Murray, read: "This is brilliant... he can win 52 French opens but not work Instagram." Murray's comment reads a lot like the running gag on Wikipedia, where fans edit the "Roland Garros" entry to read: "French Open is a major tennis tournament held over two weeks at the Stade Roland-Garros in Paris, beginning in late May and ending after Rafael Nadal kisses the trophy."

The dates were different, but Nadal brought some semblance of order to a chaotic year. Swiatek made it better by restoring faith in the future.

For now, it's au revoir. The Paris Masters is scheduled for next month, but COVID-19 cases in France have been on an uptick. Our champions return to their respective routines. Swiatek doing what she loves, solving math problems in Warsaw, while Nadal will try to figure out technology in Mallorca.

"But what about us," you ask? We'll always have Paris.

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OCTOBER 13, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

WAR RAGES ON IRAQI JETS ROCKETED Abadan as tanks raced to close in on the gutted oil refining city in southwestern Iran. Iran's President Abol-Hassan Bani-Sadr said his country's forces were wearing down the Iraqis and will mount a counter-attack to "recover every inch of territory" taken over by Iraq. He said Iran was agreeable to a UN sponsored ceasefire limited to the Shatt el Arab estuary to allow an estimated 60 stranded foreign ships to leave. But there were no signs that Iraq would agree to the localised stand down after its infantry stormed across the strategic Karun river to win total control of the 120-mile shipping lane.

AASU ON MIGRANTS THE ALL ASSAM Students Union has described as fallacious the interpretation that the migrants who came to India before March 25, 1971 could not be sent back. The Indira-Mujib pact of 1972 or the joint declaration of March 1972 did not say anything about refugees or migrants, the AASU contended in a leaflet brought out on the Nehru-Liaqat Ali Khan agreement and the Indira-Mujib pact. However, the India-Bangladesh joint statement in February 1972 did talk of migrants, and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had expressed his resolve to take back all migrants who came to India after March 25, 1971. This does not

mean the migrants who came to India before that date cannot be taken back, the booklet claimed.

J&K HAILSTORM THIRTY-FIVE BAKARWALS AND Gujjars were killed in a hailstorm which swept the mountainous range of Peer Panjal in the border district of Poonch and Rajouri. The parties of Gujjars and Bakarwals were on their way back to the plains from the mountain pastures, where they had gone to graze their cattle. According to reports, hailstones the size of table-tennis balls beat down on them, killing at least 10 on the spot.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Quad and the global churn

Engaging Quad partners on reforming China-centred economic globalisation is a rare opportunity for India. But it also involves engineering internal change



RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

THE QUAD, OR the quadrilateral security dialogue between India, US, Japan and Australia, is now emblematic of the geopolitical churn in the eastern hemisphere. Less noted but equally significant is its geo-economic agenda that has drawn South Korea, Vietnam and New Zealand into the post-pandemic consultations in the so-called "Quad Plus" format. In both the domains, China is the natural focus. The policy discourse is about blunting Beijing's ambition to exercise regional hegemony and preventing it from bending the global economic order in China's favour.

India finds itself at the frontline on both. Confronting an expansive Chinese aggression on its frontiers and Beijing's growing strategic influence in the subcontinent and the Indian Ocean, Delhi is ready to explore security coalition-building with its Quad partners.

India has also been a pioneer in economic decoupling from China—recall its withdrawal from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in 2019 and its opposition to China's Belt and Road Initiative first articulated in 2017. In the wake of the Ladakh aggression, Delhi has taken up active economic measures against China to limit trade and investment links. It was natural, then, for Delhi to take part in the economic initiatives of the Quad and its extended format. But the apparent clarity in Delhi on the geopolitical imperatives of the Quad stands in contrast to the continuing ambiguity regarding the geo-economic initiatives of the new forum.

India is not alone here. Most chancelleries of the world are deeply divided on how to manage the relationship between the two. They are all looking to see how the US resolves the dilemmas involved. That, in turn, hinges a lot on the outcome of the US presidential elections early next month. If Donald Trump has pushed the US in one particular direction, it is not clear where Joe Biden, whose prospects for victory seemed to have improved significantly in the last few weeks, might want to go.

In the last few months, top officials of the Trump administration have laid out a comprehensive framework for addressing the ideological, political, economic, technological and security challenges posed by China. But disentangling the web of economic interdependence woven over the last four decades is not easy.

Pessimists worry that Biden might simply abandon Trump's challenge to China and return to the past policies of accommodation. Optimists believe the US establishment now has a clear appreciation of the challenges posed by China. While there might be a change in the tone and style of the Biden administration, they hope, it is likely to be disciplined and organised with the China challenge. They also expect Biden to take the allies and partners into confidence in dealing with China.

Realists, including policymakers in Delhi, must take a more differentiated view. They must prepare for a serious contestation within the Biden administration on the China policy. On the liberal side, the growing band of



C R Sasikumar

"climate hawks" in the Biden team might have no time for the "China hawks". They want to end the confrontation with China and begin collaboration to address the greatest threat to humanity. The liberal human rights caucus wants a tough line on China's treatment of its ethnic and religious minorities, but wants to avoid a new Cold War with Beijing.

Powerful economic interests in the US—including Wall Street and Silicon Valley that are major contributors to the Biden campaign—would prefer a return to a policy of engagement. They would hope Biden would use the leverage generated by Trump to repackage commercial ties with China, declare victory and end the talk of economic decoupling.

Countervailing pressures come from the progressive and labour wings of the Democratic Party that want Biden to continue Trump's reorientation of the economic engagement with China. More broadly, they want a break from the excessive globalisation of the last few decades that has deindustrialised America and off-shored jobs.

Biden, once the champion of free trade with China, has significantly modified his stance during the campaign. He has promised not to sign any new free trade agreements without first investing in American workers.

Some of Biden's plans do look like parts from Trump's "America First" policy. Biden wants to "make more in America" and "buy more American". Biden has also unveiled an expansive agenda of "industrial policy"—which was derided until recently—to rebuild American industry and regain American technological leadership.

Biden says his administration would invest nearly \$2 trillion in revamping manufacturing, developing new transportation technologies, including high-speed rail and electric cars, moving towards a green economy, and stepping up research on artificial intelligence.

Biden's industrial policy will surely run counter to the rules of the World Trade Organisation. If he does follow through on the declared agenda, Biden might be as unforgiving of the WTO as Trump. Many Democrats are eager to join Republican nationalists in

But is Delhi ready for a comprehensive reform of the global trading rules? It is one thing to be part of Quad's diplomatic consultations on reorienting supply chains. But it is entirely another to reform India's economic policy to cope with the unfolding disruption in the global trading system. If India has had difficulties doing even a mini trade deal with the Trump administration, the going could be a lot tougher with the Biden team that will link commerce to human rights, labour rights and environmental standards. Most of India's partners in the Quad Plus grouping, including Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Australia, and New Zealand, are all pro-trade and will find ways to work with the US and each other.

marginalising the WTO.

Some advisers of the Biden camp are echoing Trump's call for constructing a new network of supply chains among America's trusted friends and partners. India's current participation in the economic initiatives of the Quad might augur well for Delhi's engagement with the incipient debate on reimagining the global trading system. India might also hope that an "Atmanirbhar America" might create room for domestic industrial policy in a reformed trading order.

But is Delhi ready for a comprehensive reform of the global trading rules? It is one thing to be part of Quad's diplomatic consultations on reorienting supply chains. But it is entirely another to reform India's economic policy to cope with the unfolding disruption in the global trading system.

If India has had difficulties doing even a mini trade deal with the Trump administration, the going could be a lot tougher with the Biden team that will link commerce to human rights, labour rights and environmental standards. Most of India's partners in the "Quad Plus" grouping, including Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Australia, and New Zealand, are all pro-trade and will find ways to work with the US and each other.

India's current focus is on drawing foreign investment into domestic manufacturing; but Delhi has been unable to clinch bilateral trade deals or articulate the case for rejigging the global economic order. Engaging the Quad partners on reforming the China-centred economic globalisation of the last three decades is a rare geo-economic opportunity for India. But it is also a big challenge, for it involves engineering much internal change. Meanwhile, Beijing has begun to tease the Biden team with offers of a "fresh start" and "new beginning" on trade and climate change. Beijing's objective is to favourably influence America's internal contestation on China policy.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The choice of winner (Nobel Peace Prize) indicates the seriousness hunger poses to world peace."
— DAWN

Never waste a crisis

Instead of focusing on non-issues and fixing opponents, government should borrow and spend the money wisely



YASHWANT SINHA

IT HAS BECOME the primary duty of the government of the day to obfuscate issues through a cocktail of untruths, half-truths, innuendos and pure lies. Yet, like the sun's rays through a dark cloud, some facts peep out. As far as the Indian economy is concerned, these are the facts. First, the economy went into a tailspin at least eight quarters before the first quarter of the current fiscal, in which the growth rate declined by 23.9 per cent. Just to refresh our memory, the growth rate recorded in the first quarter of 2018-19 was 8.2 per cent. It crashed to 3.2 per cent in quarter four of 2019-20—a decline of 500 basis points. Second, this massive decline was not due to "an act of God" but due to people who thought they were gods.

Third, the prescription for getting out of the slowdown was suggested by many economists, but the government had no use for it. It refused to believe that demand deceleration was the root cause of the malaise and kept trying other expensive measures, which had no bearing on the problem at hand. Naturally it did not work. Fourth, it was crystal-clear that the problem was created by the thoughtless step of demonetisation which dealt a body blow to the economy. Nobody in the government today talks anymore of the wonders it did as it failed to achieve its objectives. According to the latest report, the cash-to-GDP ratio has increased to 15 per cent—the highest since Independence.

Fifth, as if the damage to the economy was not extensive enough, the government came out with an ill-advised and badly crafted GST, which, instead of being a shining example of cooperative federalism for which I had laid the foundation by creating the empowered group of state finance ministers for VAT, has now degenerated into a dangerous showdown between the Centre and the states. Sixth, despite being fully aware of the delicate health of the economy, the government imposed a mindless lockdown which sapped the economy of whatever life was left in it. Seventh, the decline in growth rate recorded in quarter one of the current fiscal is the highest amongst all major economies.

Eighth, the government is bankrupt and if it had not been for the extortionary levies on petroleum products in the face of crashing international crude oil prices, the position would have been worse. Ninth, healthy agricultural output as a result of successive good monsoons has sustained the rural economy, though the farmers continue to suffer. The government cannot claim any credit either for declining global crude prices or for the good monsoons. Tenth, fudging of figures, suppressing unwelcome data, opaqueness like in the PM CARES fund, electoral bonds and foreign contribution to political parties have become the hallmark of the gov-

ernment. And lastly, the only thing which is flourishing is the stock market, which has been firmly in the grip of speculators during the pandemic. But all this will not fill the empty stomachs of people.

These are truths, which cannot be concealed despite the Goebbelsian efforts of the government. The bigger reality is that the people are undergoing untold suffering and paying a heavy price for the follies of the government.

A crisis should never be wasted; this one in particular. It is a golden opportunity to build. Why did John Maynard Keynes suggest that people should be engaged in digging ditches and then filling them up? It was in order to ensure that money reached people's pockets so that demand could accelerate. In our context today, it means providing gainful employment, creating durable assets and strengthening physical infrastructure. We still need to build millions of miles of rural roads, provide housing to all, build new cities and villages with modern facilities, improve health and educational facilities, construct national highways, railway lines, airports, ports, promote defence and tourism infrastructure. These are the "ditches" we must start digging today.

Where are the resources for all this? Again, my simple logic is this: Taking a loan is not such a bad thing, provided you create the capacity to repay. For example, if I were to take a loan to set up a business and a successful one, I shall have no problem in repaying the loan out of its income. But if I were to waste that money on current consumption, I shall find it difficult to repay the loan. I applied this simple logic to government's borrowings also while designing the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill. India could live with small doses of deficits on the capital account but the revenue deficit had to be completely eliminated. We are still pursuing that goal which remains elusive to this day.

So, let the government go ahead and borrow, even print notes to garner resources. This money should be spent, not recklessly, but wisely. Some of the steps will create jobs sorely needed in these difficult times. Some may take time until the plans are firmed up. Demand for both consumption and investment goods will go up, leading to better utilisation of existing capacity and creation of fresh capacity. Better infrastructure will also reduce the transaction costs in the economy, making it more competitive. It will unleash a virtuous cycle, leading to full revival in quick time. Paying the debt will pose no problem when it becomes due. Is the government game for it?

The nation is in peril on multiple fronts. The government is busy with non-issues with the sole intent of keeping the people in a trance with the heady wine of religious nationalism. The ruling party may go on winning elections, toppling elected governments, misusing the agencies of the government to fix its opponents and establishing its monopoly over power, from cricket to courts of law. But what about India?

The writer is a former Union finance minister



SWATI PARASHAR AND CAMILLA ORJUELA

A prize for waging war on hunger

Peace Nobel to World Food Programme recognises hunger as violation of human rights

IN MAY 2018, a remarkable addition was made to the UN Security Council resolutions on civilian protection in armed conflicts. Building on previous UN resolutions on humanitarian laws, human rights and protecting civilians and vulnerable populations, Resolution 2417, for the first time, recognised the need to "break the vicious cycle between armed conflict and food insecurity". This pathbreaking resolution also added credence to the Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating hunger adopted by the UN in 2015.

The recent announcement of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize to the World Food Programme (WFP), one of the largest humanitarian organisations addressing hunger and promoting food security, is a step forward in recognising the seriousness of the global food crisis. It draws attention to the sustained efforts to fight hunger and famine from the grassroots to the highest levels of global governance. While recognising those who struggle to ban nuclear weapons, restrict arms production and arms trade, and prevent conflict through diplomacy may seem directly relevant for the peace prize, putting focus on the consequences of war is also an important part of working towards peace and the well-being of people.

UNSCR 2417 had very clearly prepared the ground to focus world attention on the after-effects of war, including continued suffering of food-insecure people and severely undernourished children. The Nobel committee has

further stressed the link between armed conflict and hunger—something that the WFP also recently reminded us of. Almost 80 per cent of all chronic malnourished children inhabit countries affected by armed conflict. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the problem of food insecurity and famines. It is anticipated that the number of hungry people could increase to 270 million under the impact of the pandemic, with the most acute suffering and starvation experienced in conflict zones.

Wars constrain people's mobility, create black markets and restrict people's access to food, making it either unavailable or too expensive. War-related displacement causes people to be removed from their cultivable land so that they cannot grow food, and it diverts resources from people's welfare towards the war effort. War parties control what goes in and out of areas under their jurisdiction, and can use withholding of food as a weapon of war. Providing people with food in an emergency situation may seem like a very short-term measure. At the same time, providing for basic needs is necessary for promoting trust in society and for the focus to shift to education, work and rebuilding lives. This is also important for preventing the outbreak of new hostilities and armed conflicts.

Apart from the significance of the connections between war and hunger, we also believe that eradicating hunger needs to be a fo-

cus in its own right. Amidst all the media attention to the exceptional violence of wars, terrorism and genocides, we tend to forget the millions of hunger victims who die in a slower, less spectacular form of violence. Hunger is not inevitable: It is man-made and there are victims and perpetrators. Those perpetrators include—but are not restricted to—state actors who, through what they do or what they fail to do, contribute to starvation.

Hunger has been India's bane in colonial times and also since Independence. While debates about the Bengal and other British-era famines are getting some attention now, we need to focus on the hunger threats and food insecurity that independent India continues to face. In 1947, India's biggest challenge was to find enough grains to feed its population of around 300 million, when only 10 per cent of the cultivated area had access to irrigation, and mineral fertilisers were an unaffordable luxury. Though a modern, technology-driven economy was introduced, the lack of domestic food production continued to be supplemented by importing grains from all over the world—an embarrassing situation for a proudly non-aligned nation that became the largest importer of food aid, especially from the US.

The Green Revolution changed the situation drastically since the late 1960s but acute hunger crisis, famines and malnourishment are reported regularly, along with farmer sui-

cides. State policies and accountability are the bigger part of the problem, along with the occurrence of frequent natural disasters and lack of public attention to this issue. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has further exacerbated the threat of hunger, ever since the lockdown was introduced and millions of daily-wage earners lost their livelihood, giving rise to massive reverse migration. To add to these known precarities, the impact of climate change on the future of crop production is not even fully known yet.

The World Food Programme has delivered food aid and worked to alleviate hunger in many parts of the world, including India. Recognising its work at this critical juncture is not only a much-needed act of appreciation, but an urgent warning that we all need to heed. The world faces a severe food crisis as the threat of famines and starvation is magnified during the ongoing pandemic. This slow violence on vulnerable populations will weigh on our collective conscience, if we do not recognise hunger as the ultimate violation of basic human rights and dignity, and join hands to eradicate it.

Parashar is Associate Professor in Peace and Development Research at the School of Global Studies, Gothenburg University, Sweden. Orjuela is Professor in Peace and Development Research at the School of Global Studies, Gothenburg University, Sweden

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CRIME DURING CRISIS

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Untold story of lockdown' (IE, October 12). It is shocking that child trafficking hawks are on the prowl even during a health crisis. Ironically, child trafficking that should have slackened following the cancellations of trains that usually are misused for this nefarious purpose. Hopefully, this paper's investigation will make state governments take a serious view of the matter and they will not only book the culprits but also take pragmatic initiatives to nip the problem in the bud.

Azhar Ali Khan, Rampur

HISTORIC TIES MATTER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Talking peace' (IE, October 12). India's official representation to the Conference on Intra-Afghan Peace and the ministerial address at the meet testifies New Delhi's broad agreement on the contours of the Doha peace process. US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and Afghan envoy Abdullah Abdullah's visit to India within a span of a month to brief India's leadership on the developments signify India's growing stature in the region.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

POLITICAL WILL FIRST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Pollution amid Covid' (IE, October 12). It's quite evident that all stakeholders are aware of the causes of pollution in Delhi and NCR. The Delhi government's resorting to stop-gap measures such as odd-even and now the Supreme Court-mandated EPCA diktat to stop the use of DG sets will exacerbate the inconvenience of people. The first step towards solving

IDEAS ONLINE

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● NAGORNO-KARABAKH AND INDIA:
ACHAL MALHOTRA

● SAVING BASTIS:
MUKTA NAIK AND SWATI JANU

www.indianexpress.com

Delhi's pollution problem is to sum-nom political will. But all political parties seem to lack conviction. Stubble burning has become an intractable phenomenon, while pollution control agencies seem to be always on a monitoring mode sans any implementation plan to improve air quality.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

SON'S TASK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The Bridge' (IE, October 10). Lok Janshakti Party founder Ram Vilas Paswan enjoyed mass support among the Dalits, especially the Dusadh (Paswans). His death just a few weeks before polling in Bihar will definitely have an impact on the results. A father's death is always an irreparable loss for a son, but for Chirag, Paswan's demise is a political loss as well. It will be interesting to see if he manages to translate the sympathy factor to translate to votes.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

ROURKELA SMART CITY LIMITED,
Rourkela
Udit Nagar, Rourkela- 769012,
Email: rourkelasc@gmail.com
BID ID:- RSCL/1796/2020 DATE: 09.10.2020
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER NATIONAL
COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

The Chief Executive Officer, RSCL invites Sealed Tenders from reputed Companies/Manufacturers for the project "Installation of Street Lights in different Slums under RSCL". The complete BID document can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of Rourkela Municipal Corporation (<https://www.rmc.nic.in>) or e-procurement portal of Odisha <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 09.10.2020 to 27.10.2020 (upto 17:00 Hrs. IST). Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 21.10.2020 at 12.30 P.M. in the Conference Hall of RSCL. For queries, intending bidder may contact GM (E&T) (8249833105) and Email Id: rourkelasc@gmail.com

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Rourkela Smart City Limited
OIPR-13080/11/0009/2021

RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Kutchery, Ranchi 834001
Contact No.: 0651-2211215, Fax: 06512211777
email: support@ranchimunicipal.com
website: www.ranchimunicipal.com

Tender Reference No.- 2074 Date:- 10/10/2020
Very Short Notice Inviting E-Tender

S. No.	Information	Details
1	Particulars of the work	Supplying Installation and Maintenance of rope light on electric pole under Ranchi Municipal Corporation Area
2	Period of Work	Initially for a Period of One Year which can be renewed further based on performance.
3	Cost of Application Document	5000.00
4	Amount of Earnest Money to be Deposited in form of DD in favor of Municipal Commissioner, Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi	25,000.00
5	Pre bid meeting	19/10/2020 at 3.00 pm
6	Last date and time of receipt of proposals (through Speed Post /Registered post only/ Direct Submission at Office)	26/10/2020 till 3.00 pm
7	Date and Time of Bid Opening Validity of Bid	Decided by Procurement Committee of RMC in presence of the tenders or their authorized representative, if present.
8	Address for submission of written queries for clarifications	Light section, Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Kutchery, Ranchi - 834001
9	Validity of Bid	180 days from the date of opening

NOTE:- For further information please visit website:-
1) www.ranchimunicipal.com,
2) www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in Sd/-
PR 234179 Ranchi Municipal Corporation (20-21)_D **Municipal Commissioner**
Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayati, opp. IT-Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun
Ref. No. 1246/11-02 (ix)/ITCO/URRD/20 Dated: 12.10.2020
**PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
E-Procurement Notice-06 (Rebid)/2020-21**

The Government of India has received a loan/credit number "LN 8864 IN" from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Association towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works as detailed in NIT. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Almora, Dehradun, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Pauri, Rudrapur, Tehri, Chamoli & Uttarkashi for 24 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 101.00 Crore including their maintenance for two years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent.*

Date of release of Invitation for Bids Through e-procurement 16.10.2020. Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmsvtenders.gov.in The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with concern CIRCLE OFFICES mentioned in SBO/MBD only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for work bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY works), either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids. Last date /Time for receipt of bids through E-Procurement 17.11.2020, 01.00 PM. For further details please log on to www.pmsvtenders.gov.in

Chief Engineer,
URRDA, Dehradun

Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
Note: For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM.

**DAKSHINANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(UNDERTAKING OF U.P. GOVERNMENT)
(CIN: U31200UP2003SGC027460)
e-Tender Extension Notice**

पत्रांक: 2688-अभी अर्थ, कारवासा, प्रविधि वि. नि. वि. सूचक दिनांक: 12.10.2020

Tender No.	Short Description	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Revised Earnest Money in Rs.	Revised Tender Fee in Rs.	Tender Opening Date & Time
11/2020-21	Supply and Installation of Oven at various workshop under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 40.00 Lac	Rs. 40,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	20.11.2020 15:00 Hrs.
12/2020-21	AMC of Fire Extinguishers at various workshop under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 19.98 Lac	Rs. 20,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	20.11.2020 15:00 Hrs.
13/2020-21	AMC of Machinery at various workshop under EWD, Jhansi/Banda	Approx. Rs. 20.00 Lac	Rs. 20,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	20.11.2020 15:00 Hrs.
14/2020-21	Repairing of 10/16 to 100 KVA Damaged Distribution Transformer at workshop Mathura under EWD, Jhansi	Approx. Rs. 120.00 Lac	Rs. 60,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	23.11.2020 15:00 Hrs.
15/2020-21	Carriage of Transformer 7 Material at workshop Jhansi under EWD, Jhansi	Approx. Rs. 60.00 Lac	Rs. 60,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	05.11.2020 15:00 Hrs.
16/2020-21	Carriage of Transformer & Material at workshop Jhansi under EWD, Banda	Approx. Rs. 60.00 Lac	Rs. 60,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	05.11.2020 15:00 Hrs.
17/2020-21	AMC of EOT Crain at various workshop under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 25.00 Lac	Rs. 25,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	23.11.2020 15:00 Hrs.
18/2020-21	AMC of Machinery at various workshop under EWD, Kanpur	Approx. Rs. 30.00 Lac	Rs. 30,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	23.11.2020 15:00 Hrs.
19/2020-21	Replacement of Damaged Distribution 100 to 1000 KVA Transformer at various workshop under EWD, Kanpur	Approx. Rs. 103.00 Lac	Rs. 52,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	20.10.2020 15:00 Hrs.
20/2020-21	Reclamation of Burnt/old transformer Oil as per IS 1866-2000 or latest by Mobile Reclamation Plant at various workshops under EWD, Agra	Approx. Rs. 196.00 Lac	Rs. 1,00,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	20.10.2020 15:00 Hrs.

Other Terms & Conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit at procurement portal of UP Government <https://tender.up.nic.in> or contact us at given address as follows:

Urja Bhawan, 220 KV Sub-Station, Bye Pass Road, Sikandra, Agra- 282007 (UP) Ph. No. 9068944455 **Superintending Engineer (Workshop)**
D.V.V.N.L. AGRA

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
13 OCTOBER 2020

Sashastra Seema Bal fondly remembers with gratitude and cherishes the valiant contribution of brave heart CT/ GD Gammur Angu of 12 Bn SSB. CT/GD Gammur Angu laid down his life in a militant attack while fighting for the nation on this day in the year 2002 near Jawahar Market, Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir. His courage and valor will continue to inspire us all.

We salute the valor and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldier.
CT/ GD GAMMUR ANGU
SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL

Advertisement No. 87/2020
Government of India
**Public Enterprises Selection Board
Invites application for the post of**
DIRECTOR
(OPERATIONS & COMMERCIAL)
IN
KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
Last Date of Receipt of Applications in PESB is
by 15.00 hrs. on 01st December, 2020
For details login to website
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(POWER WING)**
Corrigendum-I NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E-NIT No.: 2926/BBMB Dated: 14.09.2020
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Deher Power House Circle, BBMB (PW) Slapper.
Name of Work: E-NIT for reconditioning of 2 nos. 150T/30T/5T EOT cranes installed at Deher Power House at Slapper.

Last date & time for uploading pre-qualification documents: 27.10.2020 upto 12.00 hrs
Last date & time for download tender documents: 04.11.2020 upto 12.00 hrs
Last date & time for submission of online bid: 04.11.2020 upto 14.00 hrs
Due date & time for opening online bid: 04.11.2020 upto 15.00 hrs

For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website www.bbmbproc.abprocure.com & www.bbmb.gov.in.
736-PR-GENERATION-3 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

UJVN Ltd.
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMC Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-0135-2763508, 2763808 Fax 0135-2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025886 Website: www.uttarakhandajdvityut.com

RO No. 629 E-Tender Notice (Short Term tender) Date: 09.10.2020
The office of the Executive Engineer (M&G), UJVN Ltd. Mohamadpur invites sealed tenders from interested firms following details.

Tender No. 17/EE(M&G)/MPH/2020-21

- Name of work** : Supply and Application of Coating Material on Stay Ring/ Pivot Ring concrete Surface and Hub Area Surface of Unit No-3 at Mohamadpur Power House.
- Estimated Cost** : Rs. 34,17,813.00 (GST Extra)
- Date of availability of tender document** : 09-10-2020 up to 16:00 Hrs
- Last Date of Receipt of tender** : 24-10-2020 up to 16:00 Hrs

For fuller and further details kindly visit our website e-procurement Portal uktenders.gov.in.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M&G)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PHE DIVISION CHADOORA**
Fax: Phone: 01951-257592, E-mail ID: xenphedc786@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Reference: This office EOI No. 01 of 10/2020/PHEDC of 10/2020 (2020-21) issued under endorsement No: PHEDC/3757-86 Dated: 01.10.2020.

The below mentioned clarifications/changes are hereby made to this office above referred EOI. It is enjoined upon all prospective bidders to read carefully and upload the tenders accordingly.

- Please read **Rs. 5000/-** in the form of Demand Draft pledged to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora instead of treasury Challan deposited in PHE revenue miscellaneous MH-PH0215 in favour of **Chief Accounts Officer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, depicted at page No. 08 (x)**.
- Please read website as www.jktenders.gov.in instead of kwnrders.org.in.
All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

**Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Division
Chadoora**

University of Rajasthan, Jaipur
NOTICE INVITING E-BIDS

वर्ष 2019 की परीक्षाओं के स्वर्ण पदक बनाये जाने हेतु प्रतियोगिता आयुक्तियों से गडार्ड (Making charges) की दरों हेतु दो बड system के अंतर्गत ई-निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। जिसके अंतर्गत मैडल में प्रयुक्त सोने-चांदी एवं प्लेटिंग का भुगतान आयुक्त की दिनांक को प्रचलित दर से किया जायेगा। स्वर्ण पदक निर्माण की कुल अनुमानित लागत लगभग 9.00 लाख रुपये है। निविदाएँ दिनांक 20.10.2020 तक राजस्थान सरकार के e-procurement के पोर्टल eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर समय 12.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित ई-बिड दस्तावेज फीस, ई-बिड प्रसंस्करण फीस तथा धरोहर राशि जमा केवल डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट द्वारा दिनांक 20.10.2020 को समय दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक कम्परा नं. 111, सरदार पटेल भवन, विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में अनिवार्य रूप से जमा करवाएँ। प्राप्त तकनीकी निविदाएँ दिनांक 20.10.2020 समय दोपहर 2.00 बजे निविदा समिति द्वारा फर्मों के अधिकृत उपस्थित प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र राजस्थान सरकार के e-procurement पोर्टल eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

UBN : URA2021GSOB00037 Registrar

e-mail id se_sicbam@yahoo.com
Superintending Engineer, Southern Irrigation Circle-I, Berhampur
E-Procurement Notice No. SE, SIC - 05/2020-21

- Type of Work - Flood Control & System Improvement works
- Total No of Works - 08 (Eight) Nos
- Amount put to tender - Rs 15949 to Rs 28192 lakhs
- Period of completion - 11 (Eleven) calendar months

Procurement officer	Bid identification No	Bid Amount (Rs to lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line		
Superintending Engineer, Southern Irrigation Circle-I Berhampur, Ganjam	SE, SIC, (BNID)-11/2020-21	199.36	From 19.10.2020, 10.00 AM to 03.11.2020, 5.00 PM		
	SE, SIC, (BNID)-12/2020-21	207.96			
	SE, SIC, (BNID)-13/2020-21	207.62			
	SE, SIC, (BNID)-14/2020-21	207.94			
	SE, SIC, (BNID)-15/2020-21	165.51			
	SE, SIC, (BNID)-16/2020-21	165.17			
	SE, SIC, (BNID)-17/2020-21	159.49			
	SE, SIC, (BNID)-18/2020-21	281.92			
	Date of opening of the Technical Bid - 04.11.2020 at 11.30 A.M.				
	Further detail can be seen from the Govt website www.tendersorissa.gov.in				
	Superintending Engineer, Southern Irrigation Circle-I, Berhampur.				
	OIPR-320611/11/0004/2021				

PM to address Bengal online on Durga Puja: BJP

Kolkata: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address the people of West Bengal on October 22 on the occasion of Durga Puja, the BJP announced on Monday.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi will connect with the people of Bengal virtually on October 22. He will address the people on the auspicious occasion and will be with them in spirit to celebrate the puja," BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya said.

This year, the Durga Puja will begin on October 22 and ends on October 26. This is the first time that Modi will address the people of the state during Durga Puja.

Vijayvargiya also said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah would visit north Bengal to hold an organisational meeting before the Durga Puja begins. ENS

RASHTRIYA KAMDHENU AAYOG CHIEF

'Chip made of cow dung significantly reduces radiation from phone'

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12**

DESCRIBING COW dung as "anti-radiation", Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) chairman Vallabhghai Kathiria on Monday unveiled a "chip" made of cow dung and claimed that it reduces radiation from mobile handsets significantly.

Speaking at the launch of nationwide campaign 'Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan', which is aimed at promoting cow dung products, Kathiria said, "See, this is a radiation chip. You can keep it in your mobile. We have seen that if you keep this chip in your mobile, it reduces radiation significantly. If you want to avoid disease, then this is going to be used."

The "chip", named Gausatva Kavach, is manufactured by Rajkot-based Shrijee Gausahala. The RKA, which comes under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, was established by the Centre on February 6, 2019, and is aimed at "conservation, protection and development of cows and their progeny". It was announced in the Union Budget 2019-20.

"You must have heard a few days ago that the actor Akshay Kumar... He has eaten cow dung. You can eat it. It's a medicine. But we have forgotten our science," Kathiria said, referring to the actor's recent remarks that

he drinks cow urine every day for "Ayurvedic" reasons.

"Now we have started a research project. We want to have research on these subjects which we consider a myth," Kathiria said.

Displaying other products made from cow dung, he said, "Cow dung is anti-radiation, it protects all. If you bring this home your place will become radiation-free... All this has been approved by science."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Kathiria said, "More than 500 gaushalas are manufacturing such anti-radiation chips. They are available for Rs 50-100 each. One person is exporting such chips to the US, where it is sold at about \$10 each."

When asked if the government provided funds for the development of cow dung chips, Kathiria said, "Our concepts to popularise the anti-radiation properties of cow-dung... It protects from radiation from mobile phones." Asked whether the chips are certified by a government laboratory, Kathiria said, "These are not certified but tested. It can be tested in any laboratory, even in a college."

While launching Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan, Kathiria unveiled other cow dung-based products like earthen lamps, candles, incense, paperweights, idols of gods and goddesses. He said RKA aims to reach 11 crore families to light 33 crore diyas made of cow dung this Diwali.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE**

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work with its location	Installation and operation of 26 Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) at 20 Railway Stations over Delhi Division for five years
1	Name of tender on IREPS	Publicity/ATM01-2020 to Publicity/ATM26-2020
2	Approximate cost of work	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
3	Date of Opening of Tender	10.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs
4	Cost of Tender document & 18% GST	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
5	Earnest Money Deposit	As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen	https://ireps.gov.in/
7	No.: 3PUB/Tender/ATM/DLI-DIV/2018 Dated: 09.10.2020 2187/2020	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**MADHYA PRADESH MADHYA KSHETRA
VIDYUT VITRAN COMPANY LIMITED**
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (BHPAL REGION)
NISHITHA PARISAR, BIJLI NAGAR, GOVINDPUR, BHOPAL-462023
Phone : 0755-2588291, E-mail : seworksbpl@gmail.com
No. CGM/BR/Works/Deposit/TS-03/5010 Bhopal, Date: 12.10.2020

EXTENSION OF DUE DATES

The Due dates against this office e-NIT No. CGM/BR/Works/Deposit/4575 dtd. 28.09.2020, E-tender ID 2020_MKVVCC_109645_1 (TS No. : CGM/BR/Works/Deposit/TS-03) are hereby extended as under :

- Last Date for sale/submission of bids online : 15.10.2020 up to 15.30 Hrs.
- Date of Opening of Bids online : 16.10.2020 at 16.00 Hrs.

Other details are available on company Website : portal.mpcz.in & E-portal : www.mptenders.gov.in
M.P. Madhyam/98674/2020 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (BR)**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER
Construction Wing
UTTARAKHAND PEYAL SANSADHAN VIKAS EVAM NIRMAN NIGAM
(A govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
403/1, Indira nagar Dehradun-248001 E-mail: cgm.nirmanwing@yahoo.com, gm.nirmanwing@gmail.com**

Ref. no 2452 / Nivida/Garhwal/ 390 Dated : 12.10.2020

E-TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Tender invited through electronic tendering system for the Empanelment of consultants for Architectural/ Structural Design of Buildings proposed at different places in Uttarakhand State/ Other States/UT vide this office tender notice no 2246/Nivida (Garhwal)/371 Dated 21.09.2020, through website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>, tender ID No. 2020_MDPEY_26238_1, is here by cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Cancellation information also uploaded in <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

Note : for further details log on <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> or contact 0135-2764075.

General Manager (Garhwal)

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
INDRAWATI PROJECT CIRCLE, JAGDALPUR (CHHATTISGARH)**

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(FIRST CALL)

System Tender No. 68202/NIT No.: 16/SAC/20-21
Kanker, Dated :- 09.10.2020

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to **31.10.2020 at 17.30 Hour**.

Name of work: Renovation work of Arod Lift Irrigation Scheme in Charama block of Kanker District.
Probable Amount of Contract : Rs. 155.70 Lakhs.

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 16.10.2020, at 17.31 Hours, (IST) onwards.

NOTE:- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Water Resources Division, Kanker,
For, Superintending Engineer,
Indrawati Project Circle, Jagdalpur (C.G.)**

Notice Inviting e-Tender
E-NIT S. No. 19/PHEB of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Single Cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the maintenance cost for a period of Three Years which includes 12 months of DLP are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://ktenders.gov.in> (the subject work(s) referred below) to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Bijnehara and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT Tender Documents/ PWD Form No.- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://ktenders.gov.in>.

The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/ Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Bijnehara.

S.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (₹ in lacs)	EMD (in ₹)	Cost of TD (in ₹)	Time of completion (Days)	Class of Contract
1.	Providing / Laying / Fitting of pipes for distribution system in various habitations of Brijnii incl. completion of balance portion of quarter and fencing around structures WSS, Brijnii Batapora NABARD	31.89	63780	1000	60	BEE
2.	Balance portion incl. Providing / Laying / Fitting of pipes for supply mains and distribution system in Bon Toru and Her Toru WSS, Hardu Toru	42.18	84360	1100	60	AAY
3.	LF of pipes for sub main and distis system of WSS, Dawoodpora, Tailwanpora Kandi (JKIDFC)	13.11	26220	400	15	CEE/DEE
4.	Providing / Laying / Fitting of balance portion of supply mains on R/S of KP road from Bumzo upto Kharwari Mattan incl. shifting of existing connections to new supply mains WSS, Krangso (JKIDFC)	78.17	156340	1100	60	AAY
5.	Construction of Truss for pump operator quarter at Achabal WSS, Chaki Traphoo	2.40	4800	100	7	DEE
6.	Balance work for construction of crossing at 02 spots WSS, Chattisinghpura	7.90	15800	150	15	DEE/CEE
7.	Balance work of Providing / Laying / Fitting of pipe network for WSS, Reshi Mohalla Khandpharie (JKIDFC)	35.68	71360	700	60	BEE
8.	Completion of pipe network by way of Providing / Laying / Fitting for WSS, Prakashpura	79.87	159740	1100	60	AAY

Position of AA : Accorded
Position of Funds:- Available

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% upto 20% below	3.5%
3	Greater than 20% & upto 25% below	5%
4	Greater than 25% upto 30% below	7%
5	Greater than 30% below	15%

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- In case of bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, he has to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG before fixation of contract as per following break up within four days from the opening of tenders.
- The earnest money deposited in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer JSD (PHE) Division Bijnehara shall be released/ refunded after successful and satisfaction of the contract Le Construction period , Defeated liability period DLP of 12 months.
- The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings/topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility to satisfy himself before tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute each part of the work i.e. Civil / Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer-in-Charge of Civil & Mechanical wings in-charge of the Scheme.
- If L1 falls to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall allot the work to the other willing lowest bidder i.e. L2, L3, L4 and EMD of the lowest bidder including the additional Security Performance shall be forfeited, besides depriving the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e-NIT issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER:-
The e-tender documents of conforming proposals shall be uploaded in Single Covers viz. Cover containing Technical Bid of tender and submission of tenderer's/ containing Price Bid Detailed credentials as per the requirement of eligibility criteria for participation in Tendering process and all tender papers including detailed statements as mentioned in the following chapters are to be submitted in "Technical Bid". All conditions, both technical as well as financial/commercial shall be given in technical bid only. No condition should be quoted in the Price Bid containing Statement of advertised Quantities with rates duly filled in.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/ Government Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE Division Bijnehara (Tender inviting authority) and earnest money / Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR/pledged to Executive Engineer, PHE Division Bijnehara.

To participate in the bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act 2000. In case of any disputes/differences, the jurisdiction shall be to the Courts situated in Srinagar only. Supplies, if involved any, will be deducted at prevalent stock rates at the time of tender for such material. We look forward to your active participation.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir
Executive Engineer,
(JSD) PHE Div, Bijnehara

Hyderabad University students protest over

@ieExplained
#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

As numbers fall, concerns over people taking it easy

WHILE THE number of active cases of novel coronavirus infections continues to fall every day, the government is concerned that gains made over the last one month might be squandered if people let their guard down and do not take adequate precautions during the upcoming festival season.

Less than 67,000 new cases were discovered across the country on Sunday, the lowest non-Monday count since August 23, while more than 71,000 people were declared to have recovered. It was the ninth consecutive day when recoveries have exceeded the new detection of cases. This has now happened on 19 out of the last 24 days, bringing a welcome reduction in the number of active cases from 10.17 lakh to about 8.62 lakh.

But there has been a growing worry that the falling numbers might lead people to believe that the epidemic was nearing its end.

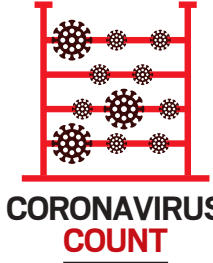
"People are seeing the numbers go down. What many don't realise is that it can start to go up any time, any day.

The epidemic has not ended. In fact, the chances of the numbers going up again are very high. It is not a time, therefore, to lower our guards, or be casual or relaxed about it," Science and Technology secretary Ashutosh Sharma told The Indian Express.

"The festival season is particularly critical. Numbers are reducing, and people might be tempted to celebrate the festivals as they have done every year. But crowding is the most serious source of infection... On the other hand, if we are able to tide over the next two months without any big surge, then there is hope," Sharma said.

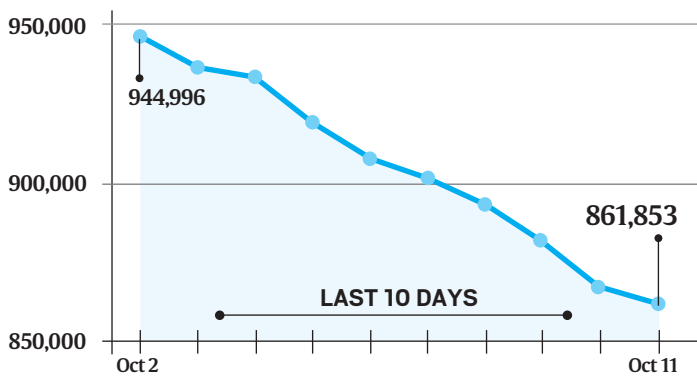
A similar appeal was made on Sunday by Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. Asking people to continue to practice physical distancing norms and celebrate the festivals in a simple manner, the minister said, "there is no need to congregate in large numbers to prove your faith or your religion. If we do this, we may be heading for a big trouble".

AMITABH SINHA



INDIA ACTIVE CASES

861,853



Note: The Oct 11 figure in this graph is based on the govt update on Oct 12

INDIA TOTAL CASES
7,120,538

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Oct 12

WORLD TOTAL CASES
37,614,668

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Oct 12

In Apple Watch data, the impact of lockdown on noise exposure

DURING THE early months of the coronavirus pandemic, people's exposure to environmental noise dropped nearly by half, according to a new study by University of Michigan researchers in four US states. The study, published in Environmental Research Letters, is an analysis of data from



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

Apple Watch users in Florida, New York, California and Texas.

Called the Apple Hearing Study, it collects data over time to understand how everyday sound exposure can impact hearing.

The published analysis included more than a half million daily noise levels measured before and during the pandemic. Daily average sound levels dropped approximately 3 decibels during the time that local governments in the US made announce-

ments about social distancing and issued stay-at-home orders in March and April, compared to January and February.

The four states had differing Covid-19 responses in terms of stay-at-home orders, which showed through the data. California and New York both had really drastic reductions in sound that happened very quickly, whereas Florida and Texas had somewhat less of a reduction. Later, levels dropped drastically in Florida and Texas too.

Initially, the largest drop in environmental sound exposure was seen on the weekends. But after the lockdowns, when people stopped physically going to work, there was no longer a large distinction in exposures between the traditional five working days versus the weekend.

Source: University of Michigan

After battling BJP for long, Khushbu Sundar joins party: why, what now

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 12

THE TAMIL actor Khushbu Sundar joined the BJP on Monday, having constantly fought the same party on social media for several years. Previously in the Congress, she used to reply to every rival individually, and often tagged and named Narendra Modi and Amit Shah in her tweets. "She was an untiring fighter for Congress in social media, almost every minute and hour, and a star campaigner, a real crowd puller and powerful orator during polls in public rallies," said a senior Congress leader.

So, what explains her move?

Her background

Born into a Muslim family in West Andheri in Mumbai, Khushbu started out as a child actor in the 1980s. Known as hard-working, she comes across to many as a rationalist who would call herself an atheist

although she herself exhibits no rigidity against anyone's beliefs.

An actor friend jokingly said "her problem is that she is a workaholic". "She may be simple in her ideological arguments but she is aggressive towards her work."

Even before she entered politics, she kicked up a controversy — in 2005 — with remarks about premarital sex in an interview in Tamil. Her remark that "our society should come out of the thinking that at the time of the marriage, the girls should be with virginity..." led to several cases being filed against her. It took a legal battle of about five years before she was cleared in two dozen cases by the Supreme Court sometime in early 2010.

In DMK & Congress

In May 2010, she joined the DMK in Chennai, in the presence of the then party chief and Chief Minister, the late M Karunanidhi. This marked her entry in formal politics after a career that had made her

one of the most popular female actors of South Indian cinema with over 100 prominent films. At one point, fans had even built a temple to her in Tamil Nadu.

When she joined DMK, Karunanidhi said Khushbu was known for her progressive views in films. She had also acted as Maniyammai, partner of social reformer Periyar, in a biopic on him.

But sidelined by M K Stalin, Karunanidhi's son and the current party chief, she quit the DMK to join the Congress in November 2014.

This was at a time the Congress was facing a crisis within, and when not many career politicians would have been expected to join the party.

The then Congress chief in Tamil Nadu, E V K S Elangovan, tapped her political skills to the party's benefit for over two years, until he himself was ousted from the post. She was the star campaigner of the Congress in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls and in the 2016 Assembly polls as well. Even senior DMK



Khushbu Sundar, formerly in Congress, joined BJP on Monday. Twitter/@BJP4India

leaders acknowledged her then for the successful campaign she led for Congress candidates in southern Tamil Nadu.

Why she has quit

What has made her quit the Congress is seemingly similar to the reasons for which she had quit the DMK. She was sidelined by top leaders of both parties, although she was more than just a celebrity-turned-politician.

The Congress did give her space to express her opinions in public, even if they were sometimes different from party stands. In the DMK, in contrast, her vocal nature prevented her from advancing her career. For instance, a statement she made about Karunanidhi's successor upset Stalin.

What to expect in BJP

Her actor friend said: "The Congress was the best space for her, not even DMK... She may be hoping that the BJP will provide her a vibrant working space to do something in social life, however different her convictions

and opinions were till yesterday. She needed a better platform," she said.

The friend said both DMK and BJP have rigid disciplinary rules that prevent leaders and cadres from crossing the party line. "Even if her previous disagreements with BJP can be resolved now, Khushbu's truthful and spontaneous reactions make her more vulnerable in BJP," she said.

A senior BJP leader from Tamil Nadu, who had not known about Khushbu's decision until Sunday night, now said she would be the party's star campaigner in Tamil Nadu. "A winnable MLA seat can make her an MLA... or even a Rajya Sabha MP post when the time comes," he said.

A senior Congress leader, who felt that Khushbu was always efficient, ambitious and arrogant, said her presence would help BJP get two votes extra in Tamil Nadu. "Nothing more or less. Nothing happened when she worked with DMK and Congress, the platforms that suited her principles best. Nothing more will happen in BJP either," he said.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

The economics of auctions

The Economics Prize in Memory of Nobel has gone to Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson for their work on auction theory and new auction formats. What is auction theory, and what was the winners' research?

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

ON MONDAY, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded this year's Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel — popularly, albeit incorrectly, referred to as the Nobel Prize for Economics — to Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson. Both winners are currently with Stanford University, where they teach in different departments.

In its announcement, the Academy said the pair were receiving the award "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats". They will equally share the 10 million Swedish kronor award money — roughly Rs 8.33 crore.

What is auction theory?

Essentially, it is about how auctions lead to the discovery of the price of a commodity. Auction theory studies how auctions are designed, what rules govern them, how bidders behave and what outcomes are achieved.

When one thinks of auctions, one typically imagines the auction of a bankrupt person's property to pay off his creditors. Indeed, this is the oldest form of auction. This simple design of such an auction — the highest open bidder getting the property (or the commodity in question) — is intuitively appealing as well.

But over time, and especially over the last three decades, more and more goods and services have been brought under auction. The nature of these commodities differs sharply. For instance, a bankrupt person's property is starkly different from the spectrum for radio or telecom use. Similarly, carbon dioxide emission credits are quite different from the spot market for buying electricity, which, in turn, is quite different from choosing which company should get the right to collect the local garbage.

In other words, no one auction design fits all types of commodities or seller.

This is also true because the purpose of an auction also differs with the commodity and the entity conducting the auction. More often than not, private sellers want to maximise their gains while public authorities may have other goals in mind.

For instance, when selling telecom spec-

THE AUCTION WINNER'S CURSE

The most optimistic bidder often overestimates the common value of an auctioned object, so that "winning" the auction turns out to cause a loss — the winner's curse.

Johan Jarnestad/The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

PRIZE IN ECONOMICS

Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson, "for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats".

trum, a government could either think in terms of maximising its revenues or aim at making telecom more affordable to everyone. If it wants to maximise revenues, the auction has to be designed one way, but doing so will imply that the company eventually winning the contract will make telecom services costlier and, in the process, deprive the poorest sections of affordable telephony and Internet access. The up-side, however, is that the government will get more money in its kitty and can use it whichever way it likes — possibly even subsidise the telecom costs of the poorest.

On the other hand, if the government's goal is to enable the broader society to access the benefits of the telecom revolution and allow even the poorest to use the Internet at an affordable rate, it may want to focus more on how best a company can ensure that. In fact, before auctions became the norm for limited resources such as radio waves, governments used to allocate them as one would conduct a beauty contest. This would involve asking how a company might use the spectrum and assessing which company is best suited to receive the license. This approach, however, led to a proliferation of lobbying.

But even when a beauty contest approach was replaced with an auction, it mattered how the auction was designed. For instance, if spectrum is auctioned at the regional level, national players may not get seamless access to optimum quality of spectrum across the country; as a result, they may not bid as aggressively. In the US, such a mistake led to a second-hand market where companies traded among themselves with little revenue accruing to the government.

How an auction is designed, therefore, has a tremendous impact not just on the buyers and the sellers but also on the broader society.

What are the key variables that determine the outcome of an auction?

Three key variables need to be understood while designing an auction.

One is the rules of the auction. Imagine participating in an auction. Your bidding behaviour is likely to differ if the rules stipulate open bids as against closed/sealed bids. The same applies to single bids versus multiple bids, or whether bids are made one after another or everyone bids at the same time.

The second variable is the commodity or service being put up for auction. In essence,

the question is how does each bidder value an item. This is not always easy to ascertain. In terms of telecom spectrum, it might be easier to peg the right value for each bidder because most bidders are likely to put the spectrum to the same use. This is called the "common" value of an object. But this may not be the case with some other commodities, say a painting. Person A may derive considerably more "private" or personal value — just by looking at it endlessly — than person B. In most auctions, bidders allocate both "common" as well as "private" values to the object being auctioned and this affects their eventual bids.

The third variable is uncertainty. For instance, which bidder has what information about the object, or even the value another bidder associates with the object.

What was Milgrom and Wilson's work?

Milgrom and Wilson have done pioneering work on auction theory and much of our current understanding is due to their research.

As the Academy notes, "Wilson developed the theory for auctions of objects with a common value — a value which is uncertain beforehand but, in the end, is the same for everyone". Wilson showed what the "winner's curse" is in an auction and how it affects bidding. As shown in the illustration, it is possible to overbid — \$50 when the real value is closer to \$25. In doing so, one wins the auction but loses out in reality. The winner's curse explains "why rational bidders tend to place bids below their own best estimate of the common value: they are worried about the winner's curse — that is, about paying too much and losing out".

Milgrom "formulated a more general theory of auctions that not only allows common values but also private values that vary from bidder to bidder". He "analysed the bidding strategies in a number of well-known auction formats, demonstrating that a format will give the seller higher expected revenue when bidders learn more about each other's estimated values during bidding".

With each passing year, as societies have become more complex Milgrom and Wilson responded by inventing new formats "for auctioning off many interrelated objects simultaneously, on behalf of a seller motivated by broad societal benefit rather than maximal revenue".

What govt has proposed in new LTC scheme

SUNNY VERMA,
AANCHAL MAGAZINE
& SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Monday announced two sets of measures to generate consumption demand and boost capital spending in the economy. These measures, along with participation of states and the private sector, are projected to create "additional demand" of Rs 1 lakh crore, according to the government.

Some proposals are aimed at advancing expenditure while others are directly linked to increase in GDP (Gross Domestic Product), she said. The ministry will allow government and private sector employees to use their Leave Travel Concession (LTC) tax-free benefit for various types of purchases subject to certain conditions while giving an interest-free festival advance of Rs 10,000 to government employees. Measures have been announced to step up capital expenditure by the Centre and the states.

How does the LTC benefit impact you?

Central government employees will be

provided tax benefits on LTC without having to actually travel. These employees would, however, be required to spend three times their LTC fare component for purchasing items that attract 12% or more GST. What this means is that if your fare component of LTC is Rs 40,000, you need to spend Rs 1.2 lakh on goods that fall in the 12%-or-more GST slab in order to save tax on Rs 40,000.

If you don't spend that amount, you may have to pay tax as per your marginal tax rate on the LTC component. So if you fall in the 10% tax slab, you will have to pay additional tax of Rs 4,000 on the LTC fare component of Rs 40,000.

As for the leave encashment component, the employee will have to spend an equivalent amount towards the purchase of items that attract 12% or more as GST.

How will it benefit the economy?

Through the LTC consumption boost plan, the government expects a demand generation of Rs 28,000 crore — Rs 19,000 crore on account of demand from central government employees, and Rs 9,000 crore from state government employees. Besides, the same benefits will be available to private sector employees if employers decide to offer the

scheme and employees decide to avail it.

How does it help government revenue?

While GST collections have been severely impacted in the first half of the fiscal due to the pandemic, a consumption boost from the LTC move will lift GST collections in the second half as the scheme calls for expenditure to be done until March 31, 2021. If private sector employees also participate, it may lead to a significant jump in overall consumption and rise in GST collections.

What is the special festival advance scheme?

The government has restored festival advance, which was abolished in line with recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission, for one time until March 31, 2021. All central government employees will get an interest-free advance of Rs 10,000 that the government will recover in 10 instalments. It will be given in the form of a pre-loaded Rupay card of the advance value and the government expects to disburse Rs 4,000 crore. According to the Finance Ministry, if all states provide a similar advance, another Rs 8,000 crores is likely to be disbursed. This is expected to generate consumption demand ahead of festivals like Diwali.

What are the measures to boost capital expenditure?

Special assistance will be provided to states in the form of interest-free 50-year loans of Rs 12,000 crore with certain conditions. States have been categorised into three groups: Group 1 comprising Northeast states (Rs 1,600 crore) and Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh (Rs 900 crore), Group 2 of other states that will get Rs 7,500 crore in proportion of their share as per the Finance Commission's devolution, and Group 3 of states which will get Rs 2,000 crore if they meet 3 of 4 reforms, including One Nation One Ration, as outlined in the Atmanirbhar package announced in May. The funds, which need to be spent by March 31, 2021, can be used for ongoing and new projects and settling contractors' bills on these. The funds provided to states will be over and about their borrowing ceilings.

For its part, the Centre has proposed an additional budget of Rs 25,000 crore for capital expenditure on roads, defence infrastructure, water supply and urban development. Allocations will be made to various ministries in the upcoming discussions for formulating revised estimates.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Mark Zuckerberg

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook to ban content that denies or distorts the Holocaust

FACEBOOK SAID on Monday it was updating its hate speech policy to ban any content that denies or distorts the Holocaust. The move comes two years after Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg said in a 2018 interview with tech website Recode said that while he found Holocaust denial deeply offensive, he did not think Facebook should delete such content. "I've struggled with the tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimising or denying the horror of the Holocaust," said Zuckerberg, who is Jewish, in a Facebook post on Monday. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN

Imran Khan's top aide quits amid graft allegations

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan's Special Assistant on Information and Broadcasting Lt Gen (retd.) Asim Saleem Bajwa resigned on Monday, amid allegations that he used his offices to help family set up several offshore businesses. "I requested the honourable prime minister to relinquish me from the additional portfolio of SAPM on Info & broadcasting. He very kindly approved my request," Bajwa, the former Pakistan Army spokesman who also served as Commander of the Southern Command, tweeted. **PTI**

TANZANIA

Large fire breaks out on Mount Kilimanjaro

TANZANIAN RESIDENTS, students and firefighters were battling on Monday to contain a fire that broke out Sunday on Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, the National Parks service (TANAPA) said. Hard winds on Sunday helped fan the fire, but the winds have died down. So far, no injuries or deaths have been reported and no property damaged. Kilimanjaro rises to nearly 6,000 metres above sea level. Around 50,000 tourists climb it every year. **REUTERS**



US Supreme Court nominee Judge Amy Coney Barrett (centre) at her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday. **Reuters**

Confirmation hearing for Trump's SC nominee kicks off in a divided Senate

Kamala Harris says process illegitimate as it comes so near presidential election

LAWRENCE HURLEY & PATRICIA ZENGERLE
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 12

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS including vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris on Monday painted US President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett as a threat to the Obamacare healthcare law during a deadly pandemic and denounced the Republican drive to approve her before the November 3 US election.

As the Senate Judiciary Committee began its four-day confirmation hearing for Barrett, Democrats voiced their strong opposition to Trump's nominee even though they have little hope of derailing her nomination in the Republican-led Senate.

Barrett's confirmation would give the court a 6-3 conservative majority. But it was the fate of the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA), Democratic former President Barack Obama's signature domestic policy achievement that has enabled millions of Americans to obtain medical coverage, that was the focus of Harris and her fellow Democrats. Barrett has criticised a 2012 Supreme Court ruling authored by conservative Chief Justice John Roberts that upheld Obamacare.

Harris, the running mate of Trump's Democratic election opponent Joe Biden, called the con-



Senator Michael Lee (standing, left), who had tested positive for Covid-19 on October 3, talks with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham. **Reuters**

Why health care took centre stage

DEMOCRATS FEAR that Judge Barrett would tilt the US top court too far to the right and put gay marriage, abortion rights and gun control, among other things, at risk. But the Democratic senators' main point of attack on Monday was regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which is also at risk of being repealed by a conservative-majority court. The ACA is the source of health care for millions of Americans, and has

EXPLAINED become a major electoral issue, especially during the pandemic. With the election just weeks away, Democrats are trying to draw focus on Trump's failures in managing the Covid outbreak, which they say will hit Americans even harder if the ACA is scrapped. With the outcome of the hearings almost a foregone conclusion, the party is trying to use the platform to get its message across to voters.

firmation process so near the election "illegitimate".

"I do believe this hearing is a clear attempt to jam through a

Supreme Court nominee who will take away healthcare from millions of people during a deadly pandemic that has al-

ready killed more than 214,000 Americans," Harris said, speaking via a video link.

"A clear majority of Americans want whomever wins the election to fill this seat and my Republican colleagues know that. Yet they are deliberately defying the will of the people in their attempt to roll back the rights and protections provided under the Affordable Care Act," Harris said.

Barrett, a conservative appellate court judge nominated to replace the late liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, sat at a table facing the senators wearing a black face mask amid the pandemic. Her husband and seven children sat behind her, also wearing protective masks.

Barrett could be on the Supreme Court in time to participate in a case due to be argued on November 10 in which Trump and Republican-led states are seeking to invalidate Obamacare.

The hearing started with senators making opening statements. Barrett will make her own opening statement later on Monday and will face questioning from senators on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The hearing is a key step before a full Senate vote by the end of October on her confirmation to a lifetime job on the court. Republicans have a 53-47 Senate majority so Barrett's confirmation seems almost certain. **REUTERS**

Asia-Pacific countries begin to ease travel bans related to Covid

Singapore, Australia, Japan allow some international travel

JAMIE FREED
SYDNEY, OCTOBER 12

ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES including Singapore, Australia and Japan are gradually easing some international travel restrictions as coronavirus cases slow, in hopes of helping to revive their economies.

International travel in Asia has collapsed during the pandemic due to border closures, with passenger numbers down 97% in August, according to the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines.

Although European countries that had been more open add fresh travel restrictions as cases rise, in Asia the trend is toward easing, though not always on a bilateral basis.

For now, few people are likely to travel because of testing and insurance requirements, and in some cases the need to quarantine upon return home, meaning the deals offer limited hope for airlines and the tourism industry.

A Singapore-Indonesia deal announced on Monday for essential business and official travel will require an application and Covid-19 swab tests both before and after travel.

Singapore had established similar agreements with China, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, and opened unilaterally to general visitors from New Zealand, Brunei, Vietnam and most of Australia.

New Zealanders will be able to travel to some parts of Australia starting Friday without quarantining. However, New Zealanders who return from Australia must quarantine for two weeks under government supervision at the cost of NZ\$3100 (\$2,064.91) for the first person and more for additional family members. Australia is also in talks with Japan, South Korea, Singapore and South Pacific nations on reopening travel as coronavirus infections ease.

Japan and Vietnam will allow short-term business travel with each other, the Yomiuri daily said on Saturday. Japan is also planning to remove a ban on travel to China and 11 other countries and regions including Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Vietnam and Malaysia next month, the Yomiuri said, though it would still advise against non-essential travel. **REUTERS**



At the Beijing Railway Station. **Reuters**

Johnson shuts pubs in parts of England with new Covid curbs

Liverpool, London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson imposed a tiered system of further restrictions on parts of England on Monday, including shutting pubs, as the Covid-19 outbreak accelerates, though anger is rising at the cost of the curtailment of freedoms.

Johnson announced the new three-tier system in an attempt to standardise a patchwork of often complicated and confusing restrictions imposed across England. Lawmakers will vote on the move.

The lockdowns will include shutting pubs and bars in areas placed into the "very high" alert level from Wednesday. The other levels in the new system are "medium" and "high".

So far, Merseyside in north-west England — which includes the city of Liverpool — is the only area in the highest risk category. Gyms, leisure centres, casinos, betting shops and adult gaming



Boris Johnson announced a 3-tier system of restrictions

centres there will also close, Johnson said.

"We must act to save lives," Johnson told Parliament, adding he did not want another national lockdown and that he understood the frustrations of those chafing at the "repressions of liberty".

"If we let the virus rip, then the bleak mathematics dictate that we would suffer not only an intolerable death toll from Covid, but we would put such a huge strain on our NHS with an uncontrolled second spike that our doctors and nurses would simply be unable to devote themselves to other treatments." **REUTERS**

Everyone in China's Qingdao city to get tested after new outbreak

Beijing: Chinese health authorities will test all 9 million people in the eastern city of Qingdao for the coronavirus this week after nine cases linked to a hospital were found, the government announced Monday.

The announcement broke a two-month streak with no virus transmissions reported within China, though China has a practice of not reporting asymptomatic cases. The ruling Communist Party has lifted most curbs on travel and business but still monitors travellers and visitors to public buildings for signs of infection.

Authorities were investigating the source of the infections in eight patients at Qingdao's Municipal Chest Hospital and one family member, the National Health Commission said. **AP**



The Polarstern returns to Bremerhaven, Germany, Monday. **AP**

Largest ever Arctic science expedition ends

HENRY FOUNTAIN
OCTOBER 12

AFTER A year spent drifting across the top of the world, frozen in sea ice, a German research ship returned home on Monday, ending the largest Arctic science expedition in history, one aimed at better understanding a region that is rapidly changing as the world warms.

The ship, the *Polarstern*, docked at its home port of Bremerhaven 13 months after it left Norway. In October, it became deliberately frozen into the ice north of Siberia, 350 miles from the North Pole, and drifted north and west for thousands of miles, leaving the little remaining ice for good late last month between Greenland and Norway.

The expedition, with a rotating contingent of about 100 scientists and crew, encountered polar bears, storms that damaged equipment, thin ice conditions and, most critically, the coronavirus pandemic that scrambled logistics. But the leaders of the \$150 million project with participants from 20 countries, noted it as a success. **NYT**

EU agrees to sanctions on Russians over Navalny poisoning: diplomats

REUTERS
LUXEMBOURG, OCTOBER 12

EUROPEAN UNION foreign ministers backed a Franco-German plan on Monday to impose sanctions on Russians suspected of poisoning Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny with a nerve agent, diplomats said.

Berlin and Paris made their proposal at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg. They say they have not had a credible explanation from Moscow for what the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons



Alexei Navalny

said was the presence of the banned Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok in Navalny's body.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said as he arrived at the meeting earlier on Monday

that the poisoning could not "remain without consequences".

EU diplomats said there was broad support among the 27 foreign ministers for asset freezes and travel bans on several Russian GRU military intelligence officials.

The sanctions are not expected to be approved immediately, as legal texts must be prepared and cleared by experts.

Navalny fell ill on a flight in Siberia on Aug 20, and was subsequently airlifted to Berlin for treatment. Blood samples taken from him confirmed the presence of a nerve agent from the banned Novichok family.

China announces new regulations for pilgrims going to Saudi for Haj

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, OCTOBER 12

CHINA HAS released new regulations for Muslims visiting Saudi Arabia for annual Haj stipulating that the pilgrimage should be organised only by the country's Islamic Association and pilgrims should follow Chinese laws and oppose religious extremism.

There are 20 million Muslims in China, mostly Uyghurs — an ethnic group of Turkic origin — and Hui Muslims, who are of Chinese ethnic origin. Both

People who go on the Haj pilgrimage should abide by Chinese rules and oppose religious extremism, according to the regulations

Uyghurs and Hui Muslims have a population of about 10 million each, according to an official white paper.

The new regulation issued for Haj pilgrimage has a total of 42 articles, including one that

stipulates that Chinese citizens' pilgrimage should be organised in accordance with Chinese laws, and the Chinese Islamic Association is the only organisation that is authorised to arrange for Chinese Muslims to go to Mecca to perform Haj.

People who go to perform Haj should abide by China's and the destination country's laws, and oppose religious extremism, according to the regulations.

Various government departments have been requested to fulfil their responsibilities and ban illegal Haj activities, the state-run *Global Times* reported. **PTI**

A HEALTH CLUB IN KANDAHAR CHALLENGES CONSERVATIVE AFGHAN TRADITIONS THAT VILIFY EXERCISE FOR WOMEN

In former Taliban stronghold, defiant women hit the gym

DAVID ZUCCHINO & FATIMA FAIZI
KANDAHAR, OCTOBER 12

HOMA YUSAFZAI felt terrible. Her weight was up, she had diabetes and high blood pressure, and at just 27 she felt lethargic and depressed.

Then she heard that Kandahar's first health club for women had just opened — the miracle she had been waiting for, she thought. Her husband at first refused to let her join. Kandahar is a deeply conservative city, a former headquarters of the Taliban where men still dictate the most prosaic details of women's lives.

But ultimately, he relented, and Yusufzai now works out six days a week, straining through hand-weight repetitions and pounding a treadmill. In six months, she said, she had shed almost 50 pounds, lowered her blood pressure and brought her diabetes under control.

The health club was opened late last year by Maryam Durani, 36, an indomitable women's rights advocate who has survived two suicide bombings, an assassination attempt and countless death threats — not to mention harsh public condemnation for opening the club.

The gym has survived, tucked away in a windowless basement



At the fitness club. **NYT**

inside a locked compound, shielded from prying eyes. It is the latest addition to the Khadija Kubra Women's Association, run

by Durani with her father's help since 2004. It includes a radio station, English and literacy classes for women, an Islamic school and

a seamstress centre that sells clothing made by women.

It is rare for Afghan women to exercise, though several women's health clubs and even two women's swimming pools have opened in Kabul. But in conservative strongholds like Kandahar, many men disapprove of women trying to take control of their own bodies.

"Kandahar is a very difficult environment for women," Durani said. "The club is as much for women's mental health as their physical health. Almost every woman who comes here is depressed."

Roughly 40% of club members exercise secretly, hiding

workouts from their families, Durani said. Membership had dropped from 60 in the spring to 30 now, because of a three-month Covid-19 closure and because some women feared their families would find out.

"My father and brothers said they would kill me if I went to a health club," said a gym member, who asked to be identified only by her nickname, Tamana. Tamana, 33, was dressed in white robes traditionally worn for studying the Quran at a madrasa — the excuse she gives her family for leaving home to exercise at the club.

But the gym is constantly in jeopardy. Soon after it opened, it was deluged with profane social

media posts from outraged residents. They called it a house of prostitution. Mocked and vilified, Durani was told to close the club and send the women home to their husbands.

"I was shocked that they called my daughter a prostitute — that they said no man with dignity would allow such a thing," said Durani's father, Haji Mohammad Essa, 82, a former teacher who owns the plot that houses the gym.

Club members say they've been harassed and propositioned by men outside. A few have been struck by stones thrown by men on motorbikes who threatened to kill them if they continued to visit the club, Durani said. **NYT**

15 ECONOMY



GOLD ₹52,073 RUPEE ₹73.28 OIL \$41.64 SILVER ₹64,927

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2200 IST

SENSEX: 40,593.80 ▲ 84.31 NIFTY: 11,930.95 ▲ 16.75 NIKKEI: 23,558.69 ▼ 61.00 HANG SENG: 24,649.68 ▲ 530.55 FTSE: 6,025.65 ▲ 9.00 DAX: 13,126.21 ▲ 74.98

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH LOGISTICS

Yet to be roped in, pvt cold chains start preparations for Covid immunisation

PRABHARAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

OVER 27K COLD CHAIN POINTS SUPPORT UIP

India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) is supported by over 27,000 functional cold chain points.

FROM PLANNING to convert food processing refrigerated units into vaccine storage facilities to ramping up the vehicles to transport them, private cold chain and distribution firms have begun preparing capacities ahead of India's July 2021 target to begin immunising its population against Covid-19.

While the government continues to map cold chain capabilities for a Covid-19 vaccine roll out next year, some industry experts feel that the current capacity will have to at least be doubled. Given the demand, India's existing Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) infrastructure — which will be used to vaccinate the priority groups identified by the government — may need more private sector involvement, some feel.

While private firms wait to be roped in, they have already begun preparing for such a scenario. For instance, Snowman Logistics has undertaken an exercise to understand what would be required if the firm had to convert over 30 of its cold chain units for storing food into a vaccine storage facility.

"We have mapped out our capacity in the country and other capacities by other operators to find out what capacity is available immediately," said Snowman Logistics CEO Sunil Nair. The firm currently has 33 cold storage facilities across the country, of which two are already dedicated for pharmaceutical products. While there is no clarity on the packaging for these Covid-19 vaccines, going by a thumb rule of around 7,000 doses on a pallet, Snowman has the capacity to store around 650 million doses. With the same assumption, its network partners would have another 400 million dose capacity, said Nair.

"At the same time, we have also involved our technical team in terms of finding out if we have to convert a food facility into a pharma facility, what does it take for us. Those sorts of things are (now) done... if the vaccine comes to two to eight degrees centigrade, which is what is being talked about, we can quickly convert these facilities — it is just a setting that we need to change," he said.

As per him, such a conversion would help the firm "fully prepare" to engage in the primary and secondary leg of distribution of a Covid vaccine "anywhere" in the country. Gati Kausar, the cold chain

arm of logistics giant Gati Ltd, says it has already initiated talks with the government and is ready to collaborate with other industry associations and logistics players "to ensure the safe and efficient delivery" of Covid-19 vaccines. The firm is "already geared up" with a fleet of 120 trucks — both primary and secondary — to meet "emerging requirements" ahead of the commercialisation of the Covid-19 vaccines.

"... Warehousing staff will need to be trained to handle temperature-sensitive vaccines. Stringent monitoring capacities will need to be put into place to ensure adherence to compliances," the firm added.

DHL is also leaning to be conducting an assessment of India's overall cold chain capacity. India's UIP — one of the largest in the world — is supported by over 27,000 functional cold chain points, as per the Health Ministry's comprehensive multi-year UIP plan for 2018-22. Of this, 3 per cent are located at the district level and above, while about 95 per cent are located below district level.

"I don't believe there are constraints on the quality of the cold chain infrastructure... it's only the capacity of the cold chain infrastructure," said Biological E managing director Mahima Datla. The UIP currently requires the storage of, "at best", around 300 million doses of the vaccines that it administers, according to her.

"But, in contrast, for Covid, you're talking about a population cohort of 1.3 billion people, and if that's a two-dose vaccine — which majority of them are — you're talking about now 2.5 to 3 billion doses annually. Now, it's a different story that you may not have the availability of 3 billion annually... but even if it's half of that, even if it's a fourth, it would mean you still need (capacity for) 500 million doses," she said.

"You needn't even do it across the whole country. You can even have hubs in the north, south east and west, or just get manufacturers to stockpile inventory for you... these are not insurmountable problems," she added.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

FOOD INFLATION RISES TO DOUBLE-DIGIT LEVELS

Retail inflation at 8-month high in Sept; Aug IIP stays in negative

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

E Above RBI comfort levels

RETAIL INFLATION jumped to an eight-month high of 7.34 per cent in September, primarily driven by higher food inflation, which rose to double-digit levels, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday showed.

Factory output continued to decline for the sixth consecutive month in August, recording an 8 per cent contraction, mainly due to degrowth in manufacturing, capital goods, and consumer durables output, but showed a sequential improvement from 10.8 per cent contraction in the previous month, separate set of data released by the NSO showed.

The inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was at 6.69 per cent in August and 3.99 per cent in September last year. Food inflation based on the

AT 7.34 per cent, the inflation print is much above the RBI's medium-term target of 4+/-2 per cent. Core inflation, which excludes the impact of food and fuel inflation, softened to 5.67 per cent in September from 5.77 per cent in August.

Consumer Food Price Index rose to 10.68 per cent in September from 9.05 per cent in August, with urban food inflation at a higher print of 10.94 per cent compared with rural inflation print of 10.60 per cent. At 7.34 per cent, the inflation print is much above the Reserve Bank of India's medium

term target of 4+/-2 per cent. Core inflation, which excludes impact of food and fuel inflation, however, softened to 5.67 per cent in September from 5.77 per cent in August.

The RBI in its Monetary Policy statement last week had said that prices of key vegetables like tomatoes, onions and potatoes should ebb by October-December with kharif arrivals, even though prices of pulses and oilseeds are likely to remain firm due to elevated import duties. It has projected CPI inflation to average at 5.4 per cent in October-December and 4.5 per cent in January-March.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has shown sequential improvement, but cumulatively, it has contracted by 25 per cent for April-August against a growth of 2.4 per cent in the same period last year. The IIP had contracted by 1.4 per cent in August last year. "With the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been

a relative improvement in the economic activities by varying degrees as well as in data reporting," the NSO said. Manufacturing sector, which has a weight of 77.6 per cent in IIP, contracted 8.6 per cent in August, an improvement from 11.6 per cent contraction in July.

Consumer durables and consumer non-durables output, indicators for consumption demand, contracted 10.3 per cent and 3.3 per cent, respectively, in August. Output of capital goods contracted 15.4 per cent during August.

Economists said though economic activity has picked up, it is yet to reach pre-Covid levels and the road to full recovery is distant and will also be largely contingent upon the infection rate. "Though economic activities are yet to reach the pre-Covid level, it is gaining traction with each passing month albeit at a reduced pace," Sunil Kumar Sinha, principal economist, India Ratings and Research, said.

COVID-19 IMPACT

'School closure may cost over \$400 billion to India'

The prolonged closure of schools due to Covid-19 may cause a loss of over \$400 billion in the country's future earnings, besides substantial learning losses, a World Bank report said



Why is it important: The report 'Beaten or Broken? Informality and Covid-19 in South Asia' says the region is set to plunge into its worst-ever recession in 2020 as devastating impacts of the pandemic on the nations linger

\$622 BILLION: Loss that South Asia region may suffer from school closures in the present scenario, or up to \$880 billion in a more pessimistic scenario

\$4,400: Loss in lifetime earnings of an average South Asian child, due to school closures, after entering labour market; i.e. 5% of total earnings

391 million: Students who have been kept out of school in primary and secondary education due to temporary

school closures in all South Asian countries

0.5 years: Projected learning loss in terms of learning-adjusted years of schooling (LAYS); thus taking years gained in school learning from 6.5 LAYS to 6.0 LAYS, an enormous setback from recent advances in schooling

Loss driven by India: While the loss in the South Asia region is largely driven by India, all countries will lose substantial shares of their GDP

Source: World Bank/PTI

Sajjid Chinoy is guest at Explained.Live tomorrow

EXPRESS explained.Live

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12



DATE: 14 October 2020
TIME: 7 pm

TO REGISTER:
SMS - IEXP <space> "IE" <space> "Your name and email ID" to 56161.
Confirmation SMS will be your registration.

capacity utilisation. Against the backdrop of what we have regained over the last six months, where we are lagging, and what can be done

to expedite growth, *The Indian Express* has invited Sajjid Chinoy, Chief India Economist, JP Morgan & Part-Time Member, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, to talk on the theme of "What should be done".

At a time when India has a current account surplus, record foreign exchange reserves, and surplus liquidity in the system, Chinoy will be able to explain what India should do to create multipliers for the economy with these strengths.

He brings to the table his vast economic expertise from the private sector, combined with his experience and understanding of the inner workings of the government — a perfect balance to ideate on what the economy needs going forward. Chinoy will be in conversation with P Vaidyanathan Iyer, Executive Editor, National Affairs, *The Indian Express*, on Wednesday evening.

Explained.Live is a unique series of explanatory conversations that *The Indian Express* hosts from time to time.

Expert Guests at Explained.Live sessions since the lockdown began have included IIT-Delhi Director Ramgopal Rao, Kerala's Health Minister K K Shailaja, Public Health Foundation of India president Dr K Srinath Reddy, industrialist Dr Naushad Forbes, capital markets expert Nilesh Shah, medical scientist Dr Gagandeep Kang, former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, and Mahesh Vyas, managing director and chief executive officer of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

INDIA AMONG SIGNATORIES TO LETTER

Seeking way around encryption, leading intelligence agencies write to tech cos

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

AN ALLIANCE of intelligence agencies from the US, the UK, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand along with signatories from India and Japan have written to technology companies which provide end-to-end encryption in their communication platforms to "work with the government" towards solutions which could help law enforcement agencies better pursue hardened criminals.

In a letter signed by the UK's Secretary of State for the Home Department Priti Patel, Attorney General of the US William Barr, Australian Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton, and others including signatories from India and Japan, the countries said that while they supported encryption's role in personal data and privacy protection, it also posed "significant challenges to public safety".

"We urge industry to address our serious concerns where encryption is applied in a way that wholly precludes any legal access to content. We call on technology companies to work with governments to take the following steps, focused on reasonable, technically feasible solutions," the letter dated October 11, read.

The move is likely to put pressure on communications platforms such as WhatsApp, its parent Facebook's Messenger, and others such as Signal and Telegram, all of which offer end-to-end encryption to customers.

In nations such as India, WhatsApp has been involved in a prolonged legal debate with the government and the Supreme Court, where the platform has tried defending its stance that end-to-end encryption meant that not even the company had any access to the chats between users.

The Centre, last October, while presenting its standing in a case related to WhatsApp, had said that social media and communications platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook could not claim that they also did not have access to "users chats" if the matter related to national security.

The government had then told the Supreme Court that such platforms must help the Centre decrypt messages from terrorist organisations, hardened criminals and others. It had then also said that new rules to govern social media was being planned by the respective ministries. On the other hand, companies including Facebook, Twitter and others have repeatedly said they have always complied with countries' law enforcement agencies when legitimate requests have been made through proper channels".

In the October 11 letter, the signatories have said that these communication platforms should enable access for law enforcement agencies "in a readable and usable format where an authorisation is lawfully issued, is necessary and proportionate, and is subject to strong safeguards and oversight".

"Integrating such a feature into the existing end-to-end encryption mechanism could be extremely complex considering these laws would vary between countries and regions. Also, ensuring that these hooks provided to security agencies are not misused can be quite complex," said Kunal Kishlay, co-founder and CEO of Integration Wizards Solutions.

Other experts, however, say that the proposal to decrypt will give the powers that be "excessive powers". "This proposal is problematic because it gives excessive powers to the law enforcement agencies of these countries," said Pranshugan, legal director at Software Freedom Law Centre.

RBI reallocates Deputy Governors' portfolios

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Monday reallocated portfolios of Deputy Governors with the Department of Regulation entrusted to the newly-appointed M Rajeshwar Rao.

Rao was appointed to the post vacated by NS Vishwanathan, who stepped down three months ahead of his extended tenure. Rao was Executive Director of the Reserve Bank before being elevated to the post of the Deputy Governor. He will look after the departments of communication, enforcement, inspection, legal, and risk monitoring, the RBI said.

Deputy Governor MD Patra will look after the Monetary Policy Department. His other portfolios include department of economic and policy research, Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, financial markets operations department and financial markets regulation department.

Deputy Governor MK Jain will look after the central security cell, corporate strategy and budget department, consumer education and protection department, department of supervision, and human resource management department, among others. BP Kanungo, Deputy Governor, will oversee coordination, currency management, external investments and operations, etc.

BRIEFLY

ADB, govt ink loan deal

New Delhi: Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Monday it has inked a \$570-million loan deal with the government to fund public infrastructure building and boost urban local bodies in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Razorpay joins unicorns in India

New Delhi: Payments company Razorpay said Monday it has gained 'unicorn' status, having raised \$100 million funding from GIC, Sequoia Capital and others. PTI

RBI launches gold bond issue

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday launched the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21-Series VII, with the bond's nominal value at Rs 5,051/g of gold. The issue will close October 16. ENS

INCLUDING CHINESE BANKS IN INSOLVENCY PROCESS

Delhi HC seeks Centre, SBI stand on Anil Ambani plea

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

THE DELHI High Court on Monday sought the Centre and SBI's reply to former RCom chairman Anil Ambani's plea to include the Chinese banks, which have got a decree of \$717 million against him from a court in United Kingdom, in the proceedings here related to recovery of Rs 1200 crore loan granted to two of his companies.



Former RCom chairman Anil Ambani. File

The high court also said that the moratorium on recoveries from sale of Ambani's assets would remain in operation for now.

'EU planning tougher norms for hit list of big tech firms'

Bengaluru/London: EU regulators are making a 'hit list' of up to 20 large internet firms, potentially including Facebook, Apple, Amazon and Google, that will be facing new and tougher rules aimed at curbing their market power, the Financial Times reported.

The OECD Monday proposed overhaul of international tax rules to make sure big tech companies pay their dues. REUTERS & AP

'Housing sales revive on low loan rates, bottomed-out prices'

Mumbai: Housing sales value in the top 7 cities in July-September collectively rose to Rs 29,731 crore, as against Rs 12,694 crore in the preceding quarter ended June a significant jump of 134 per cent, says a study by Anarock Property Consultants.

Mumbai Metropolitan Region saw homes worth Rs 16,500 crore sold in the September quarter against Rs 6,748 crore in the June quarter, a rise of 145 per cent. Chennai's housing sales value rose almost 3.3 times — from Rs 314 crore in June quarter

to over Rs 1,039 crore in the September quarter. Delhi-NCR recorded a 157 per cent rise in sales value from Rs 1,263 crore to over Rs 3,246 crore. Hyderabad's sales value rose 152 per cent from Rs 410 crore to nearly Rs 1,032 crore, Anarock said.

Pune's housing sales value stood at Rs 2,968 crore in the September quarter against Rs 1,321 crore. Kolkata's sales value rose from Rs 433 crore to nearly Rs 957 crore, while that of Bengaluru rose to Rs 3,989 crore against Rs 2,205 crore. ENS

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. NIT/2020-21/1864-70
Date: 12.10.2020

Rate contract for supply of PCC, ISI marked at various sites in Rajasthan.
L&S No. - RRC2021WSCR0330 490.00 Lacs

Rate contract for supply of OPC-43 Grade as per ISI marked at various sites in Rajasthan.
L&S No. - RRC2021WILRC00321 1841.00 Lacs

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GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Material Description	Due Date
For Supply and Commissioning of a Chip Classifier / SCAN (CM 40:01 Measuring Instrument - TNPL Unit-II - MEP)	31.10.2020

Bidders may request the tender document at the above address by Post/Mail. Detailed GNB may be viewed in websites: www.tnpl.com/ / www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/3798/Tender/2020 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

Bank of India BOI
Head Office, Information Technology Department, Star House 2, C-4, "G" Block, 8th Floor, Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051. E-mail: Headoffice.it@bankofindia.co.in

TENDER REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) NOTICE

BANK OF INDIA INVITES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR "Engagement of Vendor for End to End Management of Enterprise Wide Loyalty Program" Last date for submission of RFP 05.11.2020 by 3:30 PM

Details available on Bank's Corporate Website: www.bankofindia.co.in under "Tender" Section.

TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture
Regd. Office: NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009
Tel : 66112222, Fax : 27468042, Email : TPDDL@tatapower-del.com
CIN No. : U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website : www.tatapower-del.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS Oct. 13, 2020

TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Tender Enquiry No.	Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001247/20-21 Rfx. 5000001897	Supply of Secondary Injection Kit and Analyser Kit	56.84 Lac / 1.41 Lac	13.10.2020	03.11.2020; 1600 Hrs / 03.11.2020; 1700 Hrs
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001246/20-21 Rfx. 5000001890	Annual Rate Contract for supply of Bird Guard Spike (Virgin Polycarbonate)	46 Lac / 1.15 Lac	14.10.2020	04.11.2020; 1600 Hrs / 04.11.2020; 1700 Hrs

CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENTION

Tender Enquiry No.	Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/Date & time of opening of bids
TPDDL/PMG/Tender/Banking-2020-21/03	Notice Inviting bids for banking of up to 200 MW RTC/Slot wise power on firm basis for the period of 01.11.2020 to 30.09.2021.	15.09.2020	22.10.2020 at 1600 Hrs / 22.10.2020 at 1630 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-del.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents
Contracts - 011-66112222

ABD special knocks out the Knights

South African rises above conditions and opposition before RCB spinners seal the deal

SYNOPSIS

AB de Villiers explodes. RCB are upwardly mobile



AB de Villiers set up RCB's win with an unbeaten 73. BCCI/IPL

FOR A change, Royal Challengers Bangalore rolled over Kolkata Knight Riders – usually their bogey team in the IPL. The two RCB spinners, Yuzvendra Chahal (1/12) and Washington Sundar (2/20), strangled their opponents in the middle overs after an AB de Villiers evening show at Sharjah. Chasing 195 for victory, KKR lost by 82 runs.

AB de Villiers explodes

Abraham Benjamin de Villiers made a mockery of a slow Sharjah pitch and a strong Kolkata Knight Riders bowling attack. A track bereft of shine is pretty uncommon here. Even against the new ball, Royal Challengers Bangalore openers were walking down the pitch for better timing. On that surface, de Villiers exploded to remain unbeaten on 73 off 33 balls, hitting six sixes. He didn't mind hitting through the line. RCB had a good start, but as the ball got older, their run rate dropped. In fact, in the middle overs, the game was somewhat meandering along. But in the final five, they plundered 83 runs. De Villiers accounted for 65 of them.

Kamlesh Nagarkoti was effectively serving an overdose of cutters. De Villiers took 18 runs of his final over, as the youngster finished with 0/36 off his four overs. The over turned the game on its head. Until then, RCB were going at under eight runs per over.

Pat Cummins next, and a couple of sixes and a four followed. De Villiers hit almost a block-hole delivery over wide long-on for a maximum. That one over ruled Cummins' figures as well – 0/38 off four.

KKR dropped Sunil Narine, reported against by on-field umpires for a suspect action in their previous game. Opener Tom Banton made his IPL debut. In hindsight, KKR were a spinner short, as attested by Varun Chakravarthy's impressive bowling. But Andre Russell was fit and bowled beautifully upfront. But against De Villiers, his last two overs accounted for 34 runs.

The partnership between De Villiers and Virat Kohli yielded 100 runs off 74 overs. The RCB skipper (33*) contributed 22 off 14 balls to the partnership. A great team player, Kohli

Team	Matches	Won	Lost	NR	Points
MI	7	5	2	0	10
DC	7	5	2	0	10
RCB	7	5	2	0	10
KKR	7	4	3	0	8
SRH	7	3	4	0	6
RR	7	3	4	0	6
CSK	7	2	5	0	4
KXIP	7	1	6	0	2

ORANGE CAP: KL Rahul (KXIP), 387 runs
PURPLE CAP: Kagiso Rabada (DC), 17 wickets

eschewed his ego and didn't mind playing second fiddle. During the association, the RCB batting royalty completed 3,000 IPL runs together. Earlier, a 67-run opening stand between Aaron Finch and Devdutt Padikkal laid the foundation for their team.

RCB upwardly mobile

When Padikkal dropped Russell on one, it felt like a déjà vu moment. Last year, Russell's 13-ball 48 at Chinnaswamy Stadium had caused heartbreak for Kohli's team. But this is a different RCB, with a swagger and collective effort. Their openers are taking pressure off Kohli and de Villiers. Their bowlers are defending totals. On Monday, as Russell was getting into the groove, Isuru Udana removed him with a full and wide delivery. KKR slumped to 85/6. Game over.

BRIEF SCORES: RCB 194/2 in 20 overs (AB de Villiers 73*, A Finch 47, V Kohli 33*) bt KKR 112/9 in 20 overs (S Gill 34; C Morris 2/17, W Sundar 2/20) by 82 runs

Playing tonight: SRH vs CSK, 7:30pm

IPL transfer window: How Rahane can move to CSK and Tahir to DC

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 12

IT'S ALMOST the halfway stage in this IPL, and the tournament's mid-season transfer window is around the corner. Unlike last season, the IPL Governing Council has permitted loan transfers of capped players this term.

What is the IPL's mid-season transfer window?

Franchises can loan out capped – both Indian and overseas – and uncapped players during this window. The loan process – expression of interest, paperwork etc. – has been applicable from October 7, but the window will be opened exactly at the halfway stage, when all teams have played seven matches each. The IPL had introduced the mid-season transfer window last season and opened up a five-day window for loan transfers of uncapped players. This year, even capped players can be loaned out.

Which players are eligible for transfers?

E The IPL loan rules say: "Any player who has played (in XI or as concussion substitute) less than two matches." The lending franchise will get the mutually agreed amount between two franchises, which is not subject to a salary cap. Fifty per cent of the loan fee will have to be paid "within 7 days of registration" and the rest "within 7 days of the final match of the season".

Is this like football's January transfer window?

Not really. During football's January transfer window, both permanent and loan transfers are allowed. The IPL's mid-season transfer window restricts movements to loan signings only, through mutually agreed loan fees.

For example, if Ajinkya Rahane of Delhi Capitals – who has played only one match so far – is loaned out to Chennai Super Kings by mutual agreement, the player becomes a part of the Chennai-based franchise for the rest of the season, but Capitals remain his parent team. It means that it's a half-a-season arrangement and the loanee returns to his parent team next season.

Will the loanee have any game restrictions?



Ajinkya Rahane has featured in just one match for Delhi Capitals. BCCI

POSSIBLE TRANSFERS

PLAYER: IMRAN TAHIR (CSK)

WHO WOULD WANT HIM: DELHI CAPITALS

REASON: The leg-spinner had 26 wickets last season, but is yet to get a game this season. DC lost the injured Amit Mishra for the season and might be interested in a like-for-like replacement.

PLAYER: AJINKYA RAHANE (DC)

WHO WOULD WANT HIM: CSK

REASON: Loan signings usually aren't part of the CSK culture. But this year, as admitted by MS Dhoni, their batting has been struggling. Rahane has more than 3,800 IPL runs to his credit. CSK might just be interested in a proven top-order performer.

PLAYER: DEEPAK HOODA (KXIP)

WHO WOULD WANT HIM: SRH OR RR

REASON: It's a little surprising that the experienced spin-bowling all-rounder hasn't yet played a game this season. Both SRH and RR have been searching for the required balance in their middle-order, and Hooda offers versatility.

PLAYER: CHRIS LYNN (MI)

WHO WOULD WANT HIM: KXIP OR RR

REASON: A set Mumbai Indians playing XI is a reason why the opening batsman is sitting out. Very unlikely movement, but teams like KXIP and RR, with their inconsistent batting performances, might make inquiries.

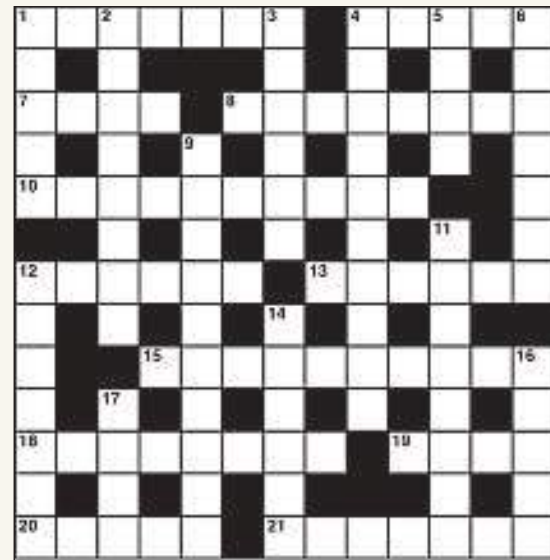
Yes, the IPL rules bar him from playing against the lending franchise. It means that the loanee will have to sit out the return-leg fixture against his parent team.

Is this the best opportunity to

sign injury replacements?

Not really. Teams can replace an injured player who is ruled out of the tournament by picking unsold players at base price. This is, of course, subject to the IPL Governing Council's approval.

CROSSWORD 4248



- ACROSS**
1 He built a wall and kept rain out (7)
4 The enemy the Salvation Army has to beat (5)
7 Not silent tears (4)
8 Rocks king in mixed doubles (8)
10 Broken lamp recast in waste material (5,5)
12 Decoration worn on one's chest (6)
13 Don't get angry, just leave without a blow (6)
15 A regal date made much of (1,5,4)
18 A patient is better after it (8)
19 Carriage sounds cheap (4)
20 One employed to unpick seams? (5)
21 Sumptuously entertains a chap with drinks (7)
- DOWN**
1 Bounders from Bucharest (5)
2 Wine indeed being sent out of the country (8)
3 So done may be caught (6)
4 The only representatives of the fish trade? (4,6)
5 Journey in South Africa (4)
6 Rum's not what the cure's made of (7)
9 Bound to mark the season's end (6,4)
11 Important fabric (8)
12 A bad-tempered pet (7)
14 Porter wearing fewer clothes we hear (6)
16 Joins a course for drivers (5)
17 Look what verse should do (4)

Solutions Crossword 4247: Across: 1 Free Wheeler, 9 In a stew, 10 Ample, 11 Tied, 12 Try again, 14 Naples, 16 Feints, 18 Turn sour, 19 Otto, 22 Ostrich, 23 Sticker, 24 Close season. Down: 2 Reade, 3 Efts, 4 Hewers, 5 Emanated, 6 Explain, 7 Distinction, 8 Tennis court, 13 Measures, 15 Partial, 17 Nurses, 20 Tokyo, 21 Siva.

JUMBLLED WORDS

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

You can find **SVAAEE** amidst the **HIWCST** that threaten you. – Joseph B. Wirthlin (5,...6)

SVAAEE [Shaded squares: V, A, A, E, E]
HIWCST [Shaded squares: I, W, C, S, T]

You can find **HYORS** amidst the **DIILMP** that threaten you. – Joseph B. Wirthlin (5,...6)

HYORS [Shaded squares: Y, O, R, S]
DIILMP [Shaded squares: I, I, L, M, P]

Solutions: You can find SVAAEE amidst the HIWCST that threaten you. – Joseph B. Wirthlin (5,...6)
You can find HYORS amidst the DIILMP that threaten you. – Joseph B. Wirthlin (5,...6)

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4261

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SUDOKU 4260

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4260

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

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You have a fantasy about being free and independent. Well, the current crop of Uranus alignments challenges you to put your words into action. If security is what you really want, you must now admit it to yourself and, of course, to others. There's no point in pretending otherwise.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
The major planetary symbols in your solar chart today speak of working relationships, legal questions and ethical issues. Are you sure that you know your rights? By that I mean your real rights, not some fantasy of what you can and can't get away with.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
There is a danger in trying to get others to reveal what they are not at liberty to divulge. Such probing is perhaps not such a great problem today, but could increasingly become so over the coming weeks. So, if there's a reason why you should move carefully, that's it.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Although you may still not be able to take an emotional risk as planned, there is much to be said for keeping other people in a state of suspense. If there is to be disruption at home, make sure that you cause it, rather than waiting for partners to weigh in with their own demands for change.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Events that are taking place on the work-front seem to involve higher principles rather than narrow self-interest. The most positive angle on today's stars is that it's a suitable moment for you to air grievances. Plus, a change of job might just be perfect.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Out of all the turmoil and drama of the past few months, something grand is beginning to emerge. A simple reading of your stars today forecasts unusual purchases. A deep interpretation offers you the chance to free yourself from an outmoded value system.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Today's planetary alignment crystallises a major long-term cycle indicating substantial improvement in your home situation and family relationships. The psychological angle reveals the need to grapple with the emotional weight of traditional authority.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
It may be some time before the current celestial combination gives you such a lift again. In some respects, many of you have been turned into human cannon balls, and the Moon now urges you to reach your target. It goes without saying that you should also look where you're going.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
This is likely to be a confusing time, but that shouldn't stop you saying what you think. The fact that Mercury, planet of bright ideas, is strongly aligned with your sign, suggests you can be similarly free in your views, arguments and opinions. But please show consideration for other people's feelings.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You can try your best but, if the going gets tough, then all you can really do is muddle through and hope that you don't have too many over-emotional people to deal with. A number of individuals are now in a mood to walk off into the sunset, leaving others to look after themselves. Mind you, that might not be a bad thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
You're in a competitive mood and you should enjoy jockeying for position. Yet, old-fashioned values are attractive and the trickle of Aquarians discovering the joys of tradition is about to become a flood. As a matter of fact, today is not a bad time to start behaving in contradictory ways.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Your mind is operating on a much higher level at the moment. That, by the way, doesn't mean that you are necessarily better than other people. It could even imply that you are being uncharacteristically vain. But then, perhaps you have reason to feel a little smug.

BRIEFLY

Former India football captain Carlton Chapman no more

Kolkata: Former India football captain and mid-fielder Carlton Chapman, who formed a deadly trio at the club level with Bhaichung Bhutia and IM Vijayan in the 1990s, died on Monday following a heart attack in Bengaluru. He was 49. Chapman was hospitalised on Sunday night at a hospital in Bengaluru and passed away early this morning. "I got a call from Bengaluru from one of his friends that Chapman is no more. He passed away early this morning. He was a happy-go-lucky man, always smiling and ready to help others," Chapman's one-time India team-mate Bruno Coutinho told PTI from Goa. A creative midfielder, Chapman played for India between 1995 and 2001 and the country won the 1997 SAFF Cup under his captaincy.

France and Portugal in goalless stalemate

Milan: France drew 0-0 at home to Portugal in the UEFA Nations League on Sunday in a cagey clash between the world and European champions which largely failed to live up to its billing. The teams could only manage one shot on target in the first half, a hopeful attempt by Antoine Griezmann from the tightest of angles which stung the hands of keeper Rui Patrício. Cristiano Ronaldo came closest to scoring when he fired a left-footed strike at goal in added time but his deflected shot was well saved by France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

Ricciardo happy to be leaving Renault on a high

London: Daniel Ricciardo says he feels happier leaving a successful Renault than a struggling one after securing the French manufacturer's first Formula One podium since 2010. The Australian, who is moving to McLaren at the end of the season, finished third in Sunday's Eifel Grand Prix at the Nürburgring. "Next year's another story, I am moving on, but I think this really does cap a pretty cool story that we've had and shared for these two years," he told Sky Sports.

AGENCIES

NBA CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

LeBron James Matters

Lakers star and league MVP strikes the right chord on and off the court

SHASHANK NAIR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12

A CONSTANT theme follows LeBron James as he passes through life in and outside the NBA. It doesn't matter if he's a teenager from Akron who's just been drafted into the NBA or a league veteran 17 years later, who yesterday was named the NBA 2020 Finals MVP at the age of 35 – there has always been a sense of burden that he has had to carry.

And that weight over the years has increased. They don't just expect him to be the greatest basketball player, but also the voice of his often marginalised community in these polarised times in the US.

Since his rookie days, James was supposed to be the answer to the question, 'Who's next after Michael Jordan?' Rarely are athletes able to carry that level of responsibility upon their shoulders at that early an age. And yet, he sits in Orlando, smoking a cigar and drenched in champagne after his fourth title this time for the LA Lakers, knowing that he has surpassed anything anyone could have ever imagined about him – on the court and off it. James has also spoken his mind on prickly issues, unlike several popular sporting stars.

On Sunday, the Lakers beat Miami Heat 106-93 in Game 6 of the 2020 NBA Finals to complete a 4-2 win for the NBA Championship. Like soccer empress Megan Rapinoe during the FIFA Women's World Cup last year, James had brought his 'A' game on both fronts.

MOST VOCAL PLAYER TOO

James at the start of his career was not someone associated with being political. And yet, his growth as a player has been less impressive compared to his growth as an influential representative of his community – a calling that has only gotten stronger over the past few years as the country goes through intense racial turmoil. This COVID-19 bubble and election campaign though – has seen the makings of James as a leading voice advocating and creating pathways for change.

"People get tired of hearing me say it, but we are scared as Black people in America," James said to reporters after their Game 4 win over the Portland Trail



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James celebrates the championship win. AP

Blazers. The comments were in response to the shooting of Jacob Blake by Kenosha police officers in Wisconsin and have been one of the several sound bytes made by James in the NBA bubble, in favour of the Black Lives Matter movement.

"Because you don't know. You have no idea how that cop that day left the house. ... You don't know if he woke up on the wrong side of the bed. You don't know if he had an argument at home with a significant other, if one of his kids said something crazy to him and he left the house steaming. Or maybe he just left the house saying today is going to be the end for one of these black people. That's what it feels like," added the Ohio-native. Embodying and vocalising this fear on-

half of his community was a choice James made, knowing any slip-ups on the court could snap the attention he commanded of millions, as NBA's biggest star right now.

Immediately after the killing of George Floyd which triggered the Black Lives Matter movement to a crescendo, James created the "More Than A Vote" group – a platform that looks to mobilize black voters and fight voter suppression. In the bubble, the group has been working towards turning NBA arenas into voting booths and voter-related activities. The Georgia primaries where many Blacks couldn't make it to the polling booths fearing for their safety or due to crowding constraints at the peak of the pandemic had been a bruising trial for the November pres-

idential elections.

Now, twenty NBA teams have given their arenas to either become a voting precinct, an early voting site, a polling site or a voting centre, the nudge coming from the top stars in NBA, with James crucially lending his name.

Outside of it, the group donated \$100,000 to register disenfranchised voters from Florida who couldn't vote because of felony records by paying their outstanding fees. It helped 1.4 million former felons regain their right to vote.

V FOR VOTE

Ninety per cent NBA players have been registered to vote this time around, with 15 teams showing 100% registration, according to OKC guard and National Basketball Players Association president Chris Paul.

"(We have to) continue to understand how important voting is. For us to be able to have the NBA arenas as polling sites for a lot of communities, that is unbelievable. We want to continue that. November is right around the corner and we all know how big that is," James said to reporters during the NBA Playoffs.

Even before today, where the Black Lives Matter movement has become the force that it is, James' work in his community is what has set him apart from some of the greatest athletes of all time. He has on regular occasion come out in support of justice for black people who have been shot or killed in America.

He has provided millions in support to the city of Akron in Ohio through funding tuition for countless college students and opened his own school called, 'I Promise' for 'at risk' third to eighth grade students.

James has now not only surpassed what anyone thought he was capable of on a basketball court, but has become a social justice icon the likes of which most of his peers could never fathom. He has advocated higher voting numbers and put his money and his mouth for the cause of campaigning to an end to police brutality, unlike any athlete in American history. And as the euphoria of a hard-fought NBA Championship victory dies down, his real-world contributions will continue to shine. It's a burden only someone the likes of James could carry and fulfill.

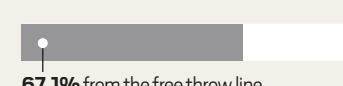
HE PROMISED, HE DELIVERED: KING JAMES

LeBron James joined Michael Jordan in being the only player to have won four NBA Finals MVP awards. LeBron also has the unique distinction of having won this award with three different teams.

JAMES AVERAGED

29.8 points | 11.8 rebounds | 8.5 assists

over the six NBA Finals games.



Big Big Congrats to @KingJames His legacy is still being written.... - @DWYANEWADE

Laker Nation, LeBron James made good on his guarantee that he would take the @Lakers to the NBA Finals and bring a championship to Lakers fans all around the world. Mission accomplished @KingJames!! - @MAGICJOHNSON

Congrats to the @Lakers and @Seattlestorm on their championship wins! Proud of all the NBA and WNBA teams and players who've been using their platforms to take a stand for racial justice and encourage civic participation this season. - @BARACK OBAMA

Congrats to my brother @KingJames on winning his 4th championship. Not bad for a washed up old guy! - @TOMBRADY-

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M.R. (Loni Road)	M.R. (Site-IV Indl. Area Branch)	SHINE (Silver City)	PAWAN (Lal Kuan)	DREAM (Meerut Road)	FORTUNE	MAHADEV (NHPC Chowk)	MAHADEV (Bata Road)	BOHRA (Neeam)	TRIUMPH (Near YMCA Chowk)	PARASHAR	DEE EMM (Indl. Estate)	DEE EMM (Opp Sector-14)	HIMGIRI (Golf Course)	JMV (Sohna Road)	SAFDARJANG (Udyog Vihar-IV)	SUPERON (Sohna Road Branch)	SUPERON (Hero Honda Chowk)	TRIUMPH (Wazirpur)	TRIUMPH (Manesar)	NIMBUS (Sector-5)	CAPITAL (Sector-43)	DREAM (C-21, Sector-3)	KARMA (Sector-83)	FORTUNE (D-74, Site-IV)			
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*Terms and condition apply. Benefits include cash discount, exchange bonus and benefits for government or corporate employees, whichever is applicable. Segment definition: Santro- comparable hatchbacks with length from 3550 mm - 3650 mm, height from 1560 mm - 1700 mm. Petrol engine capacity from 998 cc - 1150 cc. Nios - comparable high compact hatchbacks with length from 3765 mm - 3941 mm, height from 1510 mm - 1530 mm, engine capacity from 1186 cc - 1498 cc. Aura - comparable sub 4m compact sedans with length from 3922 mm - 3995 mm, height from 1498 mm - 1537 mm, petrol engine capacity from 998 cc - 1199 cc and diesel engine capacity from 1186 cc - 1498 cc. **Lowest average yearly periodic maintenance service cost. Prices are for Petrol variants: Santro- ₹2454 for 5 years / 50,000 km, Nios- ₹2746 for 5 years/ 50,000 km, Aura (1.0 turbo petrol)- ₹2746 for 5 years/ 50,000 km in Delhi. #Source: Cardekho.com as on 24 July 2020. **3 years/100,000 km for SANTRO, Wonder warranty with option to choose from 3 years/100,000 km or 4 years/50,000 km or 5 years/40,000 km for Grand i10 NIOS and AURA. #Loan is at sole discretion of the financier. Hyundai is also available in CSD and GeM, contact us at rahul.malviya@hmiil.net (Delhi) and vakul.gupta@hmiil.net (NCR). HMIIL reserves the right to withdraw / modify the scheme without prior notice. Visit your nearest Hyundai dealership for more details. Features and specifications as shown may not be part of standard fitment and are subject to change without prior notice. Hyundai urges you to follow traffic rules - these are meant to keep you safe on roads.