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# UTTAR PRADESH

## the Land of OPPORTUNITIES

With wide-ranging changes in business regulations and increasing 'ease-of-doing business' (EoDB) practices, UP opens new avenues for industries and investments



FOR THE past many years, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been working relentlessly to spur business activities by focusing on elevating the 'ease-of-doing business' quotient in the state. Recently, Uttar Pradesh jumped 10 places to occupy the second spot in 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking, which is a proof of the state's push for fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Indeed, this is a remarkable achievement for the state. Currently, we are leaving no stone unturned to project the state as an unparalleled destination for investments.

The Uttar Pradesh Government is committed to make all-out efforts to simplify the existing rules to ensure 'ease-of-doing business' remains high in the state and attract investments in the state. Successive implementation of the 'Nivesh Mitra' – the dedicated single-window system of the state for facilitating processing of applications by investors – has been instrumental in the progress of the state on EoDB factor.

To facilitate smooth resumption of businesses and industries in UP, the State Government initiated 'ease-of-doing business' reforms and monthly ranking at district levels.

We are conducting a survey in industrial units for providing employment to workers.

**YOGI ADITYANATH**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

### ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

#### Creation of Industry-friendly environment

- More than 2600 start-ups established in the last three years.
- New start-up policy 2020 for health, power, education, tourism, transport, agro, food processing sectors.
- Industrial parks like MSME Park, Pharma Park and Apparel Park etc are being developed.

#### New investment policy to attract investors

- Foreign investors shifting their bases from China to be given space in the Defence corridor, Industrial corridors along the Expressways and Jewar International Airport.
- Investors to be given land subsidy, capital subsidy and a bouquet of incentives.
- Reimbursement of State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) up to two to three times of capital investment.

#### ODOP : Impetus to signature industries

- One District-One Product (ODOP) Programme aims to encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts in UP that are found nowhere else.

### EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

- UP jumps to 2nd position in 'ease-of-doing business' rankings.
- UP has jumped from the 12th position in BRAP 2017-18 to the second position in BRAP 2019.
- UP has implemented 186 of the 187 reforms suggested by the Union Government's DPIIT under BRAP 19.
- The state had also started to rank all its 75 districts in the EoDB exercise.
- Digital single-window platform 'Nivesh Mitra' to take care of all processes related to the start of an industrial unit in the state.
- 'Nivesh Mitra' acts as seamless interface for time-bound issuance of various approvals.
- Appointment of dedicated nodal officers for facilitation of mega projects.
- State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) created to expedite decisions on industrial projects.



# Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

**Rs. 24,064cr** loans to new MSMEs create 24 lakh jobs in UP



**40 lakh migrants provided with befitting jobs**

**88 lakh workers get jobs under MGNREGA.**

**52 lakh get jobs in MSME units.**

**MoUs signed for creation of 11 lakh jobs for skilled labour.**

**UP is among the largest contributors to employment generation in the country during COVID-19 period.**

UP HAS taken a big stride under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan announced by the Government of India in the wake of economic meltdown due to COVID-19 pandemic. As per the mandate of the Abhiyan, the UP government has provided collateral-free loans worth more than Rs. 24,064 crore to new MSMEs. This shall definitely boost the economic well-being of the state. These loans have been given to 8 lakh MSME units since the launch of the scheme in May. UP was the first state to disburse such loans soon after announcement of the scheme. The state Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had distributed loans worth more than Rs. 2,002 crore to 57,000 new MSME units in a first-of-its-kind online loan fair.

In fact, the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had, in spite of making all-out efforts to woo large investments and industries in the state, already identified the MSME sector as the real growth engine of the state. His brainchild, the ODOP scheme that revolves around encouraging signature industries of various UP districts also falls under the same category and he had identified the immense potential for employment in this sector.

The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan came as grist to the mill as it mandated, among many other

things, collateral-free automatic loans to the businesses, including the MSMEs to boost the sagging economy. This helped the state government go about helping the MSME sector. On June 26, the State Government organized an online Rozgar Mela where 1.35 lakh new MSME units were provided with loans worth Rs. 4,500 crore. In August, once again around 1.30 lakh MSMEs were extended loans of Rs. 4,661 crore. In all, thus, far more than 4.54 lakh new MSMEs have been extended loans worth more than Rs. 14,314 crore. Meanwhile, more than 4.34 lakh existing MSMEs were also given loans worth Rs 12,000 crore approx.

**24 lakh new jobs in MSMEs**  
A large number of MSMEs being assisted in expansion or in start of business operations by way of extending financial help has created more than 24 lakh job opportunities in the state. Creation of much more jobs by these units is expected as MSME units may be employing or creating opportunities for up to 100 persons. More than 4.54 lakh new MSMEs that have just started their operations will be creating more opportunities while the government is committed to continue with extending financial support to these small economic engines.

**More Opportunities**  
The State Government has taken separate steps to generating employment opportunities in 31 districts where more than 25,000 returnee migrant workers have been reported. The Rozgar Mela, virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 26, was chiefly organised to mark the launch of the 'Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan', a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package.

In case of returnee migrants, the State Government has arranged for skill mapping to ensure suitable jobs for the skilled labourers.

The government has also been providing training in various trades and toolkits to help the trained manpower start self-employment. Thousands of workers have been given relevant toolkits to enable them to start their own business or service. These workers include ironsmiths, hair dressers, tailors, carpet weavers, soap makers, tanners and textile workers etc.

# Doing business in UP is truly seamless as never before

**EoDB rankings are the true measure of the UP state government's commitment and drudgery**



**THE UTTAR Pradesh government is continuously striving forward to bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat to reality. Uttar Pradesh retained 2nd spot in 'Ease of Doing Business', while last year the state was at 12th position. More than 20 departments such as Invest UP (Udyog Bandhu), Labour dept., Pollution Control Board, Commercial Tax, Power, Stamp & registration, IDAS, Excise, Food safety & drug and many others were part of this journey in implementing these reforms. The state government successfully introduced various IT-driven modules to make the state business-friendly. It listed "Nivesh Mitra" as one of the major reasons behind the second spot in the ease of doing business ranking. 'Nivesh Mitra' is a single-window platform that was launched during the UP Investors Summit in 2018.**

**There are immense employment opportunities in the departments of Industry, MSME, rural development, panchayati raj, agriculture and irrigation.**

**-Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh**

**BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT** in Uttar Pradesh has got transformed in the past three-and-a-half years. Yogi Adityanath government's hard work towards ensuring 'Ease-of-Doing Business' in the state has recently been recognized at the national level, as UP jumped 10 places to occupy the second spot among 36 states and Union territories in the country. These rankings were recently announced under the State Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) assessment report, 2019, by the Central Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

States were ranked based on their performance on 187 reform initiatives across 45 business regulatory areas, including easy access to information and transparency, obtaining utility permits, contract enforcement, labour and construction permit enablers, single-window approval systems and land administration, commercial dispute resolution, environmental registration, online tax returns filing, inspection reforms, and single-window facilities.

**The state has recently been recognized at the national level, as UP jumped 10 places to occupy the 2nd spot among 36 states and Union territories in the country.**

## 186/187

The UP government's commitment to truly create 'ease-of-doing-business' as per international norms is reflected in the fact that it has implemented 186 of 187 reform action points recommended by DPIIT, the agency responsible for recommending desired changes to all states so that the cumulative national impact results into better ranking of India at the international level.

## Single Window working

Single-window working is key to 'Ease-of-Doing Business', and Uttar Pradesh is quite advance on this parameter. It has a single-window agency - Udyog Bandhu - to facilitate industrial and infrastructural investments in the state. The Udyog Bandhu has also created

and manages the state's much touted single-window portal 'Nivesh Mitra' that is a seamless interface for facilitating the investors.

## Drudgery

In fact, this achievement is the culmination of three years of commitment and hard work aimed at transforming the business environment in the state. With a commitment to bring about qualitative change in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath realized it soon that the state needed to grow economically, and it was only possible through rapid industrialization that was possible only along with infra-structural development and creation of business-friendly environment. The idea of importance of 'Ease of Doing Business' (EoDB) had gained currency only a few months before the installation of the BJP government in UP, yet the Chief Minister could identify its value very early and his government envisaged these provisions in the Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy of Uttar Pradesh, 2017. EoDB was included in the policy as an important issue to ensure timely

The process of modifying policies for different industrial segments to suit different requirements has resulted in framing of promotional policies for different industries like Agro & Food Processing, Electric Mobility, Defence & Aerospace Manufacturing, IT & Electronics Manufacturing, Tourism & Film, Renewable Energy, etc.

clearances, benchmarked with the best and responsive facilitation services. The policy also identified that creating a single window for clearances was important to ensure EoDB and promote investments for rapid industrialization in the state.

## Investors flock in

After these initial steps, the government focused on bringing in investments. A gala investment summit was organized in February 2018. Hundreds of Indian and foreign investors and industrialists participated in the summit and MoUs worth Rs. 4.28 lakh crore were signed. Within five months of this event, the first ground-breaking ceremony for 81 projects worth Rs. 60,000 Crore was organized in July 2018. Exactly in one year, the second ground-breaking ceremony for more than 200 projects worth more than Rs. 60,000 crore was also organized. This way more than 25% MoUs signed at investors' meet have so far turned into projects.

## Volte-face in Policies

Meanwhile, the process of modifying

**In the COVID-19 affected period, 36 new investment proposals worth Rs. 7,500 crore have been received. Nineteen of these are from foreign investors.**

policies for different industrial segments to suit different requirements has resulted in framing of promotional policies for different industries like Agro & Food Processing, Electric Mobility, Defence & Aerospace Manufacturing, IT & Electronics Manufacturing, Tourism & Film, Renewable Energy, etc.

The process continues to gain momentum with each passing day and with more and more investment avenues getting opened up. Even in the COVID-19-affected period, 36 new investments proposals worth Rs. 7,500 crore have been received. Nineteen of these are from foreign investors. This is yet another proof that UP has turned into a truly attractive investment destination. This fact gives wings to innumerable new hopes.

# UP launches massive drive to fill 3 lakh vacancies

# Policy reforms to attract investments, industries

Services of 18 industry departments and 4 industrial development authorities are included in the Nivesh Mitra umbrella.

UP HAD, for a number of historical, geographical and infrastructural reasons, been among the less industrialized states of the country. However, with Yogi Adityanath ascending the seat of power as the Chief Minister of the state in March 2017, hectic efforts were initiated to overcome this vicious cycle. Soon after assuming power, he went after policy revamp to attract investment and industries in the state. Policy reforms initiated under his guidance have brought a sea change in the business environment of the state.

As the first step towards changing the business environment in the state, the State Government introduced 'Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy, 2017'. It included in the policy a seven-point vision to ensure 'ease-of-doing-business'. These issues included simplification of procedures, time-bound clearances, single-window service mechanism, ease of commercial activities, other regulatory enablers, industrial security and State Investment Promotion Board. Later on, the government continued to smoothen policy framework for different industrial sectors and brought specific policies for priority sectors in accordance with suggestions from industrialists and investors.

## Nivesh Mitra

The UP government's intentions of attracting voluminous investments for

rapid industrialization and creating an industry-friendly environment in the state are personified in 'Nivesh Mitra' the entrepreneur-friendly portal that enhances ease-of-doing-business in the state.

The portal provides simple, user-friendly, entrepreneur-centric web application to enable existing and prospective investors and entrepreneurs to get online clearances /NOCs from concerned departments. 'Nivesh Mitra' acts as a seamless interface and provides all relevant information, Government orders, process flows of all concerned departments with helping user manuals and guidelines. It also automatically sends SMS and e-mail response to entrepreneurs at each stage.

Currently, services of 18 industry departments and 4 industrial development authorities are included in the 'Nivesh Mitra' umbrella.

Effective implementation of the policies and change in attitude has not only changed the industrial environment in the state, but also ensured that UP ranks amongst the best investment destinations in India. This has definitely broken the jinx that hindered the industrialization and economic development of the state as hundreds of foreign investors have come to UP with promises of investment volumes unheard of in the recent past.



## Number of posts filled by UP Govt. after March 2017

- 1,37,253 Police Dept.
- 54,706 Basic Education Dept.
- 28,622 National Health Mission
- 26,103 Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission
- 16,708 Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Selection Board
- 14,000 Secondary Education Dept.
- 8,556 Department of Health and Family Welfare
- 6,446 Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd.
- 4,615 Higher Education Dept.
- 1,112 Medical Education Dept.
- 726 Cooperative Dept.
- 700 Urban Development Dept.
- 614 Finance Dept.
- 365 Technical Education Dept.



AS INDIA writhes under economic pangs of COVID-19, the state of UP has been lucky enough to have a Chief Minister who has announced "fill all vacancies" in government departments pending for the past three-and-a-half years.

During the period, more than three lakh appointments in various departments have already been made while appointment on more than 86,000 posts is in the pipeline. This is the highest figure for any State Government in the country.

The highest number of appointments made during the last three-and-a-half years have been in the police department where more than 1.37 lakh appointments have been made since 2017. This has been in line with the Chief Minister's policy for strengthening and modernizing the police force for better law-and-order situation in the state. This high number of appointments in just three years also reflects the sanctity of the exams, righteousness of induction procedure and fairness of the system.

Identification of vacant government posts and start of recruitment procedure is now done in a fair and transparent manner. After a preceding period of dubious and challenged appointments and appointment processes, it is a great relief to have more than 3 lakh appointments done without a single appointment being suspected of doubt over its fairness.

It may be noted that in 15 years before the Yogi government in UP, only 2.91 lakh jobs were created while the Yogi Adityanath government on an average created 1lakh jobs every year. Apart from this, the recruitment process for 86,000 posts is going on.

The CM has directed that the recruitment should be carried out in a fair and transparent manner and other expeditious way during the course of various drives. Not only this, the CM has also asked to start the process of filling vacancies in three months and providing joining letters in six months. According to an official spokesperson, about 3 lakh government posts are going to be created in the near future.

# WAY FORWARD TO BEING AN IDEAL INVESTMENT DESTINATION

Banking on its recent developments towards reforming investment policies in the state, Government of Uttar Pradesh is currently projecting the state as an exemplary hub of 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives

The state is home to many prestigious national-level research and training institutions, such as the IIT-Kanpur, IIT BHU-Varanasi, IIM-Lucknow, the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology-Varanasi, etc.

THE ONGOING US-China tensions and PM Modi's clarion call for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Vocal for Local' have given a new direction to the Indian economy. The world is now looking at India with hopeful eyes. There are currently many global companies planning exit routes from China, with many of them known to be interested in establishing their foothold in India. In such a scenario, the state of Uttar Pradesh emerges as an ideal destination for global investments, considering huge land reserves, manpower, good connectivity, presence of MSMEs and the recently launched New Investment Policy.

To woo global investors, especially companies exiting China, "the UP government had recently eased norms for allotment of industrial land to fast-track land allotment by fixing timeline of 15 days for mega, mega-plus and super-mega category of industrial investments. The new land allotment norms covered all big industrial enclaves, including Noida, Greater Noida, Yamuna Expressway and others."

With a spate of reforms, infrastructural projects and the New Investment Policy, Uttar Pradesh is currently seeing new developments in almost every sphere of life. The upcoming Gorakhpur Link Expressway and Purvanchal Expressway in eastern UP, and Bundelkhand Expressway and Defence Corridor in the Bundelkhand region are the prime examples of bringing development to the most backward regions of UP. Moreover, the 8-lane Ganga Expressway, connecting the eastern and western regions of Uttar Pradesh, will not only provide faster connectivity between Meerut and Prayagraj but will also improve overall infrastructure and logistical facilities – considered essential for driving industrial, economic and social growth.

Being the biggest emerging investment market in India, Uttar Pradesh offers enormous possibilities of enterprise and success coupled with its industry-conducive climate. It has many initiatives and measures at place to make investments a hassle-free process for domestic and foreign



**"Procedures and processes are being simplified and rationalized further, so that, entrepreneurs are guaranteed the best services, support and facilities right from the inception to the implementation of their projects becoming functional."**

investors, including investor-friendly, government-simplified procedures, speedy online approvals through the Web-based application - NIVESH MITRA, and high-level committees to monitor the implementation of projects. The State Government is relentless in its pursuit to make Uttar Pradesh a power surplus State, so as to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Industries. Uttar Pradesh is also "one of the first states to introduce 'Single Table System' and formulate its own Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy along with other industry-friendly policies as well as clearly defined guidelines for PPP projects for transparent bidding process with promise of profits and gains."

The state boasts a friendly industrial and 'ease-of-doing business' environ-

**UTTAR PRADESH is a land of infinite opportunities. It is India's third largest economy, contributing nearly 8% to the national GDP. UP is the country's largest market and has the largest manpower base. With a high focus on maximising its demographic dividend, the state government is emphasising on industrial and infrastructure development for large-scale job creation. More than 2,600 startups have been established in the last three years.**

**Recently, we have released the UP Startup Policy 2020 to promote fledgling units in sectors like health, power, education, tourism, transport, agro, food processing, etc. The new policy is aimed at creating 100 incubators in the state, with at least one in each district. The government is working towards creating an ecosystem to promote at least 10,000 startups.**

**Yogi Adityanath,**  
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

ment due to the presence of readily available labour assets coupled with a big pool of highly skilled human resources in diverse fields. The state is home to many prestigious national-level research and training institutions, such as the IIT-Kanpur, IIM-Lucknow, the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology-Varanasi, etc.

In keeping with the best business practices, the timelines for obtaining various approvals from different departments have already been defined.

To encourage investors and promote business opportunities, a robust investor and industry-friendly policy framework – the New Investment

Policy – was recently cleared by the UP state cabinet with an active involvement of industrial and business bodies and thoughtfully devised facilitation mechanisms. As per sources, "Procedures and processes are being simplified and rationalized further, so that, entrepreneurs are guaranteed the best services, support and facilities right from the inception to the implementation of their projects becoming functional." Not withstanding the current economic problems created by COVID-19, it is believed that "government support and incentives, self-resilient markets and ever increasing huge domestic demand continuously create ample space for hectic economic activity in all spheres, opening avenues of immense opportunities for progress and growth."

With an aim to carry out "restructuring" of MSMEs in the state, major policy changes have been introduced by the State Government to make the import of raw materials duty free, give subsidies to companies moving out of China and an ambitious, 300-acre "plug and play" MSME park slated to come up along the Yamuna Expressway. The "plug and play" park will give MSMEs to come and set shop, complementing the changes in the MSME Act "that is now allowing one to apply on the portal and start work immediately while giving time up to 3 years to take the necessary NOCs." Similarly, the State Government is also bringing a leather park in Kanpur and a textile hub in Gautam Buddha Nagar. The State Government has identified

land in Pilibhit and Lalitpur to carry out Central Government's aim of setting up three pharmaceutical parks and four medical devices parks. For medical devices park, the State Government has zeroed in on Prayagraj and Unnao. The State Government has also requested for a dry port as UP is a landlocked state. The State Government is also looking to introduce Bonded manufacturing concept in the state. In bonded manufacturing, when you import you do not need to pay a duty upfront. For Logistics industry, the UP government has changed its policy and given the sector an industry status and changed the floor of acquiring land for logistics from 50 acres to 25 acres. In electronics, the UP government is moving away from SGST-based incentives to capital investment-based investments. The State Government is also coming up with a top-up subsidy over and above what the Government of India is giving on refurbished plant being moved out of China. In the food processing sector, the UP government is making it simpler for farm land to be converted to industrial land which is encouraging.

Overall, it is the result of these investor-friendly policies and the state's relentless commitment to strengthen commercial opportunities for stability and growth that Agra recently became the first city in Uttar Pradesh to benefit from COVID-19 crisis and recent policy changes. Due to growing anti-China sentiment, a German footwear brand has recently announced its decision to shift its entire production from China to Agra, with a capacity of over three million pairs annually and an initial investment of Rs 110 crore in the first phase. Agra being a strong leather hub is set to benefit in a huge way. The State Government is currently looking to welcome a Japanese delegation in November that is keen to look at food processing, electronics and logistics sectors, thanks to the state government's proactive measures regarding increasing and supporting investment opportunities in the state.

**A German footwear brand has recently announced its decision to shift its entire production from China to Agra, with a capacity of over three million pairs annually and an initial investment of Rs 110 crore in the first phase.**

## ODOP SCHEME IS SET TO HIGHLIGHT SIGNATURE INDUSTRIES OF UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh is known for its wide array of exclusive products, including wheat-stalk craft, renowned chikankari and zari-zardozi work on clothes, fancy glassware, etc. Such products are manufactured in the villages of UP that are not known to the general public. The ODOP scheme is to help these local and specialized products and handicrafts get the limelight to showcase the state's rich cultural heritage. The scheme aims to promote each district's signature industry or specialised product.

THE YOGI Adityanath government's flagship 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme will go a long way in repositioning Uttar Pradesh as the land for preferred investment destination, as the state boasts large land reserves, good connectivity and huge manpower for any industrial setup.

In a state as vast as Uttar Pradesh, it won't be wrong to say that it is the heart of MSME sector in India, given its huge and diverse population engaged in various commercial and traditional industries. According to estimates, "UP is home to nine million MSMEs with the sector forming the industrial

backbone of the state. It contributes 60 per cent to UP's annual industrial output and directly employs 50 million people."

To provide a boost to such signature industries in the state, One District One Product (ODOP) is the flagship scheme of the Yogi Adityanath government, launched in 2018, to promote the traditional and indigenous industries and handicrafts by facilitating state support in terms of setting up of new enterprises, bank credit and marketing. This innovative scheme was basically launched to promote the MSME sector in Uttar Pradesh.

In fact, Uttar Pradesh is known for its wide array of exclusive products, including wheat-stalk craft, renowned chikankari and zari-zardozi work on clothes, fancy glassware, etc. Such products are manufactured in the villages of UP that are not known to the general public. The ODOP scheme is to help these local and specialized products and handicrafts get the limelight to showcase the state's rich cultural heritage. The scheme aims to promote each district's signature industry or specialised product.

UP Government firmly believes that the ODOP Scheme will play an important role in turning the state into a USD 1 trillion economy by 2024. Districts devoid of any signature industry were suggested to project their agriculture or agricultural product to boost their economy and, ultimately, gain recognition via that product. For instance, "the gurrh (jaggery) of Muzaffarnagar made it to the ODOP list. Today, there are 118 varieties of gurrh being made there, and a festival dedicated to 'gurrh' called 'Gurrh Mahotsava' is also held."

India is likely to benefit in a big way due to the ongoing China-India conflict and PM Modi's clarion call for



Atmanirbhar Bharat. In this regard, the State Government is looking to tap the lucrative global textile supply chain by providing a competitive avenue to international buyers, who are currently procuring textile and fabrics from China. The idea is to provide an

alternative vendors base in UP to international buyers sourcing goods from China. Later on, buyers' suggestions can be incorporated in the new export promotion policy to make it more contemporary and competitive.

**Raw material bank and general processing center to be started soon in Lucknow under Common Facility Center (CFC) Scheme. Work of artisans will become easier after the CFC get operative.**

**To promote ODOP products, ODOP Cell has made tie up with e-Bay, Amazon and Flipkart to provide global market for artisans.**

To counter the economic impacts of COVID-19, the UP government will host e-exhibitions during the current FY 2020-21. The Yogi government has also offered to help exporters participating in e-exhibitions under the flagship Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme. The UP Export Promotion Council will also organise e-exhibitions for the state exporting firms, for which a blueprint is being charted out.

Despite the current economic challenges induced by COVID-19, the Yogi government has decided to double the exports of MSMEs in the coming three years to touch Rs 2.40 trillion. During FYs 2018-19 and 2019-20, the MSME exports from UP stood at nearly Rs 1.14 trillion and Rs 1.20 trillion respectively.

Yogi Adityanath had recently "directed officials to expedite the action plan to leverage the loan

component of Rs 15,000 crore for the domestic MSME sector in the federal economic package of more than Rs 20 trillion announced by the Centre to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown."

The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry is preparing an institutional mechanism to promote the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, first started by the Uttar Pradesh government, at the national level to tap the rural economic potential of the country and identify one product per district. In this regard, the ministry has scheduled a video-conference meeting with the Industry Ministers of all states and Union Territories later this month to discuss how the movement could be taken further. According to Principal Secretary (MSME and Export Promotion) Navneet Sehgal, the movement was a "great success" as it helped the state increase its exports by around 30 per cent. It is proposed to drive the movement on a mission mode with specific targets set to be achieved by 2022 when the country would be celebrating the 75th year of independence.

**The UP government will host e-exhibitions during the current FY 2020-21. The Yogi government has also offered to help exporters participating in e-exhibitions under the flagship Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.**

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
(Power Wing)

**Notice Inviting E-Tender**  
N.I.T No: 562/P&D(TS)/PNT-485 Dated: 14.10.2020

Name of Office: Chief Engineer, Transmission System, Planning & Design (TS) Directorate, SLDC Complex, Industrial Area Phase-I, BBMB, Chandigarh-160002

Name of work: Design, manufacturing, testing, supply and delivery of 38 nos. Live/Dead tank design oil filled 245kV Current Transformers suitable for outdoor service, hollow porcelain Insulator for various sub-stations & 220kV Switchyard of Bhakra Power House, BBMB, Nangal

Last date and time for receipt of request for issue of tender documents 17.11.2020 upto 17:00 Hours

Last date and time of submission of bids 24.11.2020 upto 11:00 Hours

Date and time of Opening of Bids 24.11.2020 from 15:00 Hours onwards

For cost of specification, Earnest money Deposit and detailed NIT, please visit BBMB website <https://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com> & [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in)

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**TENDER NOTICE No.-GBPNIHE/Central Lab/Equipment/V.A./2020-21/14**

E-tenders are invited on behalf of the Director, GBPNIHE, Kosi- Katarmal, Almora from eligible reputed and registered firms/suppliers/manufacturers for supply of Rotary Evaporator under Institute Central Lab. The last date of submission of online tender is 29/10/2020 at 3.00 P.M. The documents shall be submitted online at website <https://moefcc.euniwizarde.com>. The full details of equipment and documents are available in the Institute Website <https://gbpihed.gov.in> and <https://gbpihed.in>.

Administrative Officer  
Email: [ao@gbpihed.nic.in](mailto:ao@gbpihed.nic.in)

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**

**GURU HARGOBIND THERMAL PLANT, LEHRA MOHABBAT DISTT. BATHINDA (PUNJAB)-151111**  
e-tendering website: <https://pspcl.abcpocure.com>  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through E-tendering)**

E-tenders are invited from reputed and registered firms/contractors for the following work:-

Sr. No.	SHORT DESCRIPTION OF WORK	Tender Enquiry No.
1.	AMC for Routine, Preventive and Break Down Maintenance (Mechanical Works) of Complete Conveyor System of CHP Stage-I & II of GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat as per tender specifications.	99/GHTP/MM-II/CS-48 (VII) Dated: 15.10.2020 EMD: Minimum Rs. 2,85,000/- (Rupees two lac eighty five thousand only)
2.	AMC for Mechanical maintenance o all the Heavy equipment (Wagon Tipplers, Stacker Reclaimers, Primary & Secondary Crushers), dust Suppression System, Dust Extraction system, Ventilation system of coal handling Plant Stage-I & II and Crusher/Grinder of Coal Sampling lab of CHP Stage-I & II of GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat as per detail in Tender Specifications.	32/MM-II/CHP/HEMC-308-VIII Dated 15.10.2020 EMD: Minimum Rs. 2,46,000/- (Rupees two lac forty six thousand only)

Last Date & Time for bid submission: 23.11.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.  
Date & Time of opening of Fee stage bid 24.11.2020 upto 12.00 hrs.

Detailed NIT and tender specification can be downloaded from website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from dated 16.10.2020 onwards.

Note:

- The prospective bidders can obtain clarification regarding tender specifications from this office. For registration of digital signatures and uploading of tender, information may be sought from <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
- It is informed that in case the tender process is not completed due to any reason no Corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Detail regarding corrigendum may be seen on website i.e. <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer,  
Mechanical Mtc. Circle-II, O&M  
GHTP, PSPCL, Lehra Mohabbat,  
Distt. Bathinda (Pb.)-151111

GHTP-50/2020  
90890/Pb

**Government of Jharkhand**  
**Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi-834008**

Ref no 768 Ranchi, Dated 14/10/2020  
**Expression of Interest**

Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all colleges)/Department of Universities /Govt. Organization/Research Institutes / Non-Government Organisations (which have experience of research work in academics) for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the year 2020-2021:

**TOPIC: Ecology and Scheduled Tribe Communities: A Philosophical analysis of world view with reference to Mal Pahariya and Saurya Pahariya.**

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by the registrar of universities (applicable Universities (all colleges)/Department of Universities only) along with a technical bid giving relevant details of the organization necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 06/ 11/2020 by 4.30 P.M. The price should be all-inclusive of (all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open-ended.

The intending agencies may submit their bid in a sealed envelope on or before the due date. The technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in **BOLD "A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR TOPIC: Ecology and Scheduled Tribe Communities: A Philosophical analysis of world view with reference to Mal Pahariya and Saurya Pahariya. (Please specify the name of the concerned work)"** written on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of tender document sent by post.

Technical Bid will be opened on 12/ 11/2020 at 3.30 P.M in the office of the Director, TRI, Ranchi. Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for the presentation of the project.

Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person and the same can also be downloaded from the website [www.trijharkhand.gov.in](http://www.trijharkhand.gov.in) or through Institute E-mail id- [tri.directorate@gmail.com](mailto:tri.directorate@gmail.com) by specifying the topic & details of Institution / Organization Interested.

TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOI's at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/impanel one or more Research Institutions depending on requirements.

Sd/-  
Director

PR 234390 (Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department) 20-21 (D)

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL, SKIMS MC & H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA, SRINAGAR**  
Tel.: 0194-2402617, Ext.: 2159, E-mail: [mechanicalskims@gmail.com](mailto:mechanicalskims@gmail.com)

**RE-O1**  
**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE**  
e-NIT No. 47 of 2020-21 Dated. 13.10.2020

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from Manufacturer's/Authorized Dealers/ Registered/Reputed Firms and Experienced Firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works:

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost
1.	Providing, Fitting, Servicing & Repairing of Air Compressor Model XH2T-75NP of Oxygen Concentrator Plant 750LMP in SKIMS, Soura.	Rs. 7.35 Lacs

The complete tender document is available at website <http://ktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders/Tenders may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online upto the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

(i)	Date and Time of Downloading/Sale of Tender Documents (Starting Date)	14.10.2020 from 11.00 Hour
(ii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarification/Pre-bid meet	17.10.2020 at 14.00 Hours
(iii)	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	19.10.2020 upto 16.00 Hour
(iv)	Date of Submission of Hard Copies (Original EMD/FDR & DD only)	20.10.2020 upto 14.00 Hour
(v)	Date & Time of Commercial/Technical Bid (Cover-I) Opening (or next convenient day)	20.10.2020 at 15.00 Hours
(vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-I/II) Opening	Shall be intimated separately
(vii)	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only)
(viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 14700/- (Rupees Fourteen Thousand & Seven Hundred only)
(ix)	Completion Time	5 Days
(x)	Budget Head	Non-Plan for the Year 2020-21

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical, SKIMS

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General Public is hereby informed that a person named **Bal Ram S/o Devender Mondal R/o H.No. 842, 1st Floor, Pocket-01, Paschimpuri, Delhi Age: 28 years, Height: 5', Built: Strong, Face: Round, Complexion: Sallow, Wearing: Blue jeans, checkdar blue shirt and hawai chappal in feet has been missing since 10.09.2020 at 10:00 AM from the area of P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 80A dated 11.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi.**

**Bal Ram**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in) SHO  
Ph.: 011-24368638,24368641 P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi.  
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-25224162, 25225616,  
DP/228/WD/2020 257217008

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O. "ULLWAL", Mahanadi Bagh, CMS Road, Dehradun-248566  
Telephone: 0135-2763903 Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UP2001180025566 | [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

**e-Tender Notice** Ptd 14.10.2020

Office of Executive Engineer (M&G) Kuthal Power Station, Kuthal, invites sealed tenders for following work:-  
**Tender No. 15/UJVNL/EE (M&G)/KPS/2020-21**  
Name of supply: Procurement of various consumable items (electrical) for Kuthal Power House  
Estimated cost : 10,000,00/- GST extra  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 15/10/2020 17:00 Hrs  
Last date for submission of bids on website: 08/11/2020 17:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"  
Executive Engineer (M & G)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

**ROURKELA SMART CITY LIMITED,**  
Rourkela  
Udit Nagar, Rourkela-769012,  
Email: [rourkelascl@gmail.com](mailto:rourkelascl@gmail.com)

C-166  
BID ID- RSCL/1825/2020 Date: 14.10.2020

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

The Chief Executive Officer, RSCL invites bids from eligible contractors for the following projects:

Sl. No	Name of the Project	Estimated Cost of the Project Rs. Cr.	Bid Security Rs. In Lakhs
1	Development of Vending Zone near Raghunath Pali Post Office and at Jail Road in Rourkela on Percentage Rate Basis	3.40	3.40
2	Installation of Street lights in Different Slums in Rourkela Except Ward No. (1-3) On Percentage Rate Basis	0.97	1.00

Tender Fees is Rs.11,200/-. The complete BID documents 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 15/10/2020 to 02/11/2020 (up to 17:00 Hrs. IST). Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 22/10/2020 at 12.30 P.M. in the Conference Hall of RSCL. For queries, intending bidder may contact General Manager(E&T) vide Phone No. 8249833105 and Email Id: [rourkelascl@gmail.com](mailto:rourkelascl@gmail.com)

Sd/-  
Chief Executive Officer  
Rourkela Smart City Limited  
OIPR-13080/11/0011/2021

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
DONIMMALI COMPLEX  
DONIMMALI TOWNSHIP-583 118, DIST. BELLARY (KARNATAKA)

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Sealed tenders are invited from the competent and experienced bidder for the following works:

Sl. No.	Tender No. & date	Name of Work	Cost of Work & EMD (₹)	Sale / download period From-To	Last date of Submission upto 15:00 Hrs
1	CEW/13(571)/2020. Date: 16/10/2020	"Annual Repair and Maintenance of Sewerage System in Donimali Township for the year 2020-21"	69.73 Lakhs EMD-70,000/-	17/10/2020 to 16/11/2020	16/11/2020
2	CEW/15(107)/2020. Date: 16/10/2020	"Schedule 'A'- Construction Godown for storing Cotton Waste and Batteries Stores at K10M & 'Schedule 'B'- Construction of Lubrication Godown at Stores K10M Including Electrification work"	43.01 Lakhs EMD-43,000/-	19/10/2020 to 18/11/2020	18/11/2020
3	CEW/12(265)/2020. Date: 16/10/2020	"Augmentation of Water Supply System at Township and Filter House-D10M"	98.76 Lakhs EMD-98,800/-	20/10/2020 to 19/11/2020	19/11/2020
4	CEW/15(113)/2020. Date: 16/10/2020	"Maintenance and Protection works to Formation and Slopes of K10M Hilltop Road near Chitrage 3000 to 3050 & 3300 to 3350"	56.58 Lakhs EMD-56,500/-	21/10/2020 to 20/11/2020	20/11/2020
5	DNW/ES/11KV Cable Laying/2020 Date: 17/10/2020	"Laying of 11KV Underground cable in Donimali Complex"	46.56 Lakhs EMD-46,500/-	17/10/2020 to 16/11/2020	16/11/2020
6	DNM/AMC/AC/2020-21/02 Date: 19/10/2020	"Repair and Maintenance of Air Conditioning system and gas charging in HEM equipment"	24.14 Lakhs EMD-24,500/-	19/10/2020 to 18/11/2020	18/11/2020

For further clarification: Sl. No. 1 to 4: may contact by e-mail to [diomciv@nmdc.co.in](mailto:diomciv@nmdc.co.in) /fax No. 089395-274644; Sl. No. 5, may contact by e-mail to [diomciv@nmdc.co.in](mailto:diomciv@nmdc.co.in) /fax No. 089395-274644 and Sl. No. 6, may contact by e-mail to [dnw@nmdc.co.in](mailto:dnw@nmdc.co.in) or by fax message to 089395-274605. Detailed NIT and tender documents can be viewed and /or downloaded from NMDC's website <https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmdcinter/default.aspx> or Central Public Procurement Portal <https://www.eprocure.gov.in>. Further, for any corrigendum, amendments, clarification etc For and on behalf of NMDC Limited  
General Manager (Production)

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice

Following E-tenders are invited by DRM (Engrg) & (S&T) NWR/Ajmer at 15.00 Hrs on the mentioned date. Tender No. : 165/2020, Name of work : ADEN (Line) Ajmer Sub Division : Yard remodeling work at Ajmer Station (Civil Works), Approximate cost : Rs. 39,54,497.95, Earnest Money : Rs. 79,100.00, Tender Closing Date : 06.11.2020, Tender No. : 166/2020, Name of work : ADEN (Line) Ajmer Sub Division : Yard remodeling work at Ajmer Station (Track Works), Approximate cost : Rs. 71,54,759.44, Earnest Money : Rs. 1,43,100.00, Tender Closing Date : 06.11.2020, Tender No. : DRM-Elect-12-2020-21, Name of work : All Div. : Electrical work for provision of lifts at TRD Office / DRM Office in Ajmer, Approximate cost : Rs. 4,55,635.00, Earnest Money : Rs. 9,100.00, Tender Closing Date : 05.11.2020, Tender No. : 167/2020, Name of work : All Div. : various left over civil work during commissioning of guru-marwar jn and morbari-raneri section provision of left over works i.e. approach road retaining wall etc. at RUB 57, Approximate cost : Rs. 3,71,27,281.34, Earnest Money : Rs. 3,35,600.00, Tender Closing Date : 29.10.2020, The detailed information of the above tender is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and Tender Notice Board of DRM Office, NWR/Ajmer. 797-SP/20

Please join us on [www.nwr.gov.in](https://www.nwr.gov.in)

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
Executive Engineer P.W.Division No. 1 Nagpur  
**INVITATION FOR TENDERS**  
e-mail: [divlnagpur.ee@mahapwd.com](mailto:divlnagpur.ee@mahapwd.com)  
E-Tender Notice No. 19/2020-21  
**Short Tender Notice**

Online Item Rate Tenders in B-1 form are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 1, Nagpur for the following work form experienced Contractor. It is not necessary that the contractor should be registered with P.W.D. The name of work, estimated cost, time limit for completion etc. are as under.

SR. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Cost of Blank Tender Form	Time limit in Tender (Calendar Months)
1	Providing Painting, Polishing, Repairs to Furniture, Sanitary, Repairs and other Misc. Works at Old & Annex building at Vidhabhavan, Nagpur Tah. & Distt. Nagpur.	64.88	1120.00	1 Month
2	Providing Painting, Polishing, Repairs to Furniture, Sanitary, Repairs and other Misc. Works at New building at Vidhabhavan, Nagpur Tah. & Distt. Nagpur.	60.43	1120.00	1 Month
3	Providing Painting, Polishing, Repairs to Furniture, Sanitary, Repairs and other Misc. Works at @ Barrack No. 1 to 16 at Vidhanbhavan, Nagpur Tah. & Distt. Nagpur.	51.63	1120.00	1 Month

- Detailed tender notice can be seen on web sit and <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
- Detailed tender notice can be seen on the Notice Board in the office of the undersigned.
- In this Tender Notice, Tender downloading, Tender opening etc. information available on web site.
- The bidder shall submit the hard copy of tender document (Technical and financial Envelope) in sealed envelope with in 3 days from last date of submission at the office of tender opening authority.

O.W.No. 5676 dt 12.10.2020

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
P.W.Dn. No. 1 Nagpur

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**OPEN TENDER NOTICE**  
E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. : S&T/SEE/EOT/20-21/13 Date : 13.10.2020  
The DRM (Sig. & Telecom)/SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 06.10.2020 up to 12.00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-Tender is available on website- [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
Sl. No.-1. E-Tender No. S&T/SEE/EOT/20-21/13, Name of work : Provision of Solid State Interlocking within the Railway Boundary at Simaria Station for the proposed extension of project of Barauni Thermal Power Station on deposit basis. Approx. cost (Rs.) : 8,39,58,566.75, Earnest Money (Rs.) : 5,69,800.00, Cost of Tender document (Rs.) (Non-refundable): 10,000.00, Completion period : 06 (Six) Months from date of issue of LOA.  
The above tender notice is available on Website - [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Uploading date 13.10.2020 RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER: Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.  
Divisional Railway Manager/Sig. & Telecom/Sonpur PPR/0759/SEE/S&T/20-21/140

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No. Com/Lease/VP/ Proposal/DNR/20/2,  
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 23 tonnes of VPH on round trip basis on payment of lumpsum freight for loading of parcels in train no. 02391/02392 for a period of 30 days. It can also be seen on the website: [www.ecr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ecr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Sr.No. 1. Train No. 02391/02392, From-To: Rajgir-New Delhi-Rajgir, Reserve price per round trip (in Rs.) : 1,56,368/-, Date, time and place for dropping of quotation documents in quotation box : 28/10/2020, 11.00 - 14.00 hrs, Date and time of opening of quotation : 28/10/2020, 14.30 hrs, Dropping and Open at the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager's office, Danapur.  
Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) East Central Railway, Danapur  
PR/0761/DNR/Com/I/N/20-21/32

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI**  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

O.A. No. 1178/2018  
STATE BANK OF INDIA Versus APPLICANT  
M/s. JSSI Hydraulics Pvt. Ltd. and Ors. DEFENDANTS

1. Sh. Hardeep Singh (Defd. No.02) Managing Director (Personal Guarantor) S/o. Jagtar Singh, R/o. C-1/B, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi, 110015.  
2. Sh. Jagtar Singh (Defd. No.03) Director (Personal Guarantor) S/o Sh. Bhagat Singh, R/o. C-1/B, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi, 110015.  
3. Sh. Joginder Singh (Defd. No.04) (Personal Guarantor) S/o Sh. Jagtar Singh, R/o. C-1/B, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi, 110015.  
4. Sh. Sukhwant Singh (Defd. No.05) (Personal Guarantor) S/o Sh. Jagtar Singh, R/o. C-1/B, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi, 110015.  
5. Sh. Kawaleet Singh (Defd. No.06) (Personal Guarantor) S/o Sh. Amrik Singh, R/o. E-27, Sudarshan Park, New Delhi, 110015.  
6. Sh. Jatinder Singh (Defd. No.07) (Personal Guarantor) S/o Sh. Amrik Singh, R/o. K-115, 1st Floor, Kirit Nagar, New Delhi, 110015.  
7. Smt. Upkar Kaur (Defd. No.08) (Personal Guarantor) W/o Sh. Hardeep Singh, R/o. C-1/B, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi, 110015.  
8. Smt. Ranjit Kaur (Defd. No.09) (Personal Guarantor) W/o Sh. Joginder Singh, R/o. C-1/B, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi, 110015.  
9. Smt. Surjit Singh (Defd. No.10) (Personal Guarantor) S/o Sh. Kartar Singh, R/o. F-38, SC-1, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi, 110015.  
10. Sh. Parvinder Singh (Defd. No.11) (Personal Guarantor) S/o Sh. Hardeep Singh, R/o. C-1/B, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi, 110015.  
11. M/s. Alan Kar Trexim Pvt. Ltd. (Defd. No.12) (Corporate Guarantor) Off: 23 Strand Road, Kolkata, West Bengal-700001.  
12. Syndicate Bank (Defd. No.13) (Profirma Defendant) I.P. Estate Branch, Nehru House-4, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 73,55,84,816.56/- (Rupees Seventy Three Crores Fifty Five Lacs Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Sixteen and Fifty Six Paise Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before D. Registrar on 10.11.2020 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website [www.drttribunal.gov.in](http://www.drttribunal.gov.in) Phone Number 011-23788473. Take Notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.  
Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through video conferencing and for that purpose:-  
(i) All the advocates/litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/software;  
(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "[drt.gov.in](http://drt.gov.in)" under the Public Notice Head.  
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph.No. 011-23744473.  
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 23<sup>rd</sup> September of 2020.

By Order of this Tribunal  
For Registrar  
Respondent may contact under mention number for further enquiry,  
Amit K. Dar, Registrar  
DRT-I, New Delhi, Phone No.: 011-23748473  
Email : [regdrt1delhi-dfs@nic.in](mailto:regdrt1delhi-dfs@nic.in), [drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in](mailto:drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in)

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**PROCUREMENT CIRCLE, KPDCI KASHMIR 190018**  
Web Site: [www.pmpmddkj.org](http://www.pmpmddkj.org), Tele/Fax: 0194-2493881,  
email: [epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com](mailto:epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com)  
e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE  
e-NIT No. SE/Proc/03/2020-21:

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCI Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle, KPDCI Kashmir invites online e-bids from Govt. registered original equipment manufacturer/supply of Outdoor Type Three Phase Oil Immersed 11kV/433-250V, 50 Hz, Aluminium Wound, Distribution Transformers of Energy Efficiency Level-2 as per IS: 1180(Part-1):2014 of rating 25kVA, 63kVA & 100kVA for the requirement of KPDCI as under:

S. No	Material Description	FOR ECSD Srinagar (No's)
1	Outdoor Type Three Phase Oil Immersed 11kV/433-250V, 50 Hz, Aluminium Wound, Distribution Transformers of Energy Efficiency Level-2 as per IS: 1180(Part-1):2014 of rating	115
2	63kVA	300
3	100 kVA	250

The complete tender document is available at website <http://ktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenders may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarification and submit their bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	15.10.2020; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	05.11.2020; 14:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarifications	17.10.2020; 10:00 Hrs to 22.10.2020; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	23.10.2020; 10:00 Hrs to 05.11.2020; 14:00 Hrs
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time	06.11.2020 in the office of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement Bemina Srinagar.
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	07.11.2020; 14:00 Hrs
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for local firms of J&K and Rs.5000.00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only) for firms outside J&K(Non-refundable)
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.5000.00 (Rupees Five thousand only) for local firms of J&K and Rs.908000.00 (Rupees Nine Lacs Eight Thousandonly) for firms outside J&K.

DIPK-NB-3014

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
Procurement (KPDCI)

# The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE  
SINCE 1932

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 22 PAGES

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**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**DALIT POLITICS: A BROADER IMAGINATION**  
BY SUHAS PALSHIKAR  
PAGE 12

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**



**Gulmarg land case: Probe indicts L-G Advisor again**

**MUZAMIL JALEEL**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau, which re-investigated the 2009 Gulmarg land scandal, has again indicted Baseer Ahmad Khan, an IAS official who has since retired and is now Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, for his alleged role in the case. Chargeshheeted, arrested on September 23, 2013 and released on bail the same day, Khan went on to become Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir. He was named Advisor by the Centre in March this year. The new indictment by the ACB is leaving red faces in the administration which has been claiming success in its fight against corruption, especially after the abrogation of J&K's special status last year.

On June 11 this year, the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Baramulla, hearing the case since 2012, asked the ACB to investigate the "impact" of two documents "regarding the involvement of the accused in the case and produce the supplementary chargesheet" on October 10.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**J&K PARTIES FORM PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR GUPKAR DECLARATION**  
PAGE 10

**India tells Pakistan court to free four Indians as jail terms over, hearing today**

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

THE INDIAN High Commission in Pakistan Thursday moved the Islamabad High Court for the release of four Indian nationals convicted by military courts on charges of alleged espionage, and who remain imprisoned long after they had completed their sentence — in one case, more than 13 years ago. The Constitutional petition

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**Gone in a flash flood: 60-yr-old in Hyderabad mourns loss of 4 family members, 4 missing**

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 15

ALL THROUGH Thursday, the day after extraordinarily heavy rain wreaked havoc on Hyderabad, 60-year-old Mohammed Abdul Taher Qureshi received one bad news after another — until he could no longer bear it. Four members of Taher's immediate family are dead; another four, including his five-year-old grandson, are missing.



Lost my family in the blink of an eye: Taher Qureshi (right)

In just one day, the world of the retired state transport corporation driver has come crashing

down around him. The first blow came at dawn, when Taher was informed that the

body of his eight-year-old granddaughter Amera had been found near Falaknuma, a little over 2 km from the family's home in Palace View Colony in Bandlaguda. Over the next few hours the bodies of his three daughters-in-law, Farzana Tabassum, Dharaksha Qureshi and Humera too, were found in the canal near Falaknuma.

In the afternoon, when Amera's body was brought before him, Taher could no longer hold himself back, and collapsed in uncontrollable sobs.

All eight members of Taher's family, the dead as well as the missing, were swept away by

floodwaters that surged through the city that was pounded by incessant rain that began on Tuesday evening. The last time Taher saw them was between 12.30 am and 1 am on Wednesday.

"It was some time after midnight. We heard the loud sound of a wall collapsing, and all nine of us, including my two grandchildren, came out of the house," Taher said.

"We were standing on the staircase. There was water all around, the current was very strong, and it was dragging vehicles along. Suddenly, the staircase started shaking and crumbled. As

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**DAYS AFTER STANDOFF AT GST COUNCIL MEETING**

**Centre gives in, says will borrow to make up for states' GST shortfall**

Will not impact fiscal deficit, will appear as capital receipts for states: Finance Ministry; Opp states say willing to talk

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

IN A sharp retraction of its earlier position, the Finance Ministry Thursday said the Centre would borrow from the market to pay the GST compensation shortfall of Rs 1.1 lakh crore to states, and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to state governments.



**Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**

This arrangement, it said, will not reflect in the fiscal deficit of the Centre and will appear as capital receipts for state governments.

A senior Finance Ministry official said the back-to-back loan would be similar to the way funding from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank is routed to states, where the Centre borrows and then lends to states. "So instead of states taking small loans, one big loan will be taken by the Centre and distributed to states on the exact

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**Behind Centre's shift, a nudge from Reserve Bank**

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE & GEORGE MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

THE SHIFT in stance by the Centre Thursday to resort to direct borrowing to cover up for GST compensation shortfall happened after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expressed its reservations

over states being asked to do so, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Government officials termed the new mechanism as being "administratively convenient", with all states getting loans at a uniform interest rate, though they acknowledged that the new route was considered after the RBI showed its preference for the Centre to borrow to fund the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**To check diversion, Centre plans limit on purchase of fertilisers by farmers**

**HARISH DAMODARAN**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE CENTRE is working on a plan to cap the number of subsidised fertiliser bags that individual farmers can buy in any cropping season.

This comes even as disbursal of fertiliser subsidy to companies has, since March 2018, been made conditional upon actual sales to farmers and these getting registered on point-of-sale (POS) machines. With companies now being paid only after farmers have purchased — in the earlier system, the bagged material dispatched from the factory/port had to merely be received at a district's railhead point or approved godown — the Narendra Modi government believes that it has significantly controlled "wholesale diversion" of subsidised nutrients.

"Previously, there was scope for pilferage, right from the point of dispatch till the retailer end. Today, such leakage is happening only at the 2.30 lakh retail outlets, where POS machines are installed and every transaction has to be captured on these devices to qualify for subsidy pay-

**EXPLAINED Focus on curbing purchase**

UREA PRICES haven't been raised for over eight years. Nor has the Modi government tried, focusing instead on reducing consumption — first by compulsory neem-coating and then paying subsidy to companies only after sales to farmers are registered on POS machines. The next step is to cap the number of bags a farmer can buy. By limiting consumption only to genuine farmers, the Centre hopes to control its subsidy bill.

ment. Our next target is to eliminate retail diversion by ensuring only genuine farmers are buying," a highly-placed official told *The Indian Express*.

Currently, the government is following a "no-denial" policy: anybody, non-farmers included, can buy any quantity of fertiliser

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



**FIRST DAY, NOT MUCH OF A SHOW**

An empty cinema hall in New Delhi on Thursday. Cinema halls in several parts of the country opened for the first time since the lockdown in March. *Abhinav Saha* **REPORT, PAGE 7**

**Petitioner behind court for MPs slams Jagan, wants full SC to 'take stern steps'**

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

ADVOCATE ASHWINI Upadhyay, on whose PIL the Supreme Court had ordered special courts for cases against MPs and MLAs, wrote Thursday to Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, urging him to call a meeting of the full court in the wake of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y Jagan Mohan Reddy's letter to the CJ and a press con-



**Jagan Mohan Reddy wrote to CJ SA Bobde on October 6**

ference levelling charges against Justice NV Ramana.

Slamming the Chief Minister for his "blatant attempt to shake the confidence of the public at large in the judiciary," Upadhyay

said, "Reddy has crossed the line which separates Judiciary and Executive".

Upadhyay sent the letter on the day more Bar associations condemned Reddy's remarks and rallied behind Justice Ramana who is next in line to be the CJ.

His PIL, filed in 2016 with a view to check criminalisation of politics by fast-tracking criminal cases against sitting and former

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**TRP probe: Freeze on rating news channels for 8-12 weeks**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

BROADCAST AUDIENCE Research Council (BARC), the industry body that measures Television Rating Points (TRPs), has suspended the publication of weekly individual ratings of news channels for "eight to 12 weeks", days after Mumbai Police began investigating a "racket" of fraudulent manipulation of TRPs.

Five persons, including two former employees of Hansa, the agency that calculates the ratings for BARC, have been arrested. At least three channels — Arnab Goswami's Republic, Box Cinemas, and Fakt Marathi — are allegedly involved in the racket, according to police.

In a statement, BARC said that "in the light of the recent developments, BARC Board has proposed that its Technical Committee (Tech Comm) review and augment the current standards of measuring and reporting the data of niche genres, to improve their statistical robustness and to significantly hamper the potential attempts of infiltrating

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**EXPRESS NETWORK**



**BHANU ATHAIYA, INDIA'S FIRST OSCAR WINNER, DIES AT 91**  
PAGE 16

**Money laundering case: ED raids IFFCO, its managing director**

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Thursday searched the premises of co-operative giant Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) and its Managing Director and CEO S Awasthi in connection with a case of money laundering registered by the ED for alleged irregularities in financial transactions, official sources told *The Indian Express*.

The search was conducted

**14 transactions of IFFCO, its CEO, red-flagged to US watchdog**  
IFFCO denies transactions, says CEO, MD not directly involved in procurement.

**The Indian Express report on October 10**

five days after *The Indian Express* reported that 14 transactions worth over \$18 million, involving IFFCO and three companies based in Dubai, Switzerland and Singapore in July 2014, were red-flagged by Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas (DBTCA) to the US financial watchdog, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

The report was part of FinCEN Files, a global investigation led by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and *BuzzFeed*

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**Record surge in mail-in votes, poll officials warn of delayed results**

**KARISHMA MEHROTRA**  
SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 15

EVERY FOUR years, the US has an "Election Day" on the first Tuesday after November 1, with the result usually called by the end of the day. But this year, election officials are speaking of an "Election Week", cautioning Americans not to expect an immediate result.

The reason for that is the unprecedented surge in what was once an uneventful process — mail-in voting. With Covid and social distancing the new normal, a record number of



American voters have opted to mail in their voting preferences. Of the 78 million mail-in votes requested this year, 9.3 million had been submitted by the beginning of this week, ac-

ording to the University of Florida's US Elections Project. By this point in 2016, with three weeks still to go for the election, only about 1.4 million people had voted. This year, some states — Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia — have already received more mail-in ballots than their total mail-in ballots in 2016.

"It's great that voters have historic access to mail-in ballots and are voting in safe and secure ways.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

**MORE REPORTS PAGE 19**

**2020-2021 ADMISSION Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur**  
(Uttar Pradesh State Government Technical University Estd. in 2013) (Erstwhile M.M.M. Engineering College Estd. 1962) UGC Granted 12(B) & 2(f) State, NBA Accredited | Ranked 183rd in NIRF-2020

**High quality valuable teaching & learning, state of art research and postgraduate programs are the pride of University**

Only after a few year of independence it became clear that the path of India's progress would go through its fields and industries. Keeping this fact in mind Madan Mohan Malaviya Engineer College was set in the year 1962 to provide the high-quality technical manpower to the industrial sector. In its fifty years of journey this college has made a wonderful contribution in almost all the area. Students of this college has acquired very high positions in reputed organizations in India and abroad, making unprecedented contribution in the technical field. In the year 2012, a pleasant turn came in the fate of this college, considering its glorious past and prospects, Uttar Pradesh Government announced its reorganization as University Accordingly, from 1st December 2013, giving it to a new look, notified as a non-affiliating, teaching and research University.

<b>Important MOU with foreign Institutes /University</b>	<b>2019 Major Achievements of University</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of the Ryukyus, Japn</li> <li>ENEA, Italy</li> <li>Universidad de Carlos III DE Madrid, Spain</li> <li>Warsaw Management University Poland</li> <li>University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, USA</li> <li>North Dakota State University, USA</li> <li>Central Michigan University, USA</li> <li>University of Melbourne, Austrilia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ranked 15th Best Technical/University of India by Times Engineering Survey 2019.</li> <li>Seven B. Tech Final Year Project selected in innovative project contest by CST, UP for financial support.</li> <li>Highest Package of 39LPA received from Microsoft.</li> <li>Research project of 297 Croore from Mielty-New Delhi.</li> <li>Ranked first in Tech Challenge-2019 organised by Caggenini (India)</li> <li>Ranked 44th worldwide in programming contest organized by Hackersank.</li> <li>242 Students Qualified GATE-2019.</li> <li>Mentor of Atal Tinkering Lab.</li> </ul>		
<b>Why is it so Special ?</b>	<b>Great Place Ment Record</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Campus status to University campus of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.</li> <li>All departments, have Seminar halls equipped with smart class facilities an a design, innovation and incubation centre.</li> <li>Technical Education Development centre.</li> <li>100-kilowatt grid interactive solar power plant is in operation and 199-kilowatt additional rooftop solar Power Project is under construction.</li> <li>Facility of branch transfer is second year of B.Tech. as per eligibility.</li> <li>University is implementing e-governance system and some of its modules have already been functioning.</li> <li>Online system of receiving feedback from all stake holders, continuous improvement academic quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The placement record of the university has been fantastic Various reputed organisations like Microsoft, TCS, Mahindra, Nagarro, Global Logic, Jaro Group, Wipro Technology, Ericsson, Prism, Cevent, Amazon, Microsoft, De Shaw and Co., NIIT Technologies, etc. have been selecting the students every year Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology has been conceived as a non-affiliating technical University and its first objective is to impart high quality technical education &amp; research University.</li> <li>Central Library</li> <li>Central library equipped with Wi-Fi facility and under monitoring od C.C.T.V. cameras.</li> <li>More than one lac of book in Central Library.</li> <li>Access to reputed National and International research paper prints and E-journals.</li> <li>Fully air-conditioned reading room facility.</li> <li>Fully equipped Hostels</li> <li>Seven boys and four girls' hostels for the students for the students with Wi-Fi/Internet</li> <li>All hostel have facilities like common room, T.T, Badminton Court Etc.</li> <li>Single room apartment for research scholar.</li> <li>Auditorium of 2000 capacity and National standard stadium under construction.</li> </ul>		
<b>Course Offered</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>UG Programme</b></li> <li>Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.) in • Civil engineering • Chemical Engineering • Computer Science and Engineering • Computer Science and Engineering • Electronic Engineering • Electronics and Communication Engg. • Information Technology • Mechanical Engineer • Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)</li> <li><b>PG Programme</b></li> <li>Master of Technology (Civil/Computer / Electrical / Electronics / IT / Mechanical) • MCA • M.Sc. (Maths/Physics/Chemistry) • MBA (Civil/Chemical/Computer/Electrical/Electronics/Information Technology/Mechanical/Applied Physics/Chemistry/Maths / English/Economics)</li> <li><b>Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in</b></li> <li>(Civil/Chemical/Computer/Electrical/Electronics/Information Technology/Mechanical/Applied Physics/Chemistry/Maths / English/Economics)</li> </ul>			
<b>Admission in B.Tech-I Programme through JEE Main-2020 over 180 seats</b>			
Course	Eligibility Criteria	Seats	Important Dates for Online counselling
B.Tech	JEE Main-2020 qualified candidate of UP	90	Eligible candidates can participate in online counselling by making online payment of counselling registration fee of <b>Rs. 2000/-</b> through University website <b>www.mmmut.ac.in</b> between <b>October 6th-24th 2020 (5:00 PM)</b>

The Indian EXPRESS

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## BENGALURU HOTELS POPULARISE 'ONE FOR THE BOX' CONCEPT TO FEED NEEDY

As more restrictions put in place to contain the coronavirus pandemic have been eased, several volunteering groups in Bengaluru, which had come together to help the needy during the complete lockdown days, have taken a step further to continue offering assistance to those in need.

## VIDEO OF THE DAY



## BOLLYWOOD'S CASE AGAINST CHANNELS

What the case against news channels by B-town biggies is all about

## TECH



## GOOGLE PIXEL 4A REVIEW

This is the best option if you want better camera but smaller phone

## EXPRESS AUDIO

## How Covid-19 lockdowns led to the rise in child trafficking

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Today on the '3 Things' podcast, we talk about the rise in child trafficking cases and how the government is ill-equipped to deal with the problem.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Nudge from RBI

shortfall. "To meet the GST shortfall, RBI wanted the central government to borrow, not state governments. The view has been that the Centre can borrow at cheaper rates than states, at least 50 basis points cheaper. The RBI assured the Centre that it will manage the Centre's borrowing in the best possible manner," a senior official told *The Indian Express*.

Another senior official said the RBI insisted on the Centre borrowing, rather than states. "RBI said that you better do it this way. Because then, it's a central government borrowing rather than states doing so," the official said.

However, a senior Department of Economic Affairs official said: "Why should RBI have any issues? In any case, states would have borrowed if they would not have got this compensation."

The urgency to tweak the norms and put in place the mechanism for borrowing also drew from the realisation that many states are in urgent need of funds, especially since only Rs 20,000 crore has been disbursed so far, while the shortfall stands at Rs 1.5 lakh crore till July.

"States need money. Only Rs 20,000 crore has gone so far against a shortfall of Rs 1.5 lakh crore till July. About Rs 50,000-60,000 crore should reach states now," an official said.

The threat of a legal challenge by a state also weighed in the discussions as the Centre decided to tweak its norms for Option 1 of the two offered to states earlier to bridge the deficit for this fiscal.

## Gulmarg

The two documents were a letter written by Special Secretary (Law) to Commissioner/Secretary, General Administrative Department, on September 15, 2016; and the opinion of the then Advocate General sought by the Law department regarding grant of sanction for prosecution against the accused officials on March 23, 2011.

Now a detailed report, submitted to the court by Senior Superintendent of Police, ACB, Baramulla, states that the "two communications referred for further investigation by the Hon'ble Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Baramulla, do not alter the culpability/involvement of accused public servants and private beneficiaries chargesheeted before the competent court on 25-09-2012 and 21-09-2013."

Khan did not respond to calls, text messages from *The Indian Express* for comment. The official spokesperson for the J&K government too did not respond to queries on the ACB report.

In 2009, the State Vigilance

Organisation (now ACB) registered a case against 20 people, including Khan who was then the Baramulla Deputy Commissioner, and six other top bureaucrats, for allegedly misusing their official positions to transfer state land in Gulmarg, earmarked for development of tourist infrastructure, to private parties.

This, the SVO said, was in violation of J&K State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 or Roshni Act.

According to the chargesheet, the probe concluded that the accused officials, including Khan, entered into a "criminal conspiracy" with the beneficiaries, manipulated records, violated the Roshni Act to illegally transfer the ownership of state land to private parties.

Khan was arrested on September 23, 2013 by the SVO on the charge of corruption. The Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) had granted sanction for his prosecution on August 21, 2013.

In 2018, after central rule was imposed in J&K, the Roshni law was scrapped by the then Governor, Satya Pal Malik.

Last Friday, J&K High Court ruled that the law was "unconstitutional", turning all land transfers made under this Act "void ab initio" (invalid from the outset). The court also ordered a probe by the CBI into land transfers made under this law.

These are some details from the ACB report to the court on October 10:

"The challan of the case was produced before the competent court on 25-9-2012 against the then divisional commissioner Kashmir and 18 others and supplementary chargesheet against the accused deputy commissioner Baramulla was produced on 21-9-2013 after receipt of prosecution sanction from Government of India vide order dated 21-8-2013."

"However, the Honourable Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court, Baramulla vide his order dated 11-6-2020 has put the proceedings of charge on hold, directing ACB to investigate further the impact of documents regarding the involvement of the accused in the case and produce the supplementary chargesheet on 10th of October 2020."

"During further investigation, facts of the case were revisited and it was found that... the two opinions have already been addressed during the investigation itself."

"...opinion of Advocate General has been already well thought by the government of J&K before granting sanction for prosecution."

"During investigation, it has been found that the process has not been put on hold by accused public servants of their

## GST shortfall: Centre says will borrow

same terms. Whatever interest rate the Centre borrows on, the same rate will be passed on to the states," the official said.

The development comes two days after a standoff between Opposition-ruled states and the Centre over the compensation shortfall. At Monday's GST Council meeting, both sides had failed to arrive at a consensus on the borrowing options.

After Thursday's announcement, Opposition-ruled states said they are willing to negotiate with the Centre. "I welcome the new announcement as far as it goes. But one more issue that should be discussed is how much compensation should be deferred? I would like the entire Rs 2.3 lakh crore to be paid to states this year itself," Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac told *The Indian Express*.

Though Isaac didn't foreclose other options, including a possible legal challenge, he said the Centre should now reach out to opposing states. "We are willing to talk," he said.

The Centre had in August given two options to the states — either borrow Rs 97,000 crore from a special window facilitated by the RBI or borrow Rs 2.35 lakh crore from the market. It had also proposed extending the compensation cess levied on luxury, demerit and sin goods beyond 2022 to repay the borrowing.

The Centre had later revised the borrowing amount under Option 1 to Rs 1.1 lakh crore as it changed the assumption of growth in GST revenues to be 7 per cent instead of the earlier 10 per cent.

The total GST revenue shortfall for the current financial year was estimated to be

Rs 3 lakh crore, of which compensation cess collection was estimated to be Rs 65,000 crore, leaving a compensation deficit of Rs 2.35 lakh crore. Of this Rs 2.35 lakh crore, Rs 1.1 lakh crore shortfall has been estimated on account of GST implementation, while the rest of the amount is being estimated as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In all, 21 states and two Union Territories have already agreed to 'Option-1' of the borrowing plan, while the other opposing states had earlier said that they would meet on Friday to consider moving the Supreme Court. Seven states had not detailed their choice for the Centre's earlier borrowing proposal, under which a special window was to be co-ordinated by the Centre for the states to borrow.

"It may also be clarified that the general government (states+Centre) borrowings will not increase by this step. The states that get the benefit from the special window are likely to borrow a considerably lesser amount from the additional borrowing facility of 2% of GSDP (from 3% to 5%) under the Atma Nirbhar package," the government said in Thursday's statement.

It added that the process under the special window would avoid differential rates of interest that individual states may be charged for their respective state development loans.

Reacting to Thursday's announcement, senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram said, "If the Centre has decided to borrow Rs 1.1 lakh crore and extend it to states as back-to-loans, I welcome the change of position."

## Centre plans limit on purchase of fertilisers by farmers

through POS machines. All they have to do is furnish their Aadhaar unique identity number. The quantities purchased, along with the person's name and biometric authentication, are then registered on the POS device that is linked to the 'e-Urvarak' online platform of the Department of Fertilisers.

"We do have a restriction that nobody can buy more than 100 bags of all fertilisers at one time. This limit was introduced from August 11. Prior to that, it was 200 bags. But there aren't any curbs now on how many times anybody can buy during a season, be it kharif or rabi," the official explained.

That could, however, change.

The e-Urvarak platform has helped generate a database with considerable granularity that allows for weeding out of non-deserving beneficiaries — those purchasing quantities far in excess of that justified by their operational holdings, crops grown, etc. A paddy or wheat farmer, for instance, uses at most three bags of urea, one bag of di-ammonium phosphate and half a bag of muriate of potash per acre. 100 bags can, thus, comfortably meet the seasonal requirement of a 20-

## ALL-INDIA RETAIL FERTILISER SALES

	2018-19	2019-20	% Growth
Nov	63.26	73.84	16.72
Dec	70.86	87.08	22.89
Jan	58.04	64.50	11.13
Feb	30.39	46.61	53.37
Mar	24.60	28.96	17.72
Apr	14.17	20.56	45.10
May	20.24	40.02	97.73
Jun	38.35	68.74	79.24
Jul	68.69	92.31	34.39
Aug	76.23	69.26	-9.14
Sep	53.26	47.34	-11.12

In lakh tonnes; Source: Department of Fertilisers

acre farmer. "We are thinking of further reducing the limit on one-time purchase to around 50 bags and maybe even impose a cap on the total number of bags per person in a full season. Those wanting more can buy at the non-subsidised MRP (maximum retail price)," the official said.

Under the new system, the subsidy on the total quantity of fertilisers sold to farmers through a retailer's POS machine is transferred to the company concerned on a weekly

basis. In the event of capping, the machine/platform will stop registering the extra bags that would otherwise have to be re-tailed at the non-subsidised MRPs.

Meanwhile, the Modi government has already undertaken an exercise to identify the "top 20" urea buyers of each district in 22 major fertiliser-consuming states.

During the recent kharif season for the April-July period, the e-Urvarak database was used to identify 13,054 such

buyers. The details of the number of bags, frequency of buying, etc were verified in respect of 12,866 cases by the district authorities. Based on this data, notices were issued to 5,107 fertiliser dealers, with the licences of 1,262 retailers being suspended/cancelled and 227 FIRs filed.

"At present, we are going after only the retailers and not farmers. The Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985, under the Essential Commodities Act enables us to book any dealer who may have sold to bulk buyers rather than genuine farmers," the official pointed out.

The crackdown seems to have yielded results. Retail fertiliser sales grew by double-digits year-on-year every month between November and July. But since August, they have posted negative growth (see table).

"The action against dealers, plus the 100 bags one-time purchase limit, may have played a part here," the official added. The Centre has budgeted Rs 71,309 crore towards fertiliser subsidy for 2020-21. The amount does not include the Rs 48,000 crore of unpaid arrears estimated by the industry at the end of the last fiscal.

Wajeed works for the consultancy and outsourcing multinational CapGemini, while Wasay has recently returned to India from Saudi Arabia, Irfan Qureshi, a cousin of the brothers, told *The Indian Express*.

Wajeed's wife, Farzana, was 24; Wasay's wife, Dharaksha, was 30. The third woman whose body was found, Humera, was the wife of Taher's third son, Wasif, who works in Saudi.

Mallarevally Police Station Inspector K Narasimha said several teams of the police and disaster management agencies were searching for those who are still missing. "We are still looking. They may have been swept away farther than we initially thought," he said.

The deep depression that dumped a record 324 mm rain on Hyderabad over Tuesday and Wednesday, inundated several low-lying residential areas that remained under water on Thursday as well. In neighbourhoods where the water receded, residents encountered thick layers of slush, mud and debris inside their homes.

Referring to an analysis by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), his letter stated, "Reddy and his colleagues are facing serious charges of crime and corruption, which would have landed any ordinary man in jail for at least 10 years, if sentenced concurrently, and for more than 30 years, if sentenced consecutively."

He pointed out that he had also filed other PILs, including one seeking ban on a convicted person from forming a political party and/or becoming political office bearer, another seeking consecutive sentencing of the corrupt, still another to bring national and state-recognised po-

## ED raids IFFCO

News channels with immediate effect" — and that it would "cease publishing the weekly individual ratings for all news channels during the exercise". The process is "expected to take around 8-12 weeks including validation and testing under the supervision of BARC's Tech Comm", the statement said.

TRPs are a measure of TV-watching behaviour, and one of the main things advertisers look at while choosing channels. News Broadcasters' Association (NBA), the representative body of private news channels, welcomed the BARC announcement, and said it should use the period to "completely overhaul its systems and restore the credibility of the information it collects about What India Watches".

The NBA statement said it "believes that the suspension (of publication of the ratings) is an important step in the right direction".

On Thursday, top government officials are learnt to have told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information & Technology that TRP system needed reform — it was not very scientific, and could be manipulated.

The Committee, which is headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, heard from representatives of NBA, Press Council of India (PCI), and Prasar Bharati on the 'Ethical Standards in Media Coverage'.

ED raids IFFCO. News, with *The Indian Express* as a partner. In July 2014, an Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) filed by DBTCA flagged 14 transactions of IFFCO involving transfers and remittances worth \$18.46 million. The SAR cited "negative information found on the MD and CEO of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited for potential money laundering".

These transactions involved IFFCO, its Dubai subsidiary Kisan International Trading FZE and commodities trading companies in Switzerland and Singapore. Some transaction details indicated the payments "were for subscription fee (but) DBTCA was unable to confirm the commercial purpose of any of these transactions".

The SAR also mentioned a complaint by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey to then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh accusing Awasthi of "financial frauds, and siphoning of money and money laundering activities".

Dubey, a Lok Sabha MP from Jharkhand, had told *The Indian Express* that he had written three complaints — between 2011 and 2013 — to Singh and they were forwarded to investigative agencies but the outcome was "unknown".

The Islamabad court is separately hearing the Jadhav case following the International Court of Justice's ruling that Pakistan is "under an obligation to provide, by means of its own choosing, effective review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence" by the military court.

The High Court had asked India to appoint a lawyer to represent Jadhav, but Delhi has so far refused to do so, saying it must be allowed to appoint an Indian lawyer and given free consular access to him and his case papers. Islamabad insists that Jadhav can only have a Pakistani lawyer.

Earlier this month, Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Anurag Shrivastav said Pakistan had "failed to respond on core issues pertaining to this case, and the core issues are provision of all documents related to the case and providing unimpeded, unconditional and unhindered consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav".

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18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2020

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TOTAL CASES	HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
	Daily cases	Recoveries	15,865	10,697
3,21,031			1,352	600
			VENTILATORS	
			Tests	
Oct 14	3,324	2,867	44	56,950
Oct 15	3,483	2,755	26	55,891
Total	22,605*	2,92,502	5,924	38,27,164

\*Total active cases

## Turn off ignition at signals: Kejriwal launches campaign



CM addresses the webcast on Thursday

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE DELHI government Thursday launched an awareness campaign asking people to turn off the ignition at traffic signals to reduce the level of ultrafine particulates released through tail pipes of vehicles. Addressing a webcast, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the campaign was being launched as it has been observed that people do not turn off engines at signals, causing large scale toxic emissions.

"In Delhi, we have around 1 crore registered vehicles; even if 10 lakh vehicles practice this, the pollution situation will improve inside the capital. According to experts, through this initiative, PM 10 may decrease by up to 1.5 tonnes and PM 2.5 may decrease by 0.4 tonnes," Kejriwal said.

IIT Kanpur, in a study commissioned by the Sheila Dikshit government, had estimated the total PM 10 emission load in the city at 143 tonnes per day and listed the top contributor as road dust (56%), and the PM 2.5 load at 59 tonnes/day, with the top contributors being road dust (38%) and vehicles (20%).

To contain dust pollution, the Delhi government recently launched its annual crackdown on major construction sites flout-

ing green norms.

Addressing the webcast, Kejriwal also said avoiding idling will also help save fuel, a concept which will also be explained to people as part of the government's awareness campaign.

"Experts have noted that when a car is in the idling mode, it emits a lot more pollutants than when the car is travelling. By avoiding idling, one can also save more fuel. On an average, a car in Delhi spends around 15-20 minutes at signals on a daily basis, which causes consumption of at least 200 ml fuel. Switching off engines will help a person save up to Rs 700 per month," the CM said.

Stressing on the need to follow the government directions, Kejriwal said these steps are needed to offset the build-up of pollutants in the air, especially during winters when particles get trapped near the ground due to meteorological conditions such as low temperature, fog and drop in wind speed, among others.

"I will request every citizen, bus drivers, auto drivers, and others to cooperate in this campaign. In the coming days, we will also launch a massive awareness campaign regarding this. We are living through a pandemic and if the pollution level increases now, the situation can worsen," the CM warned.

## Register 10 lakh labourers with welfare board: Sisodia

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

TAKING CHARGE of the labour department, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday set a steep target of getting 10 lakh labourers registered with the construction workers welfare board in the coming months.

The target set by Sisodia appears daunting when seen against the context of the inability of the board to ensure that workers renew their memberships annually, which has drawn the ire of the Delhi High Court.

"I do not want even a single construction worker to be left out," Sisodia said, adding that the Delhi Government will run a large-scale campaign to ensure that 10 lakh construction workers are registered in the coming months.

Sisodia has replaced Gopal Rai, who will focus on the environment department.

The efforts to renew lapsed memberships and get fresh registrations verified have also failed to take off, as reported by The Indian Express over the last few months, including on September 29.

**Sisodia took charge of the labour department and replaced Gopal Rai. He said: 'I do not want even a single construction worker to be left out.'**

"Construction workers are the city builders of our nation and it is our responsibility to serve them," he said.

An official statement said that Sisodia ordered officials to remove "unnecessary bottlenecks" which prevent construction workers from getting registered and verified in the system.

Currently, 52,000 workers, whose memberships are active, are enrolled with the board. Around 66,000 applications are pending for verification, which Sisodia said will be taken up on a priority basis.

The board runs a number of welfare schemes funded by the cess collected from building projects under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996.

The Delhi board has a corpus of over Rs 3,200 crore.

## AQI 'VERY POOR' FOR FIRST TIME THIS SEASON

# Amid worsening pollution levels, Centre and Delhi govt spar over stubble burning

**SHIVAM PATEL**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

As Delhi's average air quality index (AQI) slipped into the 'very poor' category for the first time this season, with a reading of 312, the Centre and Delhi government Thursday sparred over the contribution of stubble burning to rising air pollution levels in the national capital.

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar Thursday said the contribution of emissions from farm fires in neighbouring states to Delhi's air quality, at present, was only 4% and the remaining was from local sources: "On one side there is stubble burning, on the other side waste is burned by both people and sometimes karamcharis. There's suspension of dust. In today's pollution level, 4-5% share is from stubble burning but rest 95% is from local factors - we have to work to reduce these local factors."

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to challenge the minister on stubble burning's impact on Delhi. "Staying in denial will not help. If stubble burning causes only 4% pollution, then why has pollution suddenly increased since last fort-

night? Air was clean before that. Same story every year. There is no massive jump in any local source of pollution in last few days to cause this spike," he said.

Kejriwal added, "Let's accept that stubble burning causes huge pollution every year in North India during this time. And let's all together find a solution sincerely... I am extremely worried that pollution will play havoc coupled with coronavirus."

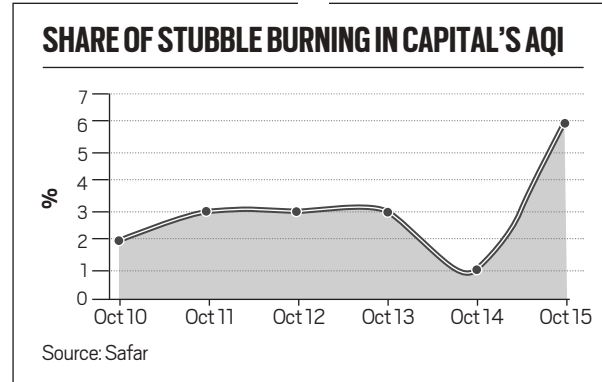
To which Javadekar responded in a tweet that his "statement on air pollution has been misinterpreted by a section of the media".

"Let me clarify, the figures of 4% share of stubble burning in AQI in Delhi pertained to this week. It varies from 4% to 40% during peak stubble burning. At the same time, let us not be in denial that there are several local factors - vehicular pollution, non-agricultural biomass burning, dust, geographical and metrological - that are primarily responsible for high air pollution during winters in Delhi," he said.

Javadekar was addressing 50 teams of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) that will begin inspecting areas in Delhi-NCR to check sources of emissions and co-ordinate with agencies responsible for controlling them. "I



An aerial view of Noida, Thursday. Gajendra Yadav



appeal to the Punjab government again that they immediately ensure there is less stubble burning. It impacts the health of people in

their state as well," he said.

Later, the Environment Ministry also tweeted that share of stubble burning changes every

## Delhi panel lacks jurisdiction to issue summons to FB, SC told

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE SUMMONS issued by the Peace and Harmony Committee of the Delhi Assembly to Facebook India head Ajit Mohan in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots is "without jurisdiction" as the subject is related to law and order, which is the Centre's domain in Delhi, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court Thursday.

"Our stand is that public order and police are within the domain of Union of India and the Assembly has no jurisdiction to issue the summons," Mehta told a bench of Justices S K Kaul and Dinesh Maheshwari, which was hearing a plea by Facebook and Mohan challenging the summons.

The plea challenged the two

summoning orders, dated September 18 and 23, and said the Delhi Assembly "does not have the power to hold" him "in breach of its privileges for failing to appear in response to the impugned summonses" and that "there is no law that empowers the Committee to take coercive action against a non-member".

Appearing for the Assembly, Senior Advocate A M Singhvi said Mohan has been called only as a witness. Reading from a counter affidavit filed on behalf of the panel, he said, "The scope of the power is recommendatory to make positive recommendations for the peace and harmony of NCT of Delhi in future" and added that "no coercive action was taken, or was intended against the petitioner".

He pointed out that "this very Facebook has assisted a Parliamentary Committee" re-

cently. "It all depends on the nature of the summons," said Justice Kaul.

Appearing for Mohan, Senior Advocate Harish Salve said, "I'm not willing to go before them." Salve contended that the tone of the Assembly committee's counter affidavit "is coercive, and says Facebook VP has no right to silence". Singhvi wondered if every person who is issued such a notice by an Assembly can come to SC for an advance ruling on jurisdiction, without appearing before the Assembly.

Justice Kaul said as regards Delhi, questions relating to the powers and jurisdiction of NCT of Delhi under Constitution may also arise. The court will now hear the matter in the first week of December. Meanwhile, its earlier order, directing no coercive action against Mohan, would continue.

## Karat claims inaccuracy in count of those killed in riots, police deny

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

IN A letter to the Delhi Police Commissioner, CPI (M) leader Brinda Karat alleged there is an "inaccuracy in the police account of the number of those killed in the communal violence in February in Northeast Delhi". In the letter dated October 15, and addressed to SN Shrivastava, she said Delhi Police "in various affidavits before the court and in public statements" has made the statement that "the number of those killed has been put at 53".

Karat claimed the name of

one Sikandar "has not been included in the list". "He was killed on February 27, and in his inquest papers (quoted in the post mortem report), it is stated alleged history of being found in unconscious state below flyover Khajuri chowk on 27/2 at 11:30 am following which the individual was brought to GTB (hospital) where he was declared brought dead," she claimed.

Karat claimed he was not identified till March 19 by his brother Mohd. Ishaque, and that the "postmortem report shows that he died of serious head injuries".

Additional PRO of the Delhi

Police Anil Mittal told *The Indian Express*, "On February 27, one unidentified person was found in public toilet in Khajuri Khas. He was alive at the time and rushed to GTB hospital in a CATS ambulance where he was declared dead on arrival. No fresh injuries were reported, and inquest proceedings were conducted."

Mittal claimed that while a "post-mortem was conducted, the report is still awaited". He claimed, "So far in this case, there is no connection to the Northeast Delhi riots." Karat said Sikandar's brother Ishaque has been told by police that no FIR in the matter has been filed.

## HC seeks news channel's source for riots report

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE DELHI High Court Thursday asked a television channel to apprise it about the source of its report regarding "disclosure statement" of an accused in a Northeast Delhi violence case after the police denied to have leaked the same.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Jamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha seeking a direction to take down sensitive information connected to the investigations, allegedly leaked by police to media channels, which had published information on the basis of his purported disclosure statement. Tanha had argued the leak was aimed to vilify and prejudice his right to a fair trial.

Police, in a reply, told the court of Justice Vibhu Bakru that the said statement was not leaked by its officials or anyone associated with the investigation of the case.



Police denied having leaked the disclosure statement. Archive

## The coming days

As per a forecast from the India Meteorological Department, wind direction over Delhi at present has changed to east-south east and is expected to remain in this direction until at least October 18.

This means emissions from stubble burning, which is happening in north-west of the country, will not enter Delhi unless winds start blowing from the north-west direction.

However, wind speed continues to remain low during day time and almost zero at night, because of which pollutants from local and external sources that have entered Delhi's air will not be easily dispersed, said Kuldeep Srivastava, head of IMD's regional weather forecasting centre.

A forecast from SAFAR states that Delhi's air quality index would remain in 'very poor' category on Friday as well.

Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai wrote to CPCB and Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control Authority (EPCA)) asking that 11 thermal power plants within 300 km of Delhi should be closed in seven days if they do not comply with revised emission norms set by the environment ministry.

## BRIEFLY

### Teen held for taking test for another candidate

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police has apprehended a teenager who allegedly appeared in the Jamia Millia Islamia's entrance examination for B.Voc (Solar Energy) in place of another candidate. Police said they are verifying the age of the accused, who "seems to be 16-17 years old".

### Ayurvedic plants park in Rohini

**New Delhi:** The North Delhi Municipal Corporation Thursday inaugurated "Nakshatra Vatika" — a park where Ayurvedic plants of medicinal value has been planted — in Rohini. Mayor Jai Prakash said they will also build a walk way in the park.

### Dr Arun Gupta re-elected as DMC chief

**New Delhi:** Dr Arun Gupta has been re-elected as the President of Delhi Medical Council for another five-year term, defeating Dr Harish Gupta. Delhi Medical Council is quasi-judicial body with registration of over 72,000 allopathic doctors. **ENS**

## AFTER 6 MONTHS

# Cinema halls reopen but patrons keep their distance from the box office

**SURBHIGUPTA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

FROM THE time one steps into the building and enters the cinema hall, the numerous 'welcome back' posters that are spread all over the complex signal how eagerly multiplexes have been waiting to reopen. On Thursday, as cinema halls opened after six months, viewers were greeted with new protocols — social distancing circles, thermal checks and hand sanitiser stands.

Instead of physical checking, a staff member at Cinopolis, at

the Savitri Complex in Greater Kailash-II, geared up in a mask, face shield and gloves, asked if the person had any of the prohibited items listed on a board. In the lobby, people sat on alternate chairs — which had been marked with stickers — until the screening began.

Among the five-six people who had come to Cinopolis — one of the few halls screening films on Thursday — was Ghaziabad resident Karan Tyagi. "I desperately wanted to watch a movie in a hall, something I did regularly before the lockdown. The hall near my home (a PVR hall) opens on

Friday, so I decided to come here," said the 30-year-old.

Watching a movie on the big screen was an "escape" from his stressful life, he said, as he had recently lost his job at a company in Gurgaon.

For the afternoon show, at 2.30 pm, the hall was screening the Taapsee Pannu-starrer *Thappad*, which had released on February 28 and was one of the last movies to be screened in halls before the nationwide lockdown was announced on March 24.

Producers have re-released a select few movies from earlier this year, which includes *1917*, *Shubh*



At a special screening for PVR staff at Vasant Kunj's Promenade Mall Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

*Mangal Zyada Saavdhan*, *Malang*, among others. "We had three shows planned for Thursday. In the morning, we screened *Malang*, which saw about three to four people in the audience, while *Thappad* had about six people. The evening show has about 12 bookings till now," said a staff member.

All the staff members *The Indian Express* spoke to said they were happy to return to work and it felt like "homecoming". They had spent the last six months training for the new protocols for reopening.

The food menu was limited to popcorn, nachos and soft drinks,

and there was a plastic shield at the two cash counters. The modes of payment at this hall were through card or cash and the bill was sent digitally on the customer's phone number. Inside the hall, seating capacity was reduced by 50% and every alternate seat had been marked with a tape, making them unavailable for people to sit on and maintain physical distance.

Rajiv Pathak (40), who had gotten off work early Thursday, decided to watch a movie as he was curious about the new protocols. "I wanted to experience how safe the viewing experience

is so I could come with my family next time," said Pathak, a resident of Govindpur.

For banker Atul Singh Rawat (23), going for a movie was a weekly ritual, irrespective of the reviews it received. However, he is now going to be choosy.

"I have come today just to celebrate my friend's birthday, and also because the ticket was priced at Rs 100, which is almost half the usual price. Otherwise, I think most of us have moved to streaming services and learnt to entertain ourselves at home. If I come again, it will only be for a big release," he said.

# Student drives with constable clinging to car's bonnet, held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

A CONSTABLE with the Delhi Traffic Police clung to the bonnet of a Hyundai i20 car for "300-400 metres", even as the driver drove on in the Delhi Cantonment area on October 12 evening.

The driver of the car, 22-year-old student Shubham Kumar, was arrested on the day of the incident.

A case under sections of rash driving, endangering life, obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions, assault to deter public servant from discharge of duty has been registered at the Delhi Cantt. police station.

A 38-second video of the car moving in a zig-zag direction with constable Mahipal Singh Yadav atop the bonnet has surfaced online.

In the video, the driver stops the car, and the constable falls on the busy road, after which the driver flees.

A passer-by on a two-wheeler can be seen giving the constable a lift after the incident.

In the FIR, Yadav states that around 5.10 pm, he saw a car moving in a zig-zag manner from Dhaura Kuan side towards Station Road, heading to Tilak Nagar.



A 38-second video of the car moving in a zig-zag direction with constable Mahipal Singh Yadav atop the bonnet has surfaced online. In the video, the driver stops the car, and the constable falls on the busy road

"I tried stopping the car, and the driver slowed down and then suddenly sped. In a bid to save myself, I jumped on to the bonnet, and held on to the wiper of the car. He didn't stop his car even then, I kept telling him to stop. In a bid to hurt me, he drove like that in a zig-zag manner for 300-400 metres," said Yadav in the FIR.

He further stated that after he fell from the bonnet, the driver fled.

"With the help of the public

and staff, we controlled him a kilometre away. There was another person in the car with him, who is 23-years-old," said constable Yadav.

The accused is a resident of Uttam Nagar. After the incident, constable Yadav was taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital where his MLC was prepared.

A senior police officer said that on the basis of the complaint filed by the traffic constable, an FIR has been registered.

## QUERIES REMAIN UNRESOLVED

# DU applicants complain about unresponsive numbers, mails

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

SEVERAL APPLICANTS to Delhi University colleges said they are finding it difficult to have their queries resolved for this year's online undergraduate admission process.

The university has shared several contact points with applicants — contact details of nodal officers for admissions to each college have been shared on the university portal, some central helpline numbers and a central email ID for admission grievances have also been created.

With the completely online process, official email IDs and helplines are the only contact students have with the university and colleges.

One applicant said she is still unable to understand how to calculate her 'best of 4' subject percentage, even though she has taken admission in Gargi College for BA Programme.

"I was under the impression that I would be eligible for admission to either Hansraj or Ramjas College with my best of 4 percentage but when I open



Students at the DUSU helpdesk on the first day of admission at Delhi University. Praveen Khanna

the portal, neither of those options are available to me. I am confused about how to calculate my percentage since I have two language subjects. So I have applied to Gargi College and had emailed Hansraj College looking to clear my doubt but I didn't get a response. I didn't even get an email from the central grievance email ID. After several attempts, I did manage to get through to the central admission helpline but I didn't find that useful because I was just

told to go through the bulletin of information," she said. Unresponsive college numbers have been a frequent complaint even at the admission helpdesk and helpline set up by the Delhi University Students' Union. "We have particularly got several complaints about unresponsiveness on the numbers at Hansraj College, Ramjas College, Kalindi College and Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College. There has to be an effective contact point for stu-

dents in the colleges since they are not able to physically be present and speak to relevant officers," said DUSU joint secretary Shivangi Kharwal.

Ramjas College principal Manoj Khanna said the college administration and its nodal officer have been overextended by the current system. "The nodal officer is receiving calls throughout the day, so students are bound to find the phone busy frequently. In addition to that, there are big gaps in the software, because of which we are having to individually calculate the marks of each applicant and have our hands completely full all the time. After going through more than 1,600 applications, we actually had to reject 500 ineligible applications and send reasons explaining the rejection to the applicant concerned. Many are even sending applications with 70 or 80 percentage," he said.

As of Thursday night, out of a total of 59,730 applications received across colleges, the admission process — including fee payment — had been completed for 29,746 candidates. An additional 10,978 applications have also been approved, for which fee payments are pending.

## COMPARTMENT EXAM Delhi govt Class X pass percentage up from 83% to 93%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE PERCENTAGE of students of Delhi government schools who have cleared board examinations this year rose from 98% to 99% in Class XII and from 83% to 93% in Class X after the CBSE declared results of compartment exams this week.

Physical exams were held last month for students placed in compartment — those who had failed one paper in class XII or upto two papers in class X.

In government schools, 1,290 out of the 1,734 students who took the Class XII compartment exams have passed, and 15,574 out of the 25,400 students who took the Class X compartment exams have passed.

"The transformational impact this is going to make on the children who have not only been able to finish their schools but also go to the next grade is huge. I'm feeling extremely proud that our government school students have performed so well by overcoming such challenges," said Education Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday.

Earlier analyses had found that most Class X students placed in compartment had failed only in mathematics or science or both these subjects. The education department was able to increase the pass percentage of Class X students by 10 percentage points by focused intervention in these subjects, through regular classes till the compartment exams.

Office of the Chief Engineer Water Resources  
Zone Jodhpur  
No./AF/NIB/2020/11684/ Date : 9.10.2020  
Corrigendum of Notice Inviting Bid No. 01/2020-21  
The date of submission bid for Rehabilitation work of Earthen dam, Spillway arrangements and basic facilities at Sukli Selwara Dam, Reodar district Sirohi DRIP-II will be 16:00 hours of 18.11.2020. Other conditions and particulars of the bid will be same. UBN: WRJ2021WLOB00005  
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DIPR/C/8114/2020 Water Resources Zone, Jodhpur

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

NIT No.	Brief Works Description	Estimated Cost (INR, Lakhs)	Cost of EMD (INR, Lakhs)	Prebid Meeting Date	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Bid Opening
AEML/MD/2020-21/77	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Nitrogen Injection Fire Prevention System for 10 MVA & 20 MVA Power Transformers	358	3.6	21.10.2020 11:30 Hrs	30.10.2020 16:00 Hrs	31.10.2020 16:00 Hrs
AEML/MD/2020-21/78	Civil Works for Construction of 33/11 kV R/S at Shivam, Kandiwali East	325	3.3	23.10.2020 12:30 Hrs	05.11.2020 16:00 Hrs	06.11.2020 16:00 Hrs
AEML/MD/2020-21/79	Carrying Out Chain Link Fencing Works at Various 33/11 kV Receiving Stations Across AEML Mumbai Distribution Region	50	0.5	21.10.2020 11:30 Hrs	26.10.2020 16:00 Hrs	27.10.2020 16:00 Hrs
AEML/MD/2020-21/80	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Air Conditioners at Mumbai Discom Zones	220	2.2	22.10.2020 11:30 Hrs	31.10.2020 16:00 Hrs	02.11.2020 16:00 Hrs
AEML/MD/2020-21/81	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Passenger Elevators at 6 Locations of Mumbai Discom	190	1.9	22.10.2020 12:30 Hrs	31.10.2020 16:00 Hrs	02.11.2020 16:00 Hrs
AEML/MD/2020-21/82	Structural Consultancy and Repairs of Magathane Receiving Station Building	65	0.7	23.10.2020 11:30 Hrs	02.11.2020 16:00 Hrs	03.11.2020 16:00 Hrs

Cost of each tender :- Rs. 1180 /- All Materials & Services will be as per Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited Specifications / BOQ. All Prebid Meetings will be done electronically / telephonically due to the COVID19 restrictions.

For details with respect to Service/ Material, Qualifying Requirement, Terms & Conditions, Services / Submission of Tender Documents, etc., please visit our website: [www.adanielectricity.com](http://www.adanielectricity.com) > Tenders > Open Tenders. The Tender document will be available on above link by 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020.

Tenderer must submit their bids online / electronically. Vendor should visit the website [www.adanielectricity.com](http://www.adanielectricity.com) for any Corrigendum / Amendments; no separate information regarding Corrigendum will be published in newspapers.

Date: 16.10.2020

Central Procurement Group

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Description of Stores: GRP 1 in 8.5 fan shaped T/outs (60/52 kg) T-4218 Qty: 150 Set  
Due Date: 04-11-2020 14.30 Hrs  
For further details, please refer to web Portal [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)->E-Tender->View Tenders. Please note that only online quotations submitted through IREPS portal will be accepted and the offers are to be digitally signed.

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e-Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items -

Sr. No.	Name of the Item	Contract Period/ Quantity	Consignee/ Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Date & Time for Sale/downloading of e-tenders online	Last Date & Time of Submission of online e-tenders	Date & Time of opening of e-tenders
1.	Outsourcing of Verka Milk Bar Necton	One year	Verka Luthiana Dairy 0161-5203300-5203301,5203334	500/-	25,000/-	17.10.2020 from 11:00 AM	29.10.2020 upto 03:00 PM	Technical Bid 30.10.2020 at 11:30 AM Financial Bid 30.10.2020 at 02:30 PM
2.	Hiring of Vehicles for Sale Depot, Bathinda & Verka Bathinda Dairy for Supply of Ghee, Butter, Powder, Panji, Tea Pack & Others Products at Punjab & other States. Capacity 1.5 Ton Capacity 3.00 Ton Capacity 5.00 Ton Capacity 7.00 Ton	As per requirement	Verka Bathinda Dairy Ph. 0164-2214825, 2212825	500/-	50,000/-	20.10.2020 from 05:00 PM	07.11.2020 up to 05:00 PM	Technical Bid 09.11.2020 at 11:30 AM
3.	Auction of Jeep PB-04E-0329 Jeep PB-04H-1710 & unserviceable Material	1 lot As per List	Verka Faridkot Dairy Ph No. 01639-513759	500/-	30,000/- per Tender	19.10.2020 from 02:00 PM	02.11.2020 up to 05:00 PM	Technical Bid 03.11.2020 at 10:00 AM Financial Bid 05.11.2020 at 10:00 AM
4.	Hiring of Warehouse/Store for storage of SNP and WMP bags.	Approx. 1800-2000 MT	Verka Jalandhar Dairy 73555-56749, 73556-01750.	500/-	50,000/-	19.10.2020 from 11:00 AM	03.11.2020 up to 3:00 PM	Technical Bid 04.11.2020 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 04.11.2020 at 02:00 PM
5.	Supply and Fitting of Modular Laboratory furniture at Verka Jalandhar Dairy	1 Lot	-do-	500/-	50,000/-	19.10.2020 from 10:30 AM	03.11.2020 up to 3:00 PM	Technical Bid 04.11.2020 at 10:30 AM Financial Bid 04.11.2020 at 02:30 PM
6.	Hiring of SS Insulated Road Milk Tankers Cap:15KL, 20KL & 25KL for transportation of milk from Verka Jalandhar Dairy to other Dairies and outside Punjab	03 Nos	-do-	500/-	1,00,000/- per tanker	23.10.2020 from 5:00 PM	11.11.2020 up to 2:00 PM	12.11.2020 at 11:00 AM
7.	(A) Transportation of Molasses from The Sudhawal and The Morinda Co-operative Sugar Mills Ltd. to Verka cattle feed plant, Bathinda (Khanna)	Annual Rate Contract	Cattle Feed Plant, Bathinda (Khanna) Ph. No. 01628-521450, 51, 52 Mobile No. 94630-58418	200/-	20,000/-	17.10.2020 from 11:00 AM	02.11.2020 up to 12:30 PM	02.11.2020 at 02:00 PM
8.	Molasses specification Brix Reading- 80 Min Invert Sugar- 44 Min Sulphate Ash- 17.5 Max	1200 MT	-do-	200/-	1,50,000/-	-do-	-do-	-do-
9.	Supply of Steam Coal having calorific value not less than 5500 K Cal/Kg.	1500 MT	Verka Amritsar Dairy Ph No. 0183-2263138, 73555-99692	500/-	2,50,000/-	19.10.2020 from 05:00 PM	09.11.2020 up to 05:00 PM	10.11.2020 at 10:00 AM

Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing Fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in) and get USER ID and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970284 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in). Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable.

**Section - B**  
Sealed Tenders are hereby invited on the prescribed Proforma for the purchase of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Item	Qty/Contract Period	Consignee/ Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Last Date & Time of Submission of Tenders	Date & Time of receipt and opening of tender
1.	Outsourcing of Milk Booth at :- Milk Booth at CMO Office Luthiana	Three years	Verka Luthiana Dairy 0161-5203300-5203301,5203336	200/-	25,000/-	29.10.2020 up to 03:00 PM	30.10.2020 at 11:30 AM
2.	Milk Booth (01) at Civil Hospital Bathinda	Three years	Verka Bathinda Dairy Ph. 0164-2214825, 2212825	500/-	25,000/-	05.11.2020 up to 05:00 PM	09.11.2020 at 02:00 PM

Interested parties may obtain detailed Tender Documents from the office of Consignee where tender is to be opened on any working day from (9AM to 5 PM). If any clarification is required may contact on Phone Numbers given above. The Tender Notice may also be seen at Verka Website ([www.verka.coop](http://www.verka.coop)) TENDER (S) WITHOUT EARNEST MONEY ARE LIABLE TO BE REJECTED. The Consignee reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Note: Corrigendum if any will be uploaded on website only.

General Manager (PLM/PURCHASE)

**SBI State Bank of India**  
STRESS ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH  
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001. Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: [sbi.05176@sbi.co.in](mailto:sbi.05176@sbi.co.in)

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (CORRIGENDUM)**

According to power conferred under SARFAESI Act-2002, the authorised officer of SBI SARB Patna has published an e-Auction for sale of immovable property for general public/interested bidders, through this newspaper dated 16.09.2020.

Now the proposed e-auction of immovable property mentioned is cancelled due to some unavoidable reasons.

Authorised Officer  
State Bank of India, SARB, Patna

**The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking**  
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

**TENDER NOTICE**

e-tenders are invited for the supply of following items.

(1) Selection for Empanelment of Firms for Grid connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants for the Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning including 5 years Comprehensive Warranty Maintenance under the MNRE Phase-II Solar Scheme for installations in the Distribution Licence Area of the BEST Undertaking, Mumbai.

**RE-INVITED E-TENDERS**

(2) 68399, (3) 68425, (4) 68607, (5) 67643.

Note : For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

PRO/AAM(M)/58/2020. GENERAL MANAGER

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (P) SR. II**  
**ROOM NO 307, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I, JHANDEWALAN**  
**KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005**  
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene".  
NIT NO.2/EE(P)SR.II.(20-21)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Tender Fee	Date release of tender in e-procurement solution and Tender ID	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Rehabilitation of damage 900 mm dia. sewer line on service lane along main road from Sector 1 to Sector - 6, 7 & 9 Crossing in Dwarka sector under EE(C)Dwarka on road no. 224	Item rate	Rs. 1500/-	2020_DJB_195570_1	13.10.2020 3.11.2020 up to 3:00PM

Further details in this regards can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 188/2020-21

Sd/-  
E.E.(P) SR-II

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR**  
Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- [xenmhchdk@yahoo.in](mailto:xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)  
Gist of e-Tender  
NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2020-21/167/e-tendering  
Dated 13.10.2020

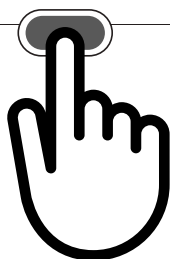
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited (in 2 cover system) on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (Lacs of Rs.)	Time of Completion (In Days)	Position of AAA/Funds	Class of Contract
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Construction of Building for Housing of Oxygen Plant at CD Hospital, Srinagar	78.71	2000	1.60	60	Available	AAY

- Downloading of Bids:** The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from 13.10.2020 (18.00 hrs) downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 15-10-2020 (18.00 hrs).
- Uploading:** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 17.10.2020 (10.00 hrs) to 03.11.2020 (15:00 hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids:** The bids received up to due date and time shall be opened on 04.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs or any other date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

No: MHCHD/TS/4671-76  
Dated : 13-10-2020  
DIPK-7420

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar.



BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



I HEREBY DECLARE



TEJASHWI YADAV  
RJD MLA, Raghopur

**TOTAL ASSETS**  
₹ 5.9 CRORE

**ASSETS IN 2015 (153% RISE)**  
₹ 2.32 CRORE

**MOVABLE ASSETS**  
₹ 4.74 CRORE

Assets	2015	2020
Cash in hand	1.2 lakh	1.2 lakh
Bank balance	17.9 lakh	31.79 lakh
Stocks & bonds	5.38 lakh	4.88 lakh
Other investment	NIL	NIL
Jewellery	2.6 lakh	4.25 lakh
Vehicle	NIL	NIL
Other	1.13 cr	4.32 cr
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.4 cr</b>	<b>4.74 cr</b>

**IMMOVABLE ASSETS**  
₹ 1.15 CRORE

Assets	2015	2020
Agri land	26.52 lakh	35.7 lakh
Non-agri land	28.5 lakh	35 lakh
Commercial	24 lakh	30 lakh
Residential	2.5 lakh	15 lakh
Other	NIL	NIL
<b>Total</b>	<b>91.52 lakh</b>	<b>1.15 cr</b>

**LIABILITIES**  
₹ 17,578

(Govt dues)

**CRIMINAL CASES**  
11 pending, including one relating to allegations of cheating and criminal conspiracy under Sections 420 and 120B of IPC, and Section 19 of Prevention of Corruption Act

CASTE MATHS

# Why EBC is the ABC for the Big Three

Totalling 25%, 'floating' Extremely Backward Classes wooed by JD(U), BJP, RJD

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, OCTOBER 15

EVEN THOUGH all political parties claim to be seeking votes on the plank of development, underlying their candidate lists are careful caste considerations involving their core constituencies, plus EBCs.

Nearly a quarter of the candidates in both the RJD and JD(U) lists, 24% and 26% respectively, belong to Extremely Backward Classes. The EBCs form about 25% of the population in Bihar, and are considered floating voters.

Of the 144 candidates the RJD has put up as part of Grand Alliance, Yadavs comprise 40% (58 candidates), and Muslims 12% (17 candidates) — the bedrock of the party's MY plank.

The NDA is also eyeing the Yadav voters with 17 candidates in the JD(U)'s list of 115 and 16 in BJP's list of 110. This means Yadavs, who comprise about 14% of the population, comprise 91 of the candidates announced so far.

The JD(U) has fielded 11 Muslim candidates, and the BJP none. It had fielded one Muslim candidate in the last Assembly polls.

What stands out in the lists of the three

THE DECIDING FACTOR

JD(U): 115 SEATS

EBC	26
Kushwaha	15
SCs	12
Kurmi	12
Muslim	11
Bhumihar	9
Rajput	7

BJP: 110 SEATS

Rajput	21
Vaishya	17
Yadav	16
Bhumihar	15
SCs	14
Brahmin	11

RJD: 144 SEATS

Yadav	58
EBCs	24
Muslim	17
SCs	15

parties is the bid to win over EBCs, in which Sahani and Dhanuk are the major castes. Of the JD(U)'s 26 EBC candidates, seven are Dhanuk. The BJP has fielded five EBCs but also left 11 seats for alliance partner Mukesh Sahani's Vikassheel Insaan Party, who belongs to the Mallah community.

The RJD has fielded 24 EBC nominees, 7 of whom are Nonias. A senior RJD leader said: "We have applied serious thought to win over EBCs. While MY dominates our list but EBC representation is the takeaway from it."

EBC votes are seen as floating votes because of their scattered population across the state and their lack of one overarching leader. With votes divided along caste lines in the state, EBC voters are often the deciders.

The BJP and JD(U) are also banking big on their core bases, upper caste-Baniya and OBCs for the BJP, and Luv-Kush (Kurmi-Koeri) for the JD(U). While the BJP has 50 upper castes in its list and 17 OBC Vaishya candidates, the JD(U) has fielded 18 upper caste candidates. The RJD has 12 upper caste nominees.

The JD(U) has fielded 12 Kurmi and 15 Kushwaha candidates, and the BJP four candidates each from these OBC groups.

FOR MORE LOG ON TO  
INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS

KEY PLAYERS



UPENDRA KUSHWAHA  
FIGHT TO STAY RELEVANT

EXPRESS explained.

HOW IS CHIRAG PASWAN, LJP PLACED IN POLLS?

WHO'S WHERE TODAY

J P NADDA IN BANKA, HISUA;  
SUSHIL MODI IN MOHANIA (KAIMUR),  
DALMIANAGAR (DEHRI)

HOW BIHAR VOTES: POSTAL BALLOTS



ASSEMBLY POLLS

Year	Total valid votes	Valid postal votes	% of postal votes	Voter turnout
2015	3,67,37,129	1,29,816	0.36	56.91%
2010	2,90,58,604	25,956	0.09	52.73%
2005	2,35,59,191	551	0.002	45.85%
2000	3,70,48,920	0	0	62.57%

LOK SABHA POLLS

Year	Total voters	Votes through EVM	Postal votes	% of postal votes
2019	7,10,63,620	4,06,67,344	1,63,109	0.4
2014	6,37,23,810	3,58,73,132	19,327	0.05
2009	5,45,05,246	2,42,31,848	3,040	0.012
2004	5,05,59,672	2,93,29,444	2,254	0.007

Election Commission of India

This time, share of postal votes is set to go up since EC has allowed those physically challenged as well as Covid-19 patients to avail the facility, besides senior citizens above the age of 80

# Far ahead of rest, BJP vote share has surged since 2005

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

NATIONAL PARTIES have seen a steady rise in vote share in Bihar during the last four Assembly elections — almost entirely powered by the BJP. After doubling its vote share, the BJP is now the only national party to have hit double digits in Bihar, as an analysis of election data shows.

Since Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar in November 2000, the state has seen four Assembly elections — February and October in 2005, 2010 and 2015.

The combined vote share of the six national parties to have contested in these Bihar elections — the BJP, BSP, CPI, CPM, Congress and NCP — went up significantly from 23.57% in 2005 (February) to 35.6% in 2015.

Despite the Bihar split happening under the NDA at the Centre, the BJP saw the most increase — from 10.97% in 2005 (February) to 24.42% in 2015. One of the reasons was that the party contested 157 seats in 2015, against its earlier figure of 102-103 seats. BJP has fought these elections (except 2015 Assembly polls) in alliance with JD(U). However, other parties too have been contesting more seats, mostly with decline in vote share.

In fact, as is its strategy, the BSP contested the most seats (228) among the national parties in 2015, followed by the BJP (157), CPI (98), CPM (43), Congress (41) and NCP (41). Except the marginal increase in Congress's vote share,

the BSP, CPI, CPM and NCP all saw a decline.

Between 2005 and 2015, the number of seats the BJP contested rose from 102 to 157, and its vote share from 10.97% to 24.42%. In that time, Congress contested the maximum seats, all 243, in 2010, and a minimum 41 in 2015, but its vote share has only varied between 5% (February 2005) and 8.37% (2010).

The BSP, the only national party to contest from over 200 seats in Bihar each time, started with 4.41% votes and went down to 2.07%.

The CPI candidate numbers varied between 17 in 2005 and 98 in 2015, but vote share only between 1.36% and 2.09%; the CPM did even worse, getting only between 0.61% and 0.71% votes even when fighting 43 seats in 2015 compared to 10 in 2005. The NCP contested as many as 171 seats in 2010, compared to eight in 2005, but has never got past 1.82% votes.

As compared to this, the vote share of the three main regional parties in October 2005 was 11.10% (203 seats) for the LJP, 23.45% (175 seats) for the RJD and 20.46% (139 seats) for the JD(U). In 2015, they stood at 4.83% (42), 18.35% (101) and 16.83% (101) respectively.

But even the combined vote share of State parties has seen a decline from 57.39% in 2005 (October) to 42.58% percent.

Similarly, two other categories — State Parties (Other States) and Independent — too have seen a decline in vote share in the past four Assembly elections. However, the category of 'Registered Unrecognized Parties' has seen a marginal increase.

NATIONAL PARTIES IN BIHAR ELECTIONS

National Parties	2005 (October)		2010		2015	
	Seats Contested	Vote Share percent	Seats Contested	Vote Share percent	Seats Contested	Vote Share percent
BJP	102	15.65	102	16.49	157	24.42
Congress	51	6.09	243	8.37	41	6.66
BSP	212	4.17	239	3.21	228	2.07
CPI	35	2.09	56	1.69	98	1.36
CPM	10	0.68	30	0.71	43	0.61
NCP	8	0.79	171	1.82	41	0.49
<b>Total</b>		<b>29.47%</b>		<b>32.29%</b>		<b>35.6%</b>

HASHTAG POLITICS

● Bihar Congress (@INCBihar) joins song battle with #KaKiyeHo (What have you done)



The song questions NDA govt's 'inefficiencies', and is in response to Bihar BJP's *Bihar Me Ee Ba* (Bihar has all this) track.

179K VIEWS, 825 LIKES IN 8 HOURS ON INC BIHAR FB PAGE

After Facebook blocked her page for being against "Community Standards", Congress star campaigner Meira Kumar (@meira\_kumar) tweeted: "Crushing voice of Opposition... It cannot be just a mere coincidence." 1.8K LIKES, 683 RETWEETS IN 4 HRS

BJP Bihar in-charge Bhupendra Yadav wrote on Facebook about the state's "folk language, culture and a whole tradition of folk poets". 2.7K LIKES, 88 SHARES IN 4 HOURS

# Luv Sinha adds buzz to Patna seat as full Cong list finally out

MANOJ CG & SANTOSH SINGH  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE CONGRESS announced its final list of 49 candidates for the Bihar polls on Thursday, fielding former Lok Sabha MP Shatrughan Sinha's son Luv from Bankipur seat in Patna, and Sharad Yadav's daughter Subhashini from the Bihariganj seat in Madhepura.

The party has also fielded former Bihar chief minister Abdul Gafoor's grandson Asif Gafoor from Gopalganj, and AICC secretary Chandan Yadav from Beldaur seat in Khagaria. State Youth Congress chief Gunjan Patel will contest from the Nalanda seat.

The Congress officially released the list late on October 15, even as many candidates including Luv Sinha filed nominations during the day. Luv's entry will make Bankipur a multi-cornered battle between him, sitting BJP MLA

Nitin Navin, and the high-profile Pushpam Priya of the 'Plurals Party'.

BJP rebel Sushma Sahu will be contesting as an Independent from the seat.

All four Patna seats, Kumhrar, Patna Saheb, Bankipur and Digha, have BJP MLAs and are considered the party's pocketborough.

The Congress party has re-nominated all its sitting MLAs barring one, Bhoery MLA Anil Kumar.

The MLAs given tickets again include Madan Mohan Tiwari from Bettiah, Amita Bhushan from Begusarai and Ajeet Sharma from Bhagalpur, Vinay Varma from Narkatiaganj, Amit Kumar Tunna from Riga, Bhawana Jha from Benipatti, Abidur Rahman from Araria, Md Tauseef Alam from Bahadurganj, Abdul Jalil Mastan from Amour, Md Afaque Alam from Kasba, Shakeel Ahmad Khan from Kadwa, Manohar Prasad Singh from Manihari and Punam Kumari from Korha.

# SHOW OF HANDS

At a BJP rally in Karakat town, Rohtas district, on Thursday. PTI



# 'Am I hostage to others?... We worked for 5 yrs... RJD, Cong, JDU sat at home'

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

The AIMIM, Samajwadi Janata Dal (Democratic), RLSP and the BSP have tied up. What's the idea behind this alliance?

The people of Bihar need a viable alternative political platform. The RJD-Congress alliance has failed and lost the confidence of the people in politically defeating the JD(U) and BJP. The 15 years of Nitish and 15 years of RJD have not helped in the development of Bihar. On every parameter — social, economic, health, education — the Nitish Kumar-led government has failed. That is why we have come together and projected Mr Upendra Kushwaha (RLSP) as the chief ministerial face and Devendra Yadav as convener.

Why do you think the RJD-Congress alliance has failed?

Five years ago, Nitish Kumar, Lalu Prasad and Rahul Gandhi said that if people vote for us, we will defeat the BJP-RSS. That has not happened... And the responsibility lies equally with the Congress and RJD... In the Lok Sabha polls, they (the Congress) could not win a single seat apart from Kishanganj, where our candidate got close to 3 lakh votes, 3.32 lakh votes were bagged by the JD(U), and the Congress candidate got 3.6 lakh votes. Had our candidate not been there, it would have been a clean sweep for the NDA. That is why I am of the opinion that they (Congress and RJD) are unable to

politically take on the BJP. They lack real political and intellectual conviction... Yes, all of us are small players, but everything starts with a small step and then it becomes bigger.



'Nitish, Lalu, Rahul said will defeat BJP, but couldn't... We are providing alternative'

People say your alliance will end up splitting the anti-incumbency votes, which will help the BJP and JD(U). Am I a hostage to other parties? I will con-

AIMIM'S BIHAR FOOTPRINT

2010: Did not contest

2015 (ASSEMBLY POLLS):

Contested	6 seats
Won	Nil
Vote share	0.21%

2019 (LOK SABHA POLLS)

Contested	1 seat (Kishanganj)
-----------	---------------------

- Came third but polled 2.95 lakh votes or 26.78% of total votes polled

OCTOBER 2019 BY POLL

- Contested Kishanganj Assembly seat
- Won, opened account

test because I believe in parliamentary democracy. And I want to strengthen democracy... Why have these parties arrogated this power to decide who should contest or who should-

n't? It is shameful on their part that they are not able to defeat the BJP and because of them... their alliance broke and Nitish is in the BJP... Our party has been working to build an organisation for the last five years and we were there when people needed us during and after the lockdown, and during floods. The RJD-Congress CM hopeful was comfortably sitting in Delhi for two-and-a-half months when nearly 28 lakh migrant labourers returned to Bihar. And the CM too had isolated himself in his home for months together.

Your party targets the Muslim votes. The RLSP focuses on Kushwaha votes. The BSP eyes the Dalit votes....

Would you ask this question to the BJP that they take upper caste votes? Would you ask the RJD and Congress about Yadav votes?... Aliens don't vote for them, do they? And caste is a reality in India. What happened in Hathras is a bitter, crude reality... These are all false assumptions... Is a voter hostage to any political

party?... One works hard, convinces them (the voters) and they vote for you.

BSP chief Mayawati had credited the Supreme Court for paving the way for a Ram temple in Ayodhya. Your position on the issue is well-known. How will you address these contradictions?

There will be differences but what is the meeting point? A meeting point is to provide a viable alternative political voice. They have their stand on certain issues... So does the Congress. Kamal Nath had sent bricks (for the construction of the Ram temple). Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had tweeted in favour of it (the temple)... the RJD didn't open its mouth (on the issue)...

So will there be a common manifesto?

Mr Kushwaha and Mr Yadav will come out with a vision document soon... Mr Kushwaha will release the complete list but hopefully, we are going to contest in 18-19 Assembly seats.

# 10 GOVT & POLITICS

## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### WAITING ON

THE ELECTION Commission had recently asked the government to amend the Conduct of Election Rules to increase campaign expenditure limit by 10 per cent for all future elections. This proposal was made keeping in mind the constraints posed by the pandemic, as candidates will have to spend more on Covid-related precautions. With Bihar elections around the corner, the EC, led by poll panel chief Sunil Arora, wrote to the Law Ministry more than a month ago. However, there has been no response from the government. The government's silence on the proposal is interesting given that it was the BJP that had suggested an increase in poll expenditure limit in its feedback to the EC on campaigning amid the pandemic.

### CONTROVERSIAL CHOICE

THE MINISTRY of Education is currently in the process of finding the next vice-chancellor for the central university in Himachal Pradesh. One of the frontrunners for the post is said to be the incumbent V-C of Mahatma Gandhi Central University (MGCU) in Motihari, Sanjeev Sharma. The fact that the ministry is considering his candidature is interesting, as Sharma has been a controversial university head. Earlier this year, the Chancellor of MGCU had written to President Ram Nath Kovind, requesting an inquiry against Sharma for allegedly violating the Central Universities Act. Over the past year, the ministry has received several complaints questioning the Vigilance clearance given by Sharma's parent universities for his appointment as MGCU V-C since an inquiry into his appointment as a professor during his tenure at another university is still pending.

### FIRM FOCUS ON FARM

THE MINISTRY of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, which is in news due to farmers' protests against the new farm laws, organised the Mahila Kisan Diwas through video-conferencing. While Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh could not attend the event, as he was out of town, Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala attended it and interacted with the women farmers. During the event, an e-book — 'Inspiring Stories of Progressive Women Farmers' — was released and two short video films — 'Mahila kishik and her contribution in agriculture' and 'Global examples of successful women farmers' — were launched.

## In poll-bound Bihar, Rlys lines up work for returning migrants

AVISHEK DASTIDAR  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

FOUR MONTHS after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan from Khagaria in poll-bound Bihar, the Railways has so far engaged around 2,402 returning migrants from the state in projects worth Rs 610 crore, senior officials told *The Indian Express*.

With Railway work among the 25 listed in the scheme for returning migrants to get jobs in their home states, the move has so far yielded 3.5 lakh mandays worth of work in Bihar since June 20, when the Abhiyaan was launched, according to official data.

The labourers were engaged in 40 segments of work in the state's districts, including electrification, laying tracks, building barracks and bridges, supplying stones, signalling work and other manual labour at sites.

Overall, the data show that Railways engaged 12,000 labourers, created over 12.4 lakh mandays worth of work and paid out over Rs 2,500 crore to contractors involved in 170 segments of work in Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya

Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

In terms of total expenditure on such work in Bihar, Nawada topped with payouts of Rs 92 crore followed by Supaul (Rs 77 crore) and Vaishali (Rs 47 crore).

Officials estimate that around Rs 200 crore have been given out as direct wages to the labour force.

"Our engineers and contractors consulted with District Magistrates and took lists of migrant workers who had returned. A lot of them have been engaged in the ongoing work. But many others could not be engaged because the sites were either far from their villages or they did not have the skills required," said a senior official of East Central Railway, which is one of the four agencies engaged in Bihar, apart from North Eastern Railway, IRCON and Dedicated Freight Corridor.

"They need the jobs. They approached us, and we decided to engage them in whatever way we could," said Saransh Agrawal, director of Jharkhand Nirman Ltd, which has employed about 20 migrant workers for a Road Over Bridge between Mohania and Sasaram for the corridor.

"Remember, this is the same party under whose rule (Mohammad) Shahabuddin had

## J&K parties join forces to seek restoration of special status

BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 15

A YEAR after the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two Union Territories, mainstream political parties here have formalised an alliance to seek "restoration" of the erstwhile state's special position before August 5, 2019.

The decision to formally name the alliance 'People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration' was taken on Thursday. On August 4 last year — a day before the special status was revoked — the signatories of Gupkar declaration had vowed to "defend identity, autonomy and special status" of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting on Thursday was held at the residence of National Conference president, MP and former CM Farooq Abdullah. Convened after the release of PDP chief and former CM Mehbooba Mufti, the meeting was attended by Farooq, Mufti, National Conference vice-president and former CM Omar Abdullah, People's Conference leader Sajad Lone, CPM leader M Y Tarigami and Awami National Conference's Muzaffar Shah, besides other mainstream leaders.

"We have now named this alliance... a formal name to this alliance would be People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration," National Conference president



CPM leader M Y Tarigami, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, NC leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, with leaders of other mainstream parties, in Srinagar on Thursday. Shuaib Masoodi

Farooq Abdullah said after the meeting.

"Our battle is a constitutional battle and we want the government of India to return to the people of the (erstwhile) state the rights they had before 5th of August 2019," he added.

The signatories of the Gupkar declaration also demanded a resolution to the Kashmir issue. "Also at the same time, we feel the political issue of the state has to be resolved as quickly as possible," Farooq said, flanked by Mufti and Omar. "And that can be resolved only through dialogue with all the stakeholders, who are involved in

the problem of J&K."

Sources said the leaders discussed the political situation of Jammu and Kashmir after the revocation of its special status and the challenges ahead of them. While the discussions happened in a "congenial atmosphere and every leader spoke his mind", some leaders were of the opinion that "everything should be in writing" about the discussions and the meetings, a source said.

According to sources, the leaders agreed to take the debate to the people and to regions such as Leh and Kargil. "We have decided to reach out to people in all regions

of Jammu and Kashmir and that's why it has been named People's Alliance. This should not be misconstrued just as an alliance of some political parties but an alliance of people for restoration of whatever has been snatched from us on August 5 last year," said a leader who attended the meeting.

In a brief interaction with the media, Farooq said they would initiate discussions with different sections of the society.

While Thursday's meeting was aimed at formalising the alliance, the biggest challenge for the political parties would be to reach a consensus on their joint strategy.



BJP president J P Nadda addresses a rally in Karakat, in Rohtas district on Thursday. ANI

## Only a person with 56-inch chest can serve the poor: Nadda

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

STATING THAT only a person with a 56-inch chest can serve the poor, BJP president J P Nadda on Thursday asked the people of Bihar to identify the "enemies of development", and listed out work done by the NDA government at the Centre for progress of the state.

Addressing an election rally in Karakat constituency in Bihar's Rohtas district, Nadda slammed the Opposition Grand Alliance and reminded people about the "jungle raji" under the RJD, which governed the state for 15 years.

"Remember, this is the same party under whose rule (Mohammad) Shahabuddin had

shot at today's DGP. No punishment was given to Shahabuddin until Lalu-ji (RJD chief Lalu Prasad) ruled. It was only after the Nitish Kumar government took over that Shahabuddin was sent to prison," Nadda said. "...If you want to see development, then it is necessary to identify such enemies of development."

Nadda spoke at length in his 30-minute speech about development initiatives of the Narendra Modi government: Central schemes such as PM Jan Dhan Yojana, Aayushman Bharat, among others, and pointed out that the Centre is providing free foodgrain of 5kg rice or wheat and 1kg pulses to nearly 80 crore people during the pandemic.

"It is very easy to give speeches and slogans in politics,

but only a person who has a 56-inch chest can serve the poor," Nadda said, referring to the Prime Minister.

He said: "Five years ago, Prime Minister Modi gave a package of Rs 1.25 lakh crore to Bihar. In addition, he gave Rs 40,000 crore more for the state's development.... Where there is the NDA, there is trust and development."

Later in the day, Nadda addressed another rally in Goh constituency — in Aurangabad district — and spoke about the law and order situation under RJD. "When Gopalganj's Dalit DM was killed, it happened under Lalu-raaj... We (NDA) have moved from loot order to law and order. I am reminding you of this because a son should be aware of what his father did," he said without naming either Lalu or son Tejashwi Yadav.

## Discussions on, it is something confidential between us and Chinese: Jaishankar

SHUBHAJITROY  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that India and China are engaged in talks to resolve the border stand-off and what is going on is "something confidential" between the two sides.

Asked about the outcome of the ongoing talks during an on-line conclave, Jaishankar gave a cryptic response that the "discussions are going on and it is a work in progress".

At the same time, he said there has been a troop build-up along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and in many ways it has no precedence in the recent past.

India and China are locked in a military standoff in eastern Ladakh for over five months.

"Discussions are on; what is going on is something confidential between us and the Chinese," he said, when asked about it at the Bloomberg India Economic Forum. "There is not very much that I am in a position to say in public. I certainly do not want to prejudice it," he added.

About the situation in Tibet as well as developments along the LAC, Jaishankar said, "I do not think we should get into other issues which frankly has nothing to do with the situation currently in Ladakh."

He said relations between India and China improved following signing of a series of agreements since 1993 on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border. "For the last 30 years, we have built a relationship predicated on peace and tranquillity along the border," he said.

Jaishankar said that if peace

### SHOPIAN ENCOUNTER KILLINGS

## Army to finish recording of statements in 10 days: top officer

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
AWANTIPORA, OCTOBER 15

THE ARMY will complete recording statements for its Court of Inquiry into the Shopian encounter killing of three labourers from Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district over the next 10 days, and initial inquiry had found that the Army's code of conduct was violated in this case, Major General Rashim Bali, General Officer Commander of Victor Force, which covers south Kashmir for counter-intelligence and counterterrorism operations, said on Thursday.

The three were killed on July 18. The Army had, on September 18, admitted that the three were missing labourers from Rajouri, as claimed by their families.

Speaking to a group of reporters on Thursday, Maj Gen Bali said, "As on today, statements of 70 per cent, or perhaps more, of all essential witnesses have already been recorded". He said the "only people left are those not here locally".

"I am very certain that within a week, or perhaps 10 days, this proceeding will also be over. The officer concerned has been put

in close arrest in a different unit," he said, and asserted that "whatever has to happen as per the right tenets of law will happen".

"Indian Army and the Army Chief are absolutely clear — any act of negligence, of omission and commission, will be addressed and will not be overlooked," Maj Gen Bali said.

He said that within 20 days of the "encounter", the Army had put out an advertisement asking anyone with information to come forward. "Within one week, the Court of Inquiry was constituted," and within 10 to 15 days it established "prima facie, that there is a case of violation of our code of conduct", the officer said.

Maj Gen Bali said he cannot comment about the nature of the crime, as it will be decided by the Court of Inquiry, but "we are clear that our code of conduct has been flouted".

He stated that as soon as the Court of Inquiry gives its recommendations, the summary of evidence recording starts, "which is a precursor to court martial proceedings". Investigation by J&K Police is also going on simultaneously for the criminology part, he added.

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

## Prasar Bharati decides to end subscription to PTI, UNI

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

NATIONAL PUBLIC broadcaster Prasar Bharati's board has decided to end subscriptions with news agencies Press Trust of India (PTI) and United News of India (UNI), sources said.

The decision was taken due to commercial considerations, and there were no "formal contracts" with these agencies since 2006, the sources added.

The move comes a few months after Prasar Bharati threatened to end its subscription soon after PTI interviewed the Chinese ambassador to India and the Chinese embassy published a truncated version of it on its website.

Top sources in Prasar Bharati told *The Indian Express* that the board approved the decision at its 163rd meeting on Thursday.

Soon after the meeting, Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati tweeted: "Thankful to the Prasar Bharati Board Members for several key decisions earlier today on new content development, resolving long pending commercial disputes, rationalising expenditure on news agencies and technology investments to better utilise satellite capacity."

A senior Prasar Bharati official said that Prasar Bharati's contracts with both PTI and UNI had ended in 2006, and since then they had not been renewed and the subscriptions were going on in an ad-hoc manner on pro-rata basis.

The official said that Prasar Bharati had been in contact with both agencies to discuss "fresh viable pricing" but nothing came of it.

Now, the official said, it has been decided that there will be a call for fresh proposals "for a digital subscription to English text and related multimedia services from all domestic news agencies" and that PTI and UNI can also participate.

Sources had mentioned that for its subscription of PTI for Doordarshan and All India Radio, Prasar Bharati has paid Rs 9.15 crore annually since 2013, but since 2017, it had been holding back about 25 per cent as it wanted to renegotiate the costs.

In June, Prasar Bharati wrote to PTI and called its "recent news coverage" detrimental to "national interest and undermining India's territorial integrity".

On July 7, the government had asked PTI to pay over Rs 84 crore for "breaches in the premises", or alleged violations to terms of lease for the office land.

## In India, air pollution and high blood pressure among top 5 risk factors for deaths in 2019: Study in Lancet

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS  
PUNE, OCTOBER 15

IN 2019, the top five risk factors for death in India were air pollution (contributing to an estimated 1.67 million deaths), high blood pressure (1.23 million), tobacco use (1.23 million), poor diet (1.18 million), and high blood sugar (1.12 million).

Latest disease estimates are part of the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, to be pub-

lished in *The Lancet* on Friday. Researchers have analysed 286 causes of death, 369 diseases and injuries, and 87 risk factors in 204 countries and the latest estimates indicate how vulnerable countries were to the Covid-19.

Interaction of Covid-19 with continued global rise in chronic illness and related risk factors, including obesity, high blood sugar, and outdoor air pollution over the past 30 years has created a perfect storm, fuelling Covid deaths, said researchers in *The Lancet*.

The leading non-communicable

cause of death in India in 2019 was ischemic heart disease with 1.52 million deaths, followed by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (8,98,000), stroke (6,99,000), diabetes (2,73,000) and cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases (2,70,000). The leading risk factor for total health loss in India in 2019 was child and maternal malnutrition while the second leading risk factor was air pollution.

According to the report, 58 per cent of the total disease burden is due to non-communicable diseases (NCD) — up from 29 per cent

in 1990 — while premature deaths due to NCDs have more than doubled from 22 to 50 per cent.

India has gained more than a decade of life expectancy since 1990, rising from 59.6 years to 70.8 years in 2019 — ranging from 77.3 years in Kerala to 66.9 years in UP. The increase in healthy life expectancy in India (60.5 years in 2019), however, has not been as dramatic as growth of life expectancy, so people are living more years with illness and disability.

Since 1990, India has made substantial gains in health, but

child and maternal malnutrition is still the top risk factor for illness and death in India, contributing to more than 20 per cent of the total disease burden in several states in northern India (Bihar and UP).

Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh have seen the proportion of total health loss (DALYs) caused by the rise of NCDs by more than 150 per cent since 1990. NCDs now contribute to more than half of all DALYs in the region that was dominated by infectious, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases 30 years ago.

## MEA: India to soon deliver Myanmar's first submarine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

INDIA WILL soon deliver a kilo-class submarine to the Myanmar Navy, the Ministry of External Affairs said Thursday. This will be the neighbouring country's first submarine.

The step is in line with India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative and its commitment to building capacities in the neighbourhood, the ministry said.

Addressing a press confer-

ence here, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said cooperation in the maritime domain is a part of India's diverse and enhanced engagement with Myanmar.

"In this context, India will be delivering a kilo-class submarine, *INS Sindhuvir*, to the Myanmar Navy. We understand that this will be the first submarine of the Myanmar Navy. This is in accordance with our vision of SAGAR, and also in line with our commitment to build capacities and self reliance in all our neighbouring countries," he said.

SC sets aside HC's interim bail on medical grounds to UP ex-minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE SUPREME COURT Thursday set aside Allahabad High Court's order which granted interim bail for two months on medical grounds to former Uttar Pradesh minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati, who is an accused in a gangrape case.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan allowed the appeal filed by the UP government and said the September 3 order of high court is "unsustainable". Prajapati, who was a minister in the erstwhile Samajwadi Party government, is accused of raping, along with others, a woman and attempting to molest her minor daughter.

"There was no satisfaction recorded by the high court that treatment offered to respondent (Prajapati) was not adequate and he requires any further treatment by any particular medical institute for which it is necessary to release the respondent on interim bail on medical grounds," the bench noted. "The high court, without considering the entire materials on record, has passed the impugned order dated September 3, 2020 which is unsustainable. In result, we allow this appeal, set aside the order dated September 3," the bench said.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

SC: Woman has right of residence in 'shared household' of in-laws

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

"THE PROGRESS of any society depends on its ability to protect and promote the rights of its women," the Supreme Court said on Thursday while ruling that a woman is entitled to claim right to residence in a "shared household" where she has been living with her husband even if the said premises belongs to his relatives. A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah overruled a 2006 judgment of the court and said "In event, the shared household belongs to any relative of the husband with whom in a domestic relationship the woman has lived, the conditions mentioned in Section 2(s) of The Protection of Women From Domestic Violence Act, 2005 are satisfied and the said house will become a shared household".

The ruling came on a plea by a Delhi resident against an order of the Delhi High Court setting aside a trial court decision allowing his plea to evict his daughter-in-law from the first floor of his

**EXPLAINED**  
Eviction 'depends on facts of case'

THE SC Thursday said a suit for eviction of the woman from household would be maintainable before a competent court, but this would depend on the facts of each case. One most common example for eviction and exclusion may be when the aggrieved person is provided same level of alternate accommodation or payment of rent... It depends on facts of each case...." the judgment said.

property in New Friends Colony.

After the marriage between the woman and the appellant's son turned sour in 2004, the man moved to the ground floor. Subsequently, he filed a divorce suit and she filed a case under the Domestic Violence Act against the husband and his parents. Ruling in favour of the

woman, the SC dwelt on the rights of women and the circumstances leading to the passing of the 2005 Act, which it said "is a milestone for protection of women in this country".

"The right of occupation of matrimonial home, which was not so far part of the statutory law in India, came to be included in Act, 2005," it said and pointed out that such a right exists in the UK.

In its 2006 judgment in SR Batra Vs Taruna Batra, a two-judge bench of the court had disallowed the woman involved from claiming any right to live in the said house since it belonged to the mother-in-law of the respondent and not her husband.

Thursday's judgment, however, said this is not the correct law. "We are of the view that this court in SR Batra Vs. Taruna Batra although noticed the definition of shared household as given in Section 2(s) but did not advert to different parts of the definition which makes it clear that for a shared household there is no such requirement that the house may be owned singly or jointly by the husband or taken on rent by the husband..." the court said.

PM takes stock of Covid vaccine distribution plans

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Thursday chaired a meeting on issues relating to the Covid-19 vaccine research and deployment ecosystem, taking stock of the Health Ministry's plans for distribution and delivery. He also called for scaling up of sero-surveys and testing in the states.

During the meeting, procurement issues, technologies for bulk-stockpiling, and vials for distribution were discussed, a government statement said.

"The Prime Minister stated that regulatory reform was a dynamic process, and experts in every current and emerging domain should be used by the regulator proactively, as many new approaches have emerged," the statement said.

The meeting comes after the government's statement that if a vaccine gets regulatory clearance, the country is likely to receive 400-500 million doses, and as many as 25 crore individuals could be vaccinated by July 2021.

"The Prime Minister appreciated the efforts made by Indian vaccine developers and manufacturers to rise to the Covid-19 challenge, and committed to continue government facilitation



PM Narendra Modi

and support for all such efforts," the government statement said.

Thursday's meeting was attended by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan; Dr V K Paul, member (health), NITI Aayog and chairman of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration; Principal Scientific Advisor Prof K Vijay Raghavan; and other senior officials and scientists.

Last week, Harsh Vardhan had said that states have been asked to prepare a list by October-end identifying the priority population for the vaccine. He had also indicated that prioritisation of groups for the potential coronavirus infection will be based on two key considerations: occupational hazard and risk of exposure to infection, and the risk of developing severe disease and increased mortality.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

227 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN  
CASES: 73,07,097  
RECOVERED: 63,83,441  
DEATHS: 1,11,266  
TESTS: 9,12,26,305 | DOUBLING RATE: 75.21\*\*



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING TIME**
Maharashtra	15,54,389	10,552	0.70%	103.11
Karnataka	7,35,371	9,265	1.37%	52.63
Andhra	7,67,465	3,892	0.63%	114.18
Tamil Nadu	6,70,392	4,462	0.76%	94.93
Kerala	3,10,140	6,244	2.93%	24.59

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

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.54 NOW: 1.52	7 DAYS EARLIER: 8.19 NOW: 8.01	DETECTED TODAY: 67,708 RECOVERED TODAY: 81,514

Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths  
Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease  
Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak  
Data as on October 14, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive.

Appoint full-time official in Raj Bhawan: Chhattisgarh Governor writes to CM Baghel

GARGI VERMA  
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 15

CHHATTISGARH GOVERNOR Anusuiya Uikey has written to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel requesting that a "full-time official" be posted in Raj Bhawan.

The state government earlier this month made the Secretary to Governor, Sonmoni Borah, the Secretary of Parliamentary Affairs with additional charges. Uikey, in her letter on Wednesday, reiterated the governor is the constitutional head of the state and that such changes should be made after taking her into confidence.

The CM's office did not comment on the matter. In her letter, the governor wrote, "The officers who have been posted to the governor's office have been given additional charges. The post of governor's secretary is a cadre in its own, as through the governor the entire state is managed." She added, "By the officials being on additional charges, the quality and the order might be affected. Hence, if a change is needed, an official panel should be sent as per the governor's choice."

The letter pointed out that in the past, the governor and her office have always been taken into confidence when-



Anusuiya Uikey

ever a need to change officials has arisen. "Respecting the position of the Governor, it would be better to appoint full time officials in the Raj Bhawan Secretariat, after taking my assent," the letter read.

Sources said that Uikey's letter could be a new point of tussle with the government. Early this year, the Congress government had taken issue with the governor's decision on appointment of the vice-chancellor of a journalism university. Following that, the government had sought to amend rules to give the power of appointing V-Cs to the state government. The amendment is still pending with Uikey.

The governor has also been vocal against the government over several law and order issues, including the recent attack on a Kanker-based journalist.

Jogi's kin seek EC protection over possible rejection of nomination

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 15

AHEAD OF the crucial bypoll to the Marwahi Assembly seat in Chhattisgarh left vacant by the death of former chief minister Ajit Jogi, Richa and Amit Jogi — the daughter-in-law and son of the late leader — have written to the Election Commission through their lawyers seeking protection against a possible rejection of their nomination papers, which the couple suspects may be cancelled on the basis of changes to the Chhattisgarh Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes (Regulation of Social Certification) Rules, 2013, which the duo has challenged in the Supreme Court.

Marwahi is a reserved ST constituency and the couple's caste certificates are in jeopardy — a high-powered committee had cancelled the certificate to Ajit Jogi in 2019 saying that he was not a member of the ST community.

The couple will Friday decide who among them will file the nomination for the seat.

BJP picks wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt for Baroda bypoll in Haryana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 15

AFTER MUCH speculation, the BJP on Thursday named Olympian Yogeshwar Dutt as its candidate for upcoming high-stake Baroda Assembly bypoll scheduled for November 3. The last date for filing nominations is October 16.

The wrestler, who contested his maiden political battle in the 2019 Assembly polls against three-time Congress MLA Sri Krishan Hooda from Baroda, had lost by a thin margin of over 5,000 votes.

Dutt, accompanied by various other senior sportspersons from Haryana reached New Delhi Thursday morning and met CM Manohar Lal Khattar.

Earlier in the day, at least eight candidates including Kurukshetra's former MP and Loktantra Suraksha Party's Rajkumar Saini filed their nomination papers for Baroda bypoll. The nominations can be filed till 3 pm on Friday, while the candidates can withdraw their nominations by October 19.

## World Food Day

Indian farmers are multi-skilled and our small farms multifunctional.  
India ranks second largest in total agricultural production.  
From net importer of foods in 1960s, India is now a net exporter.  
Indian agri input industry is committed to accelerate Indian agriculture to new heights.

**Rajju Shroff**  
Chairman, Crop Care Federation of India  
Email: ccfpolicymatters@gmail.com

### India - Population growth vs Agri. production growth

Category	Unit	2000	2019	Growth Rate from 2000 to 2019
Population	bn people	1.06	1.37	29%
Food grains	mn MT	197	297	51%
Vegetables	mn MT	94	192	104%
Fish	mn MT	6	13	117%
Fruits	mn MT	43	99	130%
Milk	mn MT	81	188	132%
Eggs	bn No's	37	103	178%
Poultry	mn MT	0.4	4	900%

Source: 1. World Bank 2. IndiaStat 3. Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics -2019 (Accessed on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020)

- India's agricultural production has comprehensively outpaced India's population growth.
- Sources of dietary energy remain **Vegetarian-Lacto-Ovo**. Primarily plant and milk based but includes eggs. Meat and fish still form a minor share — unlike other countries.
- Milk (188 mn MT) is the single largest food consumed by Indians- in terms of volume and value.
- There is enough **in-country capability** to ensure **national food security**.
- Indian agriculture now experiences "**problem of plenty**" (except edible oils).

**Next phase of economic growth in Indian agri. sector would require aligned actions to accelerate exports.**

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- Reporting on Politics and Government
- Sports Journalism
- Investigative Reporting

**Print/Digital**

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## The Indian EXPRESS

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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# A broader imagination

Dalit politics is caught between balancing concerns of political power and altering its social dynamics



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

## CHILDREN IN DISTRESS

With pandemic sharpening inequalities, more are being forced into child labour, being trafficked. Government must act

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC has sharpened the edge of all inequalities. No one has felt the weight of its blow more than India's children, the majority of whom have been pushed out of digital-only classrooms. The most fragile of them are at the risk of falling through the cracks. An investigation by this newspaper has tracked this unfolding tragedy — with schools shut and families in dire economic straits, children are being yanked out of the safety of homes, and being forced into child labour, early marriages, or being trafficked to sweatshops and brothels. The national helpline for children in distress, Childline, saw 1.92 lakh interventions between March and August, and 27 lakh distress calls — even during a period when large parts of the country were locked down. Over 10,000 cases of child marriage were recorded between April and August, with the perceived economic liability of girls leaving them more defenceless. The children are likely to be at greater peril, not less, in the coming months. As the economy unlocks, labour contractors will be stalking desperately impoverished villages for cheap labour.

In the face of such an enormous challenge, the state remains slow-footed. Despite advisories from the Ministry of Home Affairs to create a network of anti-human trafficking units to tackle the lockdown surge, several states — including Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Mizoram and Nagaland — have not set up even one. In the void left by the state, child rights organisations, teachers and communities have stepped in. In West Bengal's South 24 Parganas, for example, a headmaster has put together an informal network of girl students who warn him about children being married off. Not every warning leads to a rescue. For every child saved, activists say, many more fall prey to trafficking cartels. Before the pandemic struck, equality in the classroom or the anganwadi was a work in progress. Social institutions remain harshest towards the poor, the lower-caste child and the first-generation learner — even if there is slow, incremental progress in many of these areas, from literacy to malnutrition to the education of the girl child. The pandemic's shock has only deepened each of those fault lines. The state's already questionable capacity for delivering public goods has been enfeebled, leaving vast sections of the Indian population, from workers left stranded in cities to small businesses keeling over as the economy contracts, at the mercy of chance.

Each child lost to this cycle of distress adds up to an inter-generational deficit of learning, opportunity and well-being that will set back communities by decades. It is a battle on many fronts, but not one which this country can afford to lose. State governments must press the alarm button, and activate the bureaucracy at district, block and village levels to monitor dropout rates, ensure relief to families and involve the police and civil society to stop this silent exodus of children.

## BEST WAY OUT

Like Bangladesh, India should focus on world market, shun protectionism, seek greater integration with global supply chains

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund's (IMF) latest World Economic Outlook underlines the extent of the dislocation in economic activities across the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the aggregate level, the Fund expects the global economy to contract by 4.4 per cent in 2020, with sharp differences across countries. For the Indian economy, the Fund's prognosis is grim. The IMF now expects the Indian economy to contract by 10.3 per cent this fiscal year, worse than its earlier forecast, and that of the RBI's. Of the major economies, only two others, Italy and Spain, are expected to contract in double digits.

The Fund's latest assessment comes at a time when the signals from the BJP-ruled Centre suggest a reversal of decades of trade liberalisation and a return to the failed policies of self-sufficiency or *atmanirbharta*. A comparison with Bangladesh in this regard is instructive. According to the IMF's medium-term forecasts, Bangladesh's per capita GDP is expected to overtake India's this year, though as the Indian economy rebounds next year, the situation is likely to reverse. However, over the five-year period ending in 2025, Bangladesh's per capita GDP is expected to grow at a slightly higher pace, implying that in 2025, its per capita income would be \$2,756, marginally higher than that of India's at \$2,729. In part, Bangladesh's recent economic performance, and differences between the two countries can be traced to the former's stellar export performance, especially in garments and apparel. In comparison, India's exports have remained sluggish, as export pessimism has taken hold. In the current context, with three of the four drivers of growth struggling, exports could provide the much-needed fillip to India's economy. However, this would require India to reverse its recent stance on trade — lower rather than raise tariffs, embrace free trade agreements, and seek greater integration with global supply chains.

In an article in this paper, the former chief economic advisor, Arvind Subramanian, wrote that with wages in China rising, it has vacated about \$140 billion in exports of unskilled labour intensive sectors, including apparel, clothing, leather and footwear. While countries like Bangladesh are better placed to take advantage of this opportunity, post-COVID, as companies try to hedge their supply chain risks, and shifts away from China intensify, this will provide India yet another opportunity. However, this will require the government to pivot away from protectionism.

## DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Akkitham was a poet who foresaw the end of grand narratives, wrote with a humanist vision

NEARLY SIX DECADES ago Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri, the Malayalam poet who passed away aged 94 on Thursday, wrote the long poem *The World in Ruins* ("Idinjil Polinjil Lokam"). A decade earlier, in 1952, he had published his path-breaking work, *The Epic of Twentieth Century* ("Irupatham Nootandinte Ithihasham"), a poem that predicted an impending gloom and darkness. These two works sum up the dark political vision that prevailed as a subterranean strand in Akkitham's poetry. For a poet who published his first collection in the 1940s, during the World War years, and associated with the major mobilisations of his youth — the Namboothiri reform movement, the Freedom Struggle and the Communist Party — only to feel disillusioned with the decline of their ideals, this darkness was inescapable.

Akkitham was one of the early voices of modernism in Malayalam poetry, who eschewed the language of the then dominant romantic tradition for a taut poetic idiom. He started writing during the high tide of Namboothiri social reform and its rebellious spirit exemplified by writer-activist V T Bhattathirippad, as well as the understated radicalism of Gandhian poet, Edasseri Govindan Nair, influenced his work. The other strand, often acting as a countervailing force to Akkitham's engagement with modernity was the Sanskrit tradition of the Vedas and epics. He sought to reconcile these influences and arrived at a deep humanist vision. His estrangement with communism, in the wake of the Ranadive thesis (1948-51), had to do with the rejection of violence as an instrument for social transformation.

In his later years, Akkitham sought to overcome his dejection with the grand narratives of modernism by seeking refuge in Indic scriptural and literary traditions. His last major work was a Malayalam translation of the Bhagavata from its Sanskrit original.

WHAT HAPPENED AT Hathras is significant for two reasons. First, and most tragically, the Hathras event failed to stir the nation's conscience and instead, wrapped in blind party loyalty, it got reduced to laughable charges of international conspiracy to tarnish the state's image. Second, while various parties and leaders promptly protested, all such protests dissolved in the routine politics of tokenism. Thus, Hathras failed to produce a sustained movement combining questions of caste, gender and state repression. Yet, developments in UP haven't caused nationwide Dalit protests nor do they seem to be leading to a new churning in Dalit politics.

Just as Hathras is symptomatic of our sick and debased mentality as a society, it is equally symptomatic of the disappearance of Dalit politics. And the two are not entirely unrelated. Ambedkar's insistence on "politics" and his concern with power remain instructive because experience has shown that social change becomes an untenable proposition in the absence of a constant engagement with politics. The critical question is how to conduct that politics and to what end. The politics Ambedkar was probably talking about was not about the number of ministerial positions or budget allocations, but fundamentally about how norms and rights are understood.

But even then, this question of power becomes relevant — and even urgent — at the relatively contingent level of the role of Dalit politics in formal party competition. This is something that parties and politicians claiming to represent Dalits need to engage with and yet have only limited control over. The presence of caste-specific loyalties and the dynamics of state-level politics have often meant that there is no all-India Dalit politics. The BSP began with the ambition of becoming the leading force in shaping national-level politics but got subsumed in UP politics. Even at the state level, in the entire belt from West Bengal to Punjab, where the SC population is substantially higher than its all-India average, Dalit politics is almost non-existent. In UP, where it made headway once, it has abdicated that position. So much so that in the Hathras developments, the BSP seems to be present only through tame statements.

In the context of competitive politics, besides the structurally-enhanced inability of an all-India Dalit politics, it has always faced the complex task of entering into alliances. Again, except for a short period in UP, Dalit parties or their mascots have not been able to dent the castles of formal power on their own even at the state level. This forces Dalit parties to en-

The political trajectory of someone like late Ram Vilas Paswan is also instructive on all these counts. He could survive by switching allegiances and even then, could not accumulate a non-Dalit following beyond a limit, chose to form a separate political vehicle, yet was not able to carry all the Dalits of Bihar with him or to step out of Bihar. Once he chose to quit the Janata Dal, his alliances were necessary for political survival and yet insufficient for him to shape Dalit politics as such.



YOGINDER K ALAGH

GUJARAT HAS A substantial SC/ST community. Ram Vilas Paswan knew this and worked on it. During his tenure in the United Front Government under Deve Gowda and the late Inder Kumar Gujral, a significant development for Ahmedabad and Gujarat was the commissioning of a broad-gauge railway line from Ahmedabad to Delhi — there was a metre gauge line on the route. It was a historic occasion. According to the Railways traditions, I was to flag the inauguration. Paswan knew the political importance of the event. He called up and said he wanted us to travel together.

At Ahmedabad airport he had arranged a cohort of supporters. They shouted slogans eulogising him and me. I had seen such occasions earlier. A group of smart ABVP boys had come to the CEPT campus on one occasion and wouldn't let me speak. You can only be quietly led at such times. But on this occasion, I led.

Much later, when I was no longer a minister, Paswan called me when I was chairing a committee to develop a Recruitment and Life Time Training System for the higher civil services. I said I would come down to see him. He said no, this is important to me, Alagh Saheb,



## OCTOBER 16, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

### FOREIGNERS' ISSUE

ASSAM AGITATION LEADERS are reported to have told the Union home minister Zail Singh that they have no quarrel with "legal foreigners" in Assam and do not want them disturbed. According to a source, the seven-man team of the AASU and the AAGSP, however, told Zail Singh that the government would have to detect all illegal foreigners and deport them. The source said that the agitation leaders explained that all the refugees and displaced persons who had entered the state and had been registered with the government constituted "legal foreigners" and those who had come on passports, visas or had come to visit relatives

and stayed on were "illegal foreigners".

MARUTI TAKE OVER  
The take-over of Maruti will ensure production of better passenger cars. The new public sector company which will manage the Maruti complex on the Palam-Gurgaon road can form the nucleus of a factory that can not only make cars but other automobiles as well. That's why ordinance spoke of modernisation of the automobile industry "to effect a more economical utilisation of scarce fuel". Of the three existing units making cars, one has virtually stopped production while another remained closed for long due to an industrial relation problem.

The *Discovery of India* describes our country as a palimpsest. It lives and operates at dif-

ferent levels and layers. Are you a part of the elite, when you crash through invisible barriers through sheer merit? I used to see and experience that in JNU. It would make you sick in the stomach to see thinly-veiled prejudice parading as "efficiency". There are women and men, who not only break the barrier, but with experience are not conscious of it and are not looking over their shoulder. They are truly the future. Paswan was one of those leaders divining the future as he went along effortlessly. But if he was asked about the future, Paswan would, I guess, pity the questioner in a "normal" kind of way. He was much too busy building the future in a business-like way. Not that the present was not important to him.

He would arrange for a good meal for anybody who came from Hajipur. I didn't know what they served. Probably channa bhaturas, something even more sumptuous since Madam Paswan is an excellent hostess. I, of course, would want litti and sattu, my favourites when I go to Patna. But Paswan had his feet on the ground and head in the stars. This was the leader we lost.

identating the ability to take up issues of social justice effectively.

This entrapment takes us back to the question of power in the deeper sense that was implicit in Ambedkar's thinking. Beyond the two traps of state-level politics and coalition politics, Dalit politics faces this third and more serious entrapment. It pertains to balancing the immediate concerns of formal political power and aiming at altering the social dynamics of power. This is not unrelated to an effective presence in the realm of formal politics. Dalit representation in the context of a liberal democratic system of representation depends on interventions and mobilisations in the broader politics of ideas, social organisation and above all, social justice. It connects with the nature of Dalit mobilisation and the search for an autonomous political vehicle.

In this context, findings from Amit Ahuja's study both become intriguing and relevant. In his recent work, "Mobilizing the Marginalized: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements" (2019), Ahuja draws attention to a complex pattern. Bloc voting happens where the history of social mobilisation is lacking; but when Dalit votes get dispersed across parties, Dalits tend to gain more. Going beyond Ahuja, two issues stare in the face of Dalit politics. One is that despite a certain extent of bloc voting, intra-Dalit castes do not come together very easily and as such, the spectre of caste constrains the potential of Dalit politics even when it relies on Dalit mobilisation. Second, the possibility of political gains notwithstanding, even in states with a history of social mobilisation, the recurrence of atrocities functions as a key constraint on a genuine collaboration of Dalit and non-Dalit political actors.

Thus, in sharp contrast to limited imagination displayed by prevailing established Dalit leadership, the tough predicament before Dalit politics is that when it comes to atrocities and ostracisation, caste is a very firm and continuing basis but the remedy does not necessarily lie in politics on caste basis alone. If younger leaders like Mevani or Azad really wish to transcend the constraints that have hurt the politics of Mayawati et al, they would need to think beyond one or two states, beyond seat sharing, beyond self-aggrandisement, but above all, in creatively following Ambedkar, they would need to search for politics that combines the three issues of Dalit situation, social justice and democracy more generally.

The writer, based at Pune, taught political science and is currently chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics

## FEET ON GROUND, HEAD IN STARS

Ram Vilas Paswan worked towards the future in a business-like way

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The *Discovery of India* describes our country as a palimpsest. It lives and operates at dif-

The writer is a former Union minister

### NEW ANDHRA CABINET

AN 18-MEMBER CABINET will be sworn in at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad on October 16. There will be no deputy chief minister. The composition of the cabinet was finalised by Chief Minister T Anjiah in consultation with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

### ECONOMICS NOBEL

LAWRENCE R KLEIN of the University of Pennsylvania won the 1980 Nobel Prize in economics for creating computer-based models to show how events such as skyrocketing oil prices affect world economic trends. Klein was under fire years ago for communist links in the Uni- ted States.

# World of exam warriors

In this world, there is no poetic wonder, no criticality of social science, and no enquiring spirit of science. High cut-offs in admissions are no reflection of standards, but a case of rote learning and hyper-competitiveness



AVIJIT PATHAK

AS THE DELHI University announced the cut-off lists for college admission, we began to realise the absurdity of the entire process. No, if for "branded" colleges, 100 per cent is the cut-off for disciplines like Economics and Psychology, there is no reason to believe that it demonstrates the high quality of our school education. Instead, it shows the vicious cycle of rote learning and inflated marks, it indicates the poverty of pedagogic imagination and shows a highly mechanised process of entering the realm of higher education. In other words, it indicates the damage the system does to young minds.

Ours is a society that worships "success" and adores the "toppers". And this is precisely why it ought to realise that there is no necessary correlation between one's intellectual ability or academic excellence and one's performance in board examinations. It is quite possible, as any keen observer of the prevalent system of education would accept, to score 100 per cent in English without having any curiosity to enter the fascinating world of poetry, short stories and novels. Or, for that matter, the "topper" in Physics need not necessarily have a scientific temper or the keen urge to understand the laws of nature. The experience of wonder, the joy of learning and unlearning, or the spirit of enquiry — nothing matters as the prevalent system believes in the fetish of quantification. And, ironically, this craze for "marks" transforms a learner into a smart consumer; the only skill she/he is required to master is the ability to consume knowledge capsules ("facts", information, theorems) abstracted from textbooks, and memorise associated bullet points as emphasised by exam-oriented teachers and coaching centre gurus. With a series of mock tests, endless drilling and chronic obsession with ranking (schools sell the "toppers" as perfect "products" for enhancing their market value), a young learner is eventually reduced into a parrot — repeating what is filled in her mind, say, two pieces of information about Raja Ram Mohan Roy, six facts about Gandhi, or a physics theorem to solve a numerical.

In a world of this kind, there is no poetic wonder, no criticality of social science, and no enquiring spirit of science. One is only an exam warrior. Moreover, as the "fact-centric"/"objective"/short questions become the new normal, and the power of memorisation is the key to success, it becomes exceedingly difficult not to get at least 80 per cent in the board examination. And those who get even 95 per cent tend to suffer from depression. This is nothing but violence — the pathology of "success" causing the stigma of "failure".

At this juncture, it is also important to realise that many of these young students hardly find any guidance as they choose their subjects and enter colleges. There are two reasons for this. First, as academic disciplines are hierarchised through the pragmatism of market rationality, young students — often pressured by the anxiety-ridden parents, and driven by the

peer culture — tend to prefer "prestigious" subjects like Physics, Economics, Commerce, English literature and Psychology, even if they are not intrinsically inclined to these subjects. And second, in the age of "ranking" colleges and universities are hierarchised. Hence, to take an illustration, St Stephen's or Lady Shri Ram College is often consumed as a fancy "brand". It is not impossible to find students who, because of the "brand consciousness", prefer the "prestigious" college rather than the subject of their liking. The subject — Sanskrit or Education — doesn't matter; Miranda House, or Hindu College at any cost! This mass psychology of consumption further complicates the politics of the cut-off point. Not solely that. It destroys human possibilities. One who could have contributed immensely to the study of Hindi literature ends up pursuing Economics or, for that matter, one who carries the burden of St Stephen's Economics might have found real satisfaction in pursuing History in a not so "reputed" institution like Deshbandhu College. Yes, the craving for "status" triumphs — education suffers. In fact, the system functions like a soulless machine. It is more interested in eliminating people (you don't have 99 per cent in the board exam and hence, you cannot do Sociology at LSR). It is not for finding or arousing one's real aptitude and inclination. What an irony! Just one examination and we decide one's fate.

At this juncture, it is also important to realise that many of these young students hardly find any guidance as they choose their subjects and enter colleges. There are two reasons for this. First, as academic disciplines are hierarchised through the pragmatism of market rationality, young students — often pressured by the anxiety-ridden parents, and driven by the peer culture — tend to prefer "prestigious" subjects like Physics, Economics, Commerce, English literature and Psychology, even if they are not intrinsically inclined to these subjects.

Imagine the intensity of mental agony these youngsters pass through. As social Darwinism is normalised and hyper-competitiveness becomes the philosophy of the age, schools become highly-oppressive institutions. Tight bodies, heavily-loaded school bags, weekly tests, never-ending home assignments, constant performance anxiety, parental pressure and the urge to be a "topper": The world they inhabit has no rainbow, no sunset, no music; it only breeds psychic anxiety and some sort of sadomasochism. Even though the likes of Rabindranath Tagore and Jiddu Krishnamurti felt the pain of this neurosis, the system remains as it is. And no matter how much we value these "toppers", or feel proud of these "top-ranking" colleges, the society we are creating is bound to be toxic and violent. Yes, depression, loneliness and schizophrenia are bound to characterise the restless generation. In the coming years, newspapers, it seems, would start writing editorials about students' suicides.

Is there a way out? An answer to this question is possible only if we acquire the courage to accept that one's curiosity, aptitude and awakened intelligence cannot be measured through a pattern of examination that compels one to be a robotic performer rather than a creative wanderer.

The writer is professor of Sociology at JNU



C R Sasikumar

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Overall, the economy is on the mend as reflected in the published data for the first quarter of the ongoing fiscal year. But is there any room for complacency? The answer to the question is in the negative. — DAWN

# Nudge towards formalisation

Registering MSMEs could help them access formal credit channels. But the costs of formalisation and compliance are high and onerous



RADHIKA PANDEY AND AMRITA PILLAI

A NEW process of classification and registration for small businesses took off on July 1. The enterprise or the "Udyam" as it is termed under the new Udyam registration process will register itself online based on self-declaration. As of October 1, the MSME ministry has confirmed that over 7 lakh registrations have taken place using the new system. While the number of registrations could rise in the coming months, at present this accounts for 1.1 per cent of the total estimated 6.3 crore MSMEs that exist as per the National Sample Survey 73rd Round (2015-2016).

The endeavour to digitally register MSMEs is not new. In 2015, the government notified the Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM), an online filing system for MSMEs. The registration process was free, paperless and awarded instant registration. It was based on the self-declaration and self-certification of basic information regarding the enterprise's existence and functioning. As of January, 86 lakh MSMEs had registered on the UAM portal — 13.5 per cent of the MSME universe. In 2016, the government notified rules under which MSMEs had to furnish information relating to their enterprises, online, in an MSME databank. As of January, only 1.6 lakh units registered on it.

Reliable and updated information regarding small businesses in India is absent. A dedicated census for this salient sector was last conducted 13 years ago in 2006-2007. Basic information regarding MSME units is scattered across various databases such as the UAM, MSME Databank, and GSTN. The first two datasets contain self-certified, voluntary information provided by a fraction of MSMEs whereas the GSTN has a statutory requirement that only businesses with a turnover of more than Rs 40 lakh need be registered on it.

Comparing the requirements of the UAM and Udyam registration, it is clear that the importance of generating a verified database of MSME units has been acknowledged. Under the Udyam registration process, Aadhaar is made mandatory for proprietors whereas companies/LLPs must provide their GSTIN and PAN along with the Aadhaar number. Moreover, every enterprise can have only one Udyam Registration Number, irrespective of the number of manufacturing and service activities provided. The self-declared information regarding investment and turnover is verified using the integration of the Udyam system with the Income Tax department database and the GSTN. For classification and information updation purposes, therefore, the registering entity's ITR, GST returns and PAN will serve as reliable information.

Entities that have previously registered (as of June 30) on other portals/systems will continue to be valid until March 31, 2021. By this cut-off date, however, it is expected that

they will re-register themselves under the Udyam registration process. In an attempt to nudge more enterprises to become lifetime Udyam, the government has integrated the system with the Trade Receivables Electronic Discounting System (TReDS) and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Such linkages significantly benefit MSMEs by offering a free and automatic route to onboard bill discounting mechanisms and the government's online procurement system.

In its updated Priority Sector Lending (PSL) guidelines, the RBI has established that for the purposes of PSL, MSMEs will be identified as per the gazette notification laying down the new process of classification and registration. It has also clarified that all lenders may now obtain the Udyam Registration Certificate from entrepreneurs. It is clear that going forward financial institutions can make the Udyam registration a prerequisite for lending purposes.

It is important to understand how this will bode for a vastly informal MSME sector. These unincorporated small business units comprise self-employed/owner-managed firms with characteristic features of household enterprises and those that operate with less than five workers. Most of these firms are not formally registered anywhere for various reasons. They are so small that they bypass minimum thresholds that require them to pay income tax or be registered under the GST. Being invisible benefits these firms since it enables them to stay out of a rather complex and expensive regulatory apparatus. The costs of formalisation and compliance are high and onerous in many states in India. In such an ecosystem, there are perverse incentives to remaining small and informal.

From April 1, 2021, it seems that the Udyam registration may be the only valid proof for an entity to be recognised as an MSME as per the revised definition. While the Udyam initiative holds more promise in terms of capturing reliable and verified information about MSMEs, it is important to assess if this will be detrimental to some of them in terms of accessing formal finance. The slightest chance of the Udyam registration turning into an entry barrier must be rectified before April 2021. To this end, the government and RBI should consider whether the registration requirement can be exempted for units with investment and turnover that falls in the lower end of the criteria that presently defines micro-enterprises, for the purpose of accessing formal credit.

In 2018, the International Finance Corporation estimated that the overall supply of finance from formal sources met only one-third of the credit demand of the MSME sector. These businesses prefer relying on informal sources for financing due to their inability to meet documentation protocols, inadequate collateral, disorganised book-keeping, among others. Enabling strategies such as PSL could provide a fillip to priority sectors including MSMEs which require increased formal financing. It is imperative that such institutional lending initiatives continue to remain accessible for all businesses, formal and informal, and deliver on the promise of financing for inclusive development.

Pandey and Pillai are fellow and research fellow, respectively, at NIPFP. Views are personal



RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE

# A case of sour grapes

To disparage India's parliamentary democracy, some are imagining its decline

OVER THE past few years, it has become a fad within a cocooned elite ecosystem to predict or claim that India and its institutions are declining. People within this ecosystem have become so obsessed with wanting to see India decline that, now, they see it happening irrespective of the facts on the ground. If facts don't suit their perceptions, they can always manufacture narratives to suit their pre-conceived notions and torture isolated bits of information to say what they want.

If election results are not to their liking, then the whole election process is questioned. If court judgments are not to their liking, then they cast aspersions on the judiciary. Similarly, to disparage India's parliamentary democracy, this ecosystem has suddenly begun to see an imaginary decline.

Ironically enough, there was an attempt made to gauge the health of an institution by actually focusing on an individual. On even days, they analyse the health of Parliament by how many times one individual — Narendra Modi — spoke in it, like a column recently sought to do. On odd days, these people disparage the genuine affection of the Indian people towards Prime Minister Modi as the supposed elevation of an individual above institutions.

PM Modi leads a talented team. He leads from the front but emphasises teamwork. He is the prime minister in a government that has able ministers in Parliament, who, along with the PM, answer all questions — even wild and unfounded allegations — with dignity. If Modi had spoken more than his predecessors or his team in Parliament, the same ecosystem would have said that democracy is in danger because Modi monopolises Parliament's time!

There is a tendentious attempt to say Parliament has ceased to be a place of debate in the last six years. But the facts say something else. When it comes to Parliament's health, post-Narendra Modi, its productivity and standing as a forum for debate have actually been raised.

Consider legislation, which is the core responsibility of elected representatives. The 16th Lok Sabha spent 32 per cent of its time on legislative business, which is second only to the first Lok Sabha. This is higher than the average of all other Lok Sabhas, which spent about 25 per cent of their time on legislative business. After Modi bowed at the steps of Parliament, the subsequent Lok Sabha spent more time in legislative business than most other Lok Sabhas.

Recently, there was a manufactured controversy around Question Hour. Those who

said Question Hour is the cornerstone of Parliamentary democracy had conveniently cancelled Question Hour in their state assemblies.

In the 16th Lok Sabha, Question Hour worked for 67 per cent of its scheduled time. The loss of time was due to disruptions. The nation watched live and understood who disrupted Parliament regularly, harming democracy.

Discussion and debate are the most important duties of Parliament, especially around legislation. It turns out that Bills were discussed for more time in the 16th Lok Sabha than the 14th and 15th Lok Sabhas. Thirty-two per cent of Bills were discussed for more than three hours and around 27 per cent were discussed for between two and three hours, significantly higher than both terms of the UPA.

In the 15th Lok Sabha (2009-2014), about 26 per cent of Bills were passed with less than 30 minutes of debate, while in the 16th Lok Sabha only 6 per cent of Bills were passed with less than 30 minutes of debate. Further, the percentage of the budget that was discussed in the 16th Lok Sabha was higher than the two Lok Sabhas before it. Clearly, better debate and discussion happened in the Lok Sabha in Narendra Modi's first term as Prime Minister than during

both terms of Manmohan Singh's government.

Even in the 17th Lok Sabha, the statistics before the coronavirus pandemic struck are impressive. The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha worked for 135 per cent of the scheduled hours and Rajya Sabha for 100 per cent. This performance is better than any other session in two decades. In the subsequent winter session of 2019, Lok Sabha worked for 111 per cent of the scheduled time and Rajya Sabha for 92 per cent.

The correct picture that comes out of all these facts — easily available in the public domain (on the website of PRS Legislative Research) — is that parliamentary democracy in India is in excellent health.

However, the problem for a small set of people is not the healthy functioning of Parliament but the fact that its composition is not to their liking. Unable to digest Modi's popularity, this ecosystem had even tried to spread the fear that there won't be any democracy if he is voted in. The opposite has happened. Modi has been voted in twice and democracy has thrived.

India has proven many such naysayers wrong over the decades and it will continue to do so.

The writer is a BJP MP

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### GOVERNOR'S BIAS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Neither letter, nor spirit' (IE, October 15). Even those who were stunned by the sudden transformation of the Shiv Sena from a Hindutva outfit to a party of secularism in order to grab power in Maharashtra were startled by the sarcastic, tactless and unprovoked wording of the governor's letter to the chief minister. The Centre has given discretion to the states to decide on the reopening of temples. Since Maharashtra has many places of worship which draw devotees from India and abroad, it has exercised the option wisely. The least the governor could do is to apologise.

YG Chouksey, Pune

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Neither letter, nor spirit' (IE, October 15). Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, while taunting CM Uddhav Thackeray for turning "secular", has in effect mocked himself and the Constitution of India, which has sanctioned him the dignity of a gubernatorial post. His averment "our Gods and Goddesses have been condemned to stay in the lockdown" belies their omnipresence. Surprisingly, no such urgency is seen in the BJP for the opening of educational institutions.

LR Murmu, Delhi

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www.indianexpress.com

### WRONG MESSAGE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'I'm the unborn baby' (IE, October 15). The fact that people protested against the Tanishq ad and now the company has taken it down place a question-mark on India's secularism and the freedom of firms and individual departments. The ad beautifully showed the love between Hindus and Muslims and that could have been a step towards normalising the communal gap. It is disappointing that a TV advertisement is also viewed from a political lens.

Ayushi Singh, Agra

# 14 die in MP's Ujjain after drinking hooch, 12 bootleggers held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, OCTOBER 15

AT LEAST 14 migrant workers have died after consuming illicit liquor in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district, officials said Thursday. Following the incident, four police officials of Kharakaun police station, including in-charge ML Meena, sub-inspector Niranjan Sharma, and two constables, were suspended. Twelve bootleggers were also arrested, said a state government official. The tragedy came to light after seven migrant labourers were found dead in different areas in Ujjain on Wednesday. Two of them were found dead on Thursday morning under the jurisdiction of Kharakaun police station while two others were rushed to the hospital where they died later.

According to the initial investigation, the deaths seem to have

occurred after the consumption of a ginger tincture-based liquor, locally-known as 'polati'.

The arrested bootleggers were said to have brewed the liquor using ethyl ether hexane. "Ginger tincture is a commonly used industrial chemical that was used in its production," said a government official. The official explained that the chemical also contains methanol, which is diluted in water to make the concoction.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has ordered a special investigation team to look into the matter. The three-member team includes ADG SK Jha, DIG (Ratlam Range) Shushant Saxena and Addl Chief Secretary (Home & Jail) Rajesh Rajora.

"We'll be looking into all aspects of the case including the role of officials and the lapses in registering FIRs and arresting the culprits. The role of the excise department will be looked into," Rajora told *The Indian Express*.

# Man shot during allotment of ration shop in Ballia, officials suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 15

A 45-YEAR-OLD FARMER was shot dead in presence of administrative and police officials at Durjanpur village in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday afternoon as a fight broke out during the allotment of a ration shop. The shooting took place in full public glare, leading to pandemonium.

Taking cognizance of the matter, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered suspension of all the police personnel and officials, including Sub-Divisional

Magistrate (SDM) Suresh Kumar Pal and Circle Officer Chandrakesh Singh, who were present at the spot.

Police, meanwhile, have booked the main accused, Dharendra Pratap Singh, for the killing.

Seven others have been booked for criminal conspiracy. No one has been arrested so far. According to the police, Singh shot the farmer from his licensed pistol.

Amid reports that Singh is a local BJP leader, the saffron party's Ballia district unit president Jai Prakash Sahu denied Singh was a party worker but

added that he "could be a BJP supporter".

BJP MLA from Bairyia, Surendra Singh, said that Singh is an ex-armyman and supporter of the BJP.

In Lucknow, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said that besides the SDM and the Circle Officer, 10 more policemen, including two sub-inspectors and eight constables, have been suspended.

The role of the Station Officer of Revati Police Station is also being investigated, Awasthi added.

According to Superintendent of Police (Ballia) Devendra Nath,

a quarrel started between two self-help groups (SHGs), one supported by Dharendra Pratap Singh, during the ration shop allotment at Durjanpur village, which falls under Revati Police Station area.

"As both the groups refused to settle the matter, the officials present at the spot decided to halt the allotment process. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Suresh Kumar Pal stopped the allotment and asked the villagers to return home. As people started disubursing, Dharendra Pratap Singh opened fire in which Jai Prakash got injured. He died on his way to the hospital," Nath said.

# HC declines ruling on plea seeking no FIR for triple talaq

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

WHILE DECLINING to pass an interim order in an application seeking direction that no FIR be registered for pronouncement of triple talaq by a husband on his wife, the Delhi High Court has said that the provision of the 2019 law criminalising the act is aimed at discouraging "the age-

old and traditional practice" of pronouncement of talaq.

While issuing notice to the Centre in the main case challenging the provision, the High Court has adjourned the matter sine die.

"The purpose of Section 4 appears to be to provide a deterrent against such practice. Merely because triple talaq has been declared to be void and illegal does not mean the legislature could

not have made the continuation of such practice an offence. This is our prima facie view," the division bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rajnish Bhatnagar said in an order.

The court was hearing a case seeking directions that all FIRs registered under Section 4 of Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, in police stations within the territory of Delhi—pending at the

stage of investigation, inquiry or trial—be stayed.

The application also sought a direction to restrain the police from registering FIR during pendency of the case against Section 4 of the Act.

The provision provides for imprisonment of up to three for procurement of talaq "by words, either spoken or written or in electronic form or in any other manner whatsoever".

# Dalit girl raped, killed in Barabanki

AVANEESH MISHRA BARABANKI, OCTOBER 15

WEEKS AFTER the Hathras horror, another Dalit girl was allegedly raped and strangled in a village in Barabanki district on Wednesday. Her body was found in paddy field, according to her family.

Police had initially filed a murder case against an unidentified person. Later, after the postmortem report confirmed sexual assault, the charge of rape under IPC section 376 was added to the FIR.

"On Wednesday, the FIR was registered under section 302 of the IPC. On Thursday, we have added section 376 (rape) of the IPC based on the postmortem report. We are questioning a few suspects after primary investigation," said Additional SP (Barabanki) Ram Sewak Gautam told *The Indian Express*.

However, due to confusion over the girl's age, police have not added the charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. While the family claimed that they told the police that she was 17 years old, police said that in their oral complaint the family had said that the girl was slightly

above 18 years. According to the girl's father, she had left for the fields in the day to harvest the crop. "Around 5.30 pm, she had not returned home. I got worried and started looking for her. Around half an hour later, I went to the field and saw her slippers. A little ahead, I found her lifeless body," the father told *The Indian Express*.

The victim was the eldest of four siblings. While her younger sister is around 15, her twin brothers are around seven.

"We received the information of a body found in a paddy field in the village under mysterious circumstances. We are collecting all the evidence and a team has been formed under Additional SP-rank officer. We will soon be able to crack the case," said Additional SP Gautam who is currently holding the charge of SP in the district.

Asked about the discrepancies in the age of the victim and whether she was a major or minor, IG (Ayodhya Range) Sanjeev Gupta said it would have no bearing on the investigation.

Initially, the family had refused to cremate the body. But after an assurance from the police, the body was cremated on Thursday evening by her family members.

**Central University of Haryana**  
Mahendergarh (Haryana) - 123031

**Short Term Tender Notice**

Central University of Haryana (CUH) invites short term tender notice for the purchase of Sports Equipments. The interested firms may send their sealed tender to undersigned by 22.10.2020 up to 2:00PM. For more details and updates please visit [www.cuh.ac.in](http://www.cuh.ac.in)

No: CUH/PHY EDU/2020/121 Dated: 14.10.2020 Registrar

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS**

E-TENDER NOTICE No.: NIT/14/20/38. Dated: 13.10.2020.

South East Central Railway has implemented an e-system. On the behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Material Manager, South East Central Railway invites e-tenders for supply of the following items. Advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No manual offer will be entertained. These tenders can be accessed under the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Tender Closing/Opening Date	Qty.
1.	U2040854A	Set of Rotary Switch	11.11.2020	12 Set.

Tender Closing/Opening Time: At 10.30 hours

Reserves the right to accept any Compensum to the tenders. Correspondent & Important Notice to vendors may be seen in the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

For Principal Chief Materials Manager/IRMA/SP, South East Central Railway @secrail

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**

Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, M.E.I Extension, Bagalagunte, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bangalore-560073

No: B.B.M.P/E/D.Z/T.N/20/2020-21 Date: 13.10.2020

**TENDER POSTPONEMENT NOTIFICATION**

Subject: Tender postponement notification.

Reference: 1.Tender Notification no.B.B.M.P/E/D.Z/T.N/20/2020-21, Date:07.10.2020 of this office.

With reference to above subject, this is to inform that due to Teacher's Constituency Election under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike limits, the Election Code of Conduct is in force. Hence the above mentioned tender notification has been postponed. Further, last dates of Tender bid submission through e-Procurement Portal is mentioned below.

**Revised Time Schedule**

(1). Pre-bid meeting at Chief Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, on 04.11.2020 on or before 16:00 hours.

(2). Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on 09.11.2020, on or before 16:00 hours (3). Technical Bids will be opened on the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> in the office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, and BBMP on or after 10.11.2020 at 16:30 hours. (4). Financial Bids will be opened on the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> in the office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, and BBMP on or after 11.11.2020 at 16:00 hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**

Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, M.E.I Extension, Bagalagunte, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bangalore-560073

No: B.B.M.P/E/D.Z/T.N/20/2020-21 Date: 13.10.2020

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Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone

**HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APHAMITRA ON 14410**

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda**

[www.bankofbaroda.in](http://www.bankofbaroda.in)

**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

Bank of Baroda, India's International Bank is looking for qualified and experienced human resources for the below positions on Contract basis for its Corporate Office at Baroda Corporate Centre, Mumbai

Join India's international Bank for a challenging career and become a part of its Growth journey

(A) Product Managers for the Cash Management Department  
(B) Project Managers/Associate - Smart Cities for the Digital Banking Department

Sl	Name of the Post	Vacancy
1	Vice President-Product Manager-Cash Management	01
2	Assistant Vice President-Product Manager- Cash Management	01
3	Project Manager - Smart Cities	01
4	Project Associate - Smart Cities	01

Terms of Engagement:

Contractual engagement for a period of 3 years, extendable at the option of the Bank. The compensation would be based on experience and suitability of the candidate/s and will not be a limiting factor for the right candidate.

Eligibility criteria:

Interested candidates are advised to visit the Bank's website [www.bankofbaroda.in](http://www.bankofbaroda.in) (Career Page) ->Current Opportunities for further details.

The last date of submission of the application is 5th November, 2020 (23:59 hours).

Place: Mumbai Date: 16.10.2020

GENERAL MANAGER - HRM

**संत लॉगोवाल अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान**  
Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology (Deemed to be University under MoE) Longowal-148106, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab

**TENDER NOTICE NO. PUR/E-Tender/29/2020-21**

E-tender is invited for purchase of equipments in two bid system from manufacturers/authorized distributors/dealers/ suppliers having GST/IGST & PAN number etc. Detail can be downloaded/seen at website of institute [www.sliet.ac.in](http://www.sliet.ac.in) or [www.tenderwizard.com](http://www.tenderwizard.com)/SLIET.

For any query please contact Mr. Pavitar Singh on mobile no. 08146699866 or e-mail: [pavitar.s@tenderwizard.com](mailto:pavitar.s@tenderwizard.com), [eproc@sangrur@gmail.com](mailto:eproc@sangrur@gmail.com)

Assistant Registrar (S&P)  
(भारत सरकार के अधीन सम विश्वविद्यालय)

**SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT**

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Civic Centre (25<sup>th</sup> Floor), Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110002, Ph. No. 011-23227511

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Bids are invited on behalf of Commissioner, SDMC through following three different e-Tenders from eligible bidders:-

- E-Tender Notice No. CO/Advt/E-Tender-05/2020-21/SDMC/NIT/D-413 dated 14.10.2020 for allotment of advertisement rights through Unipole Clusters/Individual Unipole sites under the jurisdiction of SDMC on monthly license fee basis in two bid system i.e. Technical and Financial.
- E-Tender Notice No. CO/Advt/E-Tender-06/2020-21/SDMC/NIT/D-412 dated 14.10.2020 for allotment of advertisement rights through Clusters of Toilet Blocks/Individual Toilet Blocks under the jurisdiction of SDMC on monthly license fee basis in two bid system i.e. Technical and Financial.
- E-Tender Notice No. CO/Advt/E-Tender-07/2020-21/SDMC/NIT/D-418 dated 15.10.2020 for allotment of advertisement rights through Building/Wall Wraps and LED Screen on the facade of Multilevel Car Parking at Green Park and Puzzle Parking at Central Market, Lajpat Nagar under the jurisdiction of SDMC on monthly license fee basis in two bid system i.e. Technical and Financial.

The Last Date of Submission of bids in all above e-tenders is :- 05.11.2020, Till 16.00 Hours.

The detailed Tender documents are available on SDMC's website i.e. [www.mcdonline.nic.in](http://www.mcdonline.nic.in) and [www.tenderwizard.com](http://www.tenderwizard.com)/SOUTHDMC

Commercial Officer, Advertisement Department

Ro No. 47/DPI/S/20-21

**E-Tender Notice**

**DAHOD SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED**

Dahod Smart City Development Limited (DSCDL) invites online E-Tenders for "Treatment (Processing) and Scientific disposal of Municipal Solid Waste as per SWM Rules 2016 including Design, Procurement, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of facilities for minimum 60 TPD capacity as well as to augment the same to cater future increase in Municipal Solid Waste during the Operation and Maintenance period of Five years". Tender ID - 430659

Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Rs. 27.09 Cr/-
EMD (In Rs.)	Rs. 27,09,825/-
Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Rs. 18,000/-
Bid Document Downloading start date	14/10/2020
Last Date for online Submission of Tender Document	02/11/2020

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:** (1) The tender document for this work can be downloaded from website [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com). (2) Other Details of NIT shall be seen on website. (3) One Copy of Technical Bid including all drawings, data sheets and duly filled up formats excluding the Financial Bid along with original Tender Fee and Bid Security to be submitted to the Owner up to 17.00 Hrs. on or before 09-11-2020 at the below mentioned address: Chief Executive Officer, Dahod Smart City Development Limited, Jilla Seva Sadan, Chhapri, Dahod-389151, Gujarat. By RPAD/ speed post only. Chief Executive Officer, DSCDL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. This Tender notice shall form a part of contract document.

Tender No. 01 of 2020-21 Chief Executive Officer  
Phone: 6291005046 Email: [dahodsmartcity20@gmail.com](mailto:dahodsmartcity20@gmail.com)

**Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board**  
(Govt. of NCT of Delhi)

9, Institutional Area, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

Tel:- 28524421, Fax:- 011-28521871

**NOTICE OF E- TENDER**

The item rates tenders are invited through e- tendering for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Works	Estimated Cost & Earnest Money (Rs.)	Last date & time for receipt of tender through e-procurement	Tender ID No
1	Operation & maintenance of all type of electrical fixtures, High Mast, pump-sets, DG sets i/e whole net work of electrical cable, panel, feeder pillar's and other accessories at Fish & Poultry Market, Gazipur.	16,68,950/- 33,380/-	20.10.2020 at 15.00 Hrs.	2020_DAMB_195251_1

The Term- conditions and other details of the tender may please be seen on the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E) DAMB

DIP/Shabdarth/0361/20-21

# 2 held for raping minor in farmhouse for weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 15

TWO PERSONS were Thursday arrested for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl for 22 days after confining her in a farmhouse in Odisha's Cuttack city. The accused, aged 22 and 25, also filmed the incident to threaten the minor, police said.

A student of Class 9, the girl had come to Cuttack from her village in Jagatsinghpur district to live with her elder sister as she was unable to bear alleged torture at the hands of her father. However, her brother-in-law asked her to return to her father's house. On September 20, when she was waiting for a bus, one of the accused approached her on the pretext of giving her a job, and took her to a farmhouse owned by another accused, police said.

"The girl was confined for 22 days and was sexually assaulted," a police officer said.

# I-T conducts searches in case of advocate 'taking cash from clients'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE INCOME Tax Department carried out a "search and seizure action" on Wednesday in the case of a "leading" advocate—practising in the field of commercial arbitration and alternate dispute resolution—who is suspected to be receiving substantial amounts in cash from his clients to allegedly settle their disputes.

During the search, 38 premises across Delhi, NCR and Haryana were covered. Cash amounting to Rs 5.5 crore was seized during the searches, the CBDT said in a statement.

The Board did not identify the advocate. Ten bank lockers have been put under restraint, it said.

"He was suspected to be receiving substantial amounts in cash from his clients to settle their disputes. Incriminating documents of unaccounted cash transactions and investments made by the assessee over several years have been found," the department said.

The Board, which frames policy for the tax department, alleged

that the lawyer in one case "had received Rs 117 crore from a client in cash, whereas he had shown only Rs 21 crore in his records, which was received through cheque".

In another case, he is alleged to have received more than Rs 100 crore in cash from an infrastructure and engineering company for its arbitration proceedings with a public sector company, the CBDT said.

"The unaccounted cash received has been invested by the assessee in purchase of residential and commercial properties and in taking over of trusts engaged in running of schools. Evidences recovered indicate investment of more than Rs 100 crore in cash in several properties in posh areas in the last two years," it said.

The assessee and his associates have also purchased several schools and properties, for which more than Rs 100 crore was "paid in cash", it said.

He has also taken accommodation entries (hawala funds) worth several crores, it said.

The Board said the search teams have also recovered "substantial digital data reflecting unaccounted transactions of the assessee and his associates who are financiers and builders".

**ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**

अनुभवी आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से पारंपरिक पद्धति में, मेरठ के अन्तर्गत निम्न सामग्री हेतु ई-निविदाओं ई-पोर्टल [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों में 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा विवरण हेतु ई-पोर्टल पर लॉग इन करें। 1. निविदा संख्या - टी-15/2020-21 पारंपरिक पद्धति में मेरठ के निवेशकाधीन विभिन्न पारंपरिक मण्डलों हेतु धर्मल इमेज केमरा (इन्फोरेड केमरा) की आपूर्ति। बरोहर राशि 35,000/- (रु० तीस हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्राप्त शुल्क रु० 3,540/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की तिनांक 20.11.2020। हस्ता-मुख्य अभिलेखा (पारंपरिक पद्धति) 130-डी, पारंपरिक भवन, विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। राष्द्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाव। कृपया वेब साईट [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in) पर विस्तार में सभी सूचना, संशोधन/विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। प्रकां 7986/मु.अ. (पा.प.)मेरठ/ टी- 15/2020-21 दिनांक :- 15.10.2020

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER**  
Construction Wing  
UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL SANSADHAN VIKAS EVAM NIRMAN NIGAM  
(A govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)

403/1, Indra nagar Dehradun-248001. E-mail: [cgmnirmanwing@yahoo.com](mailto:cgmnirmanwing@yahoo.com), [gmnrmanwing@gmail.com](mailto:gmnrmanwing@gmail.com)

Ref. no 2516 /निविदा (राष्द्र)/164 Dated : 15.10.2020

**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 2471/Nivida (Garhwal)/392 Dated 13/10/2020, is here by cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

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

Note : For further contact 01335-2764075.

General Manager (Garhwal)

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION, GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, JAMMU**

E-mail: [mhchgmmch@gmail.com](mailto:mhchgmmch@gmail.com)

**GIST OF NIT (Short Term)**

Executive Engineer, MHCH Division GMCH Jammu for and on behalf of The President of India invites sealed tenders duly affixed with Rs. 6/- revenue stamps are invited from Registered / Reputed firms, Workshops having PAN/TIN/Sale tax clearance certificate and registered with DIC/SSI/Labour Department and having sufficient experience for the work mentioned below:

S. no.	Description of Job	NIT No. & date	Sale date & Due date	Earnest money	Tender Receiving Authority
1.	Replacement of 300Amp. MNX System panel at panel Govt. Psychiatric Hospital Jammu.	MHD/JNIT/41 of 2020-21 Dt 13.10.2020	Sale Date Upto 27.10.2020 Due On 28.10.2020	2%	Executive Engineer MH&CH Div. GMCH, Jammu.

The Complete tender documents containing the detailed specifications, terms and conditions can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day as per the sale date mentioned above during office hours against payment of Rs. 200/- (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of J&K Govt. treasury challan indicating treasury voucher no. and date and also indicating the NIT No. and Name of Work duly crediting to 0059-PWD (Revenue) non-refundable for each tender. The complete tender documents should reach this office on or before the due date up to 12 Noon.

Sd/- (Er. Bodhraj Bhagat) Executive Engineer Mech. Hospital & Central Heating Division GMC Jammu

DIP/J-5922

**S. E RAILWAY TENDER**

E-Tender Notice No.: e-tender/2020/33 Dated : 14.10.2020. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India invites tender for the following work before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against item and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. Description of work : Supply, installation & commissioning of (1) (Crew) No. of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) of 250 MLD capacity at KGP Railway station with operation and maintenance for a period of 2 (two) years under the jurisdiction of DEM/Work/Kharagpur. Tender Value : ₹ 1,16,42,047.00 Earnest Money : ₹ 2,32,800/- Cost of Tender documents: ₹ 0/- Completion period of the work: 6 (six) months. Bidding start date : From 05.11.2020 and upto 15.00 hrs. on 19.11.2020. Date of opening : 19.11.2020. Interested tenderers may visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. N.B. : Prospective Bidders may regularly visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) to participate in all tenders. (PR-307)

# Hathras case: SC reserves order on court-monitored investigation

UP says no objection on who gives kin security, drops request for CBI updates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE SUPREME COURT Thursday reserved its order on a plea seeking a court-monitored investigation into the Hathras case, but observed orally that the Allahabad High Court could supervise the matter. Meanwhile, senior advocates expressed dissatisfaction with the protection provided by the Uttar Pradesh government to the family of the 19-year-old Dalit victim—who died after allegedly being raped and brutalised by four upper-caste men in her village—and sought the deployment of CRPF troops instead.

The family's lawyer also said the case should be transferred to a Delhi court once the probe is complete.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police, made it clear that the state has no objection to any security arrangement that would be deemed fit by the court.

"Whoever your Lordships may feel will protect the family, court may order but it should be a reflection on the state. We have not opposed anything," he told a bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde.

The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, was hearing a plea by activist Satyama Dubey, and advocates Vishal Thakre and Rudra Pratap Yadav, seeking a probe into the case by the CBI or a court-appointed SIT. The CBI

has already taken over the investigation.

Salve was responding to submissions by senior advocate Indira Jaising, who, appearing for a group of women lawyers, requested the court to order protection for the family and witnesses by the CRPF rather than the police. The state cops had hurriedly cremated the victim at her village without allowing the family to be present.

"It is the government against whom they have a grievance... they cannot be allowed to give protection," Jaising told the bench.

The Uttar Pradesh government had Wednesday told the Supreme Court in an affidavit that a three-fold security mechanism, including armed police constabulary personnel, CCTVs, and guards, had been devised for the protection of the family of the teen, who died at a Delhi hospital on September 29.

In the same affidavit, it had also urged the court to direct the CBI to submit fortnightly status reports on the probe to the state, so that the DGP can file the same in court. But on Thursday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, urged the court to "ignore" the prayer.

Mehta also said the family wanted the SC to monitor the investigation and added that the state was in agreement on this.

"We need not... We are here as the ultimate supervisory body. Let the (Allahabad) HC do (monitor) it. We are here," said Chief Justice Bobde.

# HC turns down Centre's plea for stay on theatre release of 'Gunjan Saxena'

SOFIAHSAN  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

DECLINING to stay the theatre release of *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*, the Delhi High Court Thursday said there is a view about the existence of gender bias but courts cannot go around saying "you are wrong". The court was hearing a suit filed by the Centre against the movie—which is already available on an OTT platform—for allegedly portraying the Indian Air Force as misogynistic.

Adjourning the matter to January 18, the court said it would see the movie before further proceedings. When the Centre pressed for a stay on release of the movie in theatres, the court said it has already been released online.

"Some of us did not have the time but everyone has seen it. Who will go to the theatre amid Covid?" the court observed. It also asked the counsel—including Harish Salve, the counsel for Dharma Productions—to exchange views among themselves and try to sort out the issue.

Observing that perceptions of people and artists may vary, Justice Rajiv Shakdher said, "You may or may not agree with that. They say there is gender bias in the organisation. Today it is the Air Force, tomorrow it could be bureaucracy... it could be our pro-

feSSION too. There is talk of gender bias in the courts... The judges may or may not agree but it is a view. The courts cannot go around saying that "you are wrong".

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain submitted that the Centre was "extremely proud" of Flight Lieutenant Gunjan Saxena (ret'd) and it is none of its concern when her personal life is shown but only the part when her interface with IAF is shown. "They (producers) do not get the artistic licence to defame a living organisation of national importance. We are not just any Tom, Dick and Harry."

The court said the argument cannot be that you agree with the part that suits you and disagree with the part that does not suit you. "There is a lot of storm in a teacup. You can add the disclaimer that it does not reflect the true life story of Ms. Gunjan Saxena," observed the court.

"You (movie makers) distort our image in the name of creative cinematic expression... This disclaimer is an eyewash and cannot efface the dent caused to the image of Indian Air Force by showing a large number of scenes in which it is portrayed as misogynist," said Jain.

In her reply to the court on Wednesday, Saxena said she "at the institutional level" did not face any gender discrimination.

# Varavara Rao wife moves bail plea in SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE WIFE of poet and writer Varavara Rao, arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Koregaon Bhima case, moved the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking bail for him, claiming that his continued cus-

tody amounted to cruel and inhuman treatment.

The petition, filed by Pendyala Hemalatha, urged the court that during pendency of the petition, the 81-year-old accused be released on temporary medical bail and be allowed to travel to Hyderabad. It sought immediate release

of Rao on the ground that "his continued custody amounts to cruel and inhuman treatment, violating Article 21 of the Constitution (life or personal liberty) and (is) violative of his dignity in custody".

The plea said that he has lost about 18 kg and is suffering from various health issues.

# Senior Assam cop arrested in paper leak case

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 15

A SENIOR police officer in Assam was Thursday arrested in connection with the leak of a question paper in a police recruit-

ment examination. Kumar Sanjit Krishna, SP (Foreigners Regional Registration Office) in Barpeta district, is the brother of Assam chief secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna. Till Sunday, he was SP of the border district of Karimganj. His is the third high-profile ar-

rest in the paper leak case—after another former senior policeman and a now-expelled BJP leader.

The exam for recruitment of 597 sub-inspectors—for which more than 66,000 candidates were to appear—was scheduled for September 20.

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN PORBANDAR AND DELHI SARAI ROHILLA

This is notified for the information of passengers that Railways have decided to run following Special train as per details given below :-

Train No.	From-To	Frequency	Date of Commencement	Stoppages & Timings Accommodation
09263	Porbandar - Delhi Sarai Rohilla Special Express	Bi-Weekly	17.10.2020	Same as Train No. 19263/19264 Porbandar - Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Porbandar Express AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Class
09264	Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Porbandar Special Express		19.10.2020	

**NOTE : All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.**

For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in)

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### SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

This is notified for the information of passengers, Railways have decided to run 02954/02953 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Mumbai Central - Hazrat Nizamuddin August Kranti Rajdhani and 02040/02039 Kathgodam - New Delhi - Kathgodam Shatabdi Express Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

02954/02953 HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN - MUMBAI CENTRAL - HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN AUGUST KRANTI RAJDHANI SPL. TRAIN		Daily	
Train No. 02954	STATIONS	Train No. 02953	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
-	17:20	H. Nizamuddin	11:00
18:58	19:00	Mathura Jn	08:53
21:00	21:02	Swai Madhopur	06:23
22:10	22:20	Kota Jn	05:05
01:05	01:07	Ratlam Jn	02:10
04:28	04:38	Vadodara Jn	22:22
05:21	05:23	Bharuch Jn	21:31
06:23	06:28	Surat	20:50
07:16	07:18	Valsad	20:03
07:35	07:37	Vapi	19:40
09:18	09:20	Borivali	18:17
09:34	09:36	Andheri	18:01
10:05	-	Mumbai Central	17:40

**Days of Run:** 02954 Ex H. Nizamuddin daily from (18.10.2020) and 02953 Ex Mumbai Central daily from (17.10.2020).

**Accommodation:** 1<sup>st</sup> AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC

### 02040/02039 NEW DELHI - KATHGODAM - NEW DELHI SHATABDI EXPRESS SPECIAL

Train No. 02040		STATIONS		Train No. 02039	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
-	6:20	New Delhi	20:50	-	-
7:00	7:02	Ghaziabad	20:05	20:07	-
8:52	8:57	Moradabad	18:10	18:15	-
9:24	9:26	Rampur	17:37	17:39	-
10:03	10:05	Rudrapur City	16:44	16:46	-
10:40	10:43	Lalkua Jn.	16:21	16:23	-
11:06	11:08	Haldwani	15:50	15:52	-
11:40	-	Kathgodam	-	15:35	-

**Days of Run:** 02040 Ex New Delhi daily from (20.10.2020) and 02039 Ex Kathgodam daily from (20.10.2020).

**Accommodation:** Executive A.C. Chair Car & A.C. Chair Car

Passengers are also requested to please note that the time table of 02952 New Delhi - Mumbai Central Rajdhani Special Train has been revised as under:-

### REVISED TIMINGS OF TRAIN NO. 02952 NEW DELHI - MUMBAI CENTRAL RAJDHANI SPECIAL TRAIN W.E.F. FROM 18.10.2020

STATIONS	Train No. 02952			
	Existing Timings		Revised Timings	
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
New Delhi	-	17:00	-	17:00
Kota Jn	21:50	22:00	21:40	21:50
Ratlam Jn	00:52	00:55	00:42	00:45
Vadodara Jn	03:58	04:06	03:48	03:56
Surat	05:35	05:40	05:28	05:33
Mumbai Central	08:40	-	08:40	-

**NOTE:** All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

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2232-2020

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### DETAILED EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SHORTLISTING OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING PARTNERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF VOCATIONALIZATION OF SCHOOL EDUCATION UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA IN JHARKHAND

Jharkhand Education Project Council (JPEC)  
JSCA Stadium Road, Sector-3, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004  
Phone- 0651-2444501,2444502, Email - [jpecranchi@gmail.com](mailto:jpecranchi@gmail.com), [jpec.ve@gmail.com](mailto:jpec.ve@gmail.com)  
Advertisement No. - JPEC/1657 Dated: 15/10/2020  
Ref. No.01, Dated: 15/10/2020

JPEC invites Expression of Interest from qualified entities in the field of VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN GOVERNMENT SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS for implementation of Vocational Education by deploying manpower and providing support in the following sectors and schools specified below:

S No	Trade	Job Role	Units* in 60 new Schools	Units in 22 Schools for Trade Replacement	Units in 53 Existing Schools	Total No. of Units
1	IT/ITES	Domestic Data Entry Operator	14	-	40	54
2	Media & Entertainment	Texturing Artist	-	-	17	17
3	Tourism & Hospitality	Food & Beverage Service Trainee	12	-	4	16
4	Healthcare	Home Health Aide	17	-	24	41
5	Electronics & Hardware	Field Technician - Other Home Appliances	32	22	-	54
6	Automotive	Automotive Service Technician L3	27	-	-	27
7	Apparels, Made ups & Home Furnishing	Sewing Machine Operator	7	-	-	7
8	Agriculture	Solanaceous Crop Cultivator	11	-	-	11
<b>Total No. of units</b>			<b>120</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>227</b>

\* - Unit denotes number of vocational trades in a school. Schools are located across 24 districts in Jharkhand. Trade wise school list is attached as Annexure 4. Detailed invitation for EOI can be downloaded from <http://education.jharkhand.gov.in> Download Last date of EOI submission: 05:00 pm hours IST on or before 06/11/2020  
EOI Issue Date : 15/10/2020  
Last Date of EOI Submission: 06/11/2020  
PR.NO.234428 Human Resource Development(20-21):D

Sd/-  
(Dr. Shailesh Kumar Chourasia, IAS)  
State Project Director

### 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)

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**Recruitment directly/on deputation for the post of Senior Medical Officer (01)**

Advt. No. RO/OC/20/62 Date: 14.10.2020

Applications are invited from the eligible Indian Nationals for recruitment directly / on deputation for the post of Senior Medical Officer (01). For further details please visit the Institute Website: <http://www.iiests.ac.in>. The last date of submission of applications is 05.11.2020 upto 05.00 PM.

Registrar

### FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming Festival Season, Railways have decided to run the following Festival Special Trains as per details given below:-

04998/04997 Bathinda-Varanasi-Bathinda Superfast Express Special (Weekly)		12 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 04998	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04997	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
-	20:50	Bathinda	16:50
16:30	-	Varanasi	21:20

**Days of Run :** 04998 from Bathinda on Sunday from 25.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 and 04997 from Varanasi on Monday from 26.10.2020 to 30.11.2020.

**Accommodation :** AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

**Stoppages:** Rampura Phul, Barnala, Dhuri Jn., Patiala, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Yamunanagar-Jagadhri, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow & Sultanpur

04612/04611 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Varanasi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Superfast Express Special (Weekly)		12 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 04612	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04611	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
-	23:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:50
23:35	-	Varanasi	06:35

**Days of Run :** 04612 from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on Sunday from 25.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 and 04611 from Varanasi on Tuesday from 27.10.2020 to 01.12.2020.

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

**Stoppages:** Udhampur, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot Cantt, Jalandhar Cantt, Ludhiana, Ambala Cantt, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow & Sultanpur stations.

04422/04421 Anand Vihar (T)-Lucknow - Anand Vihar (T) AC Superfast Express Special (Tri-Weekly)		36 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 04422	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04421	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
-	20:20	Anand Vihar (T)	05:45
04:20	-	Lucknow	21:20

**Days of Run:** 04422 from Anand Vihar (T) on Wednesday, Friday & Sunday from 21.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 and 04421 from Lucknow on Thursday, Saturday & Monday from 22.10.2020 to 30.11.2020.

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.

**Stoppages:** Ghaziabad, Moradabad & Bareilly stations.

04401/04402 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Superfast AC Express Special (Bi-Weekly)		24 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 04401	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04402	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
-	23:50	New Delhi	11:15
11:35	-	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30

**Days of Run :** 04401 from New Delhi on Monday & Thursday from 22.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 and 04402 from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on Tuesday & Friday from 23.10.2020 to 01.12.2020.

**Accommodation :** First AC, AC 2 Tier & AC 3 Tier.

**Stoppages:** Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra Jn, Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu Tawi & Udhampur stations.

04924/04923 Chandigarh - Gorakhpur - Chandigarh Superfast Express Special (Weekly)		12 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 04924	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04923	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
-	23:15	Chandigarh	14:15
16:00	-	Gorakhpur	22:10

**Days of Run :** 04924 from Chandigarh on Thursday from 22.10.2020 to 26.11.2020 and 04923 from Gorakhpur on Friday from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020.

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

**Stoppages:** Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda & Basti stations.

03019 /03020 Howrah - Kathgodam - Howrah Festival Daily Special (via Bandel)		24 Trips	
TRAIN NO. 03019	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 03020	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
-	21:45	Howrah	12:40
09:30	-	Kathgodam	21:45

**Days of Run:** 03019 from Howrah (Daily) from 20.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 and 03020 from Kathgodam (Daily) from 22.10.2020 to 02.12.2020.

**Accommodation :** AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

**Stoppages:** Shirampur, Bandel, Bardhaman, Panagarh, Durgapur, Andal Jn., Raniganj, Asansol Main, Sitarampur, Rupnarayanpur, Chittaranjan, Jamtara, Vidyasagar, Madhupur Jn., Jasidih Jn., Hajha, Jamui, Kiul Jn., Luckeesarai Jn., Barhiya, Dinkar Gram Simaria, Barauni Jn., Bachhwarra Jn., Dalsingh Sarai, Nazirganj, Ujarpur, Samastipur Jn, Khudiram Bose Pusa, Dholi, Muzaffarpur Jn, Goraul, Bhawanpur, Hajipur Jn, Dighwara, Chhapra, Ekma, Duraundha Jn, Siwan Jn, Mairwa, Ban Kata, Bhatpar Rani, Bhatni Jn, Deoria Sadar, Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur Jn, Khalilabad, Basti, Gonda Jn, Jarwal Road, Barabanki Jn, Lucknow, Hardoi, Roza Jn, Shahjehanpur, Bareilly, Rampur, Bilaspur Road, Rudrapur City, Lalkua Jn. & Haldwani stations.

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Chief Administrative Officer

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Delhi HC gives NBSA 2 weeks for decision on complaints by Rakul Preet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE DELHI High Court on Thursday gave two weeks' time to News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) for a decision on complaints filed by actor Rakul Preet Singh against news channels, which allegedly broadcast "fake reports" about her role in the drugs case being investigated by the NCB in Mumbai against actor Rhea Chakraborty and others.

The counsel representing the NBSA informed the court that Singh's petition was treated as represented, in accordance with the HC order, and heard on October 3 and 12. The 10 channels against which complaints were made and the complaints were heard in detail, the court was told. However, the counsel sought more time for passing of order in the matter.

The Centre also told the court that a status report has been filed by it. However, advocate Aman Hingorani, representing Singh, said that they were not satisfied with the report as the Centre had outsourced the complaint to NBSA, which does not have the same powers as the government. Hingorani sought time to file a reply to the status report.

Seeking a fresh status report with regard to the NBSA order within two weeks, the court adjourned the matter for next hearing on December 11.

Singh had previously highlighted before the court instances of "fake reporting" about her in connection with the drugs case. She had alleged violation of her reputation, dignity and privacy and argued that multiple channels were engaged in the fake reporting and that she cannot be expected to run from channel to channel to protect her dignity.



Rakul Preet

## NCB: Ops show Mumbai major drug destination

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

IN THE backdrop of the Sushant Singh Rajput case, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Thursday issued a statement claiming that its recent operations had shown that Mumbai had "emerged as a major destination" for drugs. It cited multiple operations, including the arrest of a former peon of Balaji Telefilms, to drive home its point.

The NCB has been probing the drug angle in the death of the Bollywood actor and is the only agency which has made multiple arrests, including that of Rajput's friend Rhea Chakraborty.

Citing seizure of 1 kg cocaine, 2 kg phencyclidine and 29 kg MDMA among other drugs from Mumbai between October 12 and 14 and the connection of some other operations with the city, the NCB — currently led by Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana, who is also the BSF chief — said it had "effected multiple pan-India operations wherein Mumbai emerged as major destination".

It said that in a separate operation where 56 kg hashish was seized in Jammu, it was found that the key receiver of the consignment was from Mumbai and was arrested from the city.

"Metro cities of India serve as the prime destination for various contrabands. NCB in synchronised operations at Mumbai, and its connections with rest of India, has made various seizures and arrests which are having ramifications on the narcotics supply chain," the agency said in a statement.

"NCB is conducting massive operations against drug traffickers. In the pursuit of operations against drug trafficking, NCB has been conducting regular raids on possible hideouts of drug traffickers, after identifying their modus operandi and whereabouts... NCB

is committed to eradicate the menace of narco trafficking."

In the Jammu case, the NCB said, questioning of the accused revealed that "they were also involved in one case of Mumbai, in which 6 kg charas was seized from their other associates".

In another operation by the Mumbai NCB unit under Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede, the NCB said, it had apprehended one Pradeep Rajaram Sahni with 70 gm Mephedrone in Andheri West. "Pradeep had disclosed that he used to supply Mephedrone to various persons in the Andheri and Juhu Area. He was employed as peon/runner with Balaji Telefilms Pvt. Ltd through a third party. The further distribution network of Pradeep Rajaram Sahni is being investigated," the agency said.

It also cited the arrest of a Nigerian national with 4 gm cocaine, claiming he "is suspected to be delivering the contraband in the areas of Pali Hill Area, Bandra, Andheri, Juhu and Khar Area".

An official said the NCB seized 1 kg cocaine and 2 kg PCP (Phencyclidine) from one M Ahmed in Vasai, Palghar. During questioning, Ahmed reportedly revealed that the contraband was provided by one S K Saurabh for further selling.

The NCB team led by Wankhede apprehended Saurabh on October 13 from Vasai, and his questioning reportedly resulted in further recovery of 29.3 kg of MDMA from his shop/godown the next day.

"Saurabh further revealed that the drugs belong to A Khanivadekar and R Khanivadekar. A Khanivadekar has been apprehended," an official said. "During questioning, he revealed that his brother R Khanivadekar is accused in a DRI case of 483 kg of Ephedrine and is on bail. Before the DRI raid, they had shifted the contraband to the shop/godown of Saurabh." — WITH ENDS MUMBAI

BHANU ATHAIYA | 1929-2020

## India's first Oscar winner, creator of hit Bollywood moments and costumes for 60 yrs



Athaiya with the Gandhi crew at the Oscars. Courtesy: Prinseps

BENITA FERNANDO & EKTA MALIK  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI,  
OCTOBER 15

FROM THE khaddar saris worn by Rohini Hattangady as Kasturba in *Gandhi* to Gracy Singh's bright red-and-orange bhandej dupatta in *Lagaan*, Bhanu Athaiya gave new meaning to the purpose of costumes. Using research and detail, she captured the real India in her costumes, and never used ornamentation and embellishment as crutches. Her career spanned 60 years and about 100 films, and she was India's first Oscar winner.

Athaiya passed away in the early hours of Thursday in Mumbai. She had been diagnosed with meningioma in 2012 but had continued to work; her last costume design was for the Marathi film *Nagrak* in 2014.

Athaiya made her debut in 1953, designing costumes for Kamini Kaushal in *Shahenshah and Aas*. She followed it up with Guru Dutt's *CID* (1956), and went on to become a part of his core team, doing *Pyasa* in 1957, *Chaudhvin Ka Chand* in 1960, and

*Sahib Biwi aur Ghulam* in 1962. Her other popular projects include *Brahmachari* (1968), *Guide* (1965), *Agneepath* (1990), *Lagaan* (2001) and *Swades* (2004). For some time, she was the only woman costume designer in the industry.

Athaiya shared her 1982 Oscar for *Gandhi* with John Mollo. The film's director, Richard Attenborough, described her as "the revered doyenne of Indian costume designers" in his foreword to her memoir, *The Art Of Costume Design*.

Recalling the riot scene in the film, couturier Tarun Tahiliani said: "She had a deep understanding of what India was and that's what she brought to the screen. To be able to create a vision of India through 100,000 people on the sets of *Gandhi*, that's unparalleled. She was the right blend of aesthetic and intellect. We don't see that anymore in Bollywood. For Bhanu it was all about the little details around her."

In 2012, Athaiya returned her Oscar to the custody of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts



A bus moves through the waterlogged Karad-Vita highway following heavy rain Thursday. PTI

## Heavy rain lashes three western Maharashtra districts, 27 dead

SUSHANT KULKARNI  
PUNE, OCTOBER 15

TWENTY SEVEN people died in three western Maharashtra districts — Solapur, Pune and Sangli — as heavy rain caused by a deep depression battered various parts of the state from Wednesday afternoon, leading to widespread flooding. Over 20,000 people had to be evacuated in these three districts.

As predicted by the IMD, most parts of Maharashtra started receiving heavy rain from Wednesday because of a strong low-pressure system in Bay of Bengal, which intensified into a deep depression as it traversed across the land, moving towards Arabian sea.

While 14 persons have been killed in Solapur district, including six in a wall collapse in the temple town of Pandharpur, four

people died in Pune and nine in Sangli district, said officials.

The wall collapse incident was reported from Kumbharghat area on the banks of Bhima river in Pandharpur on Wednesday afternoon. Four of the six belonged to the same family. An inquiry has been launched by the district administration into the incident.

In Daund taluka of Pune district, four persons were swept away while trying to cross a swollen stream on Wednesday night. Police officers said the four were trying to cross the stream on two bikes. "Bodies of three persons have been recovered," said Inspector Sunil Mahadik.

Police have identified the deceased as Shahaji Lokhande (52), Appasaheb Dhaytonde (55) and his wife Kalavati (48). The fourth person, Subhash Narayan Lokhande (48) is still reported

missing and a search is being conducted by police teams with the help of local villagers.

One death has been reported from Haveli taluka in Pune district. As many as 20,640 persons were evacuated by respective district administrations and rescue agencies from flooded areas in Solapur, Pune and Sangli.

In Solapur district, which was the worst-hit, 17,000 people were evacuated, and in Pune and Sangli districts, 3,000 and 640 people, respectively, had to be shifted to safer places, said officials.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has asked the state administration, Army, Navy and Air Force to be on high alert. As per a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office, Thackeray reviewed the situation and instructed officials to be on alert to avoid any loss of life. — WITH ENDS, MUMBAI

TRP 'FRAUD' CASE

## SC asks Republic TV to move HC against police summons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday asked Republic TV to approach the Bombay High Court against the summons issued by Mumbai Police in connection with the investigation into charges of TRP fudging. The court also expressed concern over police commissioners "giving interviews".

"I think your client's office is in Worli. You can go to Flora Fountain and approach Bombay High Court under Article 226," Justice D Y Chandrachud, heading a three-judge bench also comprising Justices Indu Malhotra and Indira Banerjee, told Senior Advocate Harish Salve, who appeared for the channel. "We are only saying

approach the HC first," said Justice Malhotra. "We must have faith in our High Courts. Without the intervention of the HC, it sends a bad message... They have been functioning throughout the pandemic," observed Justice Chandrachud. Justice Chandrachud added, "We are also concerned that as of late, police commissioners have the tendency of giving interviews".

Salve agreed to the court's suggestion to approach the high court and withdrew the petition.

"Like any other citizen who faces the predicament of an investigation under the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973, the petitioner will have to take recourse to the remedies which are available under the appropriate provisions of law. Hence, the petition under Article 32 of the

Constitution is not entertained," the court said in its order.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Police, in an advance affidavit, termed the plea "a gross abuse of the process of law" and said it "ought to be dismissed in limine with exemplary costs". The affidavit said "any investigation into an alleged crime by the investigating agency cannot be urged as a ground for violation of Article 19(1)(a) as is sought to be done by the Petitioners".

"Article 19(1)(a) cannot be invoked by the Petitioners to sidestep, thwart and prevent any investigation by the competent investigating agency into alleged fudging of TRP ratings. The right under Article 19(1)(a) is not a shield which can be used against any commission of crime under the extant criminal law of the land."

Nagaland govt talks to social, religious groups over Naga issue

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 15

THE NAGALAND Government on Thursday held a consultative meeting in Kohima with several social organisations, church organisations, civil society groups and political parties to discuss the Naga political issue and the ongoing negotiations and peace talks between the government of India and Naga outfits.

The resolution passed after the meeting appealed to the negotiating groups "to come together under a spirit of oneness, mutual trust and understanding with sincerity and commitment towards achieving one solution for one people as early as possible". Several political parties, including the opposition Naga People's Front, the Congress and Janata Dal (United), stayed away from the meeting.

## In TN, row over actor playing Murali in biopic

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 15

THE RELEASE of the trailer of a new Tamil film portraying the life of Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan has sparked a controversy in Tamil Nadu, with fans, several political leaders and many prominent film industry personalities in the state protesting Tamil actor Vijay Sethupathi's decision to play the lead role.

The first poster and the trailer of the biopic, titled '800', released on Tuesday, announcing the project celebrating the life of one of the world's most successful spin bowlers of all time.

Many in Tamil Nadu are, however, irked over Sethupathi's decision to enact the life of an Indian-origin Tamil from Sri Lanka's Kandy who had a questionable political stand during the 26-year civil war involving the LTTE.

Many in Tamil Nadu were opposed to Muralitharan's polit-



A poster of the movie 800 was released on Tuesday

ical stand during Lanka's civil war, as he was seen as supporting the government in Colombo — even as a Tamil celebrity who either refused to or never bothered to acknowledge the struggles of Tamils in northern part of Sri Lanka.

With Tamil nationalists pointing out that Muralitharan was close to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the country's war-time defence secretary, the cricketer's support

to Gotabaya during the election campaigns have irked many in Tamil Nadu. At one point, Muralitharan was even rumoured to be appointed governor of Northern Province, where a majority population is Tamil.

While the filmmakers on Thursday issued a statement in the face of protests, stating that it is "purely a sports biography film about the legendary cricketer", Rajya Sabha MP and MDMK gen-

eral secretary Vaiko alleged that Muralitharan has been "identified as a betrayer of the Tamil race" by Tamils around the world for supporting then Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa during the civil war.

Pattali Makkal Katchi founder-leader SRamadosh said the news on Sethupathi playing the role was "shocking". The actor, he stated, should not support a history of "betrayal" out of "ignorance". Naam Tamizhar Katchi leader Seeman wondered whether a movie on a "betrayer" and a "stooge" of the Sinhalese could be screened in Tamil Nadu and urged Sethupathi to disassociate himself from the film.

Prominent Tamil Nadu-based director Cheran urged Sethupathi to avoid the project. In a statement, Cheran said it was not worth the effort for Sethupathi to act in a film that is not bigger than his fans or the suffering of Tamil people. He stated that the collective Tamil sentiment is against the movie. Condemning Sethupathi's

decision, lyricist Thamarai said Muralitharan was being opposed because he had acted as the "loudspeaker" of majority Sinhalese politics and Rajapaksa in Sri Lanka, even as LTTE had never stopped him from playing cricket for his country.

Veteran Tamil filmmaker Bharathirajaa said if Sethupathi avoids the film he would be remembered with gratitude by the Tamil people everywhere. "The Tamil race will never forgive betrayers," PTI quoted him.

Soon after the project was announced on Tuesday, #ShameonVijaySethupathi started trending on Twitter on Wednesday and Thursday. In their statement on Thursday, the filmmakers said, "It came to our notice that our film 800...is being politicised in many ways... We, as producers, assure that this film will not showcase any scenes that would belittle the struggles of Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka or hurt their sentiments in any way..."

WITH PTI INPUTS

and Sciences. She was apprehensive of the award's security in India, considering the theft of Rabindranath Tagore's Nobel Prize medal from Shantiniketan some years previously.

Athaiya (née Rajopadhye) was born and raised in Kolhapur. Her father was a painter and she was the third of seven children. Athaiya came to Mumbai in 1945 and joined the Sir JJ School of Art. She became the first, and only, woman to be invited to join the Bombay Progressives, and was part of their seminal exhibition in 1953 at the Bombay Art Society's Salon on Rampart Row.

Her artistic career, however, was short-lived. She branched out to making illustrations for fashion magazines such as *Fashion & Beauty* and *Eve's Weekly*. She soon quit art altogether, and was accused by her peers of turning "commercial".

Art historian Dr Zehra Jumabhoy said, "As the only woman in the (Bombay Progressives) Group, she is highly significant. She left because she needed to make a living; it was a choice to go into fashion and then costume design, as these would

allow her to be financially independent. Her aesthetic style didn't have a chance to develop, but if you look at Krishen Khanna's or VS Gaitonde's work in the 1950s, you can see the similarities Bhanu shared with them."

In many ways, Athaiya the artist had just found a different canvas for her designs. She had her workshop in Colaba, which moved to Warden Road in the 1970s. Some of the most memorable costumes in Bollywood were her handiwork: Mumtaz's pop orange sari in 'Aaj kal tere mere pyaar ke charche' from *Brahmachari* (1969), Vyjayanthimala's iconic costume in *Amrapali* (1966), and many others.

Athaiya is survived by her daughter Radhika Gupta, who describes her mother as "God-gifted". Athaiya's ethnic knowledge and research were tremendous, she said, and recalled her mother travelling to Ajanta and Ellora to research *Amrapali*'s costumes. "I grew up watching my mother shoot off designs in literally 10 minutes. I was born at 730 in the morning, and I hear that my mother was working on her last sketches till a quarter to 4," Gupta said.

## Odisha TV journalist picked up by police, channel says 'targeted' for exposing govt claim

AISHWARYA MOHANTY  
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 15

A SENIOR journalist employed with regional news channel OTV was on Thursday picked up by the police in Odisha's Keonjhar district over alleged involvement in a case of obscene video that was circulated online last year.

While OTV alleged that the police specifically targeted the journalist — Ramesh Rath — for doing a series of operations "exposing" BJD government in the state, police denied the allegations and said no arrest was made.

Sadar police station in-charge Jai Narayan Khandaid said: "One of the accused who was arrested in the case and was serving jail term had informed us that the journalist had some video material pertaining to the case. Based on the statement, necessary actions were initiated. No arrests have been made yet."

The FIR in the case names 11 people for allegedly circulating on social media an obscene video on a woman MP from BJD. They were later arrested.

The channel said the development comes "a day after OTV telecast an expose on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's claims of an aer-

ial survey of flood-hit areas (in August), which was based on an RTI revelations." It stated: "After two hours of picking him up from the middle of the road, a team of Keonjhar police, along with a team of Bhubaneswar Police Commissionerate, reached the OTV office along with Ramesh Rath and initiated a search. The team failed to provide any search warrant."

Rath said: "They detained me for an old case and seized both my phones. They took me to Chandrasekharpur police station and gave me a notice to be present at police station in Keonjhar on October 21. Making allegations against me now in a case that is at least a year old, immediately a day after certain reports, cannot be a mere coincidence. Nevertheless, I will cooperate with the investigation."

Majority shares in OTV is owned by BJP national vice-president Bajajant Panda's family. In a series of tweets, Panda stated, "Serious allegations by activists (with RTI accessed aviation documents) that Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik faked an August 31 helicopter aerial survey of flooded districts... Reporter who broke news...arrested."

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## Convict's death in Nashik jail: State prison dept orders inquiry

SADAF MODAK  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

THE MAHARASHTRA Prison department has ordered an internal administrative inquiry into the death of a 32-year-old convict in Nashik Central Jail on October 7.

Asghar Masoodi is suspected to have died by suicide with a note wrapped in a plastic bag found in his abdomen during postmortem where he has named five prison officials and accused them of harassment.

Maharashtra Additional DGP (Prison and Correctional Services) Sunil Ramanand said he has directed Special Inspector General of Police (prisons), Chherring Dorje, to conduct the inquiry to find if there were any departmental lapses. "Police are probing into whether the incident amounts to a criminal offence, the inquiry is to look into lapses if any on part of the jail staff," an official said. Dorje visited the prison Thursday. An official said, "The probe will also look into whether any complaints were made by the convict (Masoodi) or other inmates against any prison official and whether there were

any lacunae in handling them."

At least five co-inmates have written to various authorities, including the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, seeking that an FIR under Section 306 (abetment to suicide) of the IPC be registered against the five prison officials named by Masoodi. The letters, it is learnt, have claimed that one of the officials named in the note was involved in illegal activities, including arranging cell-phones in prison, which Mansoori had come to know of. The letters claim that he was being harassed with threats of a false case, was kept in a separate cell and was removed from his duty as a warden as "punishment".

The inmates have also requested that their statements be recorded before a magistrate. The official said the five prison officials continue to remain on duty so far.

Senior Police Inspector Suraj Bijli on Thursday said an FIR is yet to be registered and statements are being recorded. An Accidental Death Record was filed by the police on October 7. Masoodi, who was convicted for murder in 2007, had spent over 13 years in jail serving a life imprisonment.



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

## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

## Death counts remain under 1,000 for 12 days in a row

ALONG WITH a drop in the number of new infections being detected, there has also been a significant decline in the coronavirus-related deaths being reported in India every day. For the last 12 days now, the number of deaths has remained below 1,000.

Since August 25, barring a few exceptions, India has been reporting more than 1,000 coronavirus-related deaths every day. On several of these days, India was the largest contributor of such deaths to the world tally.

But as the number of new infections has come down in the last month, so has the number of deaths. On Wednesday, 680 coronavirus-related deaths were reported from across the country, the lowest since July 27. For the last three days, this tally has remained below 800.

The decline is not surprising, because it indeed is linked to the number of people getting infected. The trend in deaths usually follow the trend in infection numbers with a lag of about two weeks. It's almost been four weeks since the decline in infections began, while the death count has begun to drop in the last two weeks. Yet, sharp

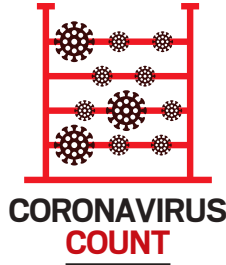
drop in the death tally on Thursday is a bit surprising, although welcome.

In the last two weeks, about 12,500 coronavirus-related deaths have been reported from India. In the two 14-day periods before that, this number had exceeded 15,000. India has reported the highest number of coronavirus-related deaths in the world after the United States and Brazil.

Meanwhile, Delhi has once again begun to report more than 3,000 new cases a day. The Delhi numbers had remained below 3,000 for 12 days, but crossed that figure on Tuesday and Wednesday. But it is still too early to say whether the declining trend in Delhi has been reversed.

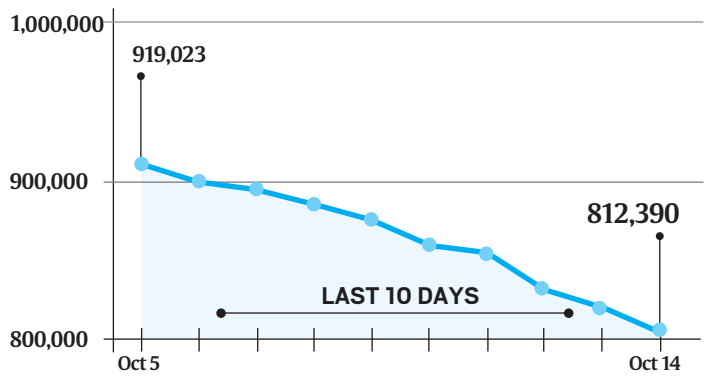
One state where the decline in cases has been the most impressive is Andhra Pradesh, the state with the second highest caseload in the country. Over a month, the number of cases has steadily come down from a level of 10,000 a day to less than 4,000 now. On Wednesday, it recorded about 3,900 new cases, the first time this number had gone below 4,000 on a non-Monday since July 20.

AMITABH SINHA



## INDIA ACTIVE CASES

812,390



Note: The Oct 14 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Oct 15

INDIA TOTAL CASES  
7,307,907

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Oct 15

WORLD TOTAL CASES  
37,614,668

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



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## Move to delete 'ineligible' names from Assam NRC: who, and why

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 15

EARLIER THIS week, authorities responsible for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam ordered the deletion of "ineligible" names that had erroneously made it into the prepared register.

## Whose names will be deleted?

In a letter dated October 13 to all Deputy Commissioners and District Registrars of Citizen Registration, Hitesh Dev Sharma, the NRC state coordinator, said "some names of ineligible persons" — persons "declared as foreigners" (DF) by Foreigners Tribunals, persons marked "Doubtful Voters" (DV) by election officials, or persons whose cases are "pending at Foreigners Tribunals", and their descendants — had found entry in the NRC.

Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) are quasi-judicial bodies meant to give an opinion on whether a person is an "illegal foreigner" under the provisions of The Foreigners Act, 1946. They send notices to people who are referred to it by Border Police or who have been marked 'D voters' by the local election office. According to a reply in Lok Sabha by the Home Ministry on December 10 last year, only four persons have been deported to Bangladesh till date, compared to 1,29,009 persons who have been declared foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunals till date.

As per the rules for preparation of the NRC, persons falling in the categories mentioned by Sharma cannot be included in the NRC. Sharma instructed officials in charge of NRC in respective districts to "write speaking orders for deletion of such names... after specifically ascertaining the identity of the person".



Officials check documents submitted by NRC applicants. File photo

## But if these individuals were declared 'foreigners', how could they have made it into the NRC?

One explanation being offered is that such persons may have got their names included using fraudulent documents or other deceitful means. Another reason officials often cite is that there is no synchronised real-time database, which reflects the status of a suspected "foreigner" to the NRC officials. Therefore, an official on the ground may actually have no way of knowing that a particular applicant has earlier been declared a 'foreigner' by an FT.

## So how many names could be deleted?

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Wednesday, Sharma said no speculation on numbers was possible at the moment. "Yes, we have started the process to delete names from the NRC of 'declared foreigners', 'doubtful voters', those who have cases pending at FTs and their descendants. Lists of names are

still coming in from several districts and it would not be fair to comment on the total number of such erroneous inclusions into the NRC right now. Let us get the complete lists," he said.

The state government has maintained that a 10%-20% re-verification is necessary to get a "correct" register. The Assam government has reiterated that it sticks to its demand of re-verification — 20% in border districts and 10% elsewhere — of names included in the final NRC. It has continued its criticism of the former NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela, holding him responsible for what it calls an erroneous NRC with allegedly wrongful inclusions and exclusions.

"We want a correct NRC... The NRC just completed is flawed. We have appealed to the Supreme Court that the people of Assam will never accept this NRC. Names of many illegal foreigners are included in it. NRC should include names of only genuine Indian citizens," Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said in Dibrugarh earlier this month. The government's appeal seeking re-verification is pending in the Supreme Court, Sonowal said.

## So where does the NRC stand now?

The NRC process has hit a wall as of now since the rejection orders to the 19 lakh excluded persons — which will allow them to appeal against the exclusion in Foreigners' Tribunals — are yet to be issued.

Officials have cited the pandemic as well as discrepancies in some rejection orders, which need to be re-checked, as reasons for the delay. Meanwhile, without the rejection order, the excluded persons are in a limbo.

The Supreme Court, which had proactively supervised the process since 2013, has not heard the matter since January 6.

## How did this happen? Isn't India one of the world's biggest economies?

Typically, countries are compared on the basis of GDP growth rate, or on absolute GDP.

For the most part since Independence, on both these counts, India's economy has been better than Bangladesh's. This can be seen from *Charts 1* and *2* that map GDP growth rates and absolute GDP — India's economy has mostly been over 10 times the size of Bangladesh, and grown faster every year.

However, per capita income also involves another variable — the overall population — and is arrived at by dividing the total GDP by the total population. As a result, there are three reasons why India's per capita income has fallen below Bangladesh this year.

■ The first thing to note is that Bangladesh's economy has been clocking rapid GDP growth rates since 2004. However, this pace did not alter the relative positions of the two economies between 2004 and 2016 because India grew even faster than Bangladesh. But since 2017 onwards, as *Chart 1* shows, India's growth rate has decelerated sharply while Bangladesh's has become even faster.

■ Secondly, over the same 15-year period, India's population grew faster (around 21%) than Bangladesh's population (just under 18%). The combined effect of these two factors can be seen in how the per capita GDP gap had closed considerably even before Covid-19 hit (*Chart 3*). Bangladesh's per capita GDP was merely half of India's in 2007 — but this was just before the global financial crisis. It was roughly 70% of India's in 2014 and this gap closed rapidly in the last few years.

■ Lastly, the most immediate factor was the relative impact of Covid-19 on the two economies in 2020. While India's GDP is set to reduce by 10%, Bangladesh's is expected to grow by almost 4%. In other words, while India is one of the worst affected economies, Bangladesh is one of the bright spots.

## Has this ever happened earlier?

Yes. In 1991, when India was undergoing a severe crisis and grew by just above 1%, Bangladesh's per capita GDP surged ahead of India's. Since then, India again took the lead.

## Is India expected to regain the lead again?

Yes. The IMF's projections show that India is likely to grow faster next year and in all likelihood again surge ahead. But, given Bangladesh's lower population growth and faster economic growth, India and Bangladesh

## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION &amp; ANSWER

## The Bangladesh comparison

In IMF's latest Economic Outlook, Bangladesh has overtaken India in GDP per capita. While Bangladesh has indeed made strides, its smaller population helps lift this metric. What else matters, what can happen now?

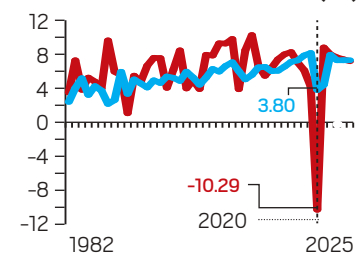
UDIT MISRA & NUSHAIBA IQBAL  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund's latest update on the World Economic Outlook released on Wednesday. In the IMF's estimation, in 2020, growth of India's gross domestic product (GDP) will witness a contraction of over 10%. This more than doubles the level of contraction — from 4.5% — that the IMF had projected for India just a few months ago.

But more than the sharp contraction, what has caught everyone's attention is that in 2020, the per capita income of an average Bangladeshi citizen would be more than the per capita income of an average Indian citizen.

## UPS AND DOWNS IN TWO ECONOMIES

Chart 1: GDP GROWTH RATE (%)



Source: World Economic Outlook Report 2020

Chart 2: GDP (\$ billion)

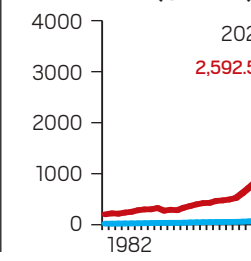


Chart 3: GDP PER CAPITA (\$)

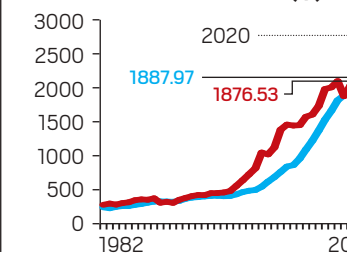
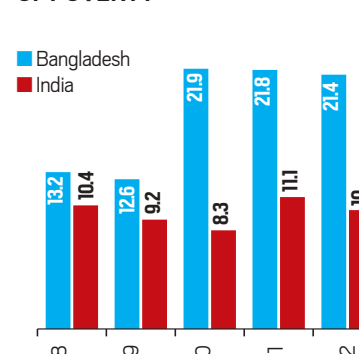


Chart 4: PREVALENCE OF POVERTY



% of population living below the international poverty line of \$1.9/day

Source: Informality and COVID-19 report by the World Bank

Chart 5: HOW THEY COMPARE ON CURRENT INDICATORS

	Bangladesh	India
Inflation (%)	5.8	3.8
Current Account Balance as % of GDP	-2.4	0.7
Net FDI as % of GDP	0.4	1.1
Fiscal Balance as % of GDP	-8.8	-12.4
Debt as % of GDP	45.9	90.4
HDI Rank	135	129
Life Expectancy (in years)	72.3	69.4
Female labour force participation (%)	36	20.335
Ease of Doing Business Ranking	168	63
Economic Freedom ranking	122	105
Proportion of adults with bank accounts (%)	50	80
Proportion of population with access to basic sanitation (%)	48.23	59.43
Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (deaths per 100,000 population)	11.9	18.6
Gender parity ranking	50	112
Global hunger ranking	75	94

Source: Global Hunger report, Informality and COVID-19, World Bank

are likely to be neck and neck for the foreseeable future in terms of per capita income.

## How has Bangladesh managed to grow so fast and so robustly?

In the initial years of its independence with Pakistan, Bangladesh struggled to grow fast. However, moving away from Pakistan also gave the country a chance to start afresh on its economic and political identity.

As such, its labour laws were not as stringent and its economy increasingly involved women in its labour force. This can be seen in higher female participation in the labour force (*Chart 5*). A key driver of growth was the garment industry where women workers gave Bangladesh the edge to corner the global export markets from which China retreated.

It also helps that the structure of Bangladesh's economy is such that its GDP is led by the industrial sector, followed by the services sector. Both these sectors create a lot of jobs and are more remunerative than agriculture. India, on the other hand, has struggled to boost its industrial sector and has far too many people still dependent on agriculture.

Beyond the economics, a big reason for Bangladesh's progressively faster growth rate is that, especially over the past two decades, it improved on several social and political metrics such as health, sanitation, financial inclusion, and women's political representation.

For instance, despite a lower proportion

of its population having access to basic sanitation, the mortality rate attributed to unsafe water and sanitation in Bangladesh is much lower than in India (*Chart 5*).

On financial inclusion, according to the World Bank's Global Findex database, while a smaller proportion of its population has bank accounts, the proportion of dormant bank accounts is quite small when compared to India.

Bangladesh is also far ahead of India in the latest gender parity rankings. This measures differences in the political and economic opportunities as well as the educational attainment and health of men and women. Out of 154 countries mapped for it, Bangladesh is in the top 50 while India languishes at 112.

The same trend holds for the Global Hunger Index. The GHI goes beyond treating hunger in terms of calorie intake. It looks at four factors: Undernourishment (which reflects inadequate food availability), Child Wasting (which reflects acute undernutrition), Child Stunting (which reflects chronic undernutrition) and Child Mortality (which reflects both inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environment).

## Besides the advances it has made, what challenges does Bangladesh face?

The past 15 years have witnessed a tremendous turnaround in Bangladesh's standing in the world. It has left Pakistan far behind and extricated itself from the tricky initial years to establish a democratic system.

But its progress is still iffy.

For instance, its level of poverty is still much higher than India's (*Chart 4*). In fact, according to the World Bank, "Poverty is expected to increase substantially in the short term, with the highest impact on daily and self-employed workers in the non-agricultural sector and salaried workers in the manufacturing sector."

Moreover, it still trails India in basic education parameters and that is what explains its lower rank in the Human Development Index.

But Bangladesh's biggest worry is not on the economic front, even though its loosely regulated garment industry is known to cut corners on labour safety and the onerous work conditions are beginning to have adverse health repercussions.

The bigger threat to its prospects emerges from its everyday politics. The leading political parties are routinely engaged in violent oppression of each other. Its everyday public life is riddled with corruption. In the 2019 edition of Transparency International's rankings, Bangladesh ranks a low 146 out of 198 countries (India is at 80th rank; a lower rank is worse off). Add to this a massive surge of radical Islam, which has resulted in several bloggers being killed for speaking out unpopular views.

These developments have the ability not just to arrest Bangladesh's progressive social reforms that have empowered women but also to derail its economic miracle.

## YOUR MONEY MEDICAL INSURANCE

## In new Covid scenario, why focus of insurers is turning to home care

GEORGE MATHEW & SANDEEP SINGH  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

WITH COVID cases remaining high and cost of hospitalisation rising, insurance regulator IRDAI has advised insurance players to change their focus from hospitalisation to preventive care, especially home care and outpatient treatment, and bring down the costs.

While insurance companies have started offering claims on Covid-related home quarantine treatment since July, industry insiders say such claims coming to insurance companies have not picked up so far despite a large number of people opting for home quarantine. Expecting a rise in claims for home quarantine treatment by end of October or November, sources say that since home treatment is not cashless and reimbursements have to be filed by patients, it will hit with a lag.

On the slow takeoff of home quarantine claims, Bhaskar Nerurkar, head of Health claims at Bajaj Allianz General Insurance said that it is on account of several factors including low awareness.

"There is a lack of awareness on this account as many patients are not aware that insurance companies are taking care of home quarantine treatments too. While we are expecting a rise in number of such claims later this month or next month because the claims can be filed in a month's time, in many cases, since the home quarantine cost are low at around Rs 10,000-Rs 20,000, many individuals are not even going for making claims,"



Insurance claims for home quarantine expected to pick up soon. File photo

Nerurkar said.

IRDAI Chairman Subhash Khuntia said the insurance sector has for too long concentrated on tertiary care or hospitalisation, and now there is a need to focus more on primary and secondary care, outpatient care, and move on to have preventive care.

"We should look at home care facilities. We don't need hospitalisation if home treatment is possible. This cost will come down. Insurance companies, customers... everybody will benefit. We have allowed video-based consultation. We have also allowed wellness in insurance policies," Khuntia said at an industry conference on Thursday.

Khuntia said IRDAI has allowed wellness and outpatient wellness and preventive features under a health insurance policy. According to IRDAI, empanelled hospitals and network providers can offer health services such as outpatient consultations or treatments, pharmaceuticals, health check-ups/diagnostics including discounts under

the health insurance policy. The regulator said they can issue redeemable vouchers to obtain health supplements and redeemable vouchers for membership in yoga centres, gymnasiums, sports clubs and fitness centres for participating in fitness activities.

Industry participants say that in the case of home treatment for Covid, they would reimburse costs such as tele-consultation with the doctor, nursing care cost, purchase of monitoring device, PPE kit cost and diagnostic cost among others. The policy covers hospitalisation expenses or home care treatment expenses after an insured is found to be coronavirus positive.

Insurers say that while the number of claims in August was in a few hundreds, they jumped 60-70 per cent in September for home quarantine treatment. "We are expecting a jump in the next month," said a senior official with another insurance firm. In fact, in case of in-patient treatment too insurers are saying that while claims peaked in mid-September, the daily claim figures have fallen by around 30 per cent in the first half of October.

Khuntia said medical inflation is high at 14 per cent and costs are still rising. On the other hand, retail inflation was 7.34 per cent in September. A Covid patient recently shelled out Rs 1.6 lakh for a 12-hour treatment in a Mumbai hospital. While the health insurance segment is just 0.27 per cent of the GDP, it is estimated that 70 crore people are yet to avail of a health policy.

As IRDAI regulations on outpatient treatment and diagnostics came only this year, some insurers are yet to offer these facilities in their policies.



## TOP OF THE WORLD



Sooronbai Jeenbekov

## KYRGYZSTAN

## President steps down amid election turmoil

Moscow: Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbai Jeenbekov announced his resignation on Thursday in a bid to end the turmoil that has engulfed the Central Asian nation after a disputed parliamentary election. In a statement released by his office, Jeenbekov, who has faced calls to step down from protesters and political opponents, said holding on to power wasn't "worth the integrity of our country and agreement in society." "For me, peace in Kyrgyzstan, the country's integrity, the unity of our people and calm in the society are above all else," Jeenbekov said. AP

## UNITED KINGDOM

## Oxford develops 5-minute Covid antigen test

London: Scientists from Britain's University of Oxford have developed a rapid Covid-19 test able to identify the coronavirus in less than five minutes, researchers said on Thursday, adding it could be used in mass testing at airports and businesses. The university said it hoped to start product development of the testing device in early 2021 and have an approved device available six months afterwards. The device is able to detect the coronavirus and distinguish it from other viruses with high accuracy, the researchers said in a pre-print study. REUTERS

## CHINA

## Govt defends Tibet labour programme

Lhasa: Top officials in Chinese-administered Tibet on Thursday defended a vocational training program that some critics have called coercive, and urged Tibetans not to "overdo" religion, during a briefing with foreign journalists on a rare visit to the region. "There is no element of coercion," Che Dhala, Chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region, said in response to a question. "As long as they work hard to get rich, listen to the party, follow the party, and get down to doing things, their future will be more beautiful." REUTERS

## SOMALIA

## Extremists kill 8 army soldiers, says official

Mogadishu: Somalia's extremist rebels have killed at least eight soldiers in an ambush in the country's south, said a military official. Two other soldiers are missing after an attack on a military convoy traveling between the towns of Afoye and Wanlaweyn in Lower Shabelle region, Col. Ahmed Hassan said Thursday. Somalia's al-Shabab, which is linked to al-Qaida, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The extremist group said it killed at least 25 soldiers, a claim dismissed by the Somali military. AP



Pro-democracy protesters occupy a main road at the central business district in Bangkok on Thursday. AP

## Thailand declares emergency after unprecedented protest in Bangkok

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BANGKOK, OCTOBER 15

THAI AUTHORITIES declared a strict new state of emergency for the capital on Thursday, a day after a student-led protest against the country's traditional establishment saw an extraordinary moment in which demonstrators heckled a royal motorcade. After the pre-dawn declaration, riot police moved in to clear out demonstrators who after a day of rallies and confrontation had gathered outside Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's office to push their demands, which include the former general's stepping down, constitutional changes and reform of the monarchy. Several top leaders of the

EXPLAINED  
What do the protesters want?

PROTESTERS WANT to reverse a 2017 increase in the king's constitutional powers, made the year after he succeeded his father King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Pro-democracy activists say Thailand is backtracking on the constitutional monarchy established when absolute royal rule ended in 1932. Protesters also seek the scrapping of lese-majeste laws against insulting the king.

protest movement were taken into custody, with one later declaring on his Facebook page that he had been denied access to a lawyer and was being forced onto a helicopter and taken to a city in the country's north. Police said they had made 22 arrests. Despite a new ban against large public gatherings, several thousand people answered calls to rally again in another area of the city later Thursday. The text of the emergency declaration said it was needed because "certain groups of perpetrators intended to instigate an untoward incident and movement in the Bangkok area by way of various methods and via different channels, including causing obstruction to the royal motorcade". Government spokesman Anucha Buraphachaisri an-

nounced Thursday morning that the prime minister had ordered police to take strict action against those who obstruct a royal procession or otherwise insult the monarchy. Protesters gathered again in a Bangkok shopping district Thursday afternoon and into the evening. The crowd grew big enough to block a major intersection flanked by upmarket malls and a famous shrine, where they were addressed by a series of speakers denouncing the government. Police stood by while the crowd chanted rude slogans calling for the prime minister to step down. Deputy police spokesman Col. Kissana Phathanacharoen warned earlier that calling for such a protest or attending one was against the law.

## EU to UK: Fair trade deal worth all effort but stand ready to fail

REUTERS  
BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 15

EUROPEAN UNION leaders said on Thursday agreeing a "fair" new partnership with Britain was "worth every effort" but that the bloc would not compromise at any cost and was ready for an abrupt split in trade worth a trillion euros every year. Meeting face-to-face for only the third time in the coronavirus pandemic, the EU leaders wore masks and kept their distance as they gathered in Brussels to discuss Brexit, where a new trade pact is still elusive as an year-end deadline nears. "We want a deal, but obviously not at any price. It has to be a fair agreement that serves the interests of both sides. This is worth every effort," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Britain left the EU in January and the estranged allies have since been locked in complex negotiations to try and keep trading without tariffs or quotas from 2021. Talks have narrowed gaps on issues from social welfare to transport but three contentious areas have so far prevented a deal: fair competition, dispute resolution and fisheries, which is particularly important to France.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron at the EU summit in Brussels. Reuters

"In no case shall our fishermen be sacrificed for Brexit," French President Emmanuel Macron said on arriving in Brussels. "If these conditions are not met, it's possible we won't have a deal. If the right terms can't be found at the end of these discussions, we're ready for a no-deal for our future relations," he added. With businesses and markets increasingly jittery as the deadline nears, Thursday's EU summit is to approve extending the negotiations with a demand for Britain to budge, as well as stepping up contingency plans for an abrupt split. Ireland, the EU member most

exposed to a chaotic rupture, said smooth post-Brexit trade between the world's sixth largest economy and biggest trading bloc was still possible and even more essential given the economic havoc of the COVID-19 crisis. Given the economic malaise and global instability, it would be "crazy" if the estranged allies failed to agree, said Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman said Britain would reflect on the Brussels meeting before deciding next steps. "We've always been clear that a negotiated outcome is our preference," he said.

## EU sanctions Russian officials over Navalny poisoning

REUTERS  
BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 15

The European Union imposed sanctions on top Russian officials close to President Vladimir Putin on Thursday in an unexpectedly robust and swift response to the August poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny. Pushed by France and Germany, where Navalny was treated after collapsing on a flight from Siberia, the EU targeted six Russians and a state scientific research centre, according to the bloc's Official Journal. Unlike the poisoning of a former Russian spy in Britain in 2018, when the EU took almost a year to sanction military intelligence agents, the bloc targeted officials it believes planned and helped carry out the poisoning. Andrei Yarin, head of the presidential policy directorate, Sergei Kiriyenko, Putin's first deputy chief of staff, Sergei Menyaylo, Putin's envoy to Siberia, Alexander Bortnikov, the director of Russia's Federal Security Service and two deputy defence ministers were targeted. Moscow rejects the accusations that Navalny had been poisoned and has said there were no grounds for sanctions.

## MEANWHILE

## EU CHIEF GOES INTO QUARANTINE

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen was forced to leave an EU summit Thursday shortly after it opened because one of her close staffers tested positive for Covid-19. She said that she herself tested negative but "as a precaution I am immediately leaving the European Council to go into self-isolation".



## Duelling town halls for Trump, Biden after debate plan nixed

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 15

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden will compete for TV audiences in duelling town halls instead of meeting face-to-face for their second debate as originally planned. The two will take questions in different cities on different networks Thursday night: Trump on NBC from Miami, Biden on ABC from Philadelphia. Trump backed out of plans for the presidential faceoff originally scheduled for the evening after debate organisers shifted the format to a virtual event following Trump's coronavirus diagnosis. As the pace of the campaign speeds up in its final weeks, the two candidates first are taking care of other electoral necessities Thursday: Trump has a mid-day rally in battleground North Carolina, and Biden is raising campaign cash at a virtual event. After being sidelined by the coronavirus, Trump resumed a breakneck schedule this week, with aides saying he is expected to travel and host campaign rallies every day through November 3. Meanwhile, Biden and his aides believe the president's scattershot campaign messaging since his Covid-19 diagnosis proves the core of Biden's case. AP



Donald Trump at a campaign rally at Des Moines International Airport Wednesday. AP/PTI

## Will give citizenship access to 11 mn illegals if elected, says Biden

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 15

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL candidate Joe Biden has vowed to provide citizenship to 11 million illegal immigrants if voted to power in the November 3 election. Biden identified this as one of his priorities in addition to beating the coronavirus, rebuilding the economy and figuring out how to restore American leadership around the world. Responding to a question at a



Joe Biden

virtual fundraiser Wednesday, Biden said, "We're going to have to deal with the immigration crisis we have. I'm going to send the House and Senate an immigration bill that's going to provide access to citizenship to 11 million people," he said. President Donald Trump has been repeatedly calling for the quick deportation of illegal immigrants who "invade" the US and lamented that the current immigration system is "unfair" to those who came legally to America. PTI



## US Senate Judiciary sets Oct 22 vote on Barrett's nomination to top court

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 15

THE SENATE Judiciary Committee convened on Thursday set an October 22 vote on Amy Coney Barrett's Supreme Court nomination as Republicans race to confirm President Donald Trump's pick before the November 3 election. The session is without Barrett after two long days of public testimony in which she stressed that she would be her own judge and sought to create distance between herself and past positions critical of abortion, the Affordable Care Act and other issues. Her confirmation to take the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg seems inevitable, as even some Senate Democrats acknowledged. Sen Lindsey Graham pushed past Democratic objections to set the panel's October 22 vote on recommending her confirmation even before final witnesses testify before and against her



Amy Coney Barrett

nomination. The committee set the vote for next week. In the minority, Democrats acknowledge there is little they can do stop them from locking a conservative majority on the court for years to come. The shift would cement a 6-3 conservative majority on the court and would be the most pronounced ideological change in 30 years, from the liberal icon to the conservative appeals court judge. Barrett is the most open opponent of abortion nominated to the Supreme Court in decades, and Democrats fear that her ascension could be a tipping point that threatens abortion rights.

## Pak: Over 450 Oppn workers booked ahead of anti-govt rally

M ZULQERNAIN  
LAHORE, OCTOBER 15

OVER 450 workers from Pakistan's Opposition parties have been booked in Lahore and other areas of Punjab province ahead of the first grand anti-government rally on Friday by an alliance formed to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan. On September 20, the leaders of 11 major Opposition parties announced formation of the Pakistan Democratic Movement and launch of a three-phased anti-government movement. The first anti-government rally is scheduled on Friday in Gujranwala city. Launching a crackdown, Punjab police booked over 450 workers, mostly of PML-N, in different parts of the province under Covid-19 violations and also arrested scores of PDM workers. The government allowed the Opposition to hold the Gujranwala rally with a direction that no speeches would be made against the military or judiciary. PTI

## ONCE A SUCCESS STORY, BURKINA FASO IS CONTENDING WITH A GROWING INSURGENCY

## How a stable West Africa nation has descended into mayhem

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 15

A STRANGE and terrible sound echoed across the badlands of swirling grit and desert scrub - the roar of a cadre of militants on motorcycles, more than a dozen of them. The growl of their engines was punctuated by the stuttering blasts of the riders' Kalashnikovs. This was how they always arrived. There were no government troops around, no police officers, no one to stop them. Ami Bande was in the market in Nagraogo, a village in north-central Burkina Faso, when she heard the first gunshots. Speeding toward her were about 15 motorbikes, each carrying two men who had come to kill. A total of 32 civilians, including Bande's brother-in-law, were

slain in Nagraogo on January 20. Another four were killed in a nearby village. Soldiers weren't there to protect them and only showed up days later in Barsalogo, where Bande and other survivors had fled, to escort them home to bury the corpses, she and other survivors said. What happened in Nagraogo is increasingly common in the hamlets north of the capital Ouagadougou. The motorbike-borne attackers thunder into villages with rifles and a set of ultramats: that the people convert to Islam or - if they're already Muslims - that women wear the veil. If their demands aren't heeded, they begin killing. Sometimes they start shooting without making any demands. The death toll has been growing. Last year, alone, jihadist militant raids left 1,063 dead, accord-



Jihadist militant raids have left 982 people dead in the first nine months of 2020, according to a monitor. Reuters/file

ing to Heni Nsaibia of the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, an American nonprofit that gathers and analyzes data about political violence and protest around the world. There

has been a death toll of 982 in the first nine months of 2020. Rampant terrorist violence has rewritten what was supposed to be an American foreign-policy success story - an oasis of peace

and stability in the turbulent African Sahel. For more than a decade, the United States has employed a plethora of counterterrorism and security assistance programs to provide a steady flow of funds, weapons, equipment and American advisers, and has even deployed commandos on low-profile combat missions - all of it designed to bolster the Burkina troops, allow them to protect their fellow citizens and prevent the rise of militant Islamist groups. Massacres like the one in Nagraogo have pushed Burkina Faso to the edge of catastrophe. Militant Islamist violence in the country has skyrocketed, from just three attacks in 2015 to 516 in the 12 months from mid-2019 to mid-2020, according to the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, a Defense Department research in-

stitution. Almost a million Burkina are now displaced, and nearly three million are in need of humanitarian assistance - in a country of just 20 million. "People are suffering, people are being killed, women are being raped, small children cannot go to school," said Filippo Grandi, the United Nations' high commissioner for refugees, during a visit to Kaya, a bustling town of 130,000 residents now contending with the arrival of an additional 100,000 displaced people. "It's here that we must intervene before this crisis becomes unmanageable." In 2018 and 2019, the Trump administration pumped in a total of \$100 million in "security cooperation" funding - equal to about two-thirds of Burkina Faso's 2016 defense budget - making it one of the largest recipients of U.S. secu-

city aid in West Africa. But the Burkina who have been attacked, injured or forced from their homes because of violence have seen precious little security. In addition to jihadist violence, Burkina Faso has suffered under the threat of the coronavirus, flooding and widespread abuses by Burkina security forces. And although American commandos continue shuttling into the country's borderlands, the United States has found itself unable to effectively train, arm and support local security forces without contributing to the conditions that push locals into the arms of jihadists. Burkina Faso has become just another of many countries - from Afghanistan to Iraq, Libya to Somalia - where the United States has spent time and energy and money, only to see the mission stagnate, worsen or outright fail.



GOLD

₹51,503



RUPEE

₹73.36



OIL

\$42.32



SILVER

₹62,410

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2100 IST

SENSEX: 39,728.41 ▼ 1066.33 NIFTY: 11,680.35 ▼ 290.70 NIKKEI: 23,507.23 ▼ 119.50 HANG SENG: 24,158.54 ▼ 508.55 FTSE: 5,818.25 ▼ 116.81 DAX: 12,669.85 ▼ 358.21

International market data till 1900 IST

## IT, BANKING STOCKS TOP LAGGARDS

## Sensex plunges 1,066 points on fading hopes of stimulus, lockdowns in Europe

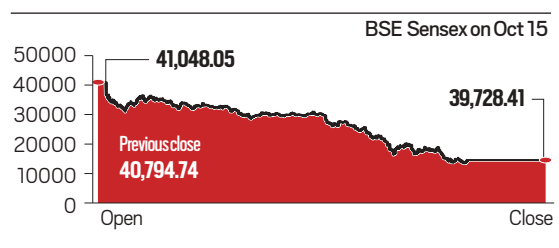
ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

WIPING OUT the gains in the last six sessions, domestic stock markets on Thursday fell 2.6 per cent as expectations of a big fiscal stimulus in India, the US and Europe did not materialize and the second wave of Covid-19 infection led to strict restriction and lockdown in Europe. The Sensex plunged 1,066 points to 39,728.41 and the NSE Nifty Index declined 291 points to 11,680.35.

"The market had moved up on expectations of a big stimulus, but the desired fiscal package was not announced in India and a delay of stimulus in the US and Euro has changed the trend. At the same time, the pace of economic recovery is under stress because of a resurgence of high rates of Covid infection, mounting to high economic restrictions," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

"The margin of safety is low given premium prices and slowdown in economic recovery. The trend going forward will depend on the supportive measures announced in context to stimulus and commentary of Q2 results," Nair said. "In India, we additionally

## INTRA-DAY MOVEMENT



had reports of a MFI defaulting on debt servicing due to internal fraud and a financial service firm facing forensic audit directed by the regulator."

Ajit Mishra, VP—research, Religare Broking, said, "Markets witnessed a sharp sell-off in today's session following global peers. Investor sentiment was largely impacted as US fiscal stimulus would get delayed until elections. Also, the second wave of Covid-19 infection led to strict restriction and lockdown globally majority in Europe added to woes."

On the domestic front, the benchmark indices opened flat and gradually inched lower in the first half. However, decline in IT, banking and energy majors intensified the fall as the session progressed.

"Weakness in the European

markets led to a fresh bout of selling in our markets post 1300 Hrs. European stocks slumped Thursday, with investors concerned about the impact of a second wave of coronavirus on the economy without any imminent stimulus to cushion the blow. Stalled vaccine trials and Brexit clouds also played a part in the sentiments weakening," said Deepak Jasani, head of retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Meanwhile, the rupee on Thursday settled 5 paise lower at 73.36 to the US dollar as weaker Asian peers and fund outflows from domestic markets weighed on investor sentiment. Additionally, importers' mid-month dollar demand also put pressure on the local unit, analysts said.

At the interbank forex market,

the rupee opened on a steady note but was caught in volatility as the trade progressed.

During the session, it hit an intra-day high of 73.22 and a low of 73.41 against the US dollar. It finally closed at 73.36, lower by 5 paise over its previous close of 73.31.

Foreign institutional investors turned net sellers in the capital market as they offloaded shares worth Rs 604.07 crore on Thursday, exchange data showed.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.34 per cent to 93.69.

Asian currencies were weak amid the sour risk tone as the dollar index inched higher and weighed on sentiments, an analyst noted. IT and banking stocks, which were outperformers of the rally seen in the last 10 trading sessions, led the decline. Further, Moody's statement that India's second round of stimulus will provide very limited support to growth during these times dampened the sentiment. The broader market also fell in tandem with Nifty Midcap and Nifty Small Cap 100 down 1.7 per cent each. All the sectors ended in the red with banks (-3.4 per cent), financials (-3.0 per cent) and IT (-2.9 per cent) remaining the top losers.

## Oil slides 2% as restrictions hurt demand

REUTERS  
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 15

OIL PRICES slipped over 2 per cent on Thursday as new restrictions to stem a surge in Covid-19 infections increased uncertainty over the outlook for economic growth and a recovery in fuel demand.

Brent futures fell \$1.00, or 2.3 per cent, to \$42.32 a barrel by 11:13 a.m. EDT (1513 GMT), while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell \$1.04, or 2.5 per cent, to \$40.00. The market pared some of its losses after the US Energy Information Administration said energy firms pulled 3.8 million barrels of crude from US stockpiles last week. The group will ensure oil prices do not plunge steeply again when it meets to set policy at the end of November, OPEC's Secretary General said, adding that demand has been recovering more slowly than expected.

## Plan to skill govt employees in cyber security, forensics over next 2-3 years

AASHISHARYAN  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

IN A bid to improve its response to cyber attacks, the government plans to impart training and skill development in cyber security and forensics to its employees at the central and state level over the next three years.

The Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), a public sector undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, has been tasked with the selection of agencies which could provide the training over the next 2-3 years.

"The idea is to train government officials with basic knowledge of cybersecurity and forensics to improve the overall awareness levels so that in the event of a breach, there can be some initial response while waiting for a more sophisticated response," an official at BECIL said.

The agency, as empaneled, will also be tasked with the maintenance of basic training and other government cyber infrastructure and get the said training programme certified by a state or central university, as per the ten-

## V-shaped recovery in several indicators, says FM

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON,  
OCTOBER 15

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said V-shaped pattern of recovery is being seen in several high-frequency indicators, driven by various measures taken by the government to revive economic growth, hit hard by the outbreak of pandemic.

In her address to the plenary meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the ministerial-level committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), through video conference, she said several low-income and developing countries are confronted with the challenge to protect and ensure livelihood for millions slipping below the poverty line.

Meanwhile, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Thursday that facing the twin task of fighting the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow, the world is experiencing a new Bretton Woods moment. World Bank President David Malpass said the globe is experiencing one of the deepest recessions since Great Depression.

## 'VC investments fall 21% to \$28.9 bn in Jan-Sept'

Despite the \$11.7 billion raised by Reliance Industries (RIL) via stake sales, venture investments in 2020 till September have fallen by a fifth to \$28.9 billion, consultancy firm EY said in a report

**\$24-28 billion:** Expected PE/VC investments in India by year's end, excluding bets in RIL arms

**\$17.2 billion:** Investments by private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) funds for January-September 2020, declining 53 per cent on-year, if investments in RIL arms Jio Platforms and Reliance Retail Ventures are excluded



**686:** Number of PE/VC transactions in January-September, as against 764 in the year-ago period

**79%** Fall in buyouts segment, at \$2.9 billion in the nine-month period; lowest in three years

## INVESTMENTS RECORDED IN SOME MAJOR SECTORS:

- Infrastructure and real estate: **\$2.9 billion**
- Financial services: **\$4.1 billion in 114 deals**
- Pharmaceuticals: **\$1.9 billion across 27 deals**
- Telecommunications: **\$10 billion across 13 deals**
- Digital technology: **\$2.3 billion across 106 deals**

**Why is it important:** Last year's favourites like infrastructure, real estate and financial services have seen heavy fall in investment flow, while others like pharma, telecom, technology and edutech have got a major chunk of investments

Source: EY/PTI

## BRIEFLY

## Export curbs on sanitizers lifted

New Delhi: The government on Thursday lifted all restrictions on export of alcohol-based hand sanitizers, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification. Amid the Covid-19 outbreak, the government had banned export of all types of sanitizers in March, but limited the restriction in May to only alcohol-based sanitizers.

## JLR drives in SUV Defender

New Delhi: Jaguar Land Rover India said Thursday it has launched its SUV Defender in the country, starting at Rs 73.98 lakh (ex-show-room). PTI

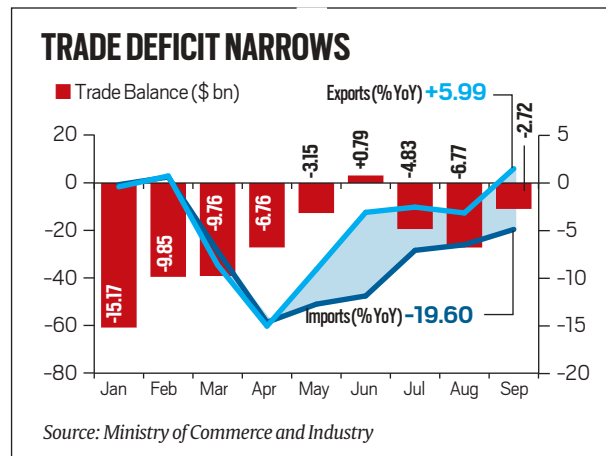
## Honour for PGCIL official

New Delhi: Seema Gupta, Director (Operations), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), won the Gold Stevie Award in the Lifetime Achievement—Business category at the 17th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. ENS

## Creta exports cross 2 lakh

New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India said Thursday its SUV Creta, launched in 2015, has crossed two lakh cumulative exports milestone. PTI

## Exports grow 6% in Sept, 1st rise since Feb



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS grew 6 per cent year on year in September, the first rise since February, and a contraction in imports narrowed to 19.6 per cent from 26 per cent in the previous month, suggesting a gradual return towards normalcy.

Consequently, trade deficit narrowed to just \$2.72 billion in September from \$6.77 billion in the previous month, showed the quick estimate of the trade data released by the commerce ministry on Thursday.

Importantly, the outbound shipment of core products (goods excluding petroleum and gems & jewellery), which reflects the economy's competitiveness, grew

as much as 11.9 per cent in September, against a 3.2 per cent fall in August. The growth in core exports indicates a nascent recovery in external demand.

Exports in September rose to \$27.58 billion from \$26 billion a year before. Imports shrank to \$30.31 billion last month from \$37.69 billion a year earlier. As many as 22 of the 30 major product groups witnessed growth in September, a first in the current fiscal. Earlier this month, however, the ministry had released a "preliminary estimate" of trade data, according to which merchandise exports had grown by 5.3 per cent, year on year, in September.

Among the well-performing segments, exports of rice jumped by more than 94 per cent year on year in September to \$725 million. FE

## LENS ON OVER ₹3,500 CRORE OF TRANSACTIONS

## SFIO probing 'fraudulent deals' by Reid and Taylor, ex-promoter

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 15

THE SERIOUS Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has initiated a probe into the recently liquidated firm Reid and Taylor India Ltd (RTIL) and its former promoter Nitin Kasliwal for alleged fraudulent transactions of over Rs 3,500 crore, sources told *The Indian Express*.

The probe was ordered following a directive by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), after the resolution professional (RP) found multiple irregularities in the books of RTIL during its liquidation process. The findings of the RP are based on a July 2019 report by KPMG on RTIL, which was submitted to the RP this February.

The KPMG report, which analysed transactions of RTIL between October 2014 and April 2018, alleged that the company had sale and purchase transactions of about Rs 2,829 crore with at least 22 "non-operating" companies that are "potentially"

## The investigation was ordered following a directive by the NCLT

linked to each other as they had common statutory auditors, registered email addresses and common witnesses — mostly students — to their memorandum of association as on December 2018.

The KPMG report also flagged two agreements signed by RTIL with offshore firms linked to its parent firm SKumar's Nationwide Ltd (SKNL) for the use of the 180-year-old Scottish brand Reid and Taylor in India. The consultancy firm said it was not able to find the reason for RTIL's trademark agreement and technical know-how agreement with Reid and Taylor (International) Ltd in the Bahamas and Reid and Taylor (Holdings) Ltd in the British Virgin Island respectively. Both the offshore firms managed by Trident Trust Company have been linked to SKNL.

The report also alleged that the

asset base of RTIL slipped from Rs 3,880 crore in 2013 to Rs 300 crore in 2016 as it spent its reserves and surplus in purchases, wrote off customer dues and wrote down the value of inventory.

For instance, the company wrote down its inventory worth Rs 748 crore in September 2014 to Rs 53 crore at the end of March 2016. According to the management of RTIL, this reduction was on account of deep discount sales to its 13 customers.

The KPMG report said RTIL has written off Rs 1,019.48 crore owed to it by these 13 "non-operating" firms as of March 2016. Apart from this, the report alleged that RTIL wrote off receivables of Rs 437 crore due to them from SKNL and other related parties.

Kasliwal did not respond to phone calls, and text messages. RTIL owes over Rs 4,100 crore to lenders, led by Finquest Financial Solutions. On May 14, RTIL, launched by SKumar's in India in 1998 shut down its plant in Mysuru, leaving 1,400 workers jobless.

## Import of air conditioners with refrigerants banned

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

INDIA WILL no longer be able to import air conditioners (ACs) with refrigerants, as the government on Thursday banned their imports — a move that comes in the midst of India's campaign to be self-reliant by promoting domestic manufacturing of such goods.

"Import policy of air conditioners with refrigerants ... is amended from free to prohibited," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification.

Non-essential electronic goods have been under the purview of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry since the government decided to push for self-reliance in various sectors this year. Air conditioners, specifically,

have been singled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an example of a segment where self-reliance was required. "We import more than 30 per cent of our demand for air conditioners. We have to reduce it fast," he said in June while discussing the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

In July, the government imposed restrictions on the imports of various colour TV sets as well.

## What data says about per capita GDP of India, Bangladesh?

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

CORNELL UNIVERSITY'S Professor of Economics and former Chief Economist of the World Bank Kaushik Basu has said that the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) latest projection of Bangladesh's real per capita gross domestic product (GDP) surpassing India's real per capita GDP, after India had a lead of 25 per cent five years ago, is shocking and calls for "bold fiscal/monetary policy".

"I've now checked the data. IMF's estimate shows Bangladesh will cross India in real GDP per capita in 2021. Any emerging economy doing well is good news. But it's shocking that India, which had a lead of

25 per cent 5 years ago is now trailing. This calls for bold fiscal/monetary policy," Basu posted on Twitter.

## What does the data show?

In its latest World Economic Outlook released this week, the IMF has projected the Indian economy to contract 10.3 per cent in 2020-21, a deeper hit than the June estimate of 4.5 per cent contraction in the wake of the economic slump due to Covid-19 pandemic. "Revisions to the forecast are particularly large for India, where GDP contracted much more severely than expected in the second (April-June) quarter. As a result, the economy is projected to

contract by 10.3 per cent in 2020, before rebounding by 8.8 per cent in 2021," it said.

Global growth is projected to contract 4.4 per cent, upward revision of 0.8 per cent from its June update, the IMF said. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a 9.5 per cent contraction for the Indian economy in 2020-21.

India's per capita GDP, in nominal US dollar terms, is projected to be \$1,876.53 in 2020, lower than \$1,887.97 projected for Bangladesh. On an average, India's per capita GDP has been 24 per cent higher than

Bangladesh during the last five years, IMF data showed.

After a blip, India's per capita GDP is expected to overtake Bangladesh's per capita GDP in 2021, with IMF projecting it to be \$2,030.62, as against \$1,989.85 of the latter, the IMF report said. However, the trend is not expected to sustain for long as India's per capita GDP is then again expected to slip to below Bangladesh's per capita GDP in 2024 to \$2,544.26 as against \$2,544.32. In 2025, India's per capita GDP is projected to be \$2,729.24, again lower than Bangladesh's projected per capita GDP of \$2,756.10, it said.

China's per capita GDP in 2020 is projected to be \$10,839.43, IMF data showed. Per capita GDP of India's other neighbouring countries such as

Nepal and Sri Lanka are projected to be \$1,115.56 and \$3,697.89, as per IMF data.

Data and forecasts for Bangladesh are presented on a fiscal year basis but the real GDP and purchasing-power-parity GDP aggregates that include Bangladesh are based on calendar year data, the IMF said.

## What does the government say on the rankings?

Government sources have said that in terms of purchasing power parity, India's per capita GDP was 11 times higher than that of Bangladesh in 2019, PTI reported. India's per capita GDP in PPP terms in 2020, was estimated by the IMF at \$6,284, compared with \$5,139 per capita GDP (PPP) of Bangladesh for 2020, it said.



# Punjab make heavy weather of simple chase

Kings XI scrape through off the final ball to register their second win

**SYNOPSIS**  
Bangalore err in holding back AB, Punjab don't choke despite nervy stumble at the end.

**SRIRAM VEERA**  
OCTOBER 15

BANGALORE WERE 86 for 3 in the 11th over but AB de Villiers didn't walk out. Instead, they opted for Shivam Dube and with Virat Kohli too unable to accelerate, the innings lost momentum. Chris Gayle and KL Rahul took the chase of 172 to the last over where they needed just two and nearly choked against Yuzvendra Chahal but Nicholas Pooran held his nerve to launch the last ball for a six to secure only their second win of the tournament. Both have come against RCB.

## Where was AB?

The question that left everyone scratching their heads was why didn't de Villiers come out to bat at the fall of Washington Sundar in the 11th over? It can't be because of de Villiers' supposed vulnerability against the googly, even if he has been dismissed seven times since IPL 2018 by it, and has a strike rate of 100 against googlies. That would be insulting to the South African genius even if Kings XI Punjab had two leggies in M Ashwin and Ravi Bishnoi. Or was it because of the clichéd right-left combination theory? "It was for left hand-right hand combination," Kohli said later. "We had a discussion. They had two leggies. Sometimes, decisions you take don't come off."

In the past, de Villiers' partnership with Kohli in the last four overs has been insanely productive, averaging 68 at a strike rate of 13.57 an over. To explode like that, though, de Villiers needed to have a few balls to settle down.

Dube before de Villiers was a negative decision, especially when most oppositions know how to tie up the left-hander. Bangalore had to thank Chris Morris, who



In his first match of the season, Chris Gayle scored a 45-ball 53. BCCI

## POINTS TABLE

Team	Matches	Won	Lost	NR	Points
DC	8	6	2	0	12
MI	7	5	2	0	10
RCB	8	5	3	0	10
KKR	7	4	3	0	8
SRH	8	3	5	0	6
CSK	8	3	5	0	6
RR	8	3	5	0	6
KXIP	8	2	6	0	4

and their second best, Washington Sundar was taken out by Chris Gayle, playing his first game this IPL.

But since this is Punjab, one couldn't take one's eyes off the chase. They needed just two in the final over from Chahal and after two dot balls, Gayle dragged one to wide long-on and even though there was a diving stop, they ran just a single. Rahul almost cut the fourth ball straight into the point fielder's hands, and Gayle had a wry smile before the fifth ball. He was run out going for the impossible and as panic set in the dugout – did Anil Kumble, the coach, ever look so tense in his playing days? – Nicholas Pooran charged out to just about clear long-on off the final ball. If it wasn't for the small ground at Sharjah, he would have been out, but then he might not have tried it elsewhere.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Kings XI Punjab 177/2 (KL Rahul 61 not out, Chris Gayle 53) beat Royal Challengers 171/6 (Virat Kohli 48, M. Ashwin 2/23) by 8 wickets.

provided a spectacular finish, slamming an 8-ball 25 and taking 24 runs, in collaboration with Isuru Udana, off the last over bowled by Mohammed Shami.

## Punjab choke... almost

That was the only way they could have lost this, especially after Bangalore's best bowler Chahal went for 28 runs in two overs

# At 156.22 kmph, Nortje breaks IPL speed barrier

**TUSHAR BHADURI**  
OCTOBER 15

KNUCKLE BALLS, cross-seam deliveries, slower bouncers and back-of-the-hand stuff. These are some of the skills pacemen have had to learn to contain marauding batsmen in limited-overs cricket. Twenty20 cricket is generally not good for a fast bowler's ego, as they are not allowed to dictate terms.

But the 2020 Indian Premier League is witnessing a refreshing change, and Wednesday's match between Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals was a shining example. The fast bowlers didn't resort to change of pace or line to deceive the batsmen after being hit for a four or six. They stuck to their strengths and, if anything, tried to bowl quicker and targeting the stumps. Jofra Archer, Anrich Nortje and Kagiso Rabada showed that pace is still one of the most precious currencies in cricket, no matter the length of the game.

If one looks at the teams struggling at this moment – such as Chennai Super Kings, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kings XI Punjab – they lack the extra dimension in their attack that extreme pace provides.

## Plan A, plan B...Pace

Consider this: Nortje's first delivery of the night, bowled at 148 kmph, is lofted by Jos Buttler over long-on for a six. Far from being disheartened, the South African cranked his speed further, to 152.3 and 152.1 kmph, on the next two balls.

The subsequent two deliveries showcased the audacity of T20 batting as Buttler ramped them for boundaries, the second one the fastest ball (156.22kmph) in IPL history. In the usual scenario, any bowler would be at his wit's end. But Nortje stuck to what he knows best and got rewarded for it. A 155.4 kmph ball, straight and full at the stumps, beat the Englishman's attempted hit down the ground and shattered the stumps.

There were a few more 150+ kmph deliveries in Nortje's next over, and even Ben Stokes and Steve Smith – who would have faced such extreme pace – knew better than to take any chances. Nortje has bowled the five fastest deliveries in this edition, topping at 156.22 km per hour on



The 26-year-old eclipsed compatriot Dale Steyn's effort of 154.40 km per hour set in 2012, clocking his best effort of 156.22 kph. BCCI

## FIVE FASTEST DELIVERIES IN IPL HISTORY (KMPH):

Anrich Nortje	156.2
Anrich Nortje	155.2
Anrich Nortje	154.7
Dale Steyn	154.4
Kagiso Rabada	154.2

Wednesday.

But Nortje's most crucial contribution was still to come. With Royals needing 29 runs in three overs, the South African speedster held his nerve and castled Robin Uthappa with a yorker at the base of middle-and-leg stump, bowled at 149.7 kmph as the batsman tried to charge at the pacer. Nortje closed out his spell with a 151.6 kmph delivery as the 18th over went for just four runs, including a bye, as momentum changed hands. Nortje's effect on the game was far more than his figures of 2/33 would suggest.

Rabada gave fewer runs and had perfectly respectable figures of 1/28 in four overs, but looked distinctly pedestrian in comparison to his compatriot.

Dale Steyn held the record for the pacesetter in the IPL before this season (154.4 kmph), and is understandably delighted with the success his tribe is enjoying and the way they are making batsmen squirm and hop.

"KG, Archer, Ana I'd have paid to watch them live tonight. Fast bowling is strong, and this competition is being dominated by these beasts!" the legend, presently on RCB's books, tweeted after Wednesday's game.

## Archer lightning quick too

The fast bowling exhibition had started earlier in the evening with Archer making the Delhi Capitals batsmen dance to his tunes. He bowled Prithvi Shaw with one that jagged back off the first ball of the match, and reached a speed of 148 kmph with his seemingly lazy action, allied with the movement he got. A seasoned professional like Ajinkya Rahane was made to look all at sea in the third over before attempting an ill-advised and ungainly pull to be caught at mid-on. Archer reached 151 kmph in that over. It may have been advisable to give Archer another over at that stage, but skipper Smith held him back for the death. There too he kept the speed gun interested, while getting dangerous Marcus Stoinis with his last ball. Archer's spell read 3/19 and he didn't deserve to be on the losing side in the end.

## 150kmph-plus, the new 140 ?

According to the IPL's official website, Nortje and Archer have combined to bowl 19 of the 20 fastest deliveries this season. Pat Cummins is the third man in the top 20, having bowled one at 151.7 kmph. In total, after Wednesday's game, the 150 kmph mark has been reached 34 times.

A line of thought says that as the pitches get slower in the second half of the tournament, spinners will get more joy. But those who are quicker through the air may still have enough to take the surface out of the equation. Apart from DC and RR, other teams doing well have at least one express bowler. Mumbai Indians have James Pattinson, along with Jasprit Bumrah and Trent Boult, while Royal Challengers Bangalore have the impressive Navdeep Saini in their ranks and Cummins is flying the flag for Kolkata Knight Riders.

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