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Covid puzzles: jobs back, labour shrinks, demand low but inflation still high

Uptick in rural jobs but losses in urban areas, supply chain disruptions

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
& ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

WITH ECONOMIC activity picking pace after the easing of lockdown measures, the recovery has thrown up some paradoxes: revival in employment amid a fall in labour force participation, surging inflation rate despite disinflationary impact from weak demand, and improvement in future outlook surveys even as the situation worsens in households.

In September, as lockdowns were progressively eased, an unusual labour market phenomenon was observed in India -- while several workers got jobs, many who did not went on to leave the labour force, data collated by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed. Typically, when



Data suggests migration back to cities not happening as expected

more people find jobs, as had happened during September, a greater number should have come in looking for jobs. The reverse seems to have happened, the CMIE estimates suggest.

The unusual trend is explained by a rural-urban disaggregation of the data: rural India is seeing an increase in jobs

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Tejashwi attacks Nitish over Chirag; RJD says on CM, both 'on same page'

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 19

FISHING in NDA waters mudied by the IJP's growing ambition, the RJD Monday appeared to reach out to Chirag Paswan, with Tejashwi Yadav accusing JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar of treating him badly.

Talking to reporters while campaigning, RJD chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi said, "It is Chirag Paswan who would be needing his father most now. We are all sad that Ram Vilas Paswan is not among us. But the way Nitish

Kumar treated Chirag, it is injustice to him."

Tejashwi was the only senior Bihar Opposition leader to have met Chirag to offer his condolences after Paswan's mortal remains arrived at Patna airport.

Earlier, in an interview to *The Indian Express*, Chirag had dodged a question about Tejashwi's abilities as a leader, saying, "He is the Leader of the Opposition and has

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

INDIA-CHINA: A LONG WAY FROM 1962

BY SANJAYA BARU
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THE WORLD



CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES CROSS 40 MN

THAI GOVT SEEKS TO CRACK DOWN ON MEDIA COVERAGE OF PROTESTS

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To bring empty IPL stands alive in UAE, engineers in a Mumbai studio cut-paste audio from archives

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

THE IPL that you see is being played in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. But what about the IPL that you hear?

With teams playing in front of empty stands due to Covid curbs, the answer lies 2,000 km away from the UAE, where a "sound bank" compiled in a Mumbai studio has recreated the mood and buzz of a throbbing stadium -- be it the Wankhede in Mumbai,



When Rohit Sharma hits a six, the cheers are different. File

Chinnaswamy in Bengaluru or Chepaik in Chennai. Getting this right, says the



BACK TO SCHOOL

A Class 9 student at the Rajkiya Inter College in Noida on Monday. Schools reopened for the senior classes for the first time since the Covid-enforced lockdown. Abhinav Saha

New digital health ID will be used in Covid immunisation, says PM

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

TWO MONTHS after he announced that a unique health ID will be provided to every citizen under the National Digital Health Mission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday indicated that the "digital health ID will be used to ensure immunisation".

Addressing the inaugural function of the Grand Challenges Annual Meeting 2020, the Prime Minister said, "...India is now at



Modi had announced health ID in I-Day speech

the forefront of vaccine development for Covid-19. Some of them are in advanced stages. We are not stopping here; India is already working on putting a well-established vaccine delivery system in place. This digitised network, along with the digital

health ID, will be used to ensure immunisation of our citizens."

In his Independence Day address, the PM had said that the Unique Health ID provided to every citizen would have details of diseases, diagnosis, report, medication, etc. in a common database.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, a high-level expert group on vaccine administration is looking at mechanisms to track recipients as and when the vaccine is ready to be administered;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ED quizzes Farooq, NC and PDP say vendetta

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & BASHAARAT MASOOD
NEW DELHI, SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned National Conference president Farooq Abdullah in connection with a case of alleged money laundering. The case is related to al-

leged irregularities in grants given by BCCI to Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

The ED action, which came days after political parties of Jammu and Kashmir came together to announce a united struggle for the restoration of Article 370, evoked angry reactions in the Valley.

The People's Alliance for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



MALABAR EXERCISE NEXT MONTH

Signal to China: Quad navies to sail together, Indo-US pact on table

India, US, Japan & Australia in joint exercise; BECA being readied for talks

SHUBHAJIT ROY & KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

AMID THE Sino-Indian military standoff along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh and rising tensions in the South China Sea, the Quadrilateral grouping of US, Japan, India and Australia are sending their warships for the Malabar Exercise next month.

New Delhi and Washington are also stepping up efforts to conclude the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) ahead of the Indo-US 2+2 ministerial meeting on October 26-27 -- defence and foreign ministers of the two countries will be in a huddle at the 2+2.

A key military pact, BECA will allow India to use US geospatial intelligence and enhance accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones. In February, US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for early conclusion of BECA.

On Monday, India announced that Australia will be part of the Malabar Exercise in November, making it the first military exercise between all



During the 2017 Malabar Exercise in the Bay of Bengal. File

EXPLAINED The troika of pacts

GEOSPATIAL SPECIFICS shared under the BECA will help enhance the accuracy of Indian missiles, and will be key to plans for armed drones. It will complete the troika of foundational pacts -- COMCASA and LEMOA being the other two -- with the US for greater military cooperation.

countries that make the Quadrilateral grouping, better known as Quad.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Pompeo to visit Sri Lanka, Maldives after Delhi talks

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

IN THE final week before the US presidential elections on November 3, Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo plans to visit India's two Indian Ocean neighbours, Sri Lanka and the



His Lanka visit comes amid concerns over China

Maldives, after attending the 2+2 talks in Delhi, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Zee News argues to protect source, HC says you are no prosecuting agency

SOFIA HASAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE DELHI High Court on Monday questioned Zee News for making public the purported "disclosure statement" of an accused in a case related to the Northeast Delhi riots, saying it was not a prosecuting agency and the document, which has "little evidentiary value" in a trial, has been portrayed as something that "completely indicts a person".

"It is a misrepresentation of facts of a different level," observed Justice Vibhu Bakhrui. Saying that the documents "were not supposed to be taken out and published," the court asked Zee

News to file an affidavit and disclose the source of the alleged confession by the accused.

The court also rejected the channel's request to be allowed to disclose the name of the journalist, who got the statement, in a sealed cover. "You make (public) documents which are not supposed to be taken out and you want your name to be concealed," the court told Advocate Vijay Aggarwal, who appeared for Zee News.

The single-judge Bench was hearing a petition filed by Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha against his "disclosure statement" being allegedly leaked by police to the media.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Two weeks to go for polls, Trump narrows gap, but Biden still has the edge



KARISHMA MEHROTRA
SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 19

WITH A fortnight left for the November 3 Election Day in the US, Democrat nominee Joe Biden's once-encouraging lead over incumbent Republican

Donald Trump has narrowed, leaving both campaigns on edge.

Biden campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon said in a memo to donors, reported by Reuters, "We cannot become complacent because the very searing truth is that Donald Trump can still win this race, and every indication we have shows that this thing is going to come down to the wire."

"New polling shows this election is going to come down to a few swing states like North Carolina, Minnesota, Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin... Simply put, we can win this but we've got to ramp up our campaign," said Trump's campaign manager Bill Stepien

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Strengthening the Bond of Trust

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
भारत सरकार का उद्यम
एक परिवार एक बैंक

Mahasuper Housing Loan

ROI- 7.05% EMI- ₹669/- Per Lakh

2 EMI's FREE

Mahabank Gold Loan

ROI- 7.50%

Loan available upto: ₹ 20.00 Lakh

Mahasuper Car Loan

ROI- 7.45%

EMI- ₹1532/- Per Lakh

No Processing Fee

Festive Celebrations Got Bigger!

Net Profit Growth 13.44%	CASA 50.51%	NIM 2.62%	Provision Coverage Ratio 87.15%
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UNAUDITED (REVIEWED) FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

(₹ In Crore)

	Particulars	Quarter Ended 30/09/2020 (Reviewed)	Year Ended 31/03/2020 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 30/09/2019 (Reviewed)
Net NPA 3.30%	Total Income from Operations (Net)	3319.01	13144.67	3295.91
MSME Advances Growth 32.75%	Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	130.07	388.58	114.66
Retail Advances Growth 34.42%	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after extraordinary items)	130.07	388.58	114.66
CET-1 Capital 10.31%	Equity Share Capital	6560.16	5824.11	5824.11
	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	3666.65	3666.65	1613.17
	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (of ₹ 10/- each) Basic (in ₹) : Diluted (in ₹) :	0.21 0.21	0.67 0.67	0.20 0.20
	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of ₹ 10/- each) Basic (in ₹) : Diluted (in ₹) :	0.21 0.21	0.67 0.67	0.20 0.20

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (BSE: www.bseindia.com and NSE: www.nseindia.com) and Bank's website (www.bankofmaharashtra.in)

Place: Pune Date: 19/10/2020

P. R. Khatavkar
Chief Financial Officer

Nageswara Rao Y.
Executive Director

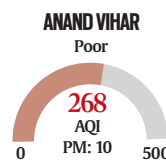
Hemant Tamta
Executive Director

A. S. Rajeev
Managing Director & CEO

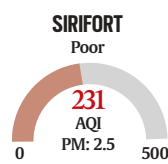
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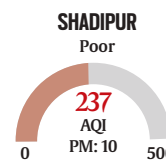
0-50 Good



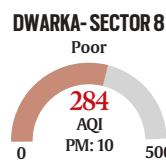
51-100 Satisfactory



101-200 Moderate



201-300 Poor



301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

WILL BE PROCESSED, CLEANED, LABELLED

Soon, packed ration to reach 17.5 lakh homes

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE DELHI government's ration at doorstep scheme will involve packing "processed and cleaned" wheat and rice into bags labelled with manufacturing and expiry dates, and delivery through field agents after biometric verification of beneficiaries.

Three months after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced the scheme, the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCCC) has taken the first step towards its implementation by floating a tender to engage agencies for transportation, processing, packaging and delivery of packed rice for distribution.

A separate tender is likely to be issued to rope in agencies to deliver wheat flour instead of wheat, which requires milling. Once launched, all 17.54 lakh ration card holding families — totalling 71.6 lakh PDS beneficiaries — in Delhi will have the option of availing the doorstep scheme, which has been named Mukhya Mantri Ghar-Ghar Ration Yojana.

According to the plan drawn up by the government, an agency will be tasked with lifting wheat and rice from the godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The wheat will be processed into wheat flour before distribution, while the rice will be cleaned of straws, stones, jute bag thread, mud or other impurities and foreign substances.

There are seven FCI godowns across Delhi that store 75,114.24 quintal of rice for PDS beneficiaries in the city. Apart from rice, 2.91 lakh quintal wheat and 684.68 quintal sugar are stored.

"The scheme is aimed to make quality ration available at the doorstep of the beneficiary in a packaged form to ensure that the right quality and quantity is being received. The packaged quantity will have all kinds of information related to the processing/manufacturing and expiry of the commodity mentioned in the packet. This scheme is expected to be launched for all the districts of Delhi simultaneously," the tender says.

The cleaned and packed food grains will then be delivered to



The distribution of ration in Delhi is currently managed by a network of 2,014 fair price shops that see long queues. *Archive*

EXPLAINED

The beneficiaries

UNDER THE National Food Security Act, 2013, which governs the public distribution system, the 17.54 lakh ration cards in Delhi are divided into three categories — 15.12 lakh priority households, 1.73 lakh priority state households, and 68,468 Antyodaya Anna Yojana families. The beneficiaries coming under the PR and PRS categories are entitled to 5 kg of food-grains per month while AAY households receive 25 kg wheat, 10 kg rice and 1 kg sugar.

the agency which will be in charge of home delivery "as per the agreed schedule" between the two agencies.

"The packaged wheat flour and rice will then be distributed at the doorstep (direct to home) of the beneficiary by a DHD agent appointed by the department. The beneficiary will be informed 24 hours in advance for convenience, and the distribution will take place based on the biometric verification of the beneficiary," according to the tender document.

The distribution of ration in Delhi is currently managed by a

network of 2,014 fair price shops.

The doorstep scheme was one of the major poll promises of the AAP in the run up to this year's assembly polls.

To prevent theft and pilferage, the agency in charge of processing and packaging will have to transport the food grains to delivery agents in vehicles fitted with CCTVs and GPS for recording and monitoring. CCTVs will also have to be installed at the processing and packaging centres and the government will have access to the live feed.

The bags will come in sizes of 1 kg, 2 kg, 3 kg and 5 kg in four various colours. They will be stamped with details such as nutritional information, date of manufacture, expiry date, date of packaging, and customer care numbers among others.

The AAP government's attempt to launch the scheme in 2018 was stalled by Lt-Governor Anil Bajjal, who had advised the elected government to refer the matter to the Union government with full details before taking a final decision, saying due diligence was needed before rolling out a scheme that directly impacts the weakest sections of the society.

The Finance Department had also raised red flags, saying home delivery of ration will only replace one set of human intervention with another in the form of service providers and their agents.

Later, Kejriwal, along with his Cabinet colleagues, had led a nine-day sit-in inside Bajjal's office over a host of issues, including the L-G's position on the ration issue.

Schools open in Noida but Covid fear and wary parents mean thin attendance on day 1

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, OCTOBER 19

MOST PRIVATE schools in Noida and Greater Noida remained shut on Monday as parents decided not to send children to attend classes despite comprehensive Covid protocols in place. A few private schools, which opened Monday, reported low turnout. Schools in Noida and Greater Noida had shut in March.

"We concluded our inspections and preparations by Saturday. We had asked parents to give us in writing to allow their children to attend school. On our end, we have laid out social distancing measures and the classroom strength has been reduced. In the coming two days, we will be holding trial classes with approximately 20 students in each batch. We will evaluate further af-

ter those classes," said Kamini Bhasin, principal of DPS, Noida Sector 30, which remained shut on Monday. Apeejay School in Sector 16 A also remained shut.

As part of Covid measures in schools, security guards have been positioned at the entrance of each gate to check temperature of students and sanitise their hands. Classes for students in 9th and 10th are being held from 8-11 am while for 11th and 12th students, classes are held from 12-3 pm.

At DPS, the school authority said it will send an SMS to the parents as soon as their child arrives and another notification once the class gets over.

"As schools open up in the coming days, we are likely to see increased participation from board students since they have to attend laboratory sessions. The theoretical part is being taught already in online classes," said an



At the govt school in Noida Sector 12. *Abhinav Saha*

official from Apeejay School.

Most school authorities will not provide school transport and the children will have to use private or public transport.

Meanwhile, around 60 students turned up for classes in a government school in Sector 12 though some were turned away

for not wearing uniform.

"The children are excited but also a little afraid. In the coming days, we are hoping to see more students as people overcome the fear. The best we can do is sanitise classrooms at regular intervals and ensure distancing," said an official at the Government Inter

College situated in Sector 12.

Some parents said schooling will have to resume with due precaution. "My child studies in a private school. They recently sent out a Google form regarding preference of classes. It is due to open next week and I am considering sending my child. The fact is that this disease might not go for another two years. We have to be careful and carry on with things since Board years are crucial," said Kapil Sharma, a Noida resident.

At several schools, circles have been marked at the gates to maintain social distancing. Benches inside classrooms have been set up in such a way that there is ample distance between each student. In most schools, the capacity of classes has been reduced to 50% to maintain Covid protocol. Further, schools will not hold sports classes or any other group activity.

CBI officer denies assaulting prosecutor, initiates legal action

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

APPEARING BEFORE a Delhi court, a DIG-rank officer with the CBI has said allegations that he assaulted a CBI prosecutor were false and that he has taken legal action against him.

CBI prosecutor Sunil Kumar Verma had accused DIG Raghavendra Vats of allegedly assaulting him inside his office on October 9 when he visited at 10.30 am. He told the court on October 12 that he was "punched and strangled" inside the CBI headquarters, allegedly over a delay in framing charges against Rajendra Kumar, former principal secretary to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is facing trial in a corruption case.

Verma had also filed a police complaint at Lodhi Road police station. The court had issued summons to Vats observing that it was a serious matter, and asked the DIG to explain his alleged conduct.

On Monday, Vats appeared before Special Judge Rakesh Kumar Sharma and called the allegations "absolutely false".

The court was informed that prior to the hearing, both parties had taken legal action against each other. The court said no further orders are required. "The incident did not appear in the presence of the court. Hence, I am of the concerned view that except for observing that PP is an officer of the court, no further orders are required," the court said in its order.

CBI booked Rajendra Kumar, a 1989-batch IAS officer, for alleged criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery under IPC besides provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act along with eight others and Endeavour Systems Private Limited.

It has been alleged by the CBI in the FIR that the accused persons entered into a criminal conspiracy and caused a loss of Rs 12 crore to the Delhi government in award of contracts between 2007 and 2015. The CBI, in the FIR, also alleged that the officials had taken "undue benefit" of over Rs 3 crore while awarding the contract.



A PWD worker sprays water on trees as part of dust control measures near Rajghat Monday. *Praveen Khanna*

‘Introduce theatre education in schools’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

ACTOR MANOJ Bajpayee Monday advised the Delhi government to introduce theatre education in schools and get children living in slums and homeless children to take up this art form to draw them to the mainstream.

Bajpayee placed his recommendations before Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia during the first meeting of the advisory committee tasked with formulating a cultural policy for the capital.

The actor also suggested that more public spaces should be made available to artists to stage performances along the lines of European cities such as Paris.

Sisodia said the policy being drawn up will be an instrument in "transforming the mindset of society", adding that its role will not just be limited to hosting events. "Art and culture should play its part in making society stand against hatred and violence. Today, violence and hatred is increasing and an all-round collapse of the moral fabric is evident. In such a situation, the cultural policy is being drafted to ensure meaningful contribution of art and culture towards transforming the mindset of the society," Sisodia said.

Mid-week pollution woes expected, CM seeks monthly meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

AIR QUALITY in the capital remained in the 'poor' range — AQI of 246 — on Monday but it is expected to deteriorate to the 'very poor' category on Wednesday and Thursday.

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), while surface winds in the city are presently favourable for dispersion of pollutants, calm conditions are expected on Wednesday and Thursday.

"The overall AQI in Delhi has marginally improved and is in the 'poor' category... owing to slight increase in surface winds. Air quality is expected to stay in the 'poor' category for Tuesday. A change in surface wind direction is forecast, which is likely to bring calm surface wind conditions, leading to deterioration of AQI. 'Very poor' AQI is forecast on Wednesday and Thursday," an official said.

On Monday, with the surface wind speed increasing, the contribution of stubble burning to PM2.5 in the city was reduced to 10 per cent.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, meanwhile, appealed to the Union Environment Minister

Prakash Javadekar to hold a monthly meeting of chief ministers of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to tackle the problem of farm fires in the region.

"Till now, the Central government is convening meetings with the environment ministers of the states of north India. I want to request the Union Environment Minister to call a meeting of the chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi every month because this is a big issue and it can't be managed only at the level of the environment ministers of these states. We all should meet with an open mind and discuss the problem to find a solution... The environment ministers, senior officials and the experts from these states should also be present in these monthly meetings. We should continue these monthly meetings till the time we find a solution to stop stubble burning," Kejriwal said during a virtual address on Monday.

He listed out innovations for more effective disposal of paddy stubble, such as the PUSA Decomposer, which is being sprayed in Delhi this year; the factory in Karnal where stubble is converted into compressed biogas; and factories which are making coal and coke from the residue.

No visitors allowed for Durga Puja celebrations at CR Park

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

FOR THE first time in years, Durga Puja will be devoid of major festivities as officials appeal to people to go pandal hopping online.

In a meeting held at CR Park Kali Mandir Monday, convened by Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj, 12 Durga Puja committees, including those in Greater Kailash, Alaknanda and Kalkaji, unanimously decided to have small kalash pujas attended by only a few committee members and requested police to set up barricades to keep visitors at bay. The events will be streamed online.

"Most of the population of CR Park and members of Puja Committees are senior citizens and it is important that they remain indoors and avoid contact with unknown people in pandals," said Bhardwaj.



Committees have appealed to people to attend puja online

CR Park, which is home to nine Puja pandals every year, has only one small pandal inside the Kali Mandir this time around.

Sreebhash Bhattacharjee, secretary of the CR Park Kali Mandir Society, said, "We do not want to open it to visitors because once we do, it might become difficult

to contain it... People can stream the pujas online."

S Sen, treasurer of the Alaknanda Puja Samiti, said, "We had in any case decided to have a small puja in our community hall. Only a few committee members will be present inside to assist the priest as the puja takes place."

SCHOOL BODIES AWAIT CLARITY

Month after court order, gadgets and internet still elude EWS students

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

A MONTH after the Delhi High Court ordered private schools and government schools like Kendriya Vidyalayas in the capital to provide devices and internet free of cost to students from economically weaker sections (EWS) and disadvantaged groups (DG), the court's directions are yet to unfold in practice.

On September 18, the court

had also ordered constitution of a three-member committee within a week, comprising the Union Secretary of Education or their nominee, Delhi's Education Secretary or their nominee, and a representative for private schools. The panel was to frame a standard operating protocol for identification of standard gadgets, the manufacturer or supplier, and the internet packages. However, such a committee has not met yet.

"To ensure level playing field and to remedy this digital divide...

if the private unaided school has to bear any additional cost, it must bear it in the first instance with a right to claim reimbursement from the State..." a division bench of Justices Manmohan and Sanjeev Narula had said.

Schools in the city said they will not make any purchases till they get clear guidelines. "Low-cost schools like mine have no surplus funds and are still collecting only tuition fees, and that too from about 30-35% of parents. If the government will pay for it, we



don't have a problem implementing the order," said Sushil Dhankar of the South Delhi Public Schools Association, who also runs a school in Sangam Vihar.

SK Bhattacharya, president of the Action Committee Unaided Recognised Private Schools, who has been nominated by private schools as their representative in the three-member committee,

HC ordered constitution of the committee on Sep 18

said schools required clarity.

"A clear procedure needs to be drawn up which can only be done if a meeting of the committee is convened. Apart from identifying the nature of devices, it also needs to be determined if these devices are to be purchased or taken on lease. Schools in the city will be reopening, at most in a few months, which means the gadgets will be required only for a short time while the investment in purchasing them will be huge. And the reimbursement to schools will have

to be guaranteed..." he said.

The Delhi government is in the process of filing a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court against the High Court's order. "This order will open a Pandora's Box. The reimbursement done by the government to schools for EWS/students was governed by section 12 of the RTE Act and the court has redefined the ambit of it. We are challenging the implementation of this order on various grounds," said an education department official.

BRIEFLY

Waqf board election deferred

New Delhi: The Delhi government Monday told the Delhi HC it will defer the election meeting for the post of Delhi Waqf Board's chairperson to November 19 after a plea challenging the process was filed. The election was scheduled to be held Monday evening. **ENS**

'Provide security to Umar Khalid'

New Delhi: A Delhi court directed Tihar jail authorities to provide adequate safety to former JNU student Umar Khalid, arrested under UAPA, in prison.

Sales executive held for sending 'obscene texts'

New Delhi: A sales executive from Gujarat was arrested for allegedly harassing a woman by sending her obscene texts on WhatsApp. **ENS**

Accused and lawyer in touch during crime, court raises red flag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

DISMISSING THE bail plea of a man accused in the murder of head constable Ratan Lal during the Northeast Delhi riots, a Delhi court noted it was strange that around the time the policeman was murdered, the accused was in touch with his lawyer. Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav said call detail records (CDR) of accused Shadab Ahmad showed he was in constant touch with proclaimed offenders and co-accused in the case, Suleman Siddiqui and Ravish.

The court said a strange thing has been noticed from Ahmad's CDR — that around the time of the head constable's murder, his location was around the spot of the incident and he had received three calls from the counsel who is now representing him in the matter. Without naming the lawyer who was in touch with the accused, the court said, "It could be a coincidence, but not without significance. I will refrain

from commenting as to if it was morally or ethically appropriate for learned counsel to have represented the applicant (Ahmad) in the matter."

It further said a perusal of his CDRs from January 31-February 24 revealed he was in touch with some of the co-accused in the murder case as well in the matter related to the larger "pre-meditated" conspiracy in the riots, being probed by the Special Cell. "Charges against applicant are serious... Applicant is not a resident of Delhi and as such, he would be a flight risk," the court said.

It noted that though Ahmad has not been seen in CCTV footage collected by police, he has been identified by independent public witnesses and police officials in their statements recorded under CrPC Section 161.

Ahmad's counsel Seema Misra, Shivam Sharma and Kartik Murukutla told the court during the hearing that he was "maliciously implicated... by investigating agency just because he belongs to a particular community".

Gulfisha aggressive, punished thrice, Tihar jail tells court

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

TIHAR JAIL authorities have told a Delhi court that Jamia Millia Islamia student Gulfisha Fatima, arrested under UAPA in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots, was "aggressive" and had misbehaved with prison staff on several occasions, following which she was given "correctional punishments" thrice.

The submissions were made before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat during the hearing of an application filed by Fatima, alleging she was being subjected to communal slurs and mental harassment by jail staff.

Tihar Jail superintendent, in a reply, said she was given "correctional punishment" to mend her behaviour for misbehaving with staff.

"The female inmate is also trying to overpower jail staff, create nuisance in jail; her behaviour is also aggressive and troublesome. Staff has been directed to behave politely and not argue with inmates. As per record, the petitioner has been given correctional punishments to mend her behaviour," the reply stated. On two occasions, she was warned and once her canteen facility was

stopped for 10 days, it said.

The superintendent further said that in view of repeated complaints by Fatima, and to avoid any further unpleasantness, duty of the staff against whom allegations were raised have been changed from the ward "for time being to resolve the matter".

It was further submitted that 48 Muslim women inmates are lodged in Central Jail number 6, where Fatima is, and none made any such complaint. "The court is informed that there is no discrimination on the basis of caste and creed. Inmates belonging to different religions, states, caste, and foreigners, are treated equally..." the reply stated.

It stated that on inquiry, it was revealed that Fatima and staff had made complaints against each other. Both parties were heard and counselled to follow jail rules and maintain discipline, it said.

It said two other inmates, who were present at the time of the incident, had stated there was a heated argument between Fatima and jail staff but the latter did not use any communal slurs. The argument was over the fact that the outing time for ward number 6 was over but Fatima was still outside taking water from the cooler.

Hospitals told to keep eye out for co-infections

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE DELHI health department has, in a letter issued on October 19, asked all hospitals and districts to watch out for co-infections of Covid with other seasonal diseases and implement protocols issued by the Union Health Ministry. "This is the season when cases of dengue, malaria, seasonal influenza are expected to rise. It is important for hospitals and district officials to be aware of co-infections... We have requested officials to follow the Union ministry's guidelines," said a senior health department official.

"Seasonal epidemic prone diseases may all present as febrile illness, with symptoms that mimic Covid-19. If there is a co-infection, then apart from febrile illness, there may be constellation of signs and symptoms that may lead to difficulty in diagnosis," the ministry had said.

Seasonal diseases can not only present a diagnostic dilemma but may co-exist with Covid. "This poses challenges in diagnosis of Covid and has a bearing on clinical management and patient outcomes," it said.

FACTORY OWNER HELD

2 die cleaning tank without safety gear

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

ON SUNDAY evening, two men, both aged 45, died while cleaning a "safety tank" inside a gold chain factory in Northwest Delhi's GT Karnal Road industrial area. Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services and relatives of the men alleged they were not equipped with protective gear such as masks, safety belt and boots, and died after inhaling poisonous gases.

The men, Idris and Salim, were cousins, who hailed from UP's Khurja, and routinely visited Delhi to "collect residue left from cleaning gold in safety tanks of gold factories". Four other labourers fell sick after inhaling the toxic gas, and were treated and discharged, while one is undergoing treatment. The labourers were being paid Rs 400 a day for the job, said DCP (Northwest) Vijayanta Arya.

She said they received a PCR call at 6.45 pm about three people losing consciousness while cleaning the tank. "The firm manufactures gold chains; chemicals used to clean the ornaments are stored in this tank. The job for cleaning the tank was given by factory owner Rajender Soni (63) to private contractor Pramod Dangi (35). Both have been arrested."

A case under sections of The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, and IPC sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 337 (causing hurt by endangering life) has been registered at Adarsh Nagar police station.

Assistant Divisional Officer of DFS, C.I. Meena, who was one of the firefighters at the spot, said it's a two-storey factory with a basement and the tank is located on the ground floor: "It must be 15-20 feet deep. The labourers were not given proper safety gear. There was a bamboo staircase on which they stood, they had a tiny bulb hanging inside instead of headlights. First, one labourer fainted inside after inhaling the



The tank is located on the ground floor of the gold chain factory on GT Karnal Road industrial area. *Express*

gases, then another jumped in, he too fainted. We got a distress call. By the time we reached, the workers had removed everyone from the tank except one person."

Meena said the "smell emanating from the tank was very strong", and one firefighter jumped in after wearing a breathing apparatus, which comes equipped with an oxygen cylinder, and pulled out the labourer.

"This was not a septic tank with human waste; this was all industrial waste," he said.

Idris is survived by his wife and their eight-year-old son, while his cousin Salim has five children aged between 10 and 23 years. Their brother Rashid told *The Indian Express*, "Salim's daughter is about to get married, that's why he went to Delhi with Idris for the job. They used to buy residue from cleaning gold, this way tanks also got cleaned... that was their business. The two called us at 4 pm to say they had collected the material... I don't know why they went back in... At 6 pm, I got a call that they fainted inside. We have lost two main breadwinners... They were not given any safety equipment... We are poor so our life is cheap."

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
No.417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008.
Phone : 28191890 / 28190259; Fax: 044 -28190636 E-Mail: equipment.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING – TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE
1. The Tender due date is extended as follows:
(1) Tender No.PKG6/CB/TNUHP/JICA/CZ/OPE-1/TNMS/ENGG/2020, dt.04.02.2020 –Multipara Monitor (4), Multipara Monitor with IBP (4), Multipara Monitor with EtCO2 (18), Defibrillator (15), Anesthesia Workstation with Monitor (18), Anesthesia Workstation (20), Operation Theatre Fracture Table (17) and Operation Theatre Table (10)

Sl. No.	Sale period	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
1	Upto 09.11.2020	10.11.2020, 03.00 PM	10.11.2020, 04.00 PM

For details visit www.tenders.tn.gov.in and TNMS website www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in.
DIPR/3887/Tender/2020 General Manager (Services)

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV
O.H.T O.I.A Ph-II: OPPOSITE GOVIND PURI: NEW DELHI - 20.
e-mail: eesouthiv498@gmail.com/Tel. 011-26388976

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
Press N.I.T. NO: 21 S-IV (2020-21)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Providing laying internal D.I. water distribution system in Abul Fazal Enclave Block E to N in Okhla Constituency AC-54 under EE (South)IV	3,54,94,067/-	2020, DJB, 195675_1 16.10.2020	17.11.2020 up to 3.00 pm

Further details in this regard may be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

Sd/-
(Rajeev Kumar Gupta)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 190 (2020-21)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JALSHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT, DIVISION PULWAMA
01942-2402617, Ext.: 2159, E-mail: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
E-NIT S. No. 51/PHEP/Fresh of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis are invited from reputed and resourceful contractors /Firms/companies/joint venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Superintending Engineer, Hyd. Circle, Pulwama/Shopian HQ: Shopian and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT/ Tender Documents/ PWD Form No.- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/ Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Pulwama.

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Tender Opening Authority	Class of Contract
1	Shifting of PHE utilities along Pinglana-Mehined-Ullerpota road (affected due to road widening programme by P M G S V Department)	Rs. 163.21 lacs	Rs. 5000/- (Favouring Executive Engineer (JSD) PHE Division Pulwama under (MH Q215)	Rs. 320420/- (Pledged to the Superintending Engineer, Hyd. Circle, Pulwama/ Shopian HQ: Shopian.	06 Months	Superintending Engineer, Hyd. Circle, Pulwama/ Shopian HQ: Shopian	"A" Class - Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/ Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (B.Q.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No	Description	Date	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	17	10 2020 800 Hrs.
2	Download start date	17	10 2020 900 Hrs.
3	Bid submission start date	17	10 2020 900 Hrs.
4	Bid submission end date	06	11 2020 1600 Hrs.
5	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	07	11 2020 1000 Hrs.

No.: PHEP/3588-3600
Dated:- 16.10.2020
DIPK-7545

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, (JSD) PHE Div, Pulwama,

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
RE-01
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
Gist of NIT No. 49 of 2020-21 Dated. 15.10.2020

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura MC&H Bemina Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from Lift Manufacturers or their Authorized Dealers/ Authorized Representatives/Registered and Reputed Firms having experience in Installation of lifts in Govt. Institutions/Departments, detailed in the tender document for the following works:

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)
1.	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Inspection and Commissioning of Fifteen (15) Passenger Elevator with Three Years comprehensive Maintenance for Nursing College at SKIMS, Soura.	22.00

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders/Tenderers 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)	17.10.2020 (11.00 Hour)
ii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarification/Pre-bid meet	20.10.2020 at 14.00 Hours
iii)	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	23.10.2020 upto 11.00 Hour
iv)	Date of Submission of Hard Copies (only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee)	27.10.2020 upto 14.00 Hour
v)	Date & Time of Commercial/Technical Bid (Cover-I) Opening	28.10.2020, 11.00 Hours (or next convenient day)
vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-II) Opening of Qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately
vii)	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 1500/- (Rupees One Thousand and Five Hundred only)
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 44000/- (Rupees Forty Four Thousand only)
ix)	Completion Time	Six (06) Months from the Date of issue of LOI or Allotment Order
x)	Budget Head	CAPEX Budget for the Year 2020-21

No. SIMS 139 EX/MECH/2020-21/439-II/2413-23-3497-500
Dated: 15.10.2020
SIMS-5500

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
MADURAI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Arinagar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date	19 th October 2020
Loan No. and Title	Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program (TNUFIP): Tranche 2
Contract No. and Title	Tender Notice No. Ma.Po. 2/12276/AMRUT(WS) 4/2020-2021 Dedicated Water Supply Scheme for Madurai City Municipal Corporation from Mullai Periyar River at Lower Camp - Construction of Distribution Network System (DI & HDPE), House Service Connections, and Instrumentation for Madurai City Municipal Corporation Added Area - Package 4 – Phase II
Deadline for Submission of Bids	03.12.2020, upto 15.00 Hrs.

1. India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Program (TNUFIP) – Tranche 2. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.

2. "The Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation" ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the following works.

Dedicated Water Supply Scheme for Madurai City Municipal Corporation from Mullai Periyar River at Lower Camp - Construction of Distribution Network System (DI & HDPE), House Service Connections, and Instrumentation for Madurai City Municipal Corporation Added Area - **Package 4 – Phase II ("the Works")**.

3. **National competitive bidding** will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Minimum average annual construction turnover of **INR. 114.55 Crores**, calculated as total certified received payments for contracts in progress or completed, within the last three (3) years;
- Financial resources, less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments defined, meet or exceed the total requirement for the Subject Contract of **INR. 19.10 Crores**
- Participation in at least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within the last five years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds **INR. 183.29 Crores**. The similarity of the Bidder's participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology, or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements).
- Meets other Personnel and Equipment requirements as stipulated in the Bidding Document.

However, for complete eligibility and qualification requirements, refer to the bid document.

5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:

THE COMMISSIONER,
Madurai City Municipal Corporation.
Aringar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam,
Alagar Kovil Main Road,
Madurai – 625002.
E.mail : commr.madurai@tn.gov.in & mducorp@gmail.com
Phone: 0452 – 2531116, FAX: 0452 – 2530965

6. A Pre-bid meeting shall take place on **10.11.2020 at 16.30 Hrs (IST)**, at the address stated above.

7. To purchase the bidding documents in English language, eligible Bidders should:

- Visit the office of the City Engineer, Madurai City Municipal Corporation, Madurai at address stated above and pay a non refundable fee of **INR 5000** towards the cost of bidding document in the form of Bank Demand Draft in favor of the Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation, Madurai.
- In case of written request, the document will be sent by post / courier. The Bidders who wish to receive the bidding document by post/courier shall have to pay an additional amount of INR 1000 for delivery within India, or USD 16 for delivery outside India. The method of payment will be through bank demand draft in favor of the Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation, Madurai. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

Eligible bidders may otherwise download the bidding document in English language from the website <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in> from **19.10.2020 to 03.12.2020 upto 15.00 Hours**.

Eligible bidders who download the bidding document from above website shall inform The Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation in writing (and provide the contact details) at the address given above, failing which The Commissioner, Madurai City Municipal Corporation shall not be responsible if the bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any.

8. Bids should be submitted

- to the address above
- on or before the deadline **03.12.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs. (IST)**
- together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
- Electronic submission is not allowed.

Bids will be opened on **03.12.2020 at 15.30 Hrs (IST)** in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend, whereas the Financial Bids shall remain sealed and unopened and shall be placed locked. The Financial Bids of only Technically Responsive and Qualified Bidders shall be opened after technical bids evaluation, whereas, the financial bids of those Bidders whose technical bids are not responsive and qualified shall be returned unopened after the contract is awarded.

Commissioner,
Madurai City Municipal Corporation

DIPR/3886 /TENDER/ 2020

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Sinnar,
Tal. Sinnar, Dist. Nashik.

E-Tender Notice 2020-2021

Portal : <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

Chairman/ Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Sinnar, Tal Sinnar, Dist. Nashik are inviting tenders for construction of shopping complex (Main Yard Sinnar, Near Sinnar- Shirdi Road). The estimated **cost of work is Rs. 5,53,04,919/-** (Excluding GST, Contingency Fund, Labor Insurance). Pre-Qualification conditions for tender detailed schedule of e-tender process and detailed tender instructions can be viewed free of cost on Government websites <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in> and <https://www.msamb.com> **free of cost from 20/10/2020**. APMC reserves the right to refuse any or all tenders without giving any reason for it.

Secretary Chairman
Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Sinnar, Tal. Sinnar, Dist. Nashik

UJVN Limited
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्र सं०: 654 दिनांक : 19 / 10 / 2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of UJVN LT., Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tender from interested contractors for following work:-

1. Tender Notice Reference:-
NIT No.-12/2020-21/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:-
Name of Work - Repair & Replacement of Drinking Water Pipeline for Residences of Type-B & Type-C at Barrage Colony, Rishikesh.

2. Estimated Value of Tender : ₹ 10,57,588.33 only

3. Date of availability of bid : 20.10.2020 from 17:00 Hrs. (IST) document on website

4. Last Date for Submission : 10.11.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs. (IST). of Tender

For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our web site. The tenders can be downloaded from our web site i.e. www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

Executive Engineer (Civil)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Engineer-Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work.

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest money	1
Deployment of Patrolmen companion for inspection and patrolling of track under Sr. DEN- I/NDLS for a period of two years. Approx. Cost :- Rs. 97,97,382/- Earnest Money :- Rs. 1,96,000/- Completion Period :- 24 Months	
	Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note : FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No.2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016.
Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 13.11.2020 opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs. on 13.11.2020.
Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

NOTE : All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIII is compulsorily. **No :- 128-W/280/Tender Notice/20-21/W-I (NIT-08) (1) Dated: .10.2020 2278/2020**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



100 years of SMOLENSK STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY: Indian Students' Favourite Foreign Medical University

Dr. Roman S. Kozlov
Chancellor, SSMU

*The Chancellor of the SSMU is Professor **Dr. Roman S. Kozlov**. Though only 49 years of age, he is well known as a scientist all over the world. He is a Fellow of the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases; a member of the American Society for Microbiology; the European Respiratory Society; and the Federation of European Societies for Chemotherapy*



MESSAGE
Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen, the Smolensk State Medical University, which is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation, is very proud to welcome you to our beautiful city of Smolensk. Historically, Russia and India have enjoyed very friendly relations. Smolensk is one of the oldest cities of Russia and has a tradition of adapting to its guests. Smolensk is one of the safest cities of Russia and has residents of about 100 nationalities. Smolensk is also the birthplace of Yuri Gagarin.

I am delighted that more and more deserving Indian students are choosing our Medical University as their Alma-Mater. Currently, 1350 Indian students are studying here. We are very proud that our Indian graduates are working in different countries of the world and we are extremely proud that a majority of our Indian graduates are not only passing the screening test in India but also getting top PG specialties in the Pre PG exam in India.

Since 2002, for recruiting Indian students for admission in SSMU, we have had exclusive ties with Cosmos Educational Consultants of India, whose director is Dr. Alok Aeron, who himself is an Indian citizen and has been living in Russia for 31 years. He is my foreign advisor and has helped us to create for our Indian students a small India inside our campus.

We have a specially designed foreign department to meet the needs of our foreign guests. We have specifically devoted faculty and staff for foreign students. The Motto of our University is 'Docendo Discimus'; it's a Latin proverb meaning 'By teaching, we learn'. We are providing the best opportunities to fulfil educational, scientific, sports and arts needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we know that you have different names to choose from as far as medical colleges are concerned and it makes me extremely proud that you are choosing SSMU. See you soon!



Testimonials from distinguished Alumni

THE doctors graduating from SSMU have astute clinical skills, flamboyant personalities and go on for higher specialisation in all surgical & non-surgical disciplines across the world. They are clinically sound and have a unique and immersive cultural exposure not only to Russia but also to places all around the globe, that brings about an everlasting change in their personality and helps them exceed expectations in their careers and personal lives.

DR. PRIYANK PATEL
(SSMU graduate 2008, Gold Medalist)
MD, D.M. Cancer Specialist, USA

SSMU Is a wonderful university that offers both academic as well as clinical training. It gave me an unprecedented international health experience, which helped me achieve my residency goals in the USA. The six years of exposure facilitated not only the accumulation of medical knowledge but also the honing of interpersonal and communication skills essential to the effective practice of medicine. The Dean of the foreign department sees it as his mission to aid medical students in pursuit of these long-term goals. Good luck!

DR. JAI BHATT
(SSMU Graduate 2011) M.D. Physician, New Jersey, US

IN 2011, to fulfill my childhood dream to become a doctor, I started to search for medical universities across the world. I found that medical education in Russia was the best and SSMU was the top-most for MBBS. Throughout my admission process Dr. Alok Aeron, Director of Cosmos Educational Consultants, and his team helped me and they made it feel very simple. When my studies started, I understood that my decision was absolutely correct, because firstly education is entirely in English medium and secondly relations between the Professors and Indian students were so nice that Professors became like our local guardians. The practical

and theoretical knowledge which I gained at this university has proved very helpful in my career. Apart from this, Dr. Alok Aeron, in memory of his parents, provides scholarships to Indian students. I proudly say that I was a scholarship holder throughout my education (2011-2017) and got a degree with GOLD MEDAL from SSMU. At present I am pursuing my PG degree in Anesthesiology. SSMU has played a crucial role in making me a good doctor who can serve patients and the Nation.

DR. AKSHAY BHUMKAR
(SSMU Graduate 2017, Gold Medalist)

I AM highly indebted to SSMU. I was frustrated after my board results. When I came to know about SSMU, I found a ray of hope. I find no words to express my gratitude towards this reputed medical university. I graduated from this university in 2011 with flying colours. I confidently cracked the MCI Screening test in the 1st attempt. Today I am enjoying my professional career as a neurology resident at Erfurt, Germany.

DR. KUNAL PATEL
(SSMU Graduate 2011)
M.D (Neurology), Erfurt, Germany

IT gives me immense pleasure and pride to state that SSMU has created a generation of doctors and its alumni are serving patients and participating in research work in virtually all the continents of the planet. I am proud to say that I'm a valedictorian of SSMU. My experience at the University was simply gratifying. The professors are clinically and pedagogically accomplished and have impeccable skills in basic as well as clinical sciences. I am really fortunate to have had SSMU as my alma mater because it gave me the required zest and the motivation one requires in medical school. The training that I received in my undergraduate studies helped me in my quest to develop astute clinical skills. I have just cleared the USMLE and will be pursuing a specialisation in the United States of America.

DR. NEHAL B. NEUREKAR
(SSMU Graduate 2018, Gold Medalist)



A doctor has to be humane first : Dr Alok Aeron

Please tell us something about the Smolensk State Medical University.

The Smolensk State Medical University is a Russian Government Medical University recognised by WHO and by all countries of the world including USA, UK, India etc. SSMU was founded in 1920 and so is celebrating its 100 years in 2020.

SSMU is very popular among Indian students. Since 2002 SSMU has been giving admission to Indian students. Since then more than 3000 Indian students have taken admission and more than 2000 Indians have received a Medical degree from the SSMU. Right now, 1350 Indian students are studying here, out of whom about 600 are girls.

We have 3 separate hostels for our Indian students; one of them is for Indian girls. We have an Indian mess running on a no-profit-no-loss system and 3 Indian cooks are working in it. This mess is serving Pure-Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian Indian food. Very high standards of hygiene are maintained at the mess.

In 2020 again, 342 seats have been reserved for Indian students and admissions are going on. The duration of Medical education is 6 years and Indian students are taught in the English medium.

The popularity of SSMU is rising among Indian students every year because of the top results its graduates are getting in the FMGE or Screening Test in India. I am proud to say that the passing percentage of SSMU graduates in FMGE is the highest among all foreign medical colleges and this fact is confirmed by the National Board of Examination which conducts this exam. Actually, FMGE was never a target for our students; we prepare them for Pre-PG exam and for real challenges in a doctor's professional life. I am again very proud to say that our graduates have got a 100% passing result in USMLE also. Our graduates are working in almost all developed countries of the world.

Your graduates are very proud to be alumni of SSMU; why so?

Well, we don't make just doctors, we first of all



Dr. Roman S. Kozlov and Dr. Alok Aeron

make good human beings. A doctor who is not humane enough cannot be a doctor. We don't want to be ashamed of having produced a bad doctor, so we always keep our quality standards very high.

What are the required qualifications for admission?

- 17 years of age.
- Minimum 50% marks in 12th in PCB and a pass in English.
- Should have qualified NEET in 2018, 2019 or 2020.

What is 'Cosmos Educational Consultants'?

We at the SSMU understood that we need a firm to work in India. So, Cosmos Educational Consultants was designed and it works for the assistance of Indian students seeking admission to the SSMU only.

CEC does not give admissions to any other medical college. I am the Director of CEC. We are helping students in documentation for admission procedure, visa and air-tickets. CEC continues to help the candidates even after they graduate. All assistance and documentation after getting admission and after graduation is provided free of cost. Because these students and then graduates become like my own children. Actually, I also offer them different scholarships.

For granting admissions, have you appointed agents in India?

No, we do not appoint agents; we don't want our students to pay any agent's fee.

From where can a desiring candidate get information about SSMU?

It's very easy; the candidate has to visit our site www.sgmui.info. All information in detail can be found there.

What is the procedure for taking admission in SSMU?

On the site in the menu there is a list of Information Centres in India. Click on it. A list of Indian information centres with their mobile numbers will open. On this list find the nearest possible information centre and give them a call.

Who runs these information centres?

These information centres are actually our graduates or parents of students currently studying in SSMU. Because they have first hand information so they can explain you everything in detail. Actually, this works in 4 ways:

A new candidate does not have to go to any agent who will be interested only in his commission. Commission agents usually don't have full information about universities abroad.

The new candidate and his parents can meet an actual student or graduate of SSMU and can understand the system of education in SSMU and,

further, what to do after getting the degree.

The graduate or student of SSMU will assess the candidate and can judge if this candidate will be a good student for SSMU or not and accordingly can recommend or not recommend that candidate to us.

The Information Centre will then provide an application form and related documents, and help in filling and then sending them to the head-office of CEC. The rest is done by the CEC head office.

What is the fee structure of SSMU for Indian students in 2020?

The per year fee is USA \$6000 which has to be paid in Russia only and there's a one-time payment in India of Rs. 1,50,000 which includes Admission process, Visa, Air-Ticket, GST etc.

Please tell us about the scholarships you give to Indian students at SSMU.

Well, actually, I have been giving these scholarships since 2002 to deserving and hardworking students. These scholarships are in memory of my parents and are open to all Indian students of SSMU. After the completion of every year, I give an amount equivalent to the tuition fee to the student who secures the highest marks among Indian students of his class for every year of education. Every year, I provide approximately Rs 25 lakh as scholarship to Indian students.

These scholarships have been motivating my students for the last 18 years now.

I always tell them that this scholarship is like a loan they have been given; they will have to double it and repay it when they start earning, not to me, but to any deserving and hardworking person who is not a relative or friend.

This year, that is 2020, because our University has completed 100 years, I have announced in addition to the aforementioned scholarships, one more scholarship of approximately Rs 37000 per year to every Indian student taking admission in 2020.



Hostel Buildings





HASHTAG POLITICS



● Lulu back on Twitter

Operated by his office, RJD supremo's handle @laluprasadrjd tweeted: 'Remove those who forced Biharis to migrate and choose the government that speaks of 'rozi-roti' in Bihar.' On Sunday, it took potshots at the CM: "You want Indian Ocean to come to Bihar? Why hide 15 years of inefficiency with tall tales? Hey, Nitish! You are tired, take rest now!"

8K LIKES, 1.5K RETWEETS IN 6 HOURS



RLSP president and 'CM contender' @UpendraRLSP posted a campaign video and tweeted:

"Only when the emphasis is on education can Bihar progress. *Shiksha-rozgaar wali sarkar abki baar, #badliye_sarkar_badleja_Bihar*"

817 LIKES, 191 RETWEETS IN 10 HOURS

@iChiragPaswan tweeted

"LJP will win more seats than JD(U)" and embark on a "young Bihar" with his #BiharFirstBihariFirst campaign. With the hashtag #AsambhavNitish, he also tweeted about the failure of 'Saat Nischay', Bihar's "destruction" by @NitishKumar, and announced that the #BiharFirstBihariFirst Vision Document will be released on October 21

8.6K LIKES, 1K RETWEETS IN 9 HOURS

FOR MORE LOG ON TO
INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS

● KEY PLAYERS



AKHTAR-UL IMAN:
NURSING AIMIM
HOPES IN BIHAR

EXPRESS
explained.
WHAT IS LUV-KUSH?

● WHO'S WHERE TODAY

TEJASHWI YADAV IN BHOJPUR,
AURANGABAD, GAYA, JEHANABAD;
SUSHIL MODI IN DHORAIYA, BANKA

Jinnah jibe: Cong candidate says onus on Nitish if he faces an 'attack'



Congress candidate Maskoor Usmani

SABA RAHMAN

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE CONGRESS candidate accused by the BJP of being a "Jinnah sympathiser" says he has written to its ally and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar, saying his government would be responsible in case of any "attack" on him during the campaign.

Fielded by the Congress from Jale Assembly seat in Darbhanga district, Maskoor Usmani, 26, said the BJP's "unwarranted" campaign against him was not surprising. "I am a strong, fearless Muslim voice raising anti-people issues, and they don't like that," Usmani, a former president of the AMU students' union, told The Indian Express.

Why was "the djinn of Jinnah" being raked up, he added, when "nobody on this side of the border has any faith in his ideology".

Senior BJP leaders, including Union minister of state Giriraj Singh, have accused Usmani of supporting the "ideology" of Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah. In 2018, Usmani, headed the union when local BJP MP had led a protest demanding the removal of Jinnah's portrait hanging in the university's students' union building since 1938. AMU had defended it pointing out that Jinnah had been granted lifetime membership of the union.

A dental surgeon, Usmani said the saffron party had found in him their "best bet to play polarised politics". However, he said, he was canvassing on the plank of development, health and education.

On why the Congress nominated him, making him one of the youngest candidates in the fray, the 26-year-old said: "The Congress is fighting fascist forces. The top leadership supports youth and wants to give proportional representation to all sections of the society."

The Congress has nominated 12 Muslim candidates for the elections. The BJP, like in the recent past, has fielded none.

I HEREBY DECLARE



RAJENDRAPRASAD SINGH

LJP candidate, Dinara; Ex-BJP leader

TOTAL ASSETS

₹1.4 CRORE

**Total assets Rs 1.15 crore in 2015

MOVABLE ASSETS

₹11 LAKH

Assets	2015	2020
Cash in hand	1.36 lakh	71,000
Bank balance	2.82 lakh	2.51 lakh
Stocks & bonds	2.46 lakh	3.70 lakh
Other Investment	25 lakh	34.3 lakh
Jewellery	-	4.06 lakh
TOTAL	36 lakh	11.7 lakh

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹1.29 CRORE

Assets	2015	2020
Agri land	45 lakh	45 lakh
Non-agri land	-	-
Commercial	-	-
Residential	34.19 lakh	84.14 lakh
Total	79.19 lakh	1.29 cr

LIABILITIES **₹21 LAKH**

CRIMINAL CASES
No pending criminal cases

KISHANGANJ

Who is talking about the floods?

Every year, the waters wreak destruction in Seemanchal; this year, the govt was accused of being ill-prepared. But, "elections are fought on other issues"

WALI AHMAD

KOCHADHAMAN, BAHADURGANJ, OCT 19

THERE IS an early morning rush over a small bridge that serves as a single-lane link between district headquarters Kishanganj and its four Vidhan Sabha constituencies in this northern part of the Seemanchal region. Small vans carrying vegetables, to heavy trucks and daily commuters, all are jostling to cross the bridge.

Several rickety bridges like this make communication a little easier in most of the 802 villages of the district. But floods every year cut off and sweep away roads. The soil embankment of the Mahananda river is not enough to contain the ravaging waters, says 60-year-old Jogi Rai, who runs a small tea stall at the Mauja Bari Ghat of the river.

Rai, whose left leg was amputated after an accident last year, says landless people like him are at the mercy of the river. Once flood water enters, we are pushed onto the road, he says.

In Bahadurganj town of Kishanganj district, a *paan* stall owner who declines to reveal his name says floods should be an important issue in this election given the scale of devastation they leave every year. "But no one is bothered to talk about this. Elections here are fought on other emotive issues," he says.

Floods earlier this year had submerged the paddy fields on either side of the road from Kishanganj to Thakurganj. Mujibur Rahman, 47, of Tengarnari village, says he has seen this happen many times. "Those who lose homes take refuge on this road."

According to an August 27 bulletin released by the state Water Resources Department, 83.62 lakh people were affected in 16 districts of the state in the floods, including Kishanganj.

Tithya village in Amour Assembly constituency, represented by Congress MLA Jaleel Mastan, has over 40 *Mallah* (fishermen) families. Heman Kumar Das, 45, says the village had been uprooted by the Mahananda river. "Most of the villagers have now shifted to safer areas," says Das, who teaches at a government school.

"Floods have increased in these parts after 2016 when a barrage on the Teesta river was built. The Farakka barrage in neighbouring West Bengal also contributes, while siltation has reduced the depth of the river, increasing chances of floods," says Haji Abdus Subhan, the RJD MLA from Baisi seat.

Since 2000, the five Vidhan Sabha seats under Kishanganj Lok Sabha constituency have been represented either by the Congress, RJD or JD(U). The BJP had won the Bahadurganj and Thakurganj seats in the post-Babri Masjid demolition election of 1995.

Sanjay Jha, Bihar Minister for Water Resources, says the total area affected by annual floods in the Seemanchal region is 5.20 lakh hectares. "Every year, heavy rains in Nepal and West Bengal inundate the lowland of Seemanchal. The rainwater flows down through various tributaries like Balson, Chenga, Mechi, Donk,



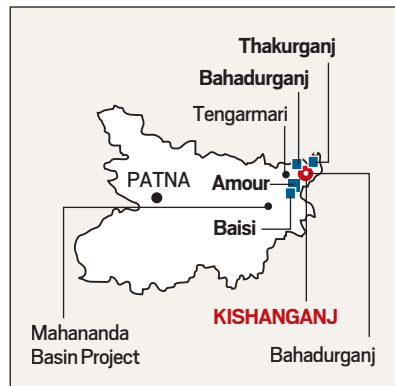
(Above) At a flood-relief camp in Patna. This year's floods left 83.62 lakh people in 16 districts affected; Jogi Rai at his tea stall. ANI, Wali Ahmad



Kankai, Noona, Bakra, Khadam, Kiskey, Burhi, Rajai and Lohendra," says Jha.

In 2010, CM Nitish Kumar had inaugurated the Mahananda Basin Project at Paranpur in Katihar district, another region in Seemanchal affected by floods. The river and other rivulets criss-cross the district. Fortification of the Mahananda was the focus of the project, and Jha says this will help contain the floods.

"The work of the Mahananda river flood management scheme will be completed in five phases. The first phase work initiated by the



CM was started in the year 2010 and completed in 2013. The land acquisition is in progress for the second phase," Jha says.

However, Congress MLA Mastan, who argues that floods also help enrich the soil and improve crop yield, says they won't let the project be implemented in the region. Accusing the government of having "no plan at all", Mastan adds, "The Mahananda project proposes to build the embankment 1 km from the river-bank. It will uproot at least 50 villages and approximately 1 lakh people."

PHASE I CRIME PATROL: BIHAR BAHUBALIS

SEATS

71

CANDIDATES

1,065

353

Candidates from leading parties

164

Candidates with pending criminal cases

IN THE RACE

■ Candidates fielded
■ Candidates with pending criminal cases

RJD	29	42
BJP	21	29
LJP	21	42
JAP	21	32
RLSP	17	42
JD(U)	14	35
INC	12	21

TOP GUN



Anant Singh (aka 'Chhote Sarkar')

Constituency: **Mokama**

Party: **RJD**

Criminal cases pending: **38**

Win: 2005, 2010 on JD(U) ticket, 2015 as Independent, beating RJD-JD(U)-Congress alliance. Elder brother Dilip Singh ended INC's Shyam Sunder Singh Dhiraj's influence in the 1990s

CANDIDATE	PARTY	CONSTITUENCY	CRIMINAL CASES PENDING
Sudhir Kumar Verma (alias Vinod Marandi)	JAP	Gurua	37
Ajay Yadav	RJD	Atri	17
Abhay Sinha	JD(U)	Belaganj	14
Lalan Kumar	INC	Sultanganj	10

Source: Election Commission of India

A plus for BJP in the maths: JDU faces RJD on most seats

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, OCTOBER 19

MUCH BEFORE the RJD-led Grand Alliance announced its seat-sharing, senior BJP leader and Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi had said, "More the number of seats the RJD contests, the keener the fight."

The BJP's wish appears to have been granted, in ways more than one. The RJD, that contested 101 seats in the Nitish Kumar-led Mahagathbandhan in the 2015 Assembly polls and won 80, is fighting on 144 constituencies in the coming election. Not only that, the RJD, the strongest of the Grand Alliance parties, is fighting on most of its seats against the JD(U).

On as many as 77 of its seats, RJD candidates are up against the Nitish-led JD(U), which had bargained hard to ensure it got more constituencies (115) than the BJP (110) in the NDA seat-sharing. In other words, in just about 30% of its seats (38 in all), the JD(U) can expect an easier fight.

In contrast, the RJD candidates are up against the BJP on 51 of its 110 seats, leaving the latter with prospects of an easier win on the remaining 59. Five RJD nominees are up against former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), and 11 will take on the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP).

The RJD says the social realities on the ground dictated its seat choices, and that it is a mere coincidence that the BJP might end up being the gainer — both in its bid to emerge as the dominant party in the NDA, and even as the single-largest party post-polls.

An RJD leader says, "Tejashwi Yadav is the CM candidate of the Grand Alliance and has taken on the incumbent CM. Plus, each seat has its social arithmetic. There would be a keen



Nitish at a rally in Gaya, Monday. ANI

contest this time, with victory margins 2,000 to 5,000 on several seats."

With LJP chief Chirag Paswan openly supporting BJP candidates and taking on Nitish, it could further dent the JD(U)'s prospects. Nitish has expressed his displeasure over several BJP leaders who were denied seats contesting on LJP tickets. One of them, Rajendra Singh, who is contesting from Dinara, enjoys the backing of BJP cadre. "They may be doing so on their own. I have not lured anyone," Singh says.

The BJP has been trying to assuage Nitish, assuring that he will remain CM irrespective of the number of seats the parties win. It has also been criticising Paswan for latching on to it, accusing him of trying to create confusion.

JD(U) national spokesperson KC Tyagi says they are not worried about the RJD game plan. "The fact that it is treating us as its main opponent shows we are moving towards a presidential form of government in the state as well. People have to decide if they want Nitish Kumar or not. The rest is irrelevant."

BIHAR OUT SIDE BIHAR LUDHIANA

‘Image of Bihar is of a worker, in rags... But we’ve done well’

RAAKHI JAGGA

LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 19

IT WAS the mid-'80s when Ganga Prasad Thakur (55), a resident of Jaypatti village in Darbhanga, came to Ludhiana, the city with the largest migrant population in Punjab, in search of work. Thakur was 19 and got work in one of the city's many industrial units. Now, he owns a jewellery shop and a medical store, is the president of the 'Bihar Goldsmith Samiti' that has about 1,700 members, and his son, who has done a pharmacy course, is planning to open a nursing home back in Bihar.

It has been more than three decades since he left, but, for Thakur, Jaypatti remains home. "Every time there are Vidhan Sabha or Lok Sabha elections, I go and vote. This time, elections in Darbhanga are on November 3, and I and 400-500 others from here will go to vote."

The members of the Samiti belong to the Sunar (goldsmith) community in Bihar. "We formed the group to remain in touch. Most of us are doing well here, we have houses, our children are getting a good education. We en-



Living along an unused railway track at Focal Point in Ludhiana. The city has the highest migrant numbers in Punjab; many are going to Bihar to vote. Gurmeet Singh

joy a quality of life that we could not have got in Bihar. We would still be marginal farmers."

Thakur is well-versed with the issues back home, and hence the plans for a nursing home. "Jaypatti has a hospital where doctors hardly come, people travel 30 km to Darbhanga for

medical help." His six-bigha land in the village is looked after by his brother.

Thakur hopes his son will settle in Jaypatti once the nursing home is up and running. "He is a pharmacist, we can appoint doctors." Several among the migrant population in

Ludhiana have returned after turning around their lives, to open ventures back home.

Also going to vote in the elections in Bihar are Anil Jha, 48, and Bhola Jha, 40. Anil works in a factory as well as runs a small hosiery unit. Bhola has a unit making polybags. "There are many formalities to getting voter cards made in Ludhiana, and then we will have lose vote in Bihar. But our heart lies in Bihar," says Bhola.

No one can live on freebies from the government alone, Bhola adds. "We can perhaps survive just sitting at our home in Bihar. But, we cannot grow. If Bihar starts giving us those opportunities, what is the need to do so?"

Mohd Ghulam, Chairman of the 'Punjab Parvasi Cell' who is also originally from Bihar, says, "Punjab has 70 lakh migrants from outside, of whom not less than 30 lakh are from Bihar. A large chunk continues to vote in Bihar."

A member of the Congress, Ghulam says the party will soon start canvassing in Ludhiana for votes. Bipin Gupta, president of the RJD in Ludhiana district, says, "Fifteen of our youngsters have gone to different districts of Bihar to campaign." The Congress and RJD are part of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar.

Gupta says the RJD will highlight problems with NDA schemes such as the Swachh Bharat and Bihar's Nal-Jal Yojana. "I think there will be a change in Bihar this time."

However, Thakur remains a supporter of Nitish Kumar. "During the lockdown, more than 3 lakh migrants returned to Bihar. Initially, people were angry, but in Bihar, they got rations regularly." He lists other benefits, including free LPG and money under the PM-Kisan scheme. "Because of this, one has forgotten the pain of walking on foot," Thakur smiles.

TR Mishra, the chairman of a federation of Ludhiana's dyeing units which employ over 40,000 migrants, has relatives in Bihar. He says candidates often come to campaign among migrants in the city, and this time the BJP is said to have lined up some virtual rallies. Mishra says he wants good candidates who can help change the image of Bihar. "We feel bad when people say criminals contest polls there."

Thakur agrees. "When it comes to Bihar, the image that comes to mind is of a poor labourer in soiled clothes. But a number of us have worked very hard, and are doing well. We want people to change their picture of Bihar."

7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



PULLED UP

LEADER OF Opposition in Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath has been pulled by the National Commission for Women (NCW) for “making offensive and derogatory remarks against a woman minister”. A video of Kamal Nath, calling Imarti Devi, the state Minister for Women and Child Development and formerly a member of the Congress, an “item”, has now gone viral. The NCW has sought an explanation from the veteran leader and also raised the matter with the Election Commission.

BACK IN ACTION

UNION MINISTER Piyush Goyal, who on Friday tweeted about his kidney stone surgery, has recovered. Officials got the indication on Monday that Goyal, who recently got the additional portfolio of Food and Consumer Affairs, is already back in action and will hold a review of the Railways Ministry with senior officials on Tuesday over video-conferencing.

NO CLARITY

IN JULY, the Ministry of Education had written to all the IIMs and directed them to stop degrees for the one-year management programme for working professionals, as it violated the UGC norms. Following the order, IIM directors had held a meeting to discuss the way forward. However, nothing concrete has happened since then. There has been no communication from the IIMs to the government to discuss the matter. Interestingly, in the meantime, the older IIMs have started the admission process for their executive programmes for 2021-22 academic year. Most admission advertisements do not clarify whether students, at part of the programme, will get a degree or a diploma. It is learnt that the government is watching the institutes closely and is seeing this as some sort of veiled defiance of its orders.

CBI searches BSP MLA in Rs 750 cr fraud case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE CBI on Monday conducted searches at premises linked to BSP MLA from Chillupar in Gorakhpur Vinay Shankar Tiwari and his wife Rita Tiwari after booking them in a case of alleged bank fraud of over Rs 750 crore.

The searches were carried out at Lucknow and Noida at the premises of the couple and a company associated with them, CBI sources said.

Vinay Tiwari is the son of former minister and strongman from Gorakhpur Hari Shankar Tiwari.

“The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case on a complaint from Bank of India against two private companies based at Lucknow/Noida (Uttar Pradesh), its Directors and unknown others on the allegations of committing misappropriation, cheating and causing loss of Rs 754.24 crore (approx.) to the consortium of banks,” a statement issued by CBI said.

Apart from the Tiwaris, the FIR has named companies Gangotri Enterprises and Royal Marketing Pvt Ltd, and one Ajeet Pandey. “It was alleged that the private company (Gangotri Enterprises) having its corporate office at Mahanagar, Lucknow was engaged in the construction of road, bridges and flyovers etc,” CBI spokesperson R K Gaur said.

The FIR said the company availed of loans to the tune of Rs 1129.44 crore between 2007 and 2012 through a consortium led by Bank of India. In 2015, the loan was declared NPA. The banks got a forensic audit done of companies’ accounts and found diversion of loan funds through investments or unsecured loans to related parties and entities. The account was then declared a fraud and reported to the CBI.

coming days. As of now, the chargesheet is against government officials and some private people only, and the investigation against politicians involved is still in the process,” said another vigilance official.

The Vigilance Department has been investigating five memorials in Lucknow and Noida, where statues of BSP founder Kanshi Ram and the party’s election symbol, the elephant, were built. Some of the memorials

The second official quoted above said the investigation mostly revolved around financial irregularities in transportation and carving of stones. The department has found that several registration numbers mentioned in official records were that of two-wheelers.

The Akhilesh Yadav government had initially handed over the probe to the Lokayukta over corruption allegations. The Vigilance Department registered an FIR on the basis of a report by the Lokayukta, who, in May 2013, alleged that Rs 1,400 crore of public money was siphoned off in construction of the memorials.

“We will keep filing more chargesheets as the investigation proceeds. Around 30-40 people will be chargesheeted in the

Assam-Mizoram border calm; Sonowal talks to PM, Shah and Zoramthanga

Home Secy also calls up; MHA tells both states that panel of officers will resolve border dispute

ABHISHEK SAHA & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

TWO DAYS after Assam-Mizoram border witnessed arson over a territory dispute, officials on Monday said the situation has calmed down. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal spoke over the phone with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga.

In Delhi, Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla held a virtual meeting with chief ministers and chief secretaries of both states.

Sources in the two states and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said the MHA has conveyed to Sonowal and Zoramthanga that the first priority should be to stop violence and maintain calm at the border, and that any border dispute between the two states would be resolved in due course.

Sources said both were also informed about a committee of four joint secretaries, which was formed three months ago by the MHA to resolve border disputes among states in the Northeast. The joint secretaries, sources said, will visit all inter-state borders and talk to stakeholders to resolve disputes and settle the issues.

The bureaucrats have been drawn from various divisions of



Security personnel and officials at the site Sunday. *Twitter*

the MHA, including the Kashmir division, Left Wing Extremism division and the Police division. “The situation is currently under control and violence has abated. Both states are working towards maintaining calm and we are hopeful this won’t recur,” an MHA official said.

Violence broke out Saturday between residents of Lailapur village in Assam’s Cachar district and residents of localities near Vairengte in Mizoram’s Kolasib district. This was the second such clash between residents of the two states this month — on October 9, there were tensions on the border of Assam’s Karimganj and Mizoram’s Mamit districts.

“No incident of violence has been reported since yesterday (Sunday). We are in constant touch with the concerned officials in Mizoram,” Keerthi Jalli, Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, told *The Indian Express* Monday. “Vehicles

carrying food and other essentials, whose drivers were apprehensive yesterday, will go today. They have been assured by both sides that there is nothing to worry.”

“Officials on both sides have spoken and resolved the issue of the roadblock. If necessary, police escort will be provided by Assam on their side and by Mizoram police on our side,” Kolasib Deputy Commissioner H Lalthangliana said.

According to officials in Mizoram, which shares a 165-km boundary with Assam, the violence broke out on Saturday after some people from Lailapur started throwing stones at Mizoram police personnel deployed near the border. “In turn, Mizoram residents mobilised and went after them,” Lalthangliana had said on Sunday.

According to Mizoram officials, at least seven persons on the Mizoram side suffered injuries,

EXPLAINED
Longstanding dispute

THE BOUNDARY dispute between the two states has been simmering since the formation of Mizoram as a separate state in the 1980s. According to an agreement between governments of Assam and Mizoram some years ago, status quo should be maintained in no-man’s land in the border area. However, clashes have erupted from time to time over the issue.

and one of them is admitted to hospital. On Assam side, one person suffered minor injuries, an Assam Police officer said.

Mizoram officials said the two states had agreed some years ago to maintain status quo in the no-man’s land in the border area, but people from Lailapur allegedly built some temporary huts, which provoked people on the Mizoram side. Jalli, however, said the contested land belongs to Assam as per the state’s records.

In an official statement, Sonowal said he had apprised Modi about the latest situation and informed the PM about his

‘CAA delayed by Covid, implementation soon’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 19

BJP PRESIDENT J P Nadda Monday said the implementation of Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) was delayed due to the pandemic and the law will be implemented soon.

Nadda was addressing party workers at a meeting in Siliguri in north Bengal where he also slammed the West Bengal government for adopting a “divide and rule policy” and stopping benefits of Centre’s schemes from reaching the people of the state.

“Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the implementation of CAA was delayed. However, as the overall situation is improving slowly, rules are now being framed. CAA will be implemented very soon and all of you will get the benefits of the law. We are committed to it,” said Nadda.

The BJP president was on a day-long visit to the state to take stock of the party’s organisational preparations and strength ahead of the 2021 Assembly polls. During the visit, he held separate meetings with party leaders, MPs, MLAs and social and religious groups.

Targeting the state government, Nadda said, “Prime Minister Modi ji’s policy is inclusive and for everyone’s development. Our slogan is Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. On the other hand, Mamata Banerjee’s government believes in the idea of divide and



BJP chief JP Nadda on a visit to Siliguri on Monday. *PTI*

rule.... When election comes, the state government makes efforts to unite them all by providing doles. But only Narendra Modi has the ability to take everyone along with him. The BJP does what it promises to the people.

“Mamata didi stopped the benefits of Centre’s Ayushman Bharat from reaching out to the poor people in the state. Unfortunately, the Mamata Banerjee government has not allowed PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana in West Bengal,” he said.

“We assure you that if we come to power in Bengal, we will provide the scheme for all farmers in the state. If you vote for the BJP in April, then we will implement the schemes in one month,” Nadda said.

He also expressed confidence that the BJP will form the next government in the state. Earlier in the day, Nadda paid

floral tributes at the statue of Panchanan Barma at Nougaghat More near Siliguri. He also offered prayers at Anandamoyee Kalibari temple.

Responding strongly to Nadda’s remarks, Trinamool Congress MP Derek O’Brien said in a statement, “The irony is not lost when the President of the BJP talks about ‘divide and rule’. ‘Divide and rule’ is a play learnt from the colonial past and played out deviously every day by your party. Over the last six years, your party has done everything it can to ‘divide and rule’ the people of this great nation. Also, we did a factcheck of your speech today. Like your two other ‘senior’ colleagues, there were gaping holes in it. But no, we will not defile this auspicious occasion. This is a special time for all of us in Bengal. Let’s keep it that way.”

BJP MP ASKS TO BE NOMINATED TO DIFFERENT HOUSE COMMITTEE

TRP case: Dubey writes to Speaker on Tharoor tweets

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who earlier sought removal of Congress MP Shashi Tharoor as chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology over the Facebook row, has now written to Speaker Om Birla, accusing Tharoor of “violating the confidentiality clause again” and appealed to “consider nominating him (Dubey) to some other committee”.

Citing Tharoor’s tweets in which he questioned corporates about the funding to television channels, Dubey said the Congress MP has “compromised” the ‘Confidentiality

Clause’ in the Speaker’s direction for the parliamentary panels.

The Standing Committee on IT, which was recently reconstituted and Tharoor was re-appointed as its chairman, is looking into the alleged TRP fraud case after Mumbai Police said their investigation had revealed three news channels manipulated numbers in their favour.

“Since the conduct of Tharoor has now become incorrigible I — being a public representative for the third consecutive term — feel pained and therefore, to request your good-self to kindly consider nominating me to some other committee so that I would once again be able to participate in the deliberations of the Parliamentary

Committee in an effective manner,” Dubey wrote.

In a series of tweets, Tharoor has questioned corporates for giving advertisements to certain channels. “It is also an abject display of truant behavior on the part of Dr Tharoor to abusively call the Republic TV as Repulsive TV and also making unsubstantiated insinuations and rant against various reputable Companies / Entities...” the BJP MP wrote.

Opposition sources from the standing committee have told *The Indian Express* that Dubey has not attended meetings of the panel since it was reconstituted and that this issue was not discussed in the committee and hence, there is no question of confidentiality violation.

Centre hikes poll expenditure limit by 10%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE UNION government on Monday amended the election rules to increase the campaign expenditure limit by 10 per cent for all future elections.

Candidates contesting elections in Bihar will be the first to benefit from the development as the expenditure ceiling for the state polls is now increased from Rs 28 lakh to Rs 30.8 lakh.

The notification came more than a month after the Election Commission (EC) had proposed the hike, given the constraints posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The last hike in the expenditure ceiling was effected before the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

As reported by *The Indian Express* on September 10, the commission, in its proposal to the Law Ministry, argued that campaigning during a pandemic will be challenging for candidates. In order to follow the Commission’s restrictions on rallies and meetings, candidates will end up with more small gatherings to avoid crowding, which will lead to added expenditure.

The Law Ministry’s Monday notification is silent on whether the increase will be withdrawn once the pandemic is over.

The expenditure limit for state and Parliament elections differs from state to state.

NDA will return to power with two-thirds majority, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Monday expressed confidence that the NDA will win two-thirds majority in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections and Nitish Kumar will be Chief Minister.

“We will win with a two-third majority and Nitish Kumar will be our Chief Minister... Results will be very good,” Shah told *Zee News* in an interview telecasted on Monday.

Criticising the Opposition, Shah said, “On one hand, there are blank promises and frightening backgrounds; on the other hand, there is concrete work, which has been done in the past, and a robust strategy for future.”

“I think the people of Bihar would like the concrete work done by the NDA government. Therefore, we will win the Bihar election with a very good majority,” he said.

Shah said that people of Bihar will certainly compare the 10 years of Congress rule, 15 years of Lalu Prasad and 15 years of Nitish Kumar. “25 years of rule — 10 years under Congress and 15 years under RJD — has ruined Bihar,” he said.

On a question about the LJP

Mizoram rolls back prohibitory orders from village on Tripura border

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, OCTOBER 19

A DAY after Tripura stood its ground over administrative control at Phuldungsei village in North Tripura district, Mizoram on Sunday withdrew prohibitory orders restricting public movement in the border village.

The standoff between Tripura and Mizoram over Phuldungsei village started in August, when Tripura authorities found that 130 residents of the Jampui Hills hamlet were registered in the electoral rolls of both states, and had ration cards and enjoyed public welfare benefits from both sides of the border.

The North Tripura district administration also found that a part of Phuldungsei was shown as being in Mizoram’s territorial area. Subsequently, a local tribal organization called SONGRONGMA announced it would construct a Shiv temple, following which Mizoram opposed the move and issued prohibitory orders in the village.

On Saturday, Tripura Additional Home Secretary SAK Bhattacharya wrote to his counterpart in Mizoram, requesting the withdrawal of the orders.

On Sunday, Mizoram withdrew the prohibitory orders following dialogue between the two state governments. “Prohibitory order... issued by the undersigned... hereby stands revoked with immediate effect...,” an order by Mizoram’s Mamir DM Dr Lalrozama on Sunday reads.



Amit Shah

being part of the NDA at the Centre, but not contesting as part of the alliance in Bihar, Shah said. “There are only four parties -- HAM, JD(U), VIP and BJP -- in NDA in Bihar,” Shah said.

On a question about relations between India and China, Shah said one must try to improve relations with the neighbour, but we cannot sacrifice our interests in order to improve the relationship.

“We tried to improve (the relationship), but whenever we felt that an attempt was being made to encroach our border, we gave a befitting reply,” Shah said.

He expressed hope that the standoff will be resolved through dialogue.

“I want to say that no one will be able to encroach on an inch of land in India. This is a firm decision of the government of India,” Shah said.



DECISION 2020 BIHAR

Actor withdraws from Murali biopic after request from cricketer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 19

FOLLOWING OUTRAGE from Tamil nationalists and a section of film personalities and politicians in Tamil Nadu, actor Vijay Sethupathi has decided to opt out of a biopic of Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan.

The film, titled *800*, was caught up in a controversy over Sethupathi’s decision to play the title role, given what many Tamils in Sri Lanka and in Tamil Nadu believe was Muralitharan’s support of the Lankan government during the civil war with the LTTE.

Even though Muralitharan himself tried to explain his case, and argued that he never treated Eelam Tamils with disrespect citing his own Tamil origin, many



Muttiah Muralitharan and Vijay Sethupathi

point out there is footage and news reports suggesting the cricketer’s seemingly supportive stand for Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the island-nation’s President who was the war-time defence secretary, and other remarks made towards the end of the civil war.

In Tamil Nadu, film personalities such as Bharathiraja, Ameer, Thamarai and Cheran and even a state minister, Kadambur C Raju, had made statements urging Sethupathi to withdraw from

the project “considering the sentiments of Tamil people.”

On Monday, Muralitharan issued a statement asking Sethupathi to back out from the project. Thanking the cricketer, Sethupathi shared the statement.

Talking about a section that is “imposing pressure on actor Vijay Sethupathi to withdraw himself from the movie due to the wrong notions surrounding me,” Muralitharan said he doesn’t want an artiste from Tamil Nadu to suffer because of him.

The former international spinner said the movie, planned as an inspiration for future generations, will materialise and that the producers have assured him that further information regarding the project will be announced soon. “I will stand with them,” Muralitharan stated.

MAHARASHTRA

SC asks SDMA to decide on Nanded gurdwara Dussehra procession

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE SUPREME Court on Monday asked the Maharashtra State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) to take a call on the Nanded gurdwara management board's request for permission to conduct the annual Dussehra celebrations and the Guru Granth Sahib procession.

A special bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao, Hemant Gupta and Ajay Rastogi asked the board to file a representation in this regard with the SDMA and said it could approach the Bombay High Court if it is not satisfied with the decision.

It asked the Authority to examine if the procession could be allowed to be held early in morning with limited gathering.

The Nanded Sikh Gurudwara Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Board had approached the Supreme Court, seeking its nod for the 'Dushera, Takht Isnan, Deepmala and Gurta Gaddi' which it said has been organised for about three centuries.

The state government in an affidavit told the court that allowing it will not be a "practically feasible option" given the Covid-

19 situation and that it had consciously decided not to allow any religious function to check the spread of the virus.

The board's counsel pointed out that it could be allowed with 40-50 people in attendance given that the state government has already allowed marriage ceremonies with 50 guests.

As concerns were expressed on the number of people who would join the procession along the way if it is conducted sometime in afternoon, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, pointed out that the procession would cover 1.5 km and "they could consider holding it between 7-9 am so that only the persons participating in the ritual are there and passers-by are not involved".

The bench referred to the Jagannath Puri Yatra being held with a curfew in place and sought to know if the same could be done in the Nanded case.

But the Maharashtra government said it is not about curfew or barricades and that hundreds of people will come from across the country and crowd control will not be possible.

The Supreme Court then said it is something where the court cannot interfere when the state is saying it is difficult.

Durga Puja pandals in Bengal out of bounds for visitors: HC

Says govt's measures 'well-intentioned' but may remain 'pious wish on paper'

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 19

EXPRESSING APPREHENSION that overcrowding during the festive season could lead to an "uncontrollable" rise in the number of Covid-19 cases, the Calcutta High Court on Monday ordered that Durga Puja pandals in West Bengal will be out of bounds for the visitors "in public interest".

Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL), a Division Bench of the High Court, comprising Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Arijit Banerjee, said no one, barring select members of the puja organising committee, would be allowed to enter marquee of the pandals. The Bench said, "When students... have been prevented from attending educational institutions for more than six months and several students stand to lose a year, it is rather incongruous that Puja festivities would continue as in the previous years."

"Life has not been normal for the human species since or about March 2020 and it may have been better if restrictions were put in place as to how the Durga Puja festivities would be celebrated this year," the bench said, adding that



At a pandal in Kolkata on Monday. Partha Paul

though the measures announced by the state government were "well-intentioned", "they may only remain a pious wish on paper without any blueprint being chalked out for their implementation on the ground".

The High Court in its order laid down a detailed plan on limiting entry of people to Puja pandals.

Directing puja organisers to barricade entrances to pandals, the High Court said that area with a radius of 5 metres for small pandals and 10 metres for big pandals will be out of bounds for revellers. "...for the smaller pandals, a five-metre zone beyond the extremities of the pandals on all sides and, for the larger pandals, a

10-metre zone beyond the extremities of the pandal on all sides will be a part of the no-entry zone. In other words, the area covered by the pandals and the additional area around the pandals extending 5m from the smaller pandals and 10m from the bigger pandals will have to be barricaded as a no-entry zone," read the judgment.

Also, the High Court limited the entry of Puja organising committee members – 15 for smaller pandals, 25 for bigger ones. A list of names of the organisers will have to be put up outside the pandals and only they can enter for puja-related work, the court ruled.

"The only exception would be for the named personnel, including the priest, who will be identified by the puja organisers in advance and whose names would be displayed for checks to be made at any point of time. At the smaller pandals, 15 persons will be named in the list who may have access to the no-entry zone at all times. The number will be 25 to 30 in respect of the bigger to the biggest pandals. These directions will apply to all public puja pandals all over the state, including the 34,000 pujas, which have obtained grants from the state (government)," it added.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

231 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 75,50,273
TESTS: 9,50,83,976
RECOVERED: 66,63,608
DEATHS: 1,14,610
DOUBLING RATE: 85.65**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING TIME**
■ Maharashtra	15,95,381	9,060	0.62%	116.84
■ Andhra	7,83,132	3,986	0.51%	141.13
■ Karnataka	7,65,586	7,012	1.08%	66.89
■ Tamil Nadu	6,87,400	3,914	0.66%	108.80
■ Kerala	3,41,859	7,631	2.42%	29.77

* 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: 1.53 NOW: 1.52	7 DAYS EARLIER: 8.10 NOW: 7.94	DETECTED TODAY: 55,722 RECOVERED TODAY: 66,399
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 18, 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

Daily Covid cases in Gujarat fall below 1,000; Junagadh, Jamnagar new hotspots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 19

GUJARAT ON Monday reported less than a 1,000 fresh Covid-19 cases in a day for the first time since the third week of July, even as the municipal corporation areas of Junagadh and Jamnagar are emerging as new hotspots, raising concerns, Union health ministry officials said.

At a meeting with state health functionaries on Monday, several issues were flagged by the Centre, including an observation about districts of Gandhinagar, Vadodara and Rajkot – where half the patients who died of Covid-19, succumbed to the infection within 48 hours of detection or hospitalisation.

Presided over by Union health

minister Harsh Vardhan, the meeting was attended by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) director Sujet Kumar Singh and the Union health secretary.

Singh, who gave a presentation highlighting the Covid concerns in Gujarat, said, "Our main concerns on the basis of tests per million and sample positivity rate are Junagadh Municipal Corporation and Jamnagar Municipal Corporation that are emerging as hotspots and may become areas of continued transmission in future. Surat rural, Vadodara Municipal Corporation and Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation are in borderline areas... Jamnagar sees 80-100 cases a day and Junagadh sees 30-40 cases a day... we must focus on testing here and strategise accord-

ingly... Timing of testing is also important."

Pointing out that Covid-related deaths have come down across the state, Singh said, "Forty per cent of our 3,600 deaths was in the age range of 15-60 years, which is an active age group (working demography)..."

He added that in Gandhinagar, Vadodara and Rajkot, there is a need to pay attention on surveillance or early detection to reduce fatality.

Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said states have to monitor the situation closely at least for the next three months.

"It is important to retest 100 per cent of the symptomatic rapid antigen negative test samples with RT-PCR tests. Secondly, once a person tests positive tracking should be completed within three

days. Thirdly, with the festive season, we suggest the collectors conduct a meeting with SPs (in respective districts) so that in case festivities are permitted, written permission must also include conditions related to Covid norms... with penalty mentioned..."

'Can't neglect H1N1'

Bhushan added that timely reporting of H1N1 cases to the Centre should not be affected due to Covid-19. "This is the time for seasonal influenza (swine flu or H1N1) and had Covid-19 not been there, reporting would have started... But we have found that some states are sending reports, while others aren't and some others are sending incomplete reports," he said, directing Gujarat principal health secretary to ensure accurate reporting.

उ. प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड सामान्य निविदा सूचना निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु मोहरबंद सामान्य निविदा दो भागों में पंजीकृत, प्रतिष्ठित एवं अनुभववी ठेकेदारों/ फर्मों से आमंत्रित की जाती है, निविदा मूल्य जीएसटी सहित तथा धरोहर राशि आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.एफ.आई.टी. के माध्यम से अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत परेषण मण्डल, मुरादाबाद के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, मुख्य शाखा मुरादाबाद में संचालित बालू खाता सं. – 10896364702, IFSC Code- SBIN 0000682 (MICR No. 110024101) में निर्धारित तिथि/ समय तक जमा करें। निविदा के भाग-1 में इन्कम टैक्स एवं पेन नं., जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण प्रपत्र की छायाप्रति, आवश्यक प्रपत्र तथा नियम एवं शर्तें अवश्य होने चाहिए अन्यथा की स्थिति में निविदा का भाग-2 विचारणीय नहीं होगा। द्वितीय भाग में दर्द होनी चाहिए। निविदा प्रपत्र कार्यालय समय में निविदा खुलने के एक दिवस पूर्व 17.00 बजे तक कार्यालय से ही निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य भुगतान कर प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं डाक द्वारा निविदाएं मंगाए जाने हेतु रु. 100/- अतिरिक्त आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.एफ.आई.टी. के माध्यम से देय होंगे। डाक द्वारा मंगाए गए निविदा प्रपत्र के प्राप्त न होने अथवा विलम्ब के लिए विभाग उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा। अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें विभाग के निर्धारित नियम एवं शर्तें उ.प्र. पावर कारपोरेशन लि. के फार्म ए/बी के अनुसार होंगी जिन्हें किसी भी कार्यदिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में देखा जा सकता है। निविदा में किसी भी संशोधन या तिथि विस्तार हेतु संबंधित समाचार पत्र अवश्य देख लिया जाए। सामान्य निविदा खुलने का दिनांक 18.11.2020 1. निविदा संख्या-84/ ई.टी.सी.एम./ 2020-21 विद्युत परेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मुरादाबाद के अन्तर्गत अधिशासी अभियंता के उपयोगार्थ 01 नं. डीजल चालित वाहन (चालक सहित) 12 माह हेतु उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 2500/-, निविदा प्रपत्र का जीएसटी सहित मूल्य रु. 590/- नोट- निविदा प्रपत्र कार्यलय से निविदा मूल्य ऑनलाइन जमा किए जाने की प्राप्ति प्रस्तुत कर किसी भी कार्यदिवस में क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियंता विद्युत परेषण मण्डल-प्रथम मुरादाबाद "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएँ" प्रजांक: 2558/ वि.पा.मं.मु./ ई-निविदा/2020-21 दिनांक: 17.10.2020

Karnataka issues advisory on festivities during pandemic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 19

WITH A technical advisory committee advising the Karnataka government to make Dasara festivities a safe affair on account of Covid-19, the government has issued guidelines to conduct festivities in a muted manner, ensuring precautions such as social distancing and use of masks. The state government

has advised that senior citizens and children be kept away from gatherings.

In a circular, the government has stated that crowds should be regulated "to ensure physical distance and frequent sanitization".

"Events planned to last for many days or weeks should have adequate measures to ensure a cap on physical numbers," says the circular issued on October 14 by commissioner of health and family welfare Pankaj Pandey.

A technical advisory committee constituted by the health department had earlier recommended virtual Dasara celebrations for the public – especially with regard to the traditional festivities in Mysuru.

The celebrations began in a scaled down manner on October 17.

According to the norms prescribe, only 300 people should participate in the Jumbo Savari event at the Mysore Palace on October 26.

उ. प्र. आवास एवं विकास परिषद कृषि एवं कृषि-संबंधी कार्यक्रमों के आयोजन हेतु निम्न विवरणानुसार ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक : 17.10.2020								
अनुपमाली ई-निविदा सूचना								
अधोहस्ताक्षरों द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निम्न विवरणानुसार ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं जो कि ई-प्रोक्विमेंट पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध हैं।								
क्र.सं.	कार्य का विवरण	बुद्धि का मूल्य	कार्य की अनुमानित मात्रा (स. मी.)	वर्ग (वर्ग मी.)	विशेष टेंडर (वर्ग मी.)	बुद्धि का मूल्य (वर्ग मी.)	ई-निविदा करने की तिथि	ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि व समय
1	महिला योजना संख्या-8, (आजुमरी डिस्ट्रिक्ट) आजुमरी में निर्माण कार्य-45 (मं.3) अक्षर के मकानों के क्षेत्र में वास्तु (विशुद्धीकरण का कार्य)। (दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत)	72.50	1.45	3000.00	+18% GST	06 माह	22.10.2020 03.00	31.10.2020 11.00
2	जलविद्युत विद्युत (विद्युत) योजना संख्या-11 मेरठ के क्षेत्र-2 व 3 में 24 मी. लंबाई पर लंबाई की 33 की. सी. लंबाई के विद्युतन का कार्य	80.00	1.60	3000.00	+18% GST	03 माह	22.10.2020 03.00	31.10.2020 11.00

नियम एवं शर्तें: 1. निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य नियम व शर्तें धरोहर की वेबसाइट www.upavp.com से निविदा निकल कर उ.प्र. इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स कार्पोरेशन की वेबसाइट <http://tender.up.nic.in> पर देखे जा सकते हैं। इच्छुक ठेकेदारों से अनुरोध है कि वह निर्दिष्ट रूप से उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखें और निर्दिष्ट वेबसाइट के माध्यम से कोई कलकल अथवा सुचना वेबसाइट पर जो उत्सव का कार्य जायेगी। बिना उक्त वेबसाइट पर जाकर देखें और जो ऑनलाइन निविदा करने जा सकते हैं। अधिशासी अभियंता

NORTHERN RAILWAY (E-Tender Notice)					
The Sr Divisional Commercial Manager/Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites online e-tender through website https://ireps.gov.in , for the parking contracts, for the period of 3 (Three) Years, to be closed on 11.11.2020 at 15:00 hrs, at the following stations/locations:					
SN	Name of work with its location / Railway Station	Advertise Value/Reserve Price of one year (in Rs)	Cost of Tender document & 18% GST (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen
1	Parking contract of Cycle-Scooter at Bahadurgarh Railway Station (BGZ), "B" Category, with measuring an area of 711 sq mtrs	8,17,272/-	3,540/-	49,100/-	https://ireps.gov.in/tender-no: Parking93-2020
2	Parking contract of Car at Delhi Sarai Rohilla Railway Station (DEE), "A" Category, with measuring an area of 1500 sq mtrs	25,30,656/-	5,900/-	1,51,900/-	https://ireps.gov.in/tender-no: Parking94-2020
*Applicable GST and TCS has to be paid by licensee extra, over and above the Advertise value/Reserve Price/license fee.					
2280/2020					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE				
Sr. Divisional Signal and Telecom engineer/Co./Moradabad for and on behalf of President of India invites Open tenders through E-Tendering system for the following works -				
S. No.	Tender No. & Description of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Last date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5
1.	07/S&T/Tel/MB/2020-21 "Upgradation of SCADA on Moradabad-Saharanpur section over Moradabad Division.	4093196.69	81900.00	11.11.2020 at 15.00 hrs.
2.	04-Tel-SNT-MB-19-20 RT2 Shifting and wiring of COA server with railnet wiring in DRM OFFICE and control rooms Moradabad	979558.50	19600.00	11.11.2020 at 15.00 hrs.
Note : Complete details of tender can be seen at www.ireps.gov.in . Tender Notice No.-07/04-Tel/S&T/Tel/MB/2020-21 Date : 19.10.2020				
2281/2020				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

Audio clip points to 'negligence behind deaths', Kerala official suspended

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 19

A NURSING officer at a government medical college in Kochi has been suspended after an audio clip – sent by the officer to her colleagues ahead of the Central team's visit – revealed that a patient died gasping for oxygen and several others could have been killed due to negligence inside the Covid ward of the hospital.

After the audio clip was circulated on social media, the family of the patient, T K Haris, approached the police seeking action against alleged negligence that led to the patient's death on July 30. The medical education director probed the incident at the behest of Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja, and suspended nursing officer Jalaja Devi.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the issue is a "serious one" and "would dent the image of the state's health sector".

On Saturday, Devi sent a voice message in a WhatsApp group comprising her nursing staff ahead of the Central team's visit. "Today, some doctors reported that oxygen masks were not found properly fitted on many patients. Masks were found displaced, not fitted to the face. Ventilator tubes should be seen whether properly inserted into nostrils. Doctors have reported that due to our negligence, many patients have lost their lives. Unluckily, if we are caught, that would become a major issue. A patient, Haris... ventilator tube was found not inserted into his nostril. In fact, he had been fit to be shifted out of ventilator support... His relatives have complained about death. But doctors have not disclosed anything to

protect us. Otherwise, things would have become a big issue."

However, medical college superintendent Dr Peter Vazhayil said the nursing officer's statement was baseless. The patient was on non-invasive ventilator in which the breathing tube would not get disconnected, he said.

In another incident of alleged negligence, information about a Covid patient's death took three days to reach his family members in Kollam district.

Sulaiman Kunju (82) of Kollam's Thalavur village was taken to a Covid treatment centre after he tested positive last month. His family was later told that he was shifted to the medical college hospital – the family thought it was at the hospital in Kollam but Kunju was actually shifted to Thiruvananthapuram. They received a call on October 16, saying the patient will be discharged, but when Kunju's son Noushad visited the hospital he found that it was another person bearing the same name. The family's search for Kunju then led them to the morgue at the Thiruvananthapuram hospital, where he was tagged as an unidentified body after his death on October 13.

Kollam District Medical Officer V V Sherry said Kunju was taken to Thiruvananthapuram for better care and authorities had informed his family, who might have misunderstood the location.

However, Noushad said, "I had delivered food for him in Kollam. Staff collected the food but I never knew that my father was not being treated there. They always informed me that my father was getting better," he said.

The DMO said, "If that is true, it was really sad and painful. But officials at the medical college have denied having collected food from him."

CSIR to set up Covid test centres, hospitals in Ladakh, J&K, Himachal

Pune: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will extend support to Himachal Pradesh and the UTs of J&K and Ladakh for ramping up infrastructure in the ongoing fight against Covid-19.

CSIR director general Shekhar Mande said the agency will set up two testing facilities in Ladakh and work for three makeshift hospitals in Himachal will begin this week.

Mande said, "On an immediate basis, CSIR will be setting up two testing centres in Ladakh –

one each at Leh and Kargil. We will provide manpower training required for carrying out tests."

Two CSIR institutes had developed an instantly deployable on-site hospital setup in August.

The advantage is that it can be readied within 5-7 days, with capacities ranging from 10, 20, 50 or 100 beds at any site.

Mande said work for 50-bedded hospital setups at three locations in Himachal Pradesh, will commence this week.

ANJALI MARAR

Just wanted to keep morale up, says Assam's PPE-clad dancing doctor

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 19

HE SPENT most of his youth imitating the dance moves of his idol, Hrithik Roshan. On Monday, Roshan himself had a message for Dr Arup Senapati – "Tell Dr Arup I'm gonna learn his steps and dance as good as his someday in Assam. Terrific spirit!" the actor tweeted.

"Impossible!" said Senapati, 34, who has just finished a seven-day stint at a Covid-19 ward in Assam's Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH). "Imagine me teaching him!"

Senapati, a first year post-graduate ENT student, shot into the limelight on Sunday after a video emerged of him donning a PPE kit and dancing to the song 'Ghungroo' from the 2019 movie 'War', which stars Roshan. The video, which was tweeted by his



colleague Dr Syed Faizan Ahmad, quickly went viral and drew the attention of many public figures, including Roshan.

"It was the last of the seven days of gruelling duty at the Covid ward," said Senapati. "We were to start our mandatory quarantine the next day – my colleagues had already told me that I must dance on the last day of my duty."

His dance on Sunday, which enthralled an audience of a few newly-recovered patients, ward



A video emerged on Sunday of first-year PG student Arup Senapati dancing in a PPE kit in Assam.

boys, sweepers and a team of doctors and nurses, was performed in the recovery room at SMCH.

Senapati said, "They were very happy and so was I. I just wanted to keep the morale up. The week had been tough, the PPE is difficult to work in. While the recovery rate has improved in Assam, and things are looking better, the war is far from over, we are still working every day to beat this."

Senapati's reputation as a skilled dancer is well-known

around the hospital. In fact, right from his college days at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, he has taken part in several dance competitions, even winning a few. "I dance whenever I am feeling low or whenever someone else is feeling low – to cheer them up," he said.

This remedy has seen him through pandemic duty as well – first in Goalpara district, and now in Silchar. "This is a disease, full of ups and downs. Many times, patients in the ICU are low and depressed," he said, "Of course, I don't start dancing for them right there but I do try to engage them in conversation, counsel them and reassure them that things will be okay."

Senapati's seven-day quarantine started on Monday, with his phone constantly buzzing after his social media fame. He hopes that over the rest of the week, he will have some quiet time.

Haj final call depends on India, Saudi Covid norms: Naqvi

New Delhi: Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday said that while Haj 2021 is scheduled for June-July, the final call on preparations for Indian pilgrims will depend on guidelines issued by the Saudi Arabian and Indian governments in light of the pandemic. He said there may be significant changes, in accommodation, transport, among others. **ENS**

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



Rajiv Saizal

HIMACHAL PRADESH Minister: State attaining herd immunity

Shimla: Health Minister Rajiv Saizal on Monday said the state's population is on its way to attain herd immunity against Covid-19. The number of active cases is declining and 60-70 per cent of the state's population is projected to be affected by Covid-19, he said during a press conference. The state currently has 2,630 active cases and has reported a total of 263 Covid-related deaths so far. Saizal said a "mild" level of community spread of the coronavirus has been observed in the state. **ENS**

GUJARAT

FIR against 3 teachers for liquor party

Vadodara: Three primary school teachers are on the run after being booked in a prohibition case in Chhota Udepur district on Saturday, following viral videos that showed them in an inebriated condition, partying inside a classroom of the Gunder primary school in Sankheda. The FIR was filed after a complaint from the taluka education officer. Among the accused are the head and deputy head teacher of the Gunder primary school while the third accused is said to be attached to another primary school in Ajitpura. **ENS**

CHHATTISGARH

Elephant calf dies after tiger attack: Officials

Raipur: An elephant calf died of injuries from a tiger attack inside the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Gariband district, officials said Monday. An elephant tracking team in Kulhadighat Range reported the death of the calf, aged between 4 and 6 months, in Kukrar village on Saturday, they said. "Hind limbs of the elephant calf had multiple bite marks and on examination of the nearby area, pugmarks and scat of a tiger were found. Some signs of a fight or tussle were visible," forest officials said in a statement. **ENS**

TRP case: Issue summons to Arnab before arraigning him, HC tells police

OMKARGOKHALE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday told the Mumbai Police that if it proposes to arraign Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami in the TRP (television rating points) case, it should first issue summons to him. It said that if summons are issued, Goswami should appear before the police and cooperate with the investigation.

The Division Bench of Justices SS Shinde and MS Kamik also told the Mumbai Police to submit its investigation papers related to the case in a sealed cover by November 4.

The Bench was hearing a petition filed by ARG Outlier Media Pvt Ltd, which runs Republic TV, seeking quashing of the Mumbai Police FIR in the case and the summons to its senior officials.

Alleging a racket to "spike TRPs" by Republic TV and two regional channels, Box Cinemas and Fakt Marathi, the Mumbai Police last week issued summons to eight persons, including the chief

financial officer (CFO) of Republic Media Network. The petition, filed last week after the Supreme Court asked Republic TV to first approach the High Court, sought an interim stay on the investigation. It also asked the court to direct the Mumbai Police not to take any coercive steps against the channel or its employees, including their investigation and questioning.

While the petition sought interim protection from arrest for Goswami, the Bench noted that he was not an accused at this stage.

Saying that the Mumbai Police was "determined to falsely implicate" the channel and "silence news reporting" done by it, the petition asked for the case to be transferred to the CBI.

It said the police FIR was a violation of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression, and sought disciplinary proceedings against Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh for "gross dereliction of duty and abuse of power".

Appearing for the petitioners, senior counsel Harish Salve and Milind Sathe told the court on



Arnab Goswami

Monday that no offence was made out by the police, and claimed mala fide action with an attempt to suppress the petitioners' voice.

Salve said that if a probe has to be conducted, it should not be done by the Mumbai Police, who, he said, was biased against the petitioners. He also submitted that the petitioners would cooperate with the investigation.

Opposing the plea, Senior Counsel Kapil Sibal and Devadatt Kamat, appearing for the state and Mumbai Police Commissioner, said the petition was "entirely premature". The investigation is still on and Goswami is not even named as an accused in the FIR, Sibal said. The right to freedom of speech grants protection to air your views but not from investigation, he said.

The Bench also referred to the petitioners' contention regarding the press conference and interviews given by the Mumbai Police Commissioner in the case and said "there is a tendency by investigating officers to disclose about the ongoing investigations in sensitive cases".

"We do not know if it is the correct method to give interviews to the media by police officers and disclose ongoing investigation. It is not only happening in the present case, but has been happening in other matters where the investigation is in progress. We are not attributing this to anyone, but officers are not supposed to give incriminating material to the media," said Justice Shinde.

Sibal said he was in agreement and had earlier spoken out against such practice. "When an investigation by CBI, NIA etc. is being conducted, the officers continually give media statements to prejudice the trial," he said. "There is another side to the story. Media trial is going on on TV channels, including Republic TV. This has even been deprecated by the Supreme Court. It is a vicious circle," he said.

After hearing the submissions, the Bench noted that if the investigation officer issues summons to Goswami, as per Salve's submission, Goswami would honour it and appear before the police to cooperate with the probe. The Bench also said that if such summons are issued, Goswami could move the Court for relief.

The next hearing has been scheduled for November 5.

Earlier, the Mumbai Police had clarified that while the FIR, filed on October 6, did not name Republic TV, the names of the three channels came up during interrogation of the suspects in the case. A senior police officer said the FIR was only the beginning of the investigation.

"In the FIR, the name of India Today is mentioned; however, it is not substantiated by any of the accused or witnesses. On the contrary, the accused and witnesses are specifically mentioning the names of Republic TV, Fakt Marathi and Box Cinema. Thorough investigations are going on," Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Milind Bharambe had said.

BJD MP seeks breach of privilege proceedings against Odiya TV channel

Murmu asks for restraint against 'false' reports; OTV denies allegations

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESHWAR, OCTOBER 19



Keonjar MP Chandrani Murmu

A DAY after after BJD MP from Keonjhar, Chandrani Murmu, accused a regional TV channel of defaming her, she moved a breach of privilege proceeding against the channel on Monday.

Alleging that reporters from OTV had circulated a morphed and obscene video of hers with malicious intent, and that the channel is now trying to shield the alleged perpetrators, Murmu said this has "grievously affected and violated" her privilege as a Lok Sabha MP.

In a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, she stated: "I am tendering this notice to you, seeking your protection to ensure that OTV channel be restrained from airing such fake and false stories with malicious intent to save the reporter Ramesh Rath."

The channel's operating officer, Litisha Mangat, said, "OTV vehemently denies these allegations. It is a one-and-a-half year old case and I am told that the trial is on, so the law should take its course."

According to police, Rath had allegedly instructed his subordinate, Simanchal Patra, to forward the purported video.

"During investigation, we learnt about Rath's involvement in the case," investigating officer Jaynarayan Khandei said. "Simanchal Patra, arrested earlier, confessed that he had forwarded the video on Rath's instructions. He also stated that Rath still had some video evidence with him. His (Rath's) role is being investigated, but he will be liable under all Sections mentioned in the FIR. More names are likely to come out in the course of investigation."

Murmu wrote: "Strong and strict action should be taken against OTV and its promoters for using the media to falsify and disseminate lies in the public, with an objective to denying me justice by misleading the public from the core issue of police investigating the morphed, obscene viral video of mine and identifying the culprits with evidence," Murmu wrote.

Reacting to the development, OTV's Mangat said, "Since the matter is sub judice, it is not proper for us to comment. But it is surprising that they have woken up to it only now, one day after Ramesh Rath reported RTI activists' findings regarding the CM's chopper review of the aerial survey of floods."

Rath was picked up by the police on Thursday and served a notice for his alleged involvement in the viral video case of 2019. He has been served a notice to appear at Keonjhar police station on Wednesday.

Simanchal Patra, who

worked as a junior reporter with the channel, was arrested on April 19, 2019. Patra had allegedly provided the video to Prashant Mishra, a web journalist who purportedly circulated it among his friends, according to police said.

Patra is out on bail.

After the video emerged online before last year's General Election, Murmu's uncle had filed a case against unknown people under different IPC sections and relevant sections of IT Act, 2000.

Keonjhar SP Mitrabhanu Mahapatra said: "A preliminary chargesheet was filed and five persons were booked. All five had circulated the video, and one of the accused had provided the content. We informed the court that investigation was pending and after the chargesheet, investigation was carried out under CrPc 178 (3). A notice has been served to Ramesh Rath and further investigations are underway."

Following the notice, the channel had alleged that the development came "a day after OTV telecast an expose on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's claims of an aerial survey of flood-hit areas of the state, which was based on RTI revelations."

The RTI-based report, as mentioned by the channel, had stated that on August 31 "only 1 helicopter of OSS Air Management had taken off from Bhubaneswar airport. The chopper took off and returned to the airport in 19 minutes, which included a flight time of only nine and a half minutes."

In a statement, airport director Suresh Chandra Hota said: "The CM's flight departed on 31.8.2020 at 1542 IST from Bhubaneswar and landed back at Bhubaneswar at 1601 IST. All timings with respect to flight movements are in UTC only as per ICAO standards...actual flying time is 19 minutes, excluding warm-up time, start-up time and apron and taxi time to the runway and return to apron after landing."

The CM's Office told *The Indian Express*, "There is nothing more to clarify. Photographs of the aerial survey were circulated the same day, and following the survey, the CM conducted a review meeting. The technical part was also clarified by the Airport Director.... the allegations are baseless."

Will give Rs 10,000 aid to flood-hit poor in low-lying areas: KCR

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 19

BRIEF SPELLS of rain in Hyderabad have put the city on the edge, even as Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao Monday evening announced Rs 10,000 as immediate relief to flood-hit poor families in low-lying areas.

"Hyderabad has experienced heavy rain that it has not experienced in the last 100 years. Due to heavy rain and flash floods, people, especially the poor, have suffered a lot. It is the primary responsibility of the government to help them. Hence, we have decided to extend Rs 10,000 help to each affected household of the poor in low-lying areas," the CM said.

Rao said people lost essential commodities and the cash assistance would help them make immediate purchases. He instructed the Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri district collectors to send officials to start dis-



CM also announced financial aid for damaged houses

tributing the funds from Tuesday morning. He also instructed Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar to monitor the distribution programme by setting up 200-250 teams.

The CM also announced that all the houses which were completely damaged in the rains and floods would be given an assistance of Rs 1 lakh each, while partially damaged houses would be given Rs 50,000 each. To help the poor, the government is releasing Rs 550 crore immediately to the Municipal Administration Department, he announced.

Rao also directed all ministers, MLAs, corporators, along with the Hyderabad mayor and deputy mayor and TRS leaders to actively participate in the relief efforts.

Telangana CM's adopted daughter gets engaged

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 19

TELANGANA CHIEF Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's adopted daughter C Pratyusha got engaged in Hyderabad on Sunday. Photos of Pratyusha with her fiancé Charan Reddy emerged on social media Monday.

Officials at the Women and Child Welfare Department said Pratyusha and Charan are set to be married soon.

In 2015, Pratyusha was rescued from her home after she was brutally tortured by her step-mother. Weak and famished, she was treated at a hospital for nearly 15 days, during which time Rao visited and moved by her plight, adopted her.

After she recovered, Pratyusha was sent to a women's home run by the Women and Child Welfare Department. She recently completed her nursing course and is working at a private hospital.

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
PUNE, OCTOBER 19

ONION PRICES across wholesale markets in Nashik recorded a steep rise as reports of extensive damage to the standing crop in the district started coming in. Market sources said the price rise will continue as the arrival of the next kharif crop will be significantly delayed.

On Monday, onion markets across Nashik witnessed a bull run with the average traded price of the bulb in most markets at around Rs 5,600 to Rs 5,700 per quintal. Suresh Deshmukh, a commission agent operating out of Dindori mandi in Nashik district, said farmers were holding onto stored onions hoping for further price escalation. "Arrivals have tanked and the demand-supply mismatch has pushed up prices," he said.

Traders from Lasalgaon, who hinted at indefinite closure of their market following raids by income tax officials, were back in business on Monday.

In the run-up to Diwali, onion prices are expected to rally further as demand from north Indian markets is expected to rise further. "We expect onion prices to cross Rs 100 per kg mark in some time," traders said.

Unavailability of imported onions has also hit domestic markets.

Escalating onion prices have caught the government's attention with several measures being put in place, including a ban on export. However, prices continue to rise with market sources saying the destruction of kharif crop in Karnataka due to heavy rain in September was the main reason for the price rise.



CM Uddhav Thackeray in Solapur on Monday. Express

Fadnavis, Uddhav in war of words over aid to farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

CHIEF MINISTER Uddhav Thackeray and Opposition leader Devendra Fadnavis were engaged in a war of words on Monday while touring areas in western Maharashtra that were hit by heavy rain last week.

Fadnavis claimed that NCP chief Sharad Pawar has to defend the "inefficient" Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Thackeray, prompting the latter to hit back, saying the BJP leader should prioritise the people of Maharashtra instead of camping in Bihar.

Fadnavis, who is the BJP in-charge for Bihar polls, rushed back to Maharashtra on Monday. "There is a lot of unrest among public. The state government is inefficient and the NCP chief has to defend it," said the former CM during his visit to Pune district. "The government should immediately provide financial assis-

tance to farmers... instead of waiting for the panchnama to be completed," he said.

On Thackeray and Pawar saying the state will seek financial assistance from the Centre, Fadnavis said, "It is improper to always put the ball in the court of the Centre, which will definitely provide help after completing the procedure."

Thackeray, who visited Solapur, hit back, saying, "The leader of Opposition is a responsible leader. He should give priority to the crisis in state rather than the Bihar elections. In this situation, we should all reach out to the Union government for financial help for the farmers."

Saying that he was "convinced" that PM Narendra Modi will extend all possible support for the flood-affected people, Thackeray said, "We have already started providing assistance to those who lost their family members in the torrential rain. The financial assistance for crop loss would be given as soon as the panchnama is completed..."

Govt suggests 'disengaging' WII, IIFM, three other premier green institutions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

IN A proposal to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, the Finance Ministry has recommended that the Ministry of Environment Forests (MoEF) and Climate Change "disengage" from five autonomous institutions working under it and merge two others, thus reducing the 16 autonomous bodies under the ministry to nine.

Among institutions proposed to be disengaged from MoEF are the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, and Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal.

The recommendation is a part of an exercise carried out by the Finance Ministry for rationalisation of autonomous institutions that function under different ministries, and was sent to the Cabinet Secretary on September 30.

It recommended that the

Panel rationalises govt expenditure

THE EXPENDITURE Management Commission was set up in 2014 to recommend ways to rationalise government expenditure, one of its functions being review of all autonomous bodies — there are now 679 of them. One of its aims is to look at "maximum governance through minimum government". In two phases, the Commission has reviewed 194 organisations across 18 ministries, recommending merging of 109 into 26, absorption of five into the government, shutting down five and disengagement from 23 autonomous bodies.

Society of Integrated Coastal Management be merged with the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, as both "perform similar roles of promoting coastal management...to avoid duplication of activities and attain economies of scale".

It recommended merging of Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, which re-

ceives Rs 14 crore annually from MoEF, to merge with the ministry.

It also recommended that the Indian Council for Forest and Research Education, GB Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development and statutory bodies such as Central Pollution Control Board, Central Zoo Authority (CZA), National Tiger

Conservation Authority (NTCA), National Biodiversity Authority continue to function under and with the financial support of MoEF.

"This is not a Cabinet decision; it is simply a recommendation and an exercise which takes place every couple of years. For statutory bodies like NTCA, it is not even possible to disengage since Project Tiger is such a big project in which NTCA gives funds to states to carry out the work. Being an act of law, these bodies cannot be abolished," NTCA member-secretary and head of CZA, SP Yadav, said.

Will director Dhananjai Mohan said, "We are not yet clear about the exact nature and status of these recommendations. We will act once we receive some clarity... we are in touch with our ministry and will wait for them to take a final call... if the recommendation is implemented, then it is a matter of concern for us."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Govt plans cultural activities to mark Pak-backed militia's Kashmir invasion

DIVYA A & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

IN WHAT could be seen as an attempt to reposition the narrative on Kashmir from the perspective of raids by Pakistan, the atrocities committed by the raiders and circumstances under which Kashmiri chose India, the government is planning a string of cultural activities to mark October 22 — the day of the raid in 1947.

The key among them will be establishment of a museum to showcase history of the raid and atrocities committed by the raiders supported by Pakistan army.

There will also be an exhibition and a two-day symposium on the events of October 22 in Srinagar.

"The museum, likely to come



Indian forces airlifted to Srinagar on Oct 27, 1947

up within Lal Quila (Red Fort in Delhi) in the next six months, may be announced on October 22. It is important that people understand that the Kashmir issue has not been created by India, rather by Pakistan, and that too back in 1947," a senior government official said.

The entire exercise is being organised by the National Museum Institute (NMI) under the Ministry of Culture. In an attempt to capture the "horrors

which continue to affect Kashmir and the rest of India", it will present a month-long exhibition to mark 73 years of the attack by Pakistan army-aided Pashtun militia, which had advanced towards Srinagar nearly two months after Partition.

Titled "Memories of 22 Oct 1947", the exhibition will be inaugurated at Srinagar's Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre on October 22. The exhibition, accompanied by a symposium on October 22-23, will be inaugurated by Union Culture Minister Prahlaad Patel, with J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha as chief guest.

Raghvendra Singh, NMI vice-chancellor and Secretary, Culture Ministry, said, "It is a start — a first step towards collating, documenting, archiving and representing the history...of valour and horrors

which continue to affect Kashmir and the rest of India till date." He said the exhibition will capture the Pakistan-backed invasion through visuals, archival documents, audio and video footage and graphics.

Sources in the ministry said the government's "objective in organising an event of this magnitude to mark the day for the first time is to refresh public memory about Pakistan's designs to occupy Kashmir after Partition, and to change the popular perception that a chunk of the Muslim population of the Valley sides with Pakistan".

A special section in the exhibition has been dedicated to Maqbool Sherwani, a 19-year-old National Conference worker who is credited with single-handedly stalling advance of the tribals to Srinagar.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

HOPE AND CAUTION

Reports of COVID-19 being past its peak are heartening. But there can be no lowering of guard

INDIA MAY BE entering the festival season on a note of hope. A panel appointed by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology (MST) has reported a steady decline in COVID-19 cases since September 17, when the country recorded nearly 98,000 cases — the highest spike in a day. The graph, in fact, has fallen sharply in the first fortnight of October — the number of active cases fell by about 18 per cent in this period. On Sunday, these numbers went below the eight-lakh mark for the first time in six weeks. The mortality rate is also falling appreciably. If the current trend persists, according to the panel, the contagion could run its course in the country by February. The past 10 months have, however, shown that the virus defies prediction. There is much about the pathogen that remains in the realm of the unknown — in fact, we still do not have a conclusive reason for the slowing down of the infection rate. The hope generated by reports of the disease being past its peak, therefore, needs to be tempered with caution.

While the jury is out on the precise impact of the dipping temperature on the coronavirus, the recent upsurge of cases in Europe suggests that the coming winter will be critical in the battle against the health crisis. As epidemiologist and a member of the MST panel, Gagandeep Kang, told this newspaper: “there is a seasonality associated with the spread of viruses and based on that experience, it would not be out of place to suggest that the coronavirus might spread in winter”. The high level of particulate matter in the air of several Indian cities during early winter could increase the vulnerability of those with respiratory ailments. A National Centre of Disease Control report has warned the Delhi government of a sharp uptick in COVID-19 cases during the winter. The report’s suggestion to the Delhi government for the festive season — engage with religious leaders to ensure that celebrations like Durga Puja, Dussehra and Chhath Puja remain low-key affairs — is pertinent for governments in most parts of the country. The spike in Kerala’s caseload after the week-long Onam festivities in August is a warning — festivals can be super-spreaders.

The MST panel report should be seen in conjunction with the recent serological studies in several parts of the country. They indicate that about 30 per cent people have been exposed to the virus in urban areas — an ICMR study conducted across 70 districts in the country in September, in fact, points out that this figure could be as low as seven per cent at the all-India level. By all accounts, therefore, it would be premature to say that the virus has exhausted its supply of vulnerable people. The receding rate of infection should not bring a lowering of guard.

TOLL ON HER

Virus might not discriminate in its victims, but pandemic has strengthened systemic inequalities

THE SIGNS ARE worrying, and they all point to an intensifying crisis in gender inequality. For one, the pandemic appears to have set back young women aiming to get into medical school more than the men. Analysis of numbers of those who appeared for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) from 2017 shows a sharp fall in the attendance rate of girls in 2020 — a first in four years. Only about 85 per cent of the girls who registered for the test wrote it eventually, as compared to 86 per cent of the boys. In 2019, the corresponding figures were 93 per cent and 92 per cent respectively. This could be one index of what teachers and experts have been warning of: As education goes into a tailspin due to the pandemic, the disproportionate burden of consequences will fall on girls and women in higher education, undoing the gains of decades.

The virus might not discriminate in its victims, but the pandemic appears to have strengthened all systemic inequalities. It has been extremely hard on Indian women, especially those at the bottom of India’s caste and class hierarchies. It is not education alone. Evidence is also trickling in of how women are being edged out of the post-lockdown economic scenario. For instance, as migrants returned to villages in the great exodus, the share of women in the work generated under the MGNREGA dipped to an eight-year low during the first five months of this financial year. The labour force participation rate of Indian women has been appalling even in good years. But as analysis of real-time employment data in June by researchers showed, women who had jobs before the virus struck were 23.5 percentage points less likely to retain them than men. In a worsening economic scenario, this leaves them to fight for only the most precarious, ill-paid work — if they have not already opted out of the workplace because of the increased responsibilities of domestic work and childcare during the pandemic. The home, itself, is hardly an idealised safe haven, with several studies flagging women’s increased vulnerability to domestic violence during the lockdowns.

For decades, Indian women have mounted a challenge to the inequality hard-wired into families, societal structures and institutions through education and aspiration. As the pandemic eats into those precious reservoirs of resilience, the implications for their autonomy, health, nutrition and general well-being are bound to be dire. Governments and policymakers must find a way to address and mitigate this silent but snowballing crisis.

KIM’S TEARS

Since the only drama available on North Korean media is the Kim Jong-Un show, an old trick looks new

S PARE A THOUGHT for Kim Jong-Un. North Korea’s third-generation dictator — larger than life to his people, the butt of jokes and an object of fear in much of the world — was forced to shed a tear. Last week, carefully edited footage of a military parade celebrating the 75th anniversary of North Korea’s ruling party (on October 10), featuring what appeared to be among the largest contemporary ballistic missiles, made global headlines. The talking point, though, isn’t the volatile nation’s big stick but the hitherto unseen emotional Kim.

This year has been tough on North Koreans. In addition to the hardships caused by COVID-19, the country has been devastated by typhoons and economic sanctions have reportedly driven many to poverty and destitution. Kim’s *mea culpa* — the tears streaming down his face accompanied an apology for not fulfilling the promise to take care of his people — may appear to be unexpected. But it is of a piece with strategies employed by “strong leaders” — the vulnerability of the paternal figure, the guard at the gate, who wields the threat of force both to protect his people and to discipline them. Unlike his father and predecessor, Kim Jong-Il, Kim often does public events — interacting with workers, soldiers, teachers and party loyalists. Clearly, he sees himself as a “dictator of the people”.

Political leaders often use lessons from film and television to help them win over people. In melodramas and reality shows, the easiest way to make an otherwise macho, unlikable character more sympathetic is to either have them go through a trauma (usually for women) or get them to cry (mostly for men). Since the only drama available on North Korean media is the Kim show, the old trick looks new. But remember, if the tears don’t work, there’s always a ballistic missile.



SANJAYA BARU

FIFTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO, Chinese troops entered the Indian territory to make a point. Historians and international relations scholars have spent half a century trying to explain that unexpected and first-ever war between the two Asian giants. The simple point that Mao Zedong tried to make at the time to Jawaharlal Nehru was that China did not regard India an equal. Fifty-eight years later, that is precisely the point that Xi Jinping has been trying to make to Narendra Modi. There is, however, one fundamental difference.

In the 1950s, objective circumstances and material reality offered adequate reasons for Nehru to imagine that India was China’s equal and he, Mao’s. In 2020, Modi would be living in a make-believe world in case he harboured any such illusions. Xi wants him to get the message.

In the 1950s, and indeed till the turn of the century, there were good reasons for Indian leaders to view China as an equal. Apart from civilisational legacies and cultural factors, the performance of both economies allowed them to feel so. Indeed, before the two became independent nations, Indian representatives fought hard at the Bretton Woods conference, where the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) — now the World Bank — were created, for parity with China. It was the United States that voted in favour of China being given a higher vote share than India, and John Maynard Keynes, the intellectual architect of the IMF and WB, was deployed to chastise his former students, who were now Indian government officials, to fall in line.

Independent India, however, insisted on viewing China as an equal. Two recently published books show clearly Nehru’s thinking along these lines. Francine Frankel’s *When Nehru Looked East: Origins of India-US Suspicion and India-China Rivalry* and Tanvi Madan’s *Fateful Triangle: How China Shaped US-India Relations During the Cold War* offer adequate evidence to suggest that Indian hubris was as responsible for the 1962 border war as Chinese duplicity. In the two decades following the 1962 clash, India emerged stronger at

Fifty-eight years later, India-China relationship has changed. Inequality has grown

India under Modi finds itself in a better military and diplomatic space. Indeed, Indian diplomacy today has been superior to that in the run-up to 1962. Nehru paid the price for heeding Krishna Menon’s advice. Modi is benefitting from S Jaishankar’s mature advice and Rajnath Singh’s quiet leadership. India’s relations with the Quad countries have added diplomatic muscle to an adequately competent military frame

least in part due to the destructive impact of the Cultural Revolution on China’s economy and the beneficial consequences of the Green Revolution for the Indian economy.

China bolstered its position over the last quarter of the 20th century first by building a strong alliance with the United States and, second, by carrying out sweeping internal reforms that contributed to a massive boost to what Chinese scholars have called its Comprehensive National Power (CNP). India, too, began to pick up and, thanks to the successive leadership of Prime Ministers P V Narasimha Rao, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, the Indian economy began gaining momentum.

The so-called “India story” was defined in simple numbers — an annual average rate of growth of 3.5 per cent in 1950-80 (close to China’s own rates of around 4 per cent), 5.5 per cent in 1980-2000 and 7.5 per cent in 2000-2015. China’s great moderniser Deng Xiaoping was willing to tell Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 that “Only when China and India have developed will a real Asian century emerge”. It was this narrative that fed the popular discourse best captured in Singapore’s founder-leader’s metaphor of Asia being the jet plane that was taking off, powered by two engines — China and India. The Chinese were amused by this narrative, given the rapid pace of their own rise post-1980 and the slower pace of India’s. However, till around 2015, they were willing to tolerate this view.

Prime Minister Modi clearly hoped to build on this foundation. However, the material basis and the international environment for the bilateral relationship had inexorably changed after the 2008 trans-Atlantic financial crisis. The Chinese economy entered what the economist Walt Rostow would have called stage four — “the drive to maturity”, having successfully stayed at the wheel during stage three, “pre-conditions for take-off” phase from 1990 to 2008. India, on the other hand, has faltered, especially after 2012, remaining firmly in stage three.

To cut a long story short, Nehru’s hubris in the 1950s had some historical and material basis. However, it was not backed either by

military capability or diplomatic effort. On the other hand, India under Modi finds itself in a better military and diplomatic space. Indeed, Indian diplomacy today has been superior to that in the run-up to 1962. Nehru paid the price for heeding Krishna Menon’s advice. Modi is benefitting from S Jaishankar’s mature advice and Rajnath Singh’s quiet leadership. India’s relations with the Quad countries have added diplomatic muscle to an adequately competent military frame.

However, the major power differential is economic and technological. In 1960, China’s gross domestic product (GDP), valued in US dollars at 2010 prices, was estimated to have been \$128.3 billion, while India’s was \$148.8 billion. Even as late as 1978, China’s GDP was estimated to be \$293.6 billion, compared to India’s \$293.2 billion. Today, the Chinese economy is nearly five times the size of India’s in US dollar terms and almost two-and-a-half times India’s in purchasing power parity terms. Moreover, in terms of CNP, which incorporates scientific and technological power and human capital formation, China out-ranks India many times over.

Xi’s confidence is based on the material foundations of Chinese power, requiring Modi to adopt a more cautious approach. For all the bravado of Modi’s domestic politics, he has so far walked a cautious diplomatic path, while keeping the powder dry. Modi cannot afford Nehru’s pretence for he can easily pay Nehru’s price. To regain global stature, India has to continue to focus on its domestic economic capability and human capital. There are no short cuts to global power and influence.

Modi may have sat on the same swing with Xi in Ahmedabad and drawn attention to India’s glorious past at Mahabalipuram, but he and his advisors would know that Xi merely played along, like Mao did with Nehru. Good fences, they say, make for good neighbours. A more impressive CNP, along with better relations with other neighbours and with other powers, is the real fence to keep.

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UMA MAHADEVAN DASGUPTA

TWO RECENT AUTOBIOGRAPHIES by Indian women economists describe how they made their way in a discipline and a world dominated by men. But they also say much more. In *Breaking Through*, the late Isher Judge Ahluwalia recounts in thoughtful, understated prose how her childhood — as a young girl from a conservative, middle-class Sikh family, attending a Marwari girls’ school in Calcutta — was the starting point for her feminism. In *The Brass Notebook*, Devaki Jain shows how her approach to economic questions was shaped by her struggle for freedom from an affluent but restrictive upbringing. Though the two women’s childhoods could not have been more different, both knew that education was their path to freedom.

Reading their stories, I was reminded of another deeply felt autobiography by an Indian woman, *Breaking Out* (2012) by Padma Desai. The book describes her difficult passage from childhood in a traditional middle-class family in Surat, through a painful first marriage, to becoming a successful economist in the US. In a reflective account, she writes about her complicated relationship with her parents as well as her evolving understanding of her daughter’s choices in a culture different from the one in which she had grown up.

All three women were born before India attained Independence: Desai in 1931, Jain in 1933, and Ahluwalia in 1945, a year after the Presidency College first started admitting women students. Their fathers were family patriarchs. Their mothers had married young, with little or no education, which made them

THEIR QUEST FOR FREEDOM

Isher Ahluwalia and Devaki Jain fashioned feminism out of lived experience

There are lessons to be drawn from these thoughtfully narrated life stories. For academia, historically shaped at a time when it consisted mainly of men, it is time to find more egalitarian ways of working. For a more equal society, women and men both need fulfilling and decently paid jobs

ensure that their daughters went to school. Those were difficult times. Children were vulnerable to infections; some did not survive. The girls grew up seeing the stoicism of women, and the helplessness of widows and unmarried women. Jain describes her aunt Andal as the “living example of unpaid family labour, and this was the pattern for all unmarried daughters and relatives — stigmatised and enslaved”. Desai dedicates her book to Kaki, her uncle’s widow, a sad, silent figure who stayed with them, cared for the children, and did the cooking. “Were I to charge God with a case,” she writes, “I would bring my Kaki as my first witness.”

In their own lives, the women discovered that academic success was only the first step; there were other hurdles. A flasher on the Delhi bus; a predator at Oxford; an offensive evening on an IMF tour; being passed over for promotion because a man needed it more. There were also moments of agonising self-doubt or the necessity of a rueful compromise. But they persisted. “Sometimes the most we can do is to learn not to be broken by our experiences, to rebuild our lives with what materials are at hand, bit by bit, slowly and patiently,” writes Jain.

As ambitious young girls, they realised that education was the way to freedom. Higher education was a brave new world of independent living, and freedom of movement and choices. They built networks of care and solidarity with other women. Not least of all, they married men who regarded them as equals.

The titles of all three books reflect the au-

thors’ quest for freedom. The narratives describe their intellectual and emotional growth. These are women who fashioned their feminism out of lived experience.

What is the measure of a life well-lived? Rather than speaking only about themselves and their individual accomplishments, the writers of these spare, reflective life stories also include their families, friendships and connections and their own growth in relation to those with whom they interacted.

There are lessons to be drawn from these thoughtfully narrated life stories. For academia, historically shaped at a time when it consisted mainly of men, it is time to find more egalitarian ways of working. For a more equal society, women and men both need fulfilling and decently paid jobs, supportive parental leave, organised childcare, and ways to share domestic and family responsibilities. Career graphs need not be straight lines. Working conditions can be more flexible. Women’s accomplishments often depend on help from other women who care for their children and do the domestic work. The work of all women should be recognised and paid for.

Finally, for young girls without privilege, education can be the way to fulfilling their potential. The arc of opportunity must be widened through quality education, mentoring and support. As Ahluwalia notes, reflecting on her own experience: “Scholarships are the best investment that a society can make.”

The writer is in the Indian Administrative Service, and is based in Bengaluru

OCTOBER 20, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

CABINET EXPANSION.

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi today expanded and reshuffled her Council of Ministers. Among the 11 new entrants, SB Chavan, former Maharashtra chief minister, alone gets cabinet rank and has been given charge of the education portfolio. B Shankaranand, who was in charge of two portfolios — education as well as health and family welfare — will now look after health and family welfare. Bhagwat Jha Azad makes a re-entry into the council of ministers. Bhishma Narain Singh, minister for parliamentary affairs, will look after works and housing also. Maternal aunt of the prime minister, Sheila Kaul, finds a place in

the ministry. So does former speaker of the Maharashtra assembly, Shivraj Patil.

MANIPUR BANDH

THE ALL MANIPUR Students Union and the All Manipur Students Coordinating Committee, the two groups that are leading the agitation in the state, against the foreign nationals’ issue have called a bandh on October 22 against the government’s decision to go ahead with the matriculation examination. The two groups said that the government had not paid heed to their demands over the foreigners’ issue and also ignored the plight of the flood-affected people in the state.

PEACE PLANS FOR GULF

IRAN AND IRAQ ignored appeals for a four-day ceasefire, pressing the Persian Gulf war into its 28th day. Iran has rejected Pakistani President General Zia’s appeal for a ceasefire during the Hajat season. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has also reportedly drawn up a truce plan.

SOVIET ATTACK

ABOUT 200 MEN, women and children were killed and 50 per cent houses were destroyed in Farza, a tiny valley north of Kabul, as Soviet MIG-21s pounded the place for sheltering rebels. The fruit orchards and the standing crop were destroyed.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020

THE IDEAS PAGE

The good neighbour

The economic rise of Bangladesh is also an opportunity for India. But those prospects are overshadowed by negative domestic politics

RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund's latest World Economic Outlook published last week has triggered much outrage in India. The provocation was the IMF's prediction that Bangladesh's per capita GDP will overtake that of India this year. The projected difference is rather small — \$1,888 to \$1,877 — and unlikely to last beyond this year. But it offered enough ammunition for a political attack on the NDA government's economic record.

There are many reasons for anxiety about India's economic slowdown in recent years. But in using Dhaka's impressive economic performance to attack Delhi's, India is missing the bigger story about the strategic consequences of Bangladesh's economic rise.

International development institutions are convinced that the rest of the subcontinent and developing countries around the world can learn much from Dhaka's experience — the so-called "Bangladesh model". Our focus here is different. It is about the regional implications of Bangladesh's economic success — five of them stand out.

First, rapid and sustained economic growth in Bangladesh has begun to alter the world's mental maps of the subcontinent. Over the last five decades and more, South Asia, for most purposes, has meant India and Pakistan. The other countries were generally described as the "smaller" states of the region. Bangladesh was never really small; its population today stands at about 160 million. It is demographically the eighth-largest nation in the world.

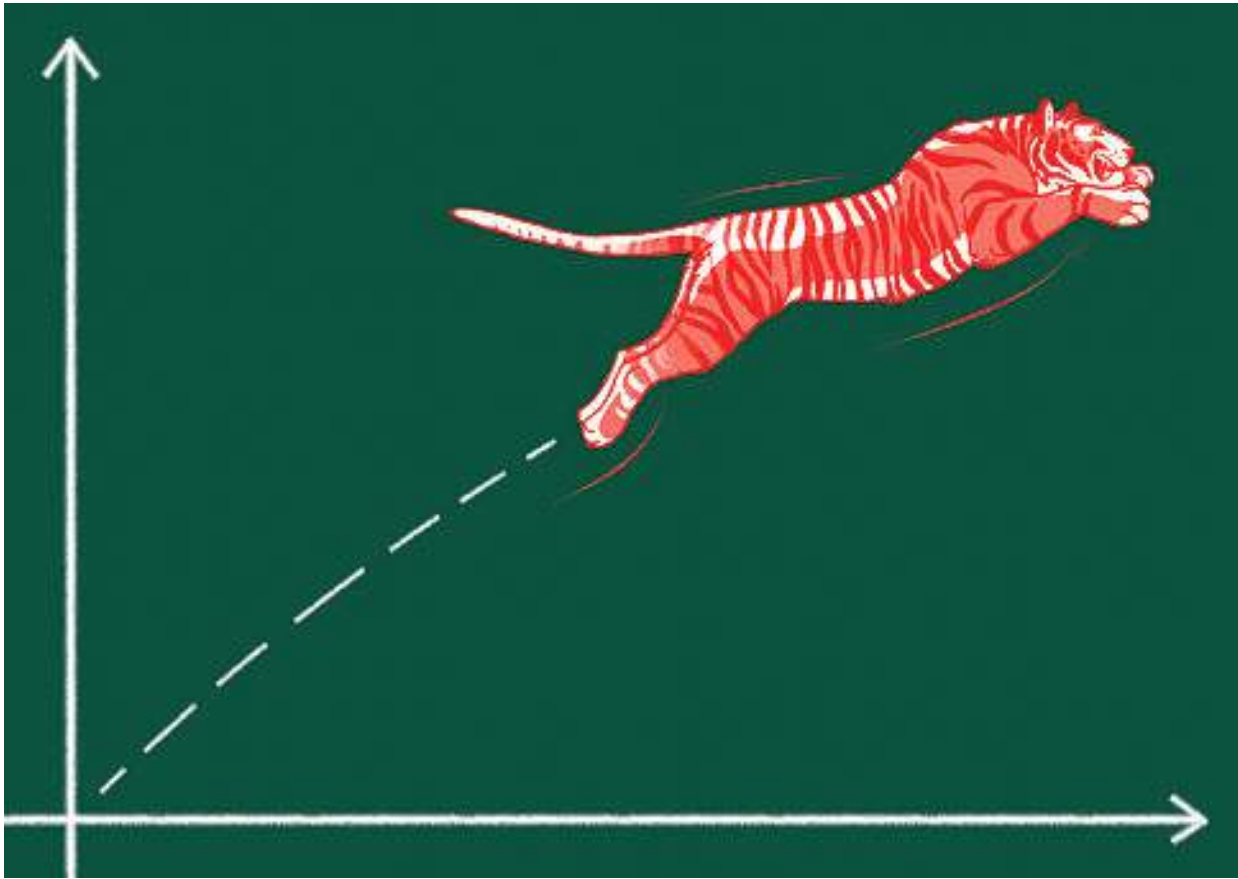
But it did not seem to matter. The global interest, of course, was riveted on Pakistan — its nuclear weapons, claims on Kashmir, wars with India, role in Afghanistan and its cosy relationship with international terrorism. The economic rise of Bangladesh is changing some of that. If there is no end to bad news from Pakistan, Bangladesh provides a positive narrative about the subcontinent's prospects.

The second implication is about the changing economic weights of Bangladesh and Pakistan in South Asia. This year, Bangladesh's GDP is expected to reach about \$320 billion; the IMF did not have the 2020 numbers from Pakistan to report but in 2019, Pakistan's economy was at \$275 billion.

Even more consequently, while Bangladesh continues to grow, the IMF suggests that Pakistan's economy will contract further this year. A decade ago, Pakistan's economy was \$60 billion larger than Bangladesh. Today, Bangladesh's weight is bigger than Pakistan by the same margin.

A US dollar today gets you 85 Bangladeshi taka and 119 Pakistani rupees. The trend line is unlikely to change in the near future — for Bangladesh has controlled its population growth and Pakistan has not. Dhaka has a grip over its inflation and Islamabad does not.

There is no question that Pakistan's negative geopolitical weight in the world will endure, thanks to its muscular foreign policies driven by the army. Bangladesh does not have an atomic arsenal like Pakistan nor does it weaponise violent religious extremism; but its growing economic muscle will help Dhaka steadily accumulate geopolitical



C R Sasikumar

salience in the years ahead.

Third, Bangladesh's economic growth can accelerate regional integration in the eastern subcontinent. Whether one likes it or not, the region's prospects for a collective economic advance are rather dim. Thanks to Pakistan's opposition to economic cooperation with India and its support for cross-border terror, the main regional forum for the subcontinent, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc), is in a coma.

Instead of merely praying for the revival of Saarc, Delhi could usefully focus on promoting regionalism among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. The BBIN sub-regional forum — involving the four, activated in the middle of last decade — has not advanced fast enough. It is time for Delhi and Dhaka to take a fresh look at the forum and find ways to widen the scope and pace of BBIN activity. Meanwhile, there is growing interest in Bhutan and Nepal for economic integration with Bangladesh.

Fourth, the economic success of Bangladesh is drawing attention from a range of countries in East Asia, including China, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore. The US, which traditionally focused on India and Pakistan, has woken up to the possibilities in Bangladesh. That the US Deputy Secretary of State, Stephen Biegun, travelled last week from Delhi to Dhaka rather than Rawalpindi, says something about Washington's changing South Asian perspective. Bangladesh does not want to get into the fight between Beijing and Washington, but the great power wooing of Dhaka is bound to intensify in the new geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific.

Finally, the economic rise of Bangladesh could boost India's national plans to accelerate the development of its eastern and northeastern states. Consider this: Bangladesh's economy is now one-and-a-half times as large as that of West Bengal; better integration between the two would provide a huge boost for eastern India. So would connectivity between India's landlocked Northeast and Bangladesh.

Undoubtedly, there has been some

progress in strengthening economic ties and connectivity between eastern India and Bangladesh in recent years. But so much more is possible — those prospects are overshadowed by negative politics in India.

In Punjab, the chief ministers of both Congress and Akali Dal have often demanded greater economic engagement with West Punjab. This sentiment was reciprocated by the Sharif brothers in Lahore, but crushed by Rawalpindi's strong resistance. In the east, Delhi and Dhaka are eager to promote greater cooperation; but there has been little political enthusiasm in Kolkata. In Assam, the issue of migration continues to impose major political constraints.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi deserves much political credit for getting parliamentary approval of the boundary settlement in 2015, despite the opposition in his own party. The UPA government, which negotiated the boundary pact in 2011, could not muster sufficient political support. Modi also accepted the 2014 international arbitration award on the maritime boundary dispute between India and Bangladesh.

But the very positive dynamic surrounding the bilateral relationship in Modi's first term has, unfortunately, acquired a negative tone in the second amidst the poisonous rhetoric in India around the Citizenship Amendment Act. There is much room for course correction in Delhi and to shift the focus from legacy issues to future possibilities.

Bangladesh is getting ready to celebrate the golden jubilee of its liberation from Pakistan in March next year. Modi, who plans to join the celebrations, must use the special occasion to jointly develop and pursue with Dhaka an ambitious framework for shared prosperity. That would help India consolidate the golden chapter in India-Bangla relations that Modi has sought to script with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The comprehensive achievements of the COVID-19 fight have greatly improved Chinese people's confidence in their country. It is believed that many people are inclined to follow their government's guidance about when the vaccination can be universally available."

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

An urban safety net

As economy struggles to recover, policy needs to address — and help — those who have seen the greatest distress during lockdown



SONALDE DESAI, NEERAJ DESHMUKH AND SANTANU PRAMANIK

WHILE COVID-19 continues its assault on human lives, the Indian economy, after the devastation in the wake of the lockdown, is showing signs of recovering. Data from a variety of sources, such as exports and car sales, as well as data from NCAER's Business Expectations Survey, point to the onset of a recovery. A new employment survey in the Delhi-NCR region, fielded by NCAER, adds to this chorus. However, it also points to the unevenness of this recovery and the continued vulnerability of specific populations.

NCAER's National Data Innovation Centre initiated a monthly telephone survey of men and women in the age group of 21-59 in March 2019 to improve the measurement of women's work. The sample for the survey was drawn to be representative of the 31 districts falling within Delhi-NCR. This includes both urban and rural areas, some as far away as Bharatpur and Jind. This survey would have ended in April this year, but with the onset of lockdown, after a brief hiatus, it was extended to measure the impact of the lockdown and its gradual relaxation. Telephone interviews with about 2,200 adults, who were interviewed monthly between March 2019 and September 2020, paint an interesting picture. While every individual did not respond to each monthly survey, contrasting employment in the second quarter of the calendar year (April-June) and third quarter (July-Sept) for 2019 and 2020 for the same population, allows for robust year-on-year comparison.

Four observations from this study are noteworthy. First, the employment data shows definite signs of a recovery. Comparing employment patterns of individuals in 2019 and 2020 over the April to September period shows that a sharp decline in employment took place in the second quarter due to the lockdown as well as signs of a recovery since the relaxation of the lockdown restrictions. For men, the worker-to-population ratio (WPR) in the second quarter fell from 88 per cent in 2019 to 62 per cent in 2020 — a fall of 26 percentage points. In contrast, in the third quarter of 2020, the WPR was only 5 percentage points below that in 2019. For women, the comparable decline was 16 percentage points in the second quarter, regaining most of this lost ground in the third quarter, and remaining only 2 percentage points below its 2019 level.

Second, self-employment has emerged as a protective force. Individuals engaged in farming and small household businesses have weathered the employment slowdown better than those engaged in salaried employment or those employed as casual labourers. Self-employment in the second quarter of 2020 was down by 12 percentage points for men and nine percentage points

for women, but, by the third quarter, it had returned nearly to its 2019 levels for both men and women. Microbusinesses experienced considerable distress in the early phase of the lockdown but they seem to be easing. In contrast, wage employment for men declined by 19 percentage points during the lockdown and remains about 7 percentage points lower in the third quarter; for women, comparable figures are 10 and two percentage points below the 2019 figures for second and third quarters respectively, though women start from a much lower level of participation in wage work.

Third, the immediate and lingering impact of the lockdown has been uneven, and larger employment declines are observed in urban areas. The year-on-year WPR difference for urban men was 35 percentage points in the second quarter and 10 percentage points in the third quarter. While for rural men, the deficit was 15 percentage points in the second quarter, down to two percentage points in the third quarter — an almost complete recovery.

Fourth, individuals at the bottom of the income pyramid have been affected by job losses far more than the individuals at the top of the income pyramid and this difference is striking in cities. The WPR dropped by a whopping 44 percentage points in the second quarter and remains 13 percentage points below its 2019 levels in the third quarter for urban men who were in the bottom three quintiles of the household asset ownership before the pandemic. In contrast, for the top two quintiles, the decline was 27 percentage points in the second quarter, rising thereafter to remain only 8 percentage points below their 2019 levels in the third quarter.

Even as the threat of the disease persists, Delhi-NCR, significantly affected by COVID-19 early on, is showing signs of an economic recovery. However, this recovery is uneven and the most vulnerable urban residents seem to be the last to recover. They were also the ones most affected during the lockdown. As the Delhi-NCR Coronavirus Telephone Surveys (DCVTS) show, the urban poor, particularly the urban informal sector workers, showed the greatest signs of distress during the lockdown and reported greater hunger, indebtedness and an inability to pay rent.

The virulence and spread of COVID-19 have justified the early preventive actions taken by the government. As large parts of the country struggle to contain the pandemic, the experience of Delhi-NCR holds important lessons. Social safety nets like MGNREGA and PM Kisan have historically been targeted towards rural residents. While a rural bias makes sense under normal conditions, the lockdown has disproportionately affected urban workers, particularly wage workers who had few assets to begin with. The urban poor is still finding it difficult to return to work. Targeting social safety nets towards them is necessary as the economy struggles to recover. These findings add to the urgency of thinking about an urban employment programme analogous to MGNREGA.

Desai is professor, University of Maryland and director, NCAER National Data Innovation Centre, Deshmukh and Pramanik are research associate and deputy director at NCAER NDIC, respectively. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNDEMOCRATIC POLL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A beginning' (IE, October 19). The district development council elections in J&K cannot be termed as a fair election. In fact, it shall be a fixed match with the candidates propped up by the BJP without any real competition from mainstream parties. This election is a pretext to belittle the PDP and NC and to establish that mainstream parties have been written off with the rescinding of Article 370.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

STILL IDENTITY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A broader imagination' (IE, October 16). It is the non-Dalit politics that pushed Dalits into the entrapment of identity politics, as we did not create enough space for them in the mainstream. Indian politics is not about ideology. It is identity-based.

Anup Dev, Amravati

JACINDA'S CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Jacinda Ardern wins landslide re-election in New Zealand vote' (IE, October 18). Jacinda Ardern's phenomenal performance in the general election is attributable to her government's success in eliminating community transmission of the coronavirus, decisive action on gun control following the Christchurch terrorist attacks and swift managing of an eruption at the White Island volcano in last December. The core decision that Ardern faces is how far she will push her progressive prom-



SHAZIA ILMI

The rest is noise

The TRP war is a battle of ideas and ideologies

THE TRP WAR is on, with all guns blazing. Speaking for the ruling party, as often as I do, I feel the searing heat. As a former TV anchor, I understand the significance of TRPs (television rating points) for channels, which are constantly striving to outperform each other and maximise viewership. As I look back, I slip into nostalgia and discomfort in equal measure, knowing the unpredictable stakes of the game.

I was the debut anchor for Star News when Prannoy Roy's NDTV officially parted ways with the Star Network and Rupert Murdoch launched a slick 24/7 news channel in Hindi in 2003. The idea was to challenge the monopoly of Aaj Tak, which had turned 24/7 in 2001, in the Hindi news universe. In September 2005, when Star News edged past Aaj Tak for a good spell, on a show based on the live depiction of how an ashram alienated children from their parents, it was big news. Then, again, Star News got ahead by broadcasting the footage of gangster Dawood Ibrahim's family wedding. Star News had managed a coup by exposing the links of the D-Family/Company to Bollywood and politicians. I remember the sense of jubilation at becoming numero uno in the news game.

TRPs do not always spike on sensationalism; they respond to authentic news-worthy content. Ironically, it was not so much as a TV anchor but more as an activist that I contributed to making news relevant. A number of my former TV colleagues told me they were happy to see the end of the tabloidisation of news and a return of real news with the Anna Hazare Andolan. This was one good reason for me to move on.

While I firmly believe that a meter or two in Mumbai cannot push one channel to the number one position across the country for nine consecutive weeks, the fact is that then TAM, and now BARC, call the shots with their meters. The 45,000 households which had these meters installed have become the coveted influencers of TV news — its form, content and translation into advertisers' money.

The moot question in this season of open mudslinging between TV channels is this: Is this just a fight for eyeballs, or does it reflect a genuine desire of millions of viewers for quality, firepower and accountability from channels? Are we ignoring the existence of the elephant in the newsroom — the audience? This audience — or viewership — drives TRPs. It is this ecosystem of kids, teens,

students, wage-earners, tenured employees, farmers, the self-employed, businessmen and shopkeepers, teeming with political views and leanings, that allows media to be what it is. Television cannot be blind to their dynamic roles as voters, democratic activists, and nationalists.

Is the assertion of a new aggressive channel seemingly about righting the historic and current wrongs of the Leftist ecosystem that is out of sync with the pulse of the people? Beyond big profits and advertising money, it is now a battle of ideas and ideologies, and eventually, the battle for Bharat and its pulsating collective subconscious, significantly represented by the Hindi heartland.

The fight is between the brawling camps of Leftists who rule the roost in university classrooms and newsrooms, and others, who are unforgiving and unapologetic, and wish to assert their presence. Call it an overreaction to an overdose. Or perhaps an over-correction to what was being served as news through the prism of the self-anointed, self-righteous intellectual pundits, who talked down to others on predictable lines. Past masters knew to spin the agenda on Akhtar-Junaid-Pehlu lynchings, but they were sadly

silent when non-Dalits and non-Muslims got killed. Those aggrieved by the arbitrariness of the Leftists found an amplification in those who openly vowed to expose the deliberate deviance and gave space to Chandans, Ankits and Rahuls in the airwaves that reached out to the heartland.

Barl Weiss, the *New York Times* journalist who resigned in protest against the orthodox Left, wrote: "The lessons that ought to have followed the election — lessons about the importance of understanding other Americans, the necessity of resisting tribalism, and the centrality of the free exchange of ideas to a democratic society — have not been learned. Instead, a new consensus has emerged in the press, but perhaps especially at this paper: that truth isn't a process of collective discovery, but an orthodoxy already known to an enlightened few whose job is to inform everyone else."

This is a battle in which the viewers will have the final word. The point is the cow belt matters. BARC's meter is the EVM of the news world.

The writer, a former journalist, is a member of the BJP

Classifieds

PERSONAL

We, Vijay Pal Singh and Mother Anjuma Singh, inform that the Name of our Child is Arnav Singh , His Date of Birth is 22/09/2004 . Please use all this information for future references. 0070717431-1

I, TARSEM BHAVRA S/O CHAIN RAM R/O AB-117, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TARSEM LAL. 0040551890-3

Pawan Chauhan and Pawan Kumar both names belong to me,.For all future purposes, I,shall be known-as Pawan Kumar S/o Bhanwar Singh Vill-& Post-Chherat Suthal Aligarh. 0040551888-5

I,hitherto known as Riyasat Ali Chaudhary alias Riyasat Ali Choudhary alias R. A. Chaudhary,S/o Late.Mubarak Ali,Residing at,3-A,Vishwas Nagar,18 Quarter-Chowk, Shahdara,Delhi-110032,have changed my name and I shall hereafter be known as Riyasat Ali Chaudhary. 0040551916-6

I,hitherto known as Raisa Praveen alias Raisa Choudhary,W/o Sh.Shiyasat Ali Chaudhary,Residing at,3-A, Vishwas-Nagar,18 Quarter-Chowk,Shahdara,Delhi-110032,have changed my name and I shall hereafter be known as Raisa Praveen. 0040551916-5

I,SUSAMMA THOMAS W/O SH. K.T. THOMAS R/O-21-G,POCKET-A-3,MAYUR VIHAR-3,DELHI-110096,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SOOSAMMA THOMAS W/O SH. KALLUKALAYIL THOMAS THOMAS FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040551890-8

I,Mumtaz Shekh S/O-Abdul Hakim Shekh R/o- B-1/11A,Sewak Park-Extn Uttam Nagar,New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Saleem Saikh. 0040551897-3

I,Manoj S/O-Bishan Singh Rawat R/O-Gaon Behlbalpur,Fatehpur Bilooh,Faridabad, Haryana-121004,Have Changed My Name To Manoj Rawat For All,Future Purposes. 0040551916-4

I,L Meiteileima kom,w/o L/NK L Samananda Kom Army/No.4427955K R/O-RZF-1/176,st.no-1B,Mahavir enclave, palam, New-Delhi-110045,have changed my name,L Meiteileima kom to Leishangthem Meitei leima,for all-purposes. 0040551893-4

I,Kishan Singh & Vishan Singh Rawat S/O-Ram Sharan Rawat R/O-6216/A,Housing Board Colony,Sec-3, Ballabgarh, Faridabad HR-121004,Have Changed My Name To Bishan Singh Rawat For All,Future Purpose. 0040551916-3

I,DAVINDER KUMAR,Son OF SHRI. GHANSHAM DASS,R/o Ho.No.11C, Sector-04,DIZ AREA, RAJA-BAZAR,NEW DELHI-110001,have changed my name to DAVINDER KUMAR AGGARWAL,for all,future purposes. 0040551890-5

I,Bimla Devi,W/o Shri.Jai Pal Singh R/o-J-1/148,DDA-Flats, Kalkaji,New Delhi-110019,have changed my name to Bimla Devi Singh,for all future purposes. 0040551897-6

I,Radha Kishan @ Radha Kishan Gupta,S/o-Laxmi Narain @ Laxmi Narain Singhal @ L.N.Singhal, R/o-9362,Gaushala-Road,Kishan Ganj,Delhi-110006,have changed,my name,to Radha Kishan Gupta for,all purposes in,future. 0040551897-5

I,BABITA also known as BABITA GHILDIAL(before marriage)spouse of Shri.RAJEEV BADOLA,currently,Residing at,C-505,Satisar-Apartments,Plot.No.6, Sector-7,Dwarka,New-Delhi-110075,have changed my name,from BABITA to BABITA BADOLA in the service-documents of my spouse,vide-Affidavit dated-10-October-2020. 0040551897-7

In,my Son's Aditya Rahul Bharti School-record my and,my wife name wrongly mentioned-as Rahul Bharti & Laxmi which-is wrong,Correct name of mine is Rahul Sangpriya Bharti and my,wife is Laxmi Bharti. Rahul Sangpriya Bharti,S/o Chhotai Prasad R/o-16/246, third floor, Gali.No.9, Joshi Road, Karol bagh, New,Delhi. 0040551893-2

I,Shiksha Rani D/o Prem Singh W/o Ajay Singh R/o VPO Silani, District & Tehsil Jhajjar, Haryana-124103, inform thatShiksha Rani & Shiksha Devi both are one & the same person. 0040550551-2

I,Devi Dayal Jaiswal,S/o Gokul Prasad R/o-21/215, Trilok Puri,Delhi-110091,have changed my name from Devi Dayal & Devi Dyal to Devi Dayal Jaiswal for,all future purposes. 0040551888-6

I,Shaina/Saina Praveen W/o Mohammad Mamnoon R/o Mohalla Leekda Patti, Village Soojdu, Muzaffarnagar, have changed my name to Saina Prvin. 0040551891-2

I, Santra D/o Mangej Singh R/o-Mun Ka Johad Ward.No-13, Raghunathpura, Jhunjhunv Rajasthan-333022, Presently-E-131, Ground-Floor, Hardev-Nagar, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Vaishali 0040551875-2

I, Sanjay Singh S/o Inder Bhati R/o D-196/8, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096, have changed my minor daughter's name from NAINA to NAINA BHATI for all purposes. 0040551853-1

I, SAHAJAD ALI,S/O BUDDHU R/O-A-11/E, BLOCK-A, BABA FARID-PURI, PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008,have change my date-of-birth-19/07/1988 to 01/01/1991, permanently--- 0040551897-8

I, Ravinder Singh,S/o Santokh Singh, H.No.104,Housing Board-Colony,Jharsa-Road, Gurgaon(Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Ravinder Pal Singh. 0040551897-2

I, Rajni Wadhwa D/o Pal Kumar Wadhwa R/O A-30,, Sanwal Nagar, Sadiq Nagar,Andrewsganj South Delhi-110049, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Nisha Wadhwa. 0070717416-1

I, Preeti Agrawal alias Preeti Agarwal,W/o Atul Agarwal R/o-J-601, Supertec-ECO CITI, Sector-137, Noida, Distt.- GautamBudh Nagar, UP-201301,have changed my name to Priti Agrawal for,all future purposes. 0040551888-3

I, Pravesh Kumar Tripathi S/o Ashok Kumar Tripathi R/o 1089, Vivekanand Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Aadarsh Tripathi for all Future purposes. 0040551918-1

I, Pankaj Gupta D/o Bharat Bhushan Gupta, W/O Jag Mohan Gupta, R/O 44 Chandu Park, Krishna Nagar, Delhi - 110051, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Parul Gupta. 0070717422-1

I, POOJA,D/O MAHENDRA, H.No.313, GALI.NO.1, SECTOR-9,OLD VIJAY-NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, U-P,201009, changed my name to POOJA SINGH. 0040551916-2

I, PHOOL CHANDRA s/O GAJI JAISWAL r/o Village-BIKARGARH, Post- Ganghera, Distt. Rambareilly, UP-229406,have changed my name to PHOOL CHANDRA JAISWAL. 0040551893-1

I, NAFEEES,S/O MOHD HANIF AD-25, C-POCKET-A, D.D.A-FLATS NEW JAFARABAD SHAHDARA, NORTH EAST-DELHI-110032,changed my name to MOHAMMAD NAFEEES,permanently. 0040551897-1

I, Mohd Shahalam S/o Mohammad Mamnoon R/o-17-D, Silver Height Apartment, Jalandhar, Punjab,have changed my name to Shahalam Qureshi. 0040551891-1

I, SUMAN BHAVRA W/O TARSEM LAL R/O AB-117, SHALIMAR BAGH,DELHI-110088.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUMAN. 0040551890-2

I, Mohammad Sameer,S/o Nafees Ul Hasan R/o-65, Aavas Vikas Colony, Bulandshahr Road,Hapur, UP,have changed my name to Sameer Zaidi. 0040551891-6

I, Mohammad Mamoon/Hazi Mamnoon S/o Mohammad Ayyub R/o 267, Sujdu-2, Sujru, Muzaffarnagar, have changed my name to Mohammad Mamnoon. 0040551891-3

I, Mohammad Azam S/o Mohammad Mamnoon R/o-17-D, Silver Height Apartment,Jalandhar, Punjab,have changed my name to Azam Qureshi. 0040551891-4

I, Mandeep Kaur d/o Amrik Singh R/o Vikas Kumar r/o M-33, Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Divya Kumari. 0040551887-1

I, MANISH BHAVRA S/O TARSEM LAL R/O AB-117, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANISH. 0040551890-4

I, Kuldip Singh,S/o-Gurcharan Singh,R/o-68,3rd floor Bharat Nagar Delhi-110052,have changed name Kuldeep Singh for future. 0040551916-1

I, Jasvinder kaur W/o Bhupinder Singh R/o-7/16A, Second-floor Vijay Nagar Double-storey Dr,Mukherjee Nagar Delhi,have changed my name to Jasvinder Kaur 0040551875-1

I, Haji Mamnoon S/o Mohammad Ayyub R/o-267,Sujdu-2, Sujru, Muzaffarnagar,have changed my name to Mohammad Mamnoon. 0040551891-5

I, Jahnav Yadav D/o Shri Anoop Yadav R/o House No- 62, Type- V, Lodhi Road Complex, South West Delhi, New Delhi 110003, have corrected my name to Jahanvi Yadav For all purposes and for all future purposes. 0040551914-1

I, Baby D/o Sardar Singh W/o Manoj R/o House N- 190 Sultanpur Mazra North West Delhi-110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Manju. 0070717415-1

I, Ashwani Sharma S/o,Kailash Chand Sharma R/o H-33, H.No.86, MIG-Flats, Sector-3,Rohini, Delhi-85,have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar Sharma. 0040551893-3

I, Asha Kumari D/o Shri R. Sharma R/o Flat No.29/857, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 have changed my name from Asha Kumari to Asha K. Sharma for all future purposes. 0040551871-1

I, AnkIt Amar Singh s/o Amar Singh Kachhwah r/o Mahraj Nagar, Kandar, Satna, Madhya Pradesh-485331 have changed my name to ANKIT SINGH KACHHWAH. 0040551886-1

I, Anjna D/o Lachhman Dass R/o Vill. Kanshi Nagar, Mehtan, Teh. Phagwara, Kapurthala, Punjab-144402, have changed my name to Anjna Gaught 0070717450-1

I, Akash Kumar S/o-Sh. Suresh Kumar R/o-H.No.-B,103/UG-5, Nitin Apartment,Shalimar Garden-Ext-2, Sahibabad,Ghaziabad-201005 (U.P.),have Changed my name to Akash Kumar Awasthi for,all future purposes. 0040551888-1

I, Baby D/o Sardar Singh W/o Manoj R/o House N- 190 Sultanpur Mazra North West Delhi-110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Manju. 0070717415-1

I, Ashwani Sharma S/o,Kailash Chand Sharma R/o H-33, H.No.86, MIG-Flats, Sector-3,Rohini, Delhi-85,have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar Sharma. 0040551893-3

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I, Anjna D/o Lachhman Dass R/o Vill. Kanshi Nagar, Mehtan, Teh. Phagwara, Kapurthala, Punjab-144402, have changed my name to Anjna Gaught 0070717450-1

I, Akash Kumar S/o-Sh. Suresh Kumar R/o-H.No.-B,103/UG-5, Nitin Apartment,Shalimar Garden-Ext-2, Sahibabad,Ghaziabad-201005 (U.P.),have Changed my name to Akash Kumar Awasthi for,all future purposes. 0040551888-1

I, Akshay Kumar S/o-Sh. Suresh Kumar R/o-H.No.-B,103/UG-5, Nitin Apartment,Shalimar Garden-Ext-2, Sahibabad,Ghaziabad-201005 (U.P.),have Changed my name to Akash Kumar Awasthi for,all future purposes. 0040551888-1

I, Abhishek Kasyap S/o Mukesh Kumar Jha R/o Post-Gamastipur Gram- Alampur Alampur Garhsisai Samastipur Bihar-848503. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Abhishek Kasyap. 0070717428-1

I, Anil Arora s/o Satpal R/o-B 1529-30 B-Block Jahangir Puri Delhi-33,change my name to Anil Kumar Arora. 0040551890-6

I,hitherto known-as Anju Bala Trehan,W/o Rajesh Trehan R/o-B-2/32, OM-1 Apartment,Radhey Shyam Park, Sahibabad,Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005,have changed,my name and shall hereafter be known-as Anju Bala. 0040551888-4

I,Rishabh Bhatt S/o Rajnath Bhat R/o.B-278, Gali.No-11, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Nand Nagri, Delhi-110093 have changed my name to Rishabh Bhat. 0040551890-7

I,Priyanka Malhotra W/o-Prashant Vasudeva R/O BU-207,Pitamba Pura Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Priyanka Vasudeva. 0040551890-1

I,Akram Khan S/o-Saleem Saikh R/o-B-1/11A, Sewak Park-Extn Uttam-Nagar New Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Akram Saikh. 0040551897-4

We Mohammad Wasim & Sara Wasim R/o 1204, Tower 1, Omuxe Nile, Sector-49, Gurgaon- 122018 have changed Our Minor Son's name From Arsh Wasim to Arsh Mohammad Wasim as per documents. 0070717412-1

I, Soniya W/o Karambir Malik R/o F-2550 B Palam vihar Gurgaon Haryana have changed my name to Sonia Malik, permanently. 0040551751-8

LOST & FOUND

Lost Original-Registry of Property.No.128/130,Karkari-Road,Vishwas-Nagar, Shahdara,Delhi-110032(Regn.No.13699,in-Book No.1,V.L.No.4,796-on Page-77to12,Dated-12/07/2010) founder may inform,Manoj Sharma, S/o-Late,Sheeshpal Sharma, R/o-545/18, Gali.No.1,60-Foot-Road, Vishwas Nagar, S,hadara, Delhi-110032, PH:-9711780000. 0040551897-11

I, DEEPAK SHARMA,S/o Late.S.K sharma,R/o-1/9564,st.no-3,partap-pura, Shahdara,Delhi-32,have lost my original-certificate/marksheet,class-10th (2000)/Rollno-6107695,class-12th(2002) Rollno-6205384,CBSE-DELHI,And Graduation-degree(2005) Rollno-39/DABCM/2002 GGSJ-University,Delhi. 0040551891-11

I, Vibhor S/o-Pradeep Kumar R/o-A1-901, M3M Woodshire, Sector-107,Gurgaon- 122006, have lost my original-certificate Class-XII Year-2000 Rollno-6227657 CBSE-DELHI. 0040551891-9

I, Raminder Singh Anand, S/o Raghubir Singh Anand R/o-WZ-199,G-block jai-road,st.no-17, delhi-58,have lost my original-certificate Class-11th(1991) Rollno-6111348, class-12th(1993) Rollno-6208077 CBSE-DELHI. 0040551891-10

I, Mandeep Kaur d/o Amrik Singh R/o Vikas Kumar r/o M-33, Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Divya Kumari. 0040551887-1

I, MANISH BHAVRA S/O TARSEM LAL R/O AB-117, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANISH. 0040551890-4

I, Kuldip Singh,S/o-Gurcharan Singh,R/o-68,3rd floor Bharat Nagar Delhi-110052,have changed name Kuldeep Singh for future. 0040551916-1

I, Jasvinder kaur W/o Bhupinder Singh R/o-7/16A, Second-floor Vijay Nagar Double-storey Dr,Mukherjee Nagar Delhi,have changed my name to Jasvinder Kaur 0040551875-1

I, Haji Mamnoon S/o Mohammad Ayyub R/o-267,Sujdu-2, Sujru, Muzaffarnagar,have changed my name to Mohammad Mamnoon. 0040551891-5

It is notified,for the information,that my original-qualifying-examination-certificate of main-secondary year-2017, Roll.No-5389068 and senior-secondary-year-2019 Roll.No-9187918, issued by CBSE,has-been actually lost.Candidate name:-Naman Tyagi Mobile-No-9811111330. 0040551916-7

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that Original Sale Deed in the name of Sh. Kishore Kumar Chawla & Smt. Neelam Chawla registered in the office of Sub-Registrar-II, Jankapuri New Delhi as Document No. 1347, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 11340 IB Page 145 to 152 on 21.01.2004 has been misplaced from the premises of Union Bank of India, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063

PUBLIC NOTICE
BE IT KNOWN TO ALL THAT MY CLIENTS MR. SANJEEV SINGH, S/O LATE SH. RAVINDER SINGH, DEPARTED ABOUT 48 YEARS AGO AND MRS. SAPNA SINGH, W/O MR. SANJEEV SINGH, BOTH OF HOUSE NO. 286 OLD MOTILAL CHANDER LOK (OLD NAME: SIKANDARPURI STREET NO. 1 & 2, MANDOLI ROAD, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110084) HAVE SEVERED ALL THEIR RELATIONS WITH MR. SANJEEV SINGH AND HEREBY DISOWN HIM FROM THEIR ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES, INCLUDING ESTATE AND HE WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM ANY SHARE WHATSOEVER IN THE PROPERTY OF MY CLIENTS. DUE TO HIS MISCONDUCT AND MISBEHAVE AND ANYBODY DEALING WITH HIM SHALL BE AT THEIR OWN RISK, COST AND CONSEQUENCES AND MY CLIENTS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEEDS, ACTS OR OMISSIONS IN FUTURE IN ANY MANNER.

Sd/- RAHUL CHAUHAN (ADVOCATE) D/5136/2017
D/41 Floor, Building No. 83 Gyan Khand-1, Indira Park Main Road, 955301228 / 997142742

PUBLIC NOTICE

Journal public is hereby informed that one Sh. Prabhakar Pandey, S/o Advhesh Pandey Prop. Of Mahima Print Solution K-99, DSDIC, Industrial Area, Sector-5, Delhi-110039, had obtained some signed blank cheques, promissory notes and blank printed and unprinted papers from my client-ess Smt Preeti Sabharwal W/o Anurag Sabharwal by fraud and now he is mis-using the said documents if anyone is having any such documents including cheques or promissory notes etc. than He/She may entertain claim before me within 15 days of the publication of this notice failing which no such claim shall be entertain by my clientess in future.

Sd/- ANIL SHARMA (ADVOCATE) OFF: 6B, Block AD, First Floor, (Power Apartment) Outer Ring Road, Pitampura, NEW DELHI-110034

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Smt. Pooja Sharma W/o Late Shri P. K. Sharma Resident of C- 12231, 2nd Floor, Yamauna Vihar, Delhi - 110053, has disclaimed, disowned and debarred her elder son Shri Manish Kumar Sharma from all sorts of her movable and immovable properties and assets and also severed the blood relations from him since 17.10.2020, due to his uncompromising, disobedient and bad attitude and shall not be held liable for any offence or mischief, if any, committed by him at any stage in future. Anyone entering into any sort of transactions, if any, with him, shall do the same at his/her own risk, cost and consequences.

Sd/- BRAJESH DWIVEDI (ADVOCATE) D/5136/2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

KNOW ALL MEN that my clients Sh. Bhupinder Singh S/o S. Gurcharan Singh and his wife Manpreet Kaur have severed all their relations with their son Sh. Ravinder Singh and his wife Smt. Manpreet Kaur D/o Harjeet Singh because of the unwarrantable behaviour of Smt. Manpreet Kaur and have debarred them both from all their movable and immovable properties. Any one dealing with them both in any way or manner whatsoever shall be doing at his own risk and consequences.

Sd/- J.S. Kalra (Advocate) (D-660/1990) Chamber No. 298, Western Wing, Tis Hazari courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clientess Smt. Vimal Kanta W/o Late Sh. Tulsi Singh Lamyani R/O C-131, Indir Nagar, Mansarovar Garden, Karol Nagar, New Delhi-15, permanently R/o H. No. 6, New Friends Colony, Ajay Pur, Kalam, Haridwar, Panch Prasth, Dehradun (Uttara Khand)- 248121 has disowned / debarred his son Gagan Kumar Lamyani and his wife Jyotsna K. Lamyani. He/She and his children shall not be held liable for any of their acts and deeds in the future.

Sd/- PRASHANT CHAUHAN (ADVOCATE) CHAMBER NO. 288, POST OFFICE, TIS HAZARI COURT DELHI- 110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my clients (1) SH. KULDEEP SINGH S/O SH. RATTAJ SINGH and (2) SMT. SURINDER Kaur W/o Sh. Kuldeep Singh R/o Residence of 59 Nagin Lake Apartment Paschim Vihar New Delhi-110087, with my client family 02 daughter's Rinkle kaur Nagi and Dimple kaur Nagi and Son in law (Deepak Kumar Nishant) have severed their son-Raja Singh and daughter in law-Priyanka along with her family from all their movable and immovable properties, they don't have any family relations with them.They are not responsible for their activities.

PARKASH CHAND (Advocate) Enrl.No.D-9065/2019.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sh. Robin S/o Sh. Shyam Lal, (Aadhar Card no. 5142068589) and Smt. Raksha w/o Sh. Shyam (Aadhar Card no. 9727051102) have severed all their relations with their son Manoj Kumar S/o Sh. Prayog Vihar, HARI NAGAR, South West Delhi, Delhi-110064 - have severed all relationships with their son namely Kuldeep (Aadhar Card no. 7837686468) and have disowned/debarred him and their legal heirs of their Son, from all the movable and immovable properties, for all time to come. My clients shall not be responsible for the acts, deeds and things, if any done by their son namely Kuldeep, as my clients have nothing to do with his businesses, liabilities, debts and acts what so ever, and any persons dealing with him are responsible and accountable and will do at their own risk, cost and consequences for the same".

Sd/- (Neeraj Rani) Advocate Chamber no. 429, Rohini Court, Delhi Contact No. - 9819319844

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients JAGINDER Kaur W/O LATE SH. AMRICK SINGH R/O C-11A, SHIVAJI ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI-110027, has issued a disowned Notice regarding the disowned of her son SUKVINDER SINGH his wife MANPREET KAUR and their children (1) MANPREET KAUR, (2) GURPREET KAUR and (3) INDERPREET SINGH and his brother SIBAN JEET Kaur all residing at RZ-R-32 NIHAL VIHAR, NILOTHI VILLAGE, NANGLOI, DELHI debarred them from all their movable an immovable property/assets acquired or to be acquired because of their misbehaviour & misconduct and their nature being disobedient. Any person dealing with them in any manner shall do at his/her own risk, cost & consequences and my clients shall not be responsible for their any act and deed.

VIRENDER KUMAR (Advocate) 227, Transport Building, Dc, Janakpuri, NO-58

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform the public at large that my client Shri Anil Kumar @ Anil Kumar Sahani, Age 43, S/o Late Ram Nagesh @ Ram Nagesh Sahani, R/o-25B, Gali No-S4N, 1st 60 Foota Road, Molarband Extn, Badarpur, New Delhi- 110044, Heretby wish not to keep any relationship with my wife Naina Devi, Age 40 years and his son Akash Kumar, Age 21 years, who are already living separately since last more than 3 years. Thus, He does hereby debar and disown his wife and son from his all movable and immovable properties due to their behaviour, conduct, and attitude which is prejudicial and detrimental to the reputation of my client and his family. Now onwards anybody dealing with them shall do at his/her own risk and consequences and my clients shall not be responsible for same, nor shall my clients be responsible for any act/s or omission of said persons in future in any manner whatsoever.

UMESH K. BURNWAL (Advocate) Ch. No. 723, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client(s) Shri Shoo Shankar Prasad Singh & Smt. Moli Rani Singh are the joint absolute owners and present in possession of the Freehold DDA Built up Flat No. 144, Third Floor, Pocket - 3, Sector-11, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, by virtue of Conveyance Deed duly Registered vide Regd. No. 17,026, dated 07.10.2014.

It is submitted that my client declare and confirm that they had been lost original Allotment Letter dated 20.11.1995 30.11.1995 issued by DDA in favor of my client Shri Shoo Shankar Prasad Singh in respect of captioned property and did not found insight of all sincere efforts. An online Lost Report also filed by my client(s) vide LR No. 663900/2020 dated 16.10.2020

It is hereby notified that any person or entity, firm/company, Bank, financial institution having claim any charge interest or lien or claim on the basis of documents mentioned above or otherwise and / or objection to thereof, he/she they may lodge notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof/ court judgment within 15 days from the date of publication, failing which the title shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrance, flaw and impediment

Sd/- BURNWAL KUMAR (ADVOCATE) Chamber No. 561, 5th Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Rajender Kumar Aggarwal S/o Shri Buddhan Lal Aggarwal R/O.H.No. 1/0551, Gali No.1, Mohan Park, Naveen Shahdara, North-East, Delhi-110032, due to ill-treatment, has debarred his son Rahul Aggarwal, Daughter-in-law Preeti Aggarwal and their legal heirs from their moveable-immovable assets. My client shall not be responsible for any kind of acts, done by them in future.

Santosh Kumar Mishra (Advocate) Enrl No. D-1042/2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, DASHA BHARGAVA W/O SH. I. N. BHARGAV R/O B1A/13-B, JANAK PURI, NEW DELHI-110058 have lost Original Allotment Cum Demand Letter, Possession Letter, N.O.C For Electric Water Connection, Site Possession Slip, & Executed Conveyance deed of MIG FLAT B1A/13-B, JANAK PURI, NEW DELHI-110058 Finder may please contact at M.No.9829016166 or inform to D. L. A. B. (MIG-G) Housing, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi 23 at phone No. 24690431

"IMPORTANT"

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WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE FOR CAMC OF ELECTRONIC INTERLOCKING SYSTEM

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No.- DRM-Snt-ADI-Sig 08 of 2020-21, DRMS and T Acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No.DRM-Snt-ADI-Sig 08 of 2020-21 closing date 10.11.2020, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. (1) Name of Work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Electronic Interlocking System of MEDHA make for a period of three years of Six stations i.e. Chhapai, Sidhpur, Vasavda, Haripar, Chuli and Dhrangandhara stations of Ahmedabad Division. (2) Estimated Cost of work: ₹ 1,65,26,844/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Five Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four Rupees only) (3) Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 2,32,600.00/- (Rs Two Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Six Hundred Rupees only) (4) Date & Time of closing: Not later than 15:00 hrs of 10.11.2020 (5) Date & Time of Opening of Tender: Opening on 10.11.2020 at 15:30 hrs. (6) Website of E-Tendering: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), ADI-122 Ahmedabad

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WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

QUOTATION NOTICE

No. CIBPLASD/2020, Date 18.10.2020
Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), West Central Railway, Bhopal, on behalf of the President of India, invites Sealed quotations from authorized firms for the below mentioned work. Quotation will be accepted at Commercial Branch, DRM's Office, Bhopal up to 11.00 Hrs. on 27.10.2020 and will be opened at 11.15 Hrs. on 27.10.2020. In case 27.10.2020 happens to be a holiday, the quotations will be entertained on the next working day under unavoidable circumstances. Approximate cost of work: ₹ 7,20,000/- (Including all taxes). Earnest Money: ₹ 14,400/- in the form of CONFIRATOR from Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favour of Sr. DFM WCR Bhopal. Description of Work: Implementation & Certification of Environmental Management System ISO 14001:2015 for 8 Railway Stations (1. Itarsi (NSG-3); 2. Bina (NSG-3); 3. Hosangabad (NSG-4); 4. Sanchi (NSG-4); 5. Vidisha (NSG-4); 6. Ganjakheda (NSG-4); 7. Guna (NSG-4) & 8.

Aligarh: Minor booked for ‘sexual assault’ on six-year-old

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 19

A minor boy has been booked for rape and under the sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for allegedly sexually assaulting a six-year-old girl from his neighbourhood at Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday.

According to police, the FIR was registered on the complaint of the girl's parents who alleged that on October 12, the boy sexually assaulted her after she entered his house to get a ball.

Police have questioned the boy in this connection.

“We are not yet sure about the actual age of the boy, but we can confirm he is below 10 years. For now, we have left him with his parents and will present him at a juvenile court and do whatever the court directs us. The case is sensitive and everything will be done as per the Juvenile Justice law,” SP (Aligarh City) Abhishek said, adding that as per the law, “the rape has a very complex definition and any sexual activity can come under the section of rape”.

The girl's parents have alleged that on October 12 when their daughter was playing outside the home, her ball went into the house of a neighbour.

“When the girl entered the house, the boy caught her and sexually assaulted her,” the parents alleged.

The local station house officer said that both the accused and victim family belong to the same community and are from a financially weak background.

Narmada canal to be emptied to find body of ‘custodial death’ victim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, OCTOBER 19

THE SARDAR Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL) has started emptying the Narmada main canal at the request of the state Crime Investigation Department (CID), which suspects that the body of 65-year-old Telangana migrant Babu Sheikh Nisar was dumped there after his alleged custodial death at the Fatehgunj police station in Vadodara on December 10, 2019.

This will lead to nearly five lakh people residing in two zones of Vadodara city going without water for 24 hours beginning Tuesday.

The Vadodara Fire and

Army chief visits Ambala Cantt to review readiness

New Delhi: Army Chief General MM Naravane visited the Ambala Cantonment on Monday to “review the security and operational preparedness of Kharga Corps”.

He was briefed by the General Officer Commanding, Lt General SS Mahal and later interacted with formation commanders. The Army said in a statement that he “commended the formation for high level of operational preparedness and appreciated the protection measures taken by the formation and units in the fight against COVID-19” and “exhorted all ranks to continue working with zeal and be prepared for any future operational challenges”.

Naravane also “visited Ambala Air Force Base and lauded the synergy amongst the forces,” the Army said.



The Gorwa canal in Vadodara is being emptied. Bhupendra Rana

Emergency Services (VFES) department is on standby to search for the body after the state CID's request, which comes a month after the local court in Vadodara on September 11 rejected the CID plea for extension of remand of the six policemen, then attached to the Fatehgunj police station.

They had refused to cooperate in the investigation after surrendering on September 2.

Officials said that based on the cellphone location of the accused at that time, the CID has narrowed down on the canal near Gorwa area in Vadodara as the spot where the accused could have

possibly dumped Nisar's body.

Nisar allegedly went missing on December 10, 2019, after he was apprehended by the Fatehgunj police on suspicion of a theft. The first FIR filed by the Vadodara police in July this year relied heavily on the statement of Assistant Head Constable Shaktisinh, who has said that he saw Nisar tied to a chair with a belt and rope in the computer room of the police station to “restrict his movement”, while the six accused tortured him to extract a confession of the theft.

Shaktisinh said that he saw the accused inserting a pen between Nisar's fingers until he bled and “his voice faded away” and he “did not appear that he could be alive”, the FIR stated.

Policeman shot dead in Anantnag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19

MILITANTS ON Monday evening shot dead a police officer in south Kashmir's Anantnag district when he was returning home, police said.

Police said militants fired at Mohammad Ashraf Bhat at his village Chandpora, Kanelwan, in Anantnag district. The police officer was rushed to the hospital, but the doctors declared him brought dead.

“Today at about 1830 hours, terrorists fired upon a police inspector identified as Inspector Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, a resident of Chandpora Kanelwan near his residence,” police said in

an official statement. “The officer received gunshot injuries and was evacuated to nearby hospital. However, he succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom”.

Police sources said the officer was posted at the Commando Training Centre (CTC) Lethpora.

Soon after the incident, a joint team of police, Army and paramilitary personnel cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to trace the militants behind the attack. However, till late evening, no arrests had been made. Senior officers reached Anantnag to attend the wreath-laying ceremony at District Police Lines. It was attended by IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar and other senior officers.

Srinagar office of Kashmir Times sealed by the Estates dept

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 19

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration has locked one of the two properties allotted to *Kashmir Times* in Srinagar.

Anuradha Bhasin, executive editor of the newspaper, one of the oldest in J&K, was evicted from her official residence in Jammu two months ago.

Bhasin had earlier filed a petition in Supreme Court against the communication blackout after abrogation of J&K's special status last August seeking direction to the Centre for immediate relaxation on communication blackout in the Valley.

“Today, Estates Deptt locked our office without any due process of cancellation and eviction, same way as I was evicted from a flat in Jammu where my belongings including valuables were handed over to ‘new allottee’...No due process followed...” Bhasin tweeted, sharing a picture of Estates officials locking at *Kashmir Times* office at Srinagar's Mushqat Memorial Press Enclave.

Estates officials said they only “took possession” of a house allotted to the newspaper's late founder Ved Bhasin.

“They have been allotted two buildings — one is office and the other was allotted as a residence to Ved Bhasin sahib,” Deputy Director, Estates, Mohammad Aslam told *The Indian Express*. “Since Bhasin-sahib died some years ago, we issued them notices to vacate the house. They themselves handed over the building to us and today our officials went to take possession.”

Bhasin, however, questioned the veracity of the official version. “We have not received any order or any notice,” she said.

Baby delivered on board Pawan Hans chopper on medical evacuation flight

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

In the second such case this month, a baby girl was delivered on board an aircraft — this time a Pawan Hans helicopter, which was operating as a medical evacuation flight from Agati in Lakshadweep to Kochi, Kerala.

In a statement, the state-owned helicopter operator said that the baby was delivered while its aircraft was at an altitude of 2,000 feet.



The helicopter was on an evacuation flight from Lakshadweep to Kerala. Courtesy: Pawan Hans

ing hours in the sky and over 2.5 million landings since inception,” the company stated.

Pawan Hans, in which upstream oil company ONGC owns

49 per cent stake and the remaining is with the Government of India, is currently under process of being disinvested by the Centre.

UP: Court refuses to take cognizance of chargesheet against five journalists

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 19

A COURT in Bijnor has refused to take cognizance of a police chargesheet filed against five local journalists on the ground that there is “insufficient evidence” against them. The journalists were booked last year on several charges, including promoting enmity, for allegedly running “fake news” regarding alleged denial of water to a Scheduled Tribe family from a handpump and also for allegedly putting up posters claiming that the family's house was on sale.

The police recently filed a chargesheet against the journalists — Ashish Tomar, Shakeel Ahmed, Moin, Amir and Lakhan. Ashish and Shakeel were named in the FIR and police said the names of Moin, Amir and Lakhan cropped up during investigation.

“The court refused to take cognizance of the chargesheet because of insufficient evidence against the journalists,” said government counsel, Bijnor, Neeraj Kumar. The court also directed that the Superintendent of Police, Bijnor, be informed in writing about the “erroneous investigation done in the case”.

The case dates to August last year when two families clashed over water at Titarwala Basi village in Mandawar police station area. One of the families, belonging to the Dalit community, allegedly refused to allow the other, from the ST community, to collect water from a hand pump. On being informed, a police team reached the village and resolved the dispute. After the police left, the families again clashed.

On September 6, a police team visited the village after sections of the media reported that ST family put up posters on an “exodus” from the village. The police said a family member had told them that on September 5, four-five journalists put up the poster, which also said the house was for sale, despite her raising an objection.

TATA POWER
The Tata Power Company Limited
Registered Office:
Bombay House, 24, Hornby Road, Mumbai 400 001.
Tel: 91 22 6861 5352 Fax: 91 22 6865 8801
CIN: L2820MH1919PLC005050
Email: info@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 that Wednesday, 4th November 2020 has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of payment of annual interest to the holders of 8.84% Series II Unsecured Non-Convertible Redeemable Taxable Listed Rated Securities in the form of Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN: INE245A08158) due on 20th November 2020.

For The Tata Power Company Limited
H. M. Mistry
Company Secretary (FCS: 3606)

Place : Mumbai
Dated : 19th October 2020

EXPRESS Careers

रक्षा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स से कहीं अधिक

भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड
(रक्षा मंत्रालय के अधीन भारत सरकार का एक उपक्रम) (CIN : L32309KA1954GOI000787)

भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड, एक नवरत्न कंपनी वृत्तिक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स क्षेत्र में, अपने पंचकुला कनाई हेतु सुरक्षा अधिकारी (E-II ग्रेड) के पद हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करती है।

पद/ग्रेड	01.10.2020 को चोयता	01.10.2020 को अधिकतम आयु सीमा	आरक्षण	उपरांत अनुभव
सुरक्षा अधिकारी / E-II	किसी भी विषय में डिग्री	32 वर्ष	अनारक्षित	भारतीय हथेली में कैन्टन रैंक का एस.एस.सी. अधिकारी या नौ सेना / वायु सेना / केन्द्रीय अर्थ सैनिक बल से समान रैंक का अधिकारी।

इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी हमारी वेबसाइट www.bel-india.in के कैरियर पेज पर जायें। आवेदन प्रार्थी की अंतिम तिथि 11/11/2020।

उप महा प्रबंधक (मा से एवं प्रशा)

‘हर एक काम देश के नाम’

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
(Deemed to be University)
Gen. A.K. Vaidya Marg, Filmcity Road, Santosh Nagar, Goregaon(E), Mumbai : 400 085

Advt No. IGIDR/NA/2020/04 Date: 05.10.2020

“FINANCE OFFICER”

Pay Details : Level 14 cell 01 in Entry Pay of ₹1,44,200/- (as per 7th cpc) Gross:- ₹ 2,11,746/- (including HRA) Age Limit: Maximum : 55 years.

Essentials :-

a. Qualification :
(i) Should be a Qualified Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
OR
(ii) Qualified Cost Accountant/Cost and Management Accounts/ICWA from the Institute of Cost Accountants of India.
OR
(iii) Qualification of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA)

b. Experience :
Ten years of experience in research establishments and/or other institutions of higher education
OR
Comparable experience in any non-academic institutions/ corporate.
OR
15 years of administrative experience out of which eight years shall be as Deputy Registrar or an equivalent post.

The candidates may visit Institute website: <http://www.igidr.ac.in/careers/> for general terms and conditions and downloading the application form. Candidates who have appeared for the Interview in response to our earlier advertisement need not apply again.

Last date: 30th November 2020

Registrar

COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Kochi - 682 022, KERALA.

No. Ad.D2/136/Notif/2018 Dt: 30.09.2020

NOTIFICATION

Applications in the prescribed format are invited from qualified candidates for appointment to the following faculty positions in various Departments/ Schools under Cochin University of Science and Technology:-

(i) Professor - 1 vacancy
(ii) Associate Professor - 1 vacancy
(iii) Assistant Professor - 3 vacancies

Last date for receipt of online application: 16.11.2020
Last date for submission of hard copy of the application: 23.11.2020
For further details visit www.cusat.ac.in or <http://faculty.cusat.ac.in> Sd/- REGISTRAR

MORE FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during forthcoming Festival Season, Railways have decide to run the following Festival Special trains as per details given below:-

09611/09612 Ajmer-Amritsar-Ajmer Express Special Train (Bi-Weekly)						24 Trips	
Train No. 09611		STATIONS				Train No. 09612	
ARR.	DEP.					ARR.	DEP.
---	17:55	AJMER				10:00	---
14:45	---	AMRITSAR				---	14:30

Days of run : 09611 Ex. Ajmer from 22.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every Thursday, Saturday and 09612 Ex. Amritsar from 22.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every Tuesday, Thursday.

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Kishangarh, Jaipur, Gandhinagar Jaipur, Gator Jagatpura, Dausa, Bandikui Jn., Baswa, Raigarh, Alwar Jn., Khairthal, Rewari, Bhiwani, Hisar, Sirsa, Kalanwali, Bhatinda, Gangsar Jaitu, Kot Kapura, Faridkot, Firozpur Cantt., Talwandi, Moga, Jagraon, Ludhiana Jn., Phagwara Jn., Jalandhar City and Beas Stations.

01115/01116 Pune-Gorakhpur-Pune Express Special Train (Weekly)						12 Trips
Train No. 01115		↓	STATIONS	↑	Train No. 01116	
ARR.	DEP.				ARR.	DEP.
---	16:15		PUNE		04:05	---
01:05	---		GORAKHPUR		---	15:30

Days of run : 01115 Ex. Pune from 22.10.2020 to 26.11.2020 on every Thursday and 01116 Ex. Gorakhpur from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every Saturday.

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Daund Jn., Kopergaon, Manmad Jn., Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Mau Jn. and Deoria Sadar Stations.

84406/84405 Anand Vihar (T)-Bhagalpur-Anand Vihar (T) Suvidha Superfast Exp. Spl. Train (Bi-Weekly)						24 Trips
Train No. 84406		↓	STATIONS	↑	Train No. 84405	
ARR.	DEP.				ARR.	DEP.
---	18:35				ANAND VIHAR (T)	
15:00	---	BHAGALPUR		---	18:45	

Days of run : 84406 Ex. Anand Vihar (T) from 23.10.2020 to 30.11.20 on every Friday, Monday and 84405 Ex. Bhagalpur from 24.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every Saturday, Tuesday.

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Kanpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna, Mokameh Jn., Kiul, Jamalpur and Sultanganj Stations.

84410/84409 New Delhi-Darbhanga-New Delhi Suvidha Superfast Spl. Exp. Train (Bi-Weekly)						22 Trips
Train No. 84410		↓	STATIONS	↑	Train No. 84409	
ARR.	DEP.				ARR.	DEP.
---	19:25		NEW DELHI		17:30	---
16:00	---		DARBHANGA		---	20:55

Days of run : 84410 Ex. New Delhi from 22.10.2020 to 26.11.2020 on every Monday, Thursday and 84409 Ex. Darbhanga from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020 on every Tuesday, Friday.

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gorakhpur, Sewan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur Stations.

05045/05046 Gorakhpur-Okha-Gorakhpur Mail Express (Weekly)						12 Trips		
Train No. 05045		↓	STATIONS	↑	Train No. 05046			
ARR.	DEP.				ARR.	DEP.		
---	04:45				GORAKHPUR		19:25	---
03:55	---				OKHA		---	21:00

Days of run : 05045 Ex. Gorakhpur from 22.10.2020 to 26.11.2020 on every Thursday and 05046 Ex. Okha from 25.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 on every Sunday.

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Basti, Gonda, Barabanki, Badshahnagar, Aishbag, Kanpur Central, Etawah, Tundla Jn., Raja Ki Mandi, Agara Cantt., Dhaulpur, Morena, Gwalior, Jhansi, Bina, Mugaoli, Ashok Nagar, Guna, Ruthiyai, Biyavra Raigarh, Maksi, Ujjain, Nagda, Ratlam, Godhra, Chhayapuri, Anand Jn., Ahmedabad Jn., Viramgam Jn., Surendernagar, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Dwarka Stations.

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139 Please join us on

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02883/02884 Durg-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Durg Superfast Express Special Train (Tri-Weekly)						34 Trips	
Train No. 02883			↓ STATIONS ↑			Train No. 02884	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.				DEP.	
---	12:00	DURG			15:10	---	
09:05	---	HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN			---	17:25	

Days of run : 02883 Ex. Durg from 22.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every Mon, Thu & Sat and 02884 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin from 23.10.2020 to 29.11.2020 on every Tue, Fri & Sun.

Accommodation : 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Raipur Jn., Bhatapara, Bilaspur Jn., Pendra Road, Anuppur Jn., Shahdol, Umaria, Katni Murwara, Saugar and Jhansi Stations.

02165/02166 Lokmanyatilak (T)-Gorakhpur Lokmanyatilak (T) Superfast Spl. Exp. Train (Bi-Weekly)						24 Trips
Train No. 02165			↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 02166		
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.		DEP.		
---	05:23	LOKMANYATILAK (T)		21:30	---	
11:25	---	GORAKHPUR		---	15:45	

Days of run : 02165 Ex. Lokmanyatilak (T) from 22.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 on every Thursday, Monday and 02166 Ex. Gorakhpur from 23.10.2020 to 01.12.2020 on every Friday, Tuesday.

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nasik Road, Manmad Jn., Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Jn., Janghai Jn., Bhadohi, Varanasi Jn., Mau Jn. & Deoria Sadar Stations.

02530/02529 Lucknow Jn.-Patliputra-Lucknow Jn. Superfast Special Train (5 Days a Week)						60 Trips
Train No. 02530		↓	STATIONS	↑	Train No. 02529	
ARR.	DEP.				ARR.	DEP.
---	05:00		LUCKNOW JN.		02:35	---
14:50	---		PATLIPUTRA		---	15:50

Days of run : 02530/02529 Ex. Lucknow Jn./Ex. Patliputra from 20.10.2020 to 30.11.2020 on every Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat.

Accommodation : AC 3 Tier, Executive Chaircar, Chaircar & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Badshahnagar, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Ekma, Chhapra & Dighwara Stns.

04656/04655 Firozpur-Patna-Firozpur Express Special Train (Weekly)						12 Trips
Train No. 04656		↓	STATIONS	↑	Train No. 04655	
ARR.	DEP.				ARR.	DEP.
---	19:00		FIROZPUR		23:55	---
21:25	---		PATNA		---	23:25

Days of run : 04656 Ex. Firozpur from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020 on every Friday and 04655 Ex. Patna from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020 on every Saturday.

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved); Stoppages: Kot Kapura, Bhatinda, Rampura Phul, Barnala, Dhuri, Patiala, Rajpura, Ambala Cantt., Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Stations.

04084/04083 Delhi-Katihar-Delhi Express Special Train (Weekly)					12 Trips
Train No. 04084		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04083		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
---	23:00	DELHI	22:50	---	
22:00	---	KATIHAR	---	23:50	



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Assam-Mizoram, and the other boundary issues in N-E

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 19

OVER THE last one week, residents of Assam and Mizoram have clashed twice over territory, injuring at least eight people and torching a few huts and small shops. It spotlights the long-standing inter-state boundary issues in the Northeast, particularly between Assam and the states that were carved out of it.

What were the recent clashes about?

On Saturday, residents of Lailapur village in Assam's Cachar district clashed with residents of localities near Vairengte in Mizoram's Kolasib district. On October 9, a similar clash took place on the border of Karimganj (Assam) and Mamit (Mizoram) districts.

On October 9, a farm hut and a betel nut plantation belonging to two Mizoram residents were set on fire. On Saturday, some people from Lailapur started pelting stones at Mizoram police personnel and Mizoram residents. "In turn, Mizoram residents mobilised

and went after them," Kolasib Deputy Commissioner H Lalthangliana said.

What led to this?

"According to an agreement between governments of Assam and Mizoram some years ago, *status quo* should be maintained in no man's land in the border area. However, people from Lailapur broke the status quo and allegedly constructed some temporary huts. People from Mizoram side went and set fire on them," Lalthangliana said. On the other hand, Keerthi Jalli, the DC of Cachar, told *The Indian Express* that the contested land belongs to Assam as per state's records.

In the October 9 incident, according to Mizoram officials, the land claimed by Assam is being cultivated for a long time by residents of Mizoram. The DC of Mamit, Lalrozama, has urged that *status quo* be maintained. The Karimganj DC, Anbamuthan MP, said that although the contested land was historically cultivated by Mizoram residents, on paper it fell within the Singla Forest Reserve that is un-

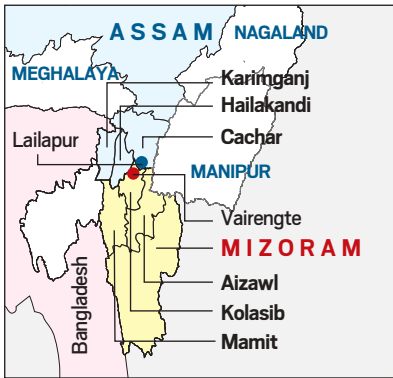
der Karimganj's jurisdiction. Anbamuthan told *The Indian Express* that the issue was being resolved.

Mizoram borders Assam's Barak Valley; both border Bangladesh. Mizoram civil society groups blame "illegal Bangladeshis" (alleged migrants from Bangladesh) on the Assam side. "Illegal Bangladeshis are creating all this trouble. They come and destroy our huts, cut our plants and this time pelted stones on our policemen," said B Vanlaltana, president of the students' union MZP (Mizo Zirlai Pawl).

How complex is the boundary dispute?

In the Northeast's complex boundary equations, showdowns between Assam and Mizoram residents are less frequent than they are between, say, Assam and Nagaland residents. Nevertheless, the boundary between present-day Assam and Mizoram, 165 km long today, dates back to the colonial era, when Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills, a district of Assam.

The dispute stems from a notification of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the



plains of Cachar, and another of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.

A Mizoram minister told *The Indian Express* that Mizoram believes the boundary should be demarcated on the basis of the 1875 notification, which is derived from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act, 1873. Mizo leaders have argued in the

past argued against the demarcation notified in 1933 because Mizo society was not consulted. MZP's Vanlaltana said the Assam government follows the 1933 demarcation, and that was the point of conflict.

The last time the boundary saw violence was in February 2018. The MZP had built a wooden rest house in a forest, its stated purpose being to serve as a resting for farmers. Assam police and forest department officials demolished it saying this was in Assam territory. MZP members clashed with Assam personnel, who also thrashed a group of Mizoram journalists who had gone to cover the incident.

What are the other boundary issues in the Northeast?

During British rule, Assam included present-day Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya besides Mizoram, which became separate state one by one. Today, Assam has boundary problems with each of them.

Nagaland shares a 500-km boundary with Assam. According to a 2008 research

paper from the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, violent clashes and armed conflicts, marked by killings, have occurred on the Assam-Nagaland border since 1965. In two major incidents of violence in 1979 and 1985, at least 100 persons were killed, *The Indian Express* has reported earlier. The boundary dispute is now in the Supreme Court.

On the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary (over 800 km), clashes were first reported in 1992, according to the same research paper. Since then, there have been several accusations of illegal encroachment from both sides, and intermittent clashes. This boundary issue too is being heard by the Supreme Court.

The 884-km Assam-Meghalaya boundary, too, witnesses flare-ups frequently. As per Meghalaya government statements, today there are 12 areas of dispute between the two states. In February this year, the Chief Ministers of the two states spoke to each other about the need to maintain *status quo* and peace.

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

Identifying the antibodies that really help fight coronavirus

A PATIENT recovering from Covid-19 may have developed antibodies, but this does not really tell them how much immunity they have developed. Some antibodies might protect the body, some might not be so, while some antibodies might even cause harm to the body.



PAPER CLIP
NEW RESEARCH

method in the journal *JCI Insight*. "Our assay examines whether antibodies are potentially protective, which means they prevent a patient from reinfection and block viral replication," he said.

Tests with this new assay showed that, overall, ICU patients had produced the highest concentration of neutralising antibodies, and convalescent plasma donors and healthcare workers had the lowest antibody levels.

Scientists at the Ohio State University have developed a new lab testing procedure for the detection of antibodies, one that specifically identifies the "neutralising" antibodies that protect against infection of cells.

"With many assays currently in use, we can detect antibodies, but that doesn't tell us if they're neutralizing antibodies. We only know the level of antibodies someone has," the Ohio State University's Dr Shan-Lu Liu said in a statement. Liu is the senior author of a research paper describing the new

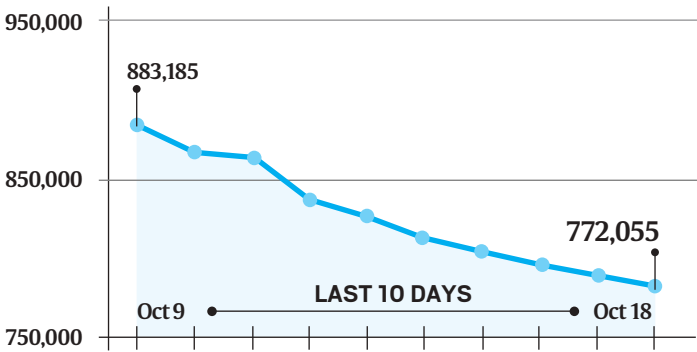
method in the journal *JCI Insight*. "Our assay examines whether antibodies are potentially protective, which means they prevent a patient from reinfection and block viral replication," he said.

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Source: Ohio State University

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

772,055



Note: The Oct 18 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Oct 19

INDIA TOTAL CASES
7,550,273

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Oct 19

WORLD TOTAL CASES
40,155,883

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Oct 19

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

How fertiliser subsidy works

The government proposes to limit the amount of fertilisers each farmer can buy during a cropping season. What is the objective of this move, and what will its implications be, including on the subsidy bill?

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

THE CENTRE is working on a plan to restrict the number of fertiliser bags that individual farmers can buy during any cropping season. What are the implications, including for its fertiliser subsidy bill?

What is fertiliser subsidy?

Farmers buy fertilisers at MRPs (maximum retail price) below their normal supply-and-demand-based market rates or what it costs to produce/import them.

The MRP of neem-coated urea, for instance, is fixed by the government at Rs 5,922.22 per tonne, whereas its average cost-plus price payable to domestic manufacturers and importers comes to around Rs 17,000 and Rs 23,000 per tonne, respectively. The difference, which varies according to plant-wise production cost and import price, is footed by the Centre as subsidy.

The MRPs of non-urea fertilisers are decontrolled or fixed by the companies. The Centre, however, pays a flat per-tonne subsidy on these nutrients to ensure they are priced at "reasonable levels". The per-tonne subsidy is currently Rs 10,231 for di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), Rs 6,070 for muriate of potash (MOP) and Rs 8,380 for the popular '10:26:26' complex fertiliser, with their corresponding average MRPs at Rs 24,000, Rs 17,500 and Rs 23,500 per tonne, respectively.

Decontrolled fertilisers, thus, retail way above urea, while they also attract lower subsidy.

How is the subsidy paid and who gets it?

The subsidy goes to fertiliser companies, although its ultimate beneficiary is the farmer who pays MRPs less than the market-determined rates. Companies, until recently, were paid after their bagged material had been dispatched and received at a district's railhead point or approved godown.

From March 2018, a new so-called direct benefit transfer (DBT) system was introduced, wherein subsidy payment to the companies would happen only after actual



Farmers load fertiliser on a truck in Uttar Pradesh. File photo

sales to farmers by retailers. Each retailer — there are over 2.3 lakh of them across India — now has a point-of-sale (PoS) machine linked to the Department of Fertilisers' e-Urvarak DBT portal. Anybody buying subsidised fertilisers is required to furnish his/her Aadhaar unique identity or Kisan Credit Card number. The quantities of the individual fertilisers purchased, along with the buyer's name and biometric authentication, have to be captured on the PoS device. Only upon the sale getting registered on the e-Urvarak platform can a company claim subsidy, with these being processed on a weekly basis and payments remitted electronically to its bank account.

What was the new payment system's underlying purpose?

The main motive is to curb diversion. This is natural with any under-priced product, more so in urea, whose basic MRP (excluding taxes and neem-coating cost) has been raised by hardly 11% from Rs 4,830 to Rs 5,360 per tonne since April 2010. The same period — from when all other fertilisers were decontrolled — has seen the per-tonne MRP of DAP rise from Rs 9,350 to Rs 24,000, while similarly going up for MOP (Rs 4,455 to Rs 17,500) and '10:26:26' (Rs 7,197 to Rs 23,500). Being super-subsidised, urea is always

prone to diversion for non-agricultural use — as a binder by plywood/particle board makers, cheap protein source by animal feed manufacturers or adulterant by milk vendors — apart from being smuggled to Nepal and Bangladesh. The scope for leakage was more in the earlier system, right from the point of dispatch till the retailer end. With DBT, pilferage happens only at the retailer level, as there is no subsidy payment till sales are made through POS machines and subject to the buyers' biometric authentication.

What is the next step being proposed?

At present, the Centre is following a "no denial" policy. Anybody, non-farmers included, can purchase any quantity of fertilisers through the PoS machines. That obviously allows for bulk buying by unintended beneficiaries, who are not genuine or deserving farmers. While there is a limit of 100 bags that an individual can purchase at one time, it does not stop anyone from buying any number of times. One plan under discussion is to cap the total number of subsidised fertiliser bags that any person can buy during an entire kharif or rabi cropping season. This, it is expected, would end even retail-level diversion and purchases by large buyers masquerading as farmers.

What joint opposition rallies signal to Imran Khan govt and Pak Army

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

TWO BACK-TO-BACK joint opposition rallies in Pakistan with tens of thousands taking part despite the pandemic, the first in Gujranwala on October 16 and the second in Karachi on Sunday, have set the stage for a new season of a game of thrones in that country.

Four big opposition parties, the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), Pakistan People's Party, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur), and the Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, and some smaller ones, including the Baloch National Party and the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement, have come together to channelise public discontent at rising prices, power cuts, closure of businesses and other economic misery. Their alliance is called Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM).

The PDM has also launched Gen Next leaders of political dynasties: Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz, and Asif Ali Zardari's son Bilawal Bhutto. The counter-intuitive choice of Maulana Fazlur Rahman, head of the JUI(F) as president of PDM, side-stepped a possible leadership tussle between the Sharifs and the Bhutto-Zardaris. The Islamist maulana also brings to the PDM a sizeable Pashtun following, a substantial hardline right wing element, and a national

character, pre-empting government criticism of a foreign hand in these protests.

What does the PDM want?

Its main demand is that the Imran Khan government must go. It has alleged he was not so much elected as "selected" in the 2018 election by the Pakistan Army.

Although the pandemic appears to have tapered down, the report card on Imran Khan's 27 months in office is dismal: according to the World Bank, Pakistan's growth rate has contracted from 1.9% in FY2019 to -1.5% in 2020; and inflation is at 10.7% this year, four points higher than in 2019. What has kept Pakistan afloat is the infusion of financial aid.

But it is not just Imran Khan who is being targeted. For at least the PML(N), the target is clearly the Pakistan Army. From London, where he is under treatment after securing bail from his imprisonment in a corruption case, Nawaz Sharif has made two thundering attacks against the Army's role in politics in Pakistan, singling out Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa by name to blame him for Pakistan's ills. On both occasions, he accused the Army and Gen Bajwa of ousting him, the judiciary of colluding in this, and the Army of having become "a state above a state".

What this so remarkable about this



Opposition supporters at the Karachi rally on Sunday. Reuters

attack on the Army?

Sharif's speeches are unprecedented, and take his long battle with the Army to the next level. No politician, particularly one hailing from Punjab, of Sharif's stature has openly challenged the country's most powerful institution in this manner. Most of the Army, from general to soldier, is drawn from the Punjab province. This is also the first time such an attack has come from the opposition when an elected civilian government is in office. But the Imran Khan government has declared many times that it is "on the same page" as the Pakistan Army. The opposition alliance is thus targeting both.

How has Imran responded?

Imran has hit out at the opposition for playing India and Prime Minister Narendra

been in power remains an open question.

How will the Army respond?

Bajwa and the ISI chief, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, are reported to have had a meeting with key opposition leaders in September, and asked them not to drag in the Army. Sharif has indicated, in as many words, that he "will no longer be silenced".

The Army's reaction will depend on the momentum the opposition is able to gather. As the final arbiter, it will decide how much leeway to allow the protestors. It will undoubtedly factor in the political fallout of a crack-down to itself, against the costs of making a deal with parts or the whole of the opposition.

If the Army gets nervy about being challenged politically, it may review its relationship with Imran Khan. There are many contenders within Imran's party waiting in the wings for the top slot.

But doesn't the Army owe Imran for the three-year extension to Gen Bajwa?

That is part of the problem, but could also be the key to Imran's survival. The extension had to be approved by Parliament, and was not popular within the Army. Sharif's repeated naming of Bajwa seemed to be signalling that he held no grievance against others in the Army. In Karachi, Maryam Nawaz showered praise on the

Army, and said "one or two personalities are not the entire institution, but one or two people can defame the entire institution..."

The Pakistan Army craves public legitimacy. It would be worried at being identified too closely with a government that has proved inept from the get go. It would rather sacrifice individuals than the institution.

During the election, Bajwa was the face of the Army's plan to have Imran Khan elected. His fate is inextricably linked to Imran's. Before Bajwa retires in 2022, he would want to line up the ducks for his chosen successor. That person, it is believed, is ISI head Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, but it will not be smooth, as there are other contenders.

Jettisoning Imran could torpedo the plan, as it would weaken Bajwa himself. But first, Lt Gen Hameed has to command a corps to be considered for the top slot, for which there has to be a full reshuffle. Posting out a trusted intelligence chief will deprive Bajwa of a powerful ally. All in all, this is a still developing complex three way handshake.

What next?

The eventual plan is for a long march in January to culminate in Islamabad in a show of strength. More rallies are planned in the build-up to that. The next one is in Quetta, on October 25. How it goes could provide a clue as to what the Army intends to do next.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Nokia said a wireless broadband system will be built on the lunar surface in late 2022

FINLAND

Nokia to build mobile network on the moon

STRUGGLING TO get a phone signal at home on planet Earth? Perhaps you'll have better luck on the moon. Nokia has been selected by NASA to build the first cellular network on the moon, the Finnish company said on Monday, as the US space agency plans for a future where humans return there and establish lunar settlements. NASA aims to return humans to the moon by 2024 and dig in for a long-term presence there under its Artemis programme. Nokia said the first wireless broadband communications system in space would be built on the lunar surface in late 2022, before humans make it back there. **REUTERS**

USA

Rapper held after bragging about unemployment fraud in video

A RAPPER who boasted in a music video about getting rich by fraudulently applying for unemployment meant for those affected by Covid-19 lockdowns has been accused of using stolen identities to obtain more than \$1.2 million in jobless benefits, the authorities said. Fontrell Antonio Baines, 31, who performs as Nuke Bizzle, was arrested on Friday. In a music video for the song *EDD* that was posted to YouTube on Sept 11, Baines and another rapper, Fat Wizza, boasted about getting "rich off of EDD," an apparent reference to the Employment Development Department. **NYT**

AUSTRALIA

WWF drones to drop seeds for koala gum trees

SPECIALISED DRONES were being used in a programme to boost koala numbers on Australia's east coast, dropping seeds of gum trees as part of a World Wildlife Fund (WWF) scheme to regenerate bushland torched in the country's historic bushfires. Gum tree leaves are koala's main food source, and restoring bushland and forest habitat razed in the 2019-2020 fires is key to their long-term survival in New South Wales state. The fires killed or displaced 3 billion animals. **REUTERS**



Anika Chebrolu. Facebook/3M

US-Indian teen wins \$25,000 for work on potential Covid treatment

SEEMA HAKHU KACHRU

HOUSTON, OCTOBER 19

A 14-YEAR-OLD Indian-American girl has won a \$25,000 young scientist challenge for a discovery that could provide a potential treatment for Covid-19.

Anika Chebrolu, an eighth grader from Frisco in Texas, won the 3M Young Scientist Challenge, regarded as the US' premier middle-school science competition, for her work using in-silico methodology for drug discovery to find a molecule that can selectively bind to the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 virus in an attempt to find a cure for Covid-19, according to the 3M Challenge website.

3M is an American manufacturing company based in Minnesota.

Chebrolu decided to take part in the Young Scientist Challenge after she battled a severe influenza infection last year. She wanted to find a cure for influenza. However, that all changed after the Covid-19 pandemic hit, the website said.

"I would like to learn more from 3M scientists to pursue my drug development and... would like to conduct in-vitro and in-vivo testing of my lead drug candidate," she said. **PTI**

People are tired of hearing Fauci, Trump tells campaign team

JILL COLVIN, WILL WEISSERT & ZEKE MILLER

LAS VEGAS, OCTOBER 19

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump sought Monday to buck up his campaign staffers two weeks from Election Day, dismissing the cautionary coronavirus advice of his scientific experts as well as polling showing him trailing Democratic rival Joe Biden across key battleground states.

Trump was facing intense pressure to turn around his campaign, hoping for the type of last-minute surge that revived his candidacy four years ago and plunging into an aggressive travel schedule despite the pandemic. But his lack of a consistent message, the surging virus cases and his attacks on experts like Dr Anthony Fauci could undermine final efforts to appeal to voters outside of his most loyal base.

Speaking to campaign aides on a conference call, Trump said he believes he's going to win, allowing that he didn't have that same sense of confidence two weeks ago when he was hospitalised with Covid-19. One week since returning to the campaign trail, where his handling of the pandemic is a central issue to voters, Trump blasted his government's own scientists for their criticism of his performance.

"People are tired of hearing Fauci and all these idiots," Trump

Confirmed cases go past 40 mn, actual numbers likely much more

Average of 347,000 Covid-19 cases each day in the past week

AP & REUTERS

LONDON, OCTOBER 19

THE NUMBER of confirmed Covid-19 cases across the planet has surpassed 40 million, but experts say that is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the true impact of the pandemic that has upended life and work around the world.

The milestone was hit Monday morning, according to Johns Hopkins University, which collates reports from around the world.

The actual worldwide tally of Covid-19 cases is thought to be far higher, as testing has been uneven or limited, many people have had no symptoms and some governments have concealed the true number of cases. To date, more than 1.1 million confirmed virus deaths have been reported, although experts also believe that number is an undercount.

The US, India and Brazil are reporting by far the highest numbers of cases, although the global increase in recent weeks has been driven by a surge in Europe, which has seen over 240,000 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic so far.

There were an average of around 347,000 cases globally each day over the past week, compared with 292,000 in the first week of October.

In the US, new cases per day were on the rise in 44 states, with many of the biggest surges in the Midwest and Great Plains, where



Demonstrators from the hospitality industry protest against reimposed Covid restrictions, in London on Monday. Reuters

In US & Europe, shift in lockdown strategy

IN THE US and Europe, the first surge of Covid-19 cases saw the adoption of a broad lockdown strategy, with curbs affecting whole countries or states. When that surge subsided, most of these restrictions were lifted. But soon after, a second surge brought new records in daily cases. Authorities, however, were wary of applying broad lockdowns on already struggling economies. This has prompted

a change in strategy, with most European nations and many US states locking down specific areas that have the most cases. While more curbs in hotspots has not been a new concept, earlier such extra curbs were put in place on top of already existing broad lockdowns. But now, hotspots are increasingly isolated islands of restrictions, causing, in many cases, complaints of unequal treatment and protests.

resistance to wearing masks and taking other precautions has been high and the virus has often been seen as a big-city problem.

The WHO said last week that Europe had a reported a record

weekly high of nearly 700,000 cases and said the region was responsible for about a third of cases globally. Britain, France, Russia and Spain account for about half of all new cases in the region.

French police conduct raids in crackdown after teacher's killing

REUTERS

PARIS, OCTOBER 19

FRENCH POLICE on Monday raided Islamic associations and foreigners suspected of extremist religious beliefs, police sources said, three days after a suspected Islamist beheaded a school teacher.

History teacher Samuel Paty, 47, was murdered on Friday in broad daylight outside his school in a middle-class Paris suburb by an 18-year-old of Chechen origin. Police shot the attacker dead.

The teenage assassin sought to avenge his victim's use of caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad in a class on freedom of expression to 13-year-olds.

Public figures called the killing an attack on the Republic and on French values.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said there were some 80 investigations being conducted into online hate and that he was looking into whether to disband about 50 associations within the Muslim community. "Police operations have taken place and more will follow, concerning tens of individuals," the minister told Europe 1.

A police source on Sunday said France was preparing to deport 213 foreigners who were on a government watch-list and suspected of holding extreme religious beliefs, among whom about 150 are serving jail sentences.



Trump attends church in Las Vegas on Sunday. AP



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

said of Fauci, declaring the government's top infectious disease expert "a disaster". But Fauci is both respected and popular, and Trump suggested firing the doctor would only create greater controversy. Trump's rejection of scientific advice on the pandemic has already drawn bipartisan condemnation.

Trump held his call with campaign staffers from Las Vegas, where he was on the third day of a western campaign swing. He was to hold Arizona rallies in Prescott and Tucson later in the day before returning to the White House. **AP**



At a protest in Karachi organised by the Pakistan Democratic Movement, an alliance of opposition parties, Sunday. Reuters

Sharif's son-in-law arrested in Pak a day after Opposition rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KARACHI, OCTOBER 19

CAPT (RETD) Muhammad Safdar, son-in-law of former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was on Monday briefly arrested from his hotel room in Karachi, a day after he staged a protest at the tomb of the country's founder and attended a joint Opposition rally.

"Police broke my room door at the hotel I was staying at in Karachi and arrested Capt Safdar," said Safdar's wife Maryam, who addressed the large anti-government rally in the port city on Sunday.

She said she was asleep when the police "barged in" her hotel room where he was staying with her husband.

Safdar was arrested a day after he raised slogans at Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah's (Quaid) mausoleum just before the second rally of the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) —

an alliance of 11 opposition parties.

With the Pakistan People's Party-ruled Sindh government distancing itself from the arrest, Safdar was released by a judicial magistrate against surety bonds of Rs 100,000.

Maryam told reporters that she would leave Karachi with her husband as he had been released on bail.

"Aboard the flight to Lahore. Thank you Karachi! You won me over," she tweeted.

Maryam said Opposition parties would continue their protests until Prime Minister Imran Khan was removed from power.

Safdar was arrested after an FIR was registered against him, Maryam and 200 others for violating the sanctity of the Quaid's mausoleum.

Meanwhile, the Sindh government, which hosted the PDM's rally, distanced itself from the arrest, with PPP chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also condemning the arrest. Bilawal said he was shocked to hear about the incident.

Morales' party claims victory in high-stakes Bolivian election

CARLOS VALDEZ

LA PAZ, OCTOBER 19

EVO MORALES' party has claimed victory in a presidential election that appears to sharply shift Bolivia away from the conservative policies of the US-backed interim government that took power after the leftist leader resigned and fled the country a year ago.

The leading rival of Morales's handpicked successor, Luis Arce, conceded defeat on Monday, as did interim President Jeanine Añez, a bitter foe of Morales.

Officials released no formal, comprehensive quick count of results from Sunday's vote, but two independent surveys of selected polling places showed Arce with a lead of roughly 20 percentage points over his closest rival — far more than needed to avoid a runoff.

Añez asked Arce "to govern with Bolivia and democracy in mind."

Arce, meanwhile, appealed for calm in the bitterly divided nation saying he would seek to form a government of national unity under his Movement Toward Socialism party.

"I think the Bolivian people want to retake the path we were on," Arce declared around midnight surrounded by a small group of supporters, some of them in traditional Andean dress in honour of the country's Indigenous roots. **AP**



Thousands of pro-democracy activists at a protest in Bangkok on Monday. AP

Thailand to probe media outlets as thousands again defy protest ban

GRANT PECK & CHRIS BLAKE

BANGKOK, OCTOBER 19

THAI AUTHORITIES worked Monday to stem a growing tide of protests calling for the prime minister to resign by threatening to censor news coverage, raiding a publishing house and attempting to block the Telegram messaging app used by demonstrators.

The efforts by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government to drain the student-led protests of support and the ability to organise comes as demonstrations have grown in the capital and spread around the country, despite an emergency decree, which bans public gatherings of more

than four people in Bangkok, outlaws news said to affect national security and gives authorities broad power to detain people.

Thousands of mostly young protesters massed in northern Bangkok on Monday evening, as they have in various locations in the capital over the past six days to push their demands, including a controversial call for reform of the monarchy.

Authorities are now increasingly turning to censorship. A top National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission official confirmed reports that it had been ordered to block access to the messaging app Telegram.

Police also searched the office of a publishing house that handles books by Thai and foreign scholars

with sometimes controversial perspectives. Same Sky publishing house said police took away copies of three titles that had been sold at a recent book fair in a bundle.

Deputy police spokesman Kissana Phatarachoen also confirmed an order signed by the chief of police that could allow officials to block access to news sites that give what he called "distorted information".

Kissana spoke after a leaked copy of the censorship request circulated on social media. The order calls for blocking access to the online sites of Voice TV, The Reporters, The Standard, Prachatai, and Free Youth, and removing their existing content. It also proposes a ban on Voice TV's over-the-air digital broadcasts. **AP**

SHE WAS UNDEFEATED IN DECADES OF WAR, BUT HER DECISION WAS AN ACT OF SURVIVAL

A storied woman warlord surrenders to Taliban, exposing Afghan weakness

MUJIB MASHAL, NAJIM RAHIM & FATIMA FAIZI

KABUL, OCTOBER 19

IN A long conflict waged by men, she has been a rare female warlord, defending her fief in northern Afghanistan against the Taliban, her own relatives and even against the US-backed central government she allied with.

As she grew into her 70s, ailing and bedridden with bad knees, the warlord, Bibi Ayesha, took pride in having an undefeated record in decades of war. She is popularly known by a nom de guerre: Commander Kaftar, which means "pigeon" in Farsi,

"because she moved and killed with the elegance of a bird," as one profile put it.

On Thursday, the Taliban declared the end of her high-flying days: Kaftar, along with her men, had surrendered to them, they said in a statement.

"The officials of our Invite and Guidance Commission welcomed them," the statement said.

Local officials in restive Baghlan province, where she is based, and her relatives confirmed the commander's surrender and said it was an act of survival. Her valley was so surrounded, with other neighboring militias switching sides to the Taliban, that she had no choice.

Mohammad Hanif Kohgadai, a member of the Baghlan provincial council representing Kaftar's district, said she had reached a deal through a Taliban commander related to her family.

"The Taliban spent the night at Commander Kaftar's house, they ate there," Kohgadai said in an interview Friday. "Today, they left the house and took with them 13 weapons and other military gear."

One of Kaftar's sons played down the episode, saying it was more a truce than a surrender.

"It is just a rumour. My mother is sick," said Raz Mohammad, one of her three remaining sons. (Three others were killed in years of fighting.) "She



Afghan special forces at the site of an attack in Baghlan Province last year. Baghlan is where Kaftar is based. Reuters

hasn't joined the Taliban. We don't fight the Taliban anymore; we have weapons to protect ourselves from our enemies."

For a group that kept women confined to their homes when they were in power in the 1990s, a Taliban alliance with a female

commander could prove tricky. The Taliban have yet to provide any detailed positions in ongoing peace talks on the role of women in a future government. But what makes Kaftar's shift easier is that she commands hundreds of men in a deeply conservative society.

The surrender exposes a larger vulnerability of the Afghan government: Its defences are partly reliant on thousands of unreliable militias with track records of abuse and local feuding, and a history of switching sides.

Kaftar's experience speaks to the complicated reality upon which the US-bankrolled democracy has been built — on the legacy

of a previous invasion and years of anarchy and warlord rule.

Her reputation began to grow with the killing of Soviet commandos who had swarmed her valley during an invasion starting in 1979. She has not put down arms since, raising a militia that protected her valley as her little kingdom. Even when the Taliban swept through most of Afghanistan in the 1990s, she fended them off.

She has often recounted how she taunted the Taliban commander for her province with a lose-lose offer: If she arrested him, she would parade him around town on a donkey and people would laugh at him for

being defeated by a woman. And if he arrested her? The town would scold the Taliban commander for arresting a woman.

After the US invasion in 2001, the new Afghan government moved to disarm militias like hers. She and many other militia commanders resisted. Asked about the government wanting to disarm her, she said, "If they come, you will see what I will do to the government."

Even in Kabul she was celebrated as an anti-Taliban hero and inspiration for women, with the country's former human rights chief attending a celebration of her hosted by Afghanistan's vice president. **NYT**



GOLD

₹51,740



RUPEE

₹73.37



OIL

\$42.71



SILVER

₹63,714

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2330 IST

SENSEX: 40,431.60 ▲ 448.62 NIFTY: 11,873.05 ▲ 110.60 NIKKEI: 23,671.13 ▲ 260.50 HANG SENG: 24,542.26 ▲ 155.47 FTSE: 5,905.78 ▼ 13.80 DAX: 12,897.22 ▼ 11.77

International market data till 1900 IST

‘INDIA NEEDS TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE SOCIALISTIC BAGGAGE’

Have not closed the option for another stimulus: Sitharaman

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the government has not closed the option of one more stimulus to support the economy. The Finance Ministry has started its assessment of the likely economic growth for the current year and will release the estimates when they are ready.

Speaking at an online conference to launch the autobiography of 15th Finance Commission Chairman NK Singh — *Portraits of Power: Half a Century of Being at Ringside* — Sitharaman hoped for improvement in the education sector and further opening up of the economy to the private sector.

“I have not closed the option for another stimulus. Every time we have announced one, it is after a lot of consultations with various sections of society and then we work with ministries, the PMO

‘ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER CONSULTATIONS’



“EVERY TIME we have announced one, it is after a lot of consultations with various sections of society,” said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at an online conference to launch the autobiography of 15th Finance Commission Chairman NK Singh.

(Prime Minister’s Office) and then take a final call. Yes, I have not closed the option to come out with one more stimulus,” Sitharaman said to responding to a query. Amid the government planning to come out with a public sector enterprise policy to open up all sectors for the private sector, she said India needs to move away from “the socialistic baggage”.

Stressing the need for a robust

federal structure in the country, she said: “Federalism is needed to make our country stronger. We need greater robustness in federal engagement as even if one state is left behind, it can slowdown India’s growth potential.”

Singh, who has had a long career as a top bureaucrat and a former MP, said his book tries to look at the brighter side of society and economy in terms of what is pos-

sible to be done within the given constraints. Quoting Plutarch, Singh said: “To find fault is easy; to do better may be difficult”. The book also tries to address whether the Covid-19 pandemic is like a “1991 moment in our history” where we are forced to push the reset button, Singh said.

Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani, who participated in the discussion, said some of the most second generation reforms have been taken in last six months in agriculture, labour and education sectors. He said there is need to support small and medium enterprises and order to create an ecosystem entrepreneurship grows. Some of that is happening already in the batteries and solar manufacturing areas.

To a query on what he wished to be remembered for, Ambani said it “should not be about him but his contribution to the society” and he wished to work on three things — transformation of India

into a digital society; transformation in education sector to strengthen the skill base in India through linkages among education, skill training and employment; and lastly a movement away from fossil fuels towards completely renewable energy over the next three decades.

Ambani said his first impression of Singh was that “the IAS guys have style” and he was struck by his unending curiosity and ability to deliver on economic reforms.

Speaking at the event, Singapore’s Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Tharman Shanmugaratnam said India’s challenges exceed those of most societies facing Covid-19 but the pandemic also represents a “huge opportunity” for the country as the global supply chain is changing. This presents an opportunity to become a major producer of goods and services for the world.

Insurers’ entry in surety bond biz for infra projects proposed

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

BIG CONSTRUCTION and infrastructure projects may soon witness the concept of surety bond as an option and alternate to bank guarantees. A Working Group of insurance regulator Irdai has already recommended issuance of surety bonds by insurance companies which will function as the performance or delivery obligation to complete an insured project.

The panel, headed by former New India Assurance Chairman G Srinivasan, has proposed that the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) may allow insurers to enter the surety bond insurance business with solvency margin above a certain threshold as the experience of surety bond insurance is yet to develop in the Indian market and the risk exposure under this business is quite significant.

The performance bonds issued may cover up to 10-20 per cent or sometimes guarantee 100 per cent of the project value, the panel has proposed. Surety bonds are typically conditional, while bank guarantees are on demand, and are offered as insurance prod-

EXPLAINED

Acts as contractual obligation

IN LARGE construction or infrastructure projects, bank guarantee or surety bond is a contractual requirement or precondition of the project owner for awarding an order to the contractor. If the contract is not honoured, the bank or insurance firm is called upon to pay the bond or assure finalisation of the contractual obligation.

ucts in the global market. Though in many nations originally bank issued bonds, the security provided by an insurer has proven equally acceptable. Insurance companies in markets such as the US, Brazil, Mexico, Germany, Australia and the Philippines issue surety bond and many leading companies in these countries have set up separate lines of credit and bonds with surety of insurers.

The need for surety bond for road and civil infrastructure projects was felt since Indian banks

are not providing any waivers on collaterals for granting bank guarantees. Big corporate failures resulting in non-performing assets have driven banks to exercise tighter controls in issuing bank guarantees. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) received representations from contractors and developers as obtaining bank guarantees were becoming very difficult, the panel said.

In 2016, the Department of Financial Services had written to Irdai to explore the possibility of introducing surety bonds in favour of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to facilitate trade by substituting bank guarantees.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent economic impact on liquidity and cash flow issues in the banking sector, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways advised Irdai to examine possible offering of surety bond being issued by general insurance companies.

The proposal under consideration is that Surety Bonds business may be revived with offering of surety bonds initially to construction companies including road projects, housing/ commercial buildings and other projects.

Cox & Kings loaned out ₹6,071 cr to at least 20 related parties sans board nod

KHUSHBOONARAYAN
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

A FORENSIC audit of Cox & Kings Ltd, the listed travel firm that has come under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Economic Offence Wing of Mumbai Police (EOW), has found the company did not take board approvals for Rs 6,071 crore loans extended to at least 20 related parties between 2014 and 2019.

The audit conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) has found that the company recorded related party loans and advances of Rs 9,494 crore during the same period, of which about Rs 4,008 crore was loaned to 11 overseas entities connected to Cox & Kings. As per the audit report reviewed by *The Indian Express*, out of these offshore transactions, transfers of Rs 581 crore was allegedly done in violation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms.

A/c of one arm that got funds had deceased manager as signatory

Mumbai: Sagar Deshpande, 38, the finance manager of Cox & Kings, whose was found dead on the railway tracks in Kalyan on October 12, was the official signatory of an alleged “undisclosed” bank account of Ezeego One Travel and Tour Ltd, a subsidiary of Cox & Kings, officials familiar with the ongoing probe into the bankrupt travel company said.

Sources said this bank ac-

count was used to transfer funds from Ezeego One to Redkite Capital Pvt Ltd, owned by four firms controlled by Anil Khandelwal, chief financial officer (CFO) of Cox & Kings and Naresh Jain, the internal auditor of Cox & Kings. Both Khandelwal and Jain have been arrested by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). **ENS**

Further, the PWC audit found that recoverables of at least Rs 589 crore from 11 disclosed related parties are based on a “generic” memorandum of understanding which cannot be “legally enforced” in case of a default.

The audit has alleged that inter-corporate deposits of Rs 2,565

crore transferred from Cox & Kings to a few connected entities were never “discussed in any of the board/finance committee meetings” of the listed travel firm.

The forensic audit also alleged a potential conflict of interest of the board and finance committee of Cox & Kings in approving trans-

actions to related parties. It said some of the board members of Cox & Kings had “professional relationships” with related entities.

Cox & Kings, promoted and controlled by Ajay Ajit Peter Kerkar and his family, was sent to bankruptcy court in October 2019, after it defaulted on payments. While the promoter group owns 12.20 per cent shares in the company, the public owns the remaining 87.80 per cent. Cox & Kings owes Rs 5,500 crore to banks and financial institutions, and it is one of the top borrowers of Yes Bank Ltd when co-founder Rana Kapoor was in charge. Yes Bank has an exposure of over Rs 2,267 crore to the Cox & Kings Group.

The travel firm came under the lens after the ED initiated a probe into allegations of kickbacks taken by Kapoor in lieu of granting loans to several firms that have now defaulted on repayments.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

‘Fibre broadband market share growing, but penetration limited’

India’s fibre broadband is an underserved market at about 3 million subscribers, and renewed efforts will help operators gain ‘wallet share’ among top-end of consumption class, a CLSA report said



7.9 million: Total wireline broadband subscribers with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), making it the largest incumbent player

20 million: Total subscribers in India’s wireline broadband market so far this year, as per Trai data

1 million: New connections added to wireline broadband market amid the pandemic and lockdowns — more than in FY17-20 combined as per Trai data

GROWING SHARE OF FIBRE: Within wireline broadband, share of fibre is growing faster yet it is limited at 15 per cent/3 million of

● **3 MILLION:** NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS CURRENTLY BEING SERVED BY FIBRE BROADBAND IN INDIA

● **~1.2 MILLION:** NEW SUBSCRIBERS ADDED BY RELIANCE JIO DURING LOCKDOWN

the total, and overall broadband penetration is still abysmal at 7 per cent of all-India households

WALLET SHARE:

Wallet share or share of wallet is a marketing term used to denote portion of customer’s spend on a particular item, or service

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

The addition this year so far, is higher than cumulative 0.9 million subscriber addition over FY17-20, as per the CLSA report, which also pointed that India wireline broadband market had stagnated at mere 0.3 million annual adds over past three years

Source: CLSA/PTI

Edelweiss AAA raises ₹6,600 cr

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 19

EDELWEISS ALTERNATIVE Asset Advisors (EAAA) has raised Rs 6,600 crore through its alternative investment fund, ESOF III, the largest fund mobilisation in the private credit space in 2020 amid subdued economic climate.

“This fund raise, amidst the subdued economic climate, is a strong endorsement of the opportunities in the Indian alternative asset management space, as well as the robust and unique private debt platform of Edelweiss Asset Management (EAM),” Edelweiss Financial Services said.

It said the ESOF III strategy has generated strong investor interest and has received commitments from marquee global institutional investors, which include recent investments by the Canadian Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan Board, Florida’s State Board of Administration, Swedish Pension Fund-AP4 and a European Insurance Investor, among others.

BRIEFLY

Sebi sets up mkt data panel

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has set up a Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) to recommend an appropriate policy for access to securities market data, among other functions. The panel will be led by Madhabi Puri Buch, Whole-time Member, Sebi.

‘5G rollout may need ₹2.3 tn’

New Delhi: Total capital investment needed to roll out 5G services pan-India could be in the range of Rs 1.3 trillion to Rs 2.3 trillion, a report by research firm Motilal Oswal said. **ENS**

Fed’s Powell on digital currency

London: In any development of a cross-border digital currency, it is more important for the United States “to get it right than be first,” the United States Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said on Monday during a panel discussion on digital payments hosted by the International Monetary Fund. **REUTERS**

Executive VC of IL&FS quits

New Delhi: Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) Group on Monday announced resignation of its executive vice chairman Vineet Nayyar. **PTI**

Thiruvananthapuram airport leasing: HC rejects state govt plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 19

THE KERALA High Court on Monday rejected a petition of the Kerala government challenging the Centre’s decision to lease out the international airport here to Adani Group. Hours after the high court verdict, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that the state is against handing over the airport to Adani group.

“Our stand is against the lease out of the airport. The matter does not end with the high court verdict. Further action would be taken in it,” the CM said.

Dismissing the state’s petition, a Bench of Justices K Vinod Chandran and CS Dias said, “The

writ petitions filed by the State and the case set up by them, according to us, is a classic example of the proverbial ‘sour grapes.’”

“Interference to a policy framed by the elected Government it is trite, is difficult, and the feeble challenge raised herein against the policy is devoid of merit.”

The state had argued that by awarding the tender to Adani, the central government had violated the promise that the state would be allowed in the management of the airport. It said the award of the tender to Adani was vitiated by arbitrariness because the group had no prior experience in developing and managing an airport. The state alleged that the tender was tailor-made to suit Adani Group.

Meet 75% of FY21 capex target by Dec: FM to oil & gas, coal CPSEs

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

DURING A video conference on Monday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asked fourteen central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) in the petroleum and coal sectors to accelerate spending to achieve 75 per cent of their annual (FY21) capex targets by the end of December quarter.

The eleven CPSEs, which attended the meeting, include ONGC, Indian Oil, BPCL, GAIL (India) and Coal India. As reported earlier, the finance ministry has told

Fourth meet by FM this year about CPSE capex

CPSEs/undertakings with an annual capex budget of Rs 500 crore and more that they must achieve 150 per cent of initial capex target of Rs 4.9 lakh crore in FY21.

Monday’s video conference was the fourth by the FM this year related to CPSE capex. Sitharaman asked the CMDs of the 14 CPSEs, secretaries of administrative ministries of petroleum and coal to closely monitor the capex performance. **FE**

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE in urban areas moderated to 8.4 per cent in July-September 2019 from 8.9 per cent in April-June 2019 and 9.7 per cent in July-September 2018, the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) showed.

Urban unemployment in the age group 15-29 years was 20.6 per cent in July-September 2019, lower than 21.6 per cent in the previous quarter and 23.1 per cent in the same period previous year.

Female unemployment rate eased to 9.7 per cent in July-September, lower than 11.3 per

FEMALE JOBLESSNESS

■ Female unemployment rate eased to 9.7 per cent in July-September, from 11.3 per cent in April-June 2019, as per Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data.

cent in April-June 2019 and 12.7 per cent in July-September 2018, while unemployment rate for males stood at 8.0 per cent in July-September, as against 8.7 per cent in the previous quarter and 8.9 per cent in July-September 2018.

Labour force participation rate rose to 36.8 per cent from 36.2 per cent in the previous

quarter and 36.1 per cent in the same period in the previous year, the data showed.

State-wise breakup showed that urban unemployment rate was higher than the national average in Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Unemployment data for urban areas is released quarterly. This dataset differs from the Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey, which covers both rural and urban areas and gives estimates of employment and unemployment in both usual status (ps+ss) and CWS.

The sample size for this survey was lower covering 1.76 lakh people and 44,471 households in July-September 2019 compared with 1.79 lakh people and 45,288 households in April-June 2019.

BULLET TRAIN PROJECT

L&T lowest bidder for Package C4 at ₹24,985 cr

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI,
OCTOBER 19

LARSEN & Toubro (L&T) has emerged as the lowest bidder at Rs 24,985 crore for constructing the 237.1 km under Package C4 of the 508.17 km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail, also called MAHSR Bullet Train project, the country’s biggest infrastructure project to date.

The National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL) opened financial bids submitted

by three infrastructure development firms.

Package C4 is the largest among all as it represents 46.66 per cent of the main-line.

Three bidders involving seven major infrastructural companies, including the Tatas, had participated in the competitive bidding, the NHSRCL said.

Others bidders were “Afcons Infrastructure Limited IICON International Limited JMC Projects India Ltd-Consortium and NCC Limited Tata Project Ltd -JKumar Infra Projects Ltd -HSR Consortium,” NHSRCL said.

GDP GROWS AT 4.9% AS AGAINST 3.2% IN Q2

China’s recovery quickens as consumption picks up

REUTERS
BEIJING, OCTOBER 19

CHINA’S ECONOMIC recovery accelerated in the third quarter as consumers shook off their coronavirus caution, although the weaker-than-expected headline growth suggested persistent risks for one of the few drivers of global demand.

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.9 per cent in July-September from a year earlier, official data showed on Monday. It was faster than the

Retail sales grew 3.3% in Sept from a year earlier

second quarter’s 3.2 per cent growth.

“The weaker-than-expected headline figures weighed on China’s yuan and mainland stock benchmarks and capped broader market gains in Asia. The world’s second-largest economy grew 0.7 per cent in the first nine months from a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.



New Delhi



18 SPORT

FOUR POSITIVE AT BRUGGE AHEAD OF CL TIE

Belgium's Club Brugge arrived in Russia for Tuesday's Champions League group stage tie at Zenit St Petersburg without three players and their CEO who have all tested positive for the novel coronavirus, including their first choice-goalkeeper.

REUTERS

BRIEFLY

Tottenham collapse on Bale's return

Tottenham was transformed by Gareth Bale's homecoming, just not in the way that Jose Mourinho had imagined. Cruising 3-0 when Bale came off the bench in the 72nd minute against West Ham, Tottenham incredibly collapsed in a game it had been in control of to draw 3-3 in the Premier League on Sunday. It was with almost the last kick of the game that Manuel Lanzini blasted a shot from distance into the roof of the net to snatch a point that seemed extremely unlikely when Son Heung-min scored in the first minute and Harry Kane netted twice by the 16th minute. "It's difficult to believe, we lost two points, threw them away," Mourinho said.

National throws event postponed

The inaugural National Throws Championships, the only senior level event slated this year, was on Monday postponed indefinitely by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) due to the rising cases of COVID-19 in the country. The two-day meet was scheduled to be held in Patiala on October 26 and 27. "We consulted chief coach, high-performance director and other coaches and they expressed their concern on risk of exposure of athletes to COVID-19. After consultation with all, we have decided to postpone the throws competition until further notice," AFI president Adilje Sumariwala said in a statement. "We feel the conditions are still not conducive to hold a competition due to COVID-19 pandemic situation. Since it was an open competition, there was a risk for athletes travelling from outside. 'As I have repeatedly said earlier that for us the well-being of our athletes is of utmost importance and competitions will be held only when the situation is conducive,'" he added. Last month, the AFI had cancelled this year's all national championships, barring the throws event, in view of the pandemic, virtually bringing the season to an end without any competition. **AGENCIES**

Shami's block-hole blockbuster over

With just five runs to defend in the first Super Over on Sunday night, fast bowler excelled with yorkers

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 19

BOWLING A Super Over must feel different from delivering the 20th over of a chase in a T20. It has the quality of a set-piece about it. Cut off from the rest of the game, adrift in a parallel universe with its own set of rules, it has the whiff of a Fast Draw about it. Some bowlers just seem better equipped to handle it.

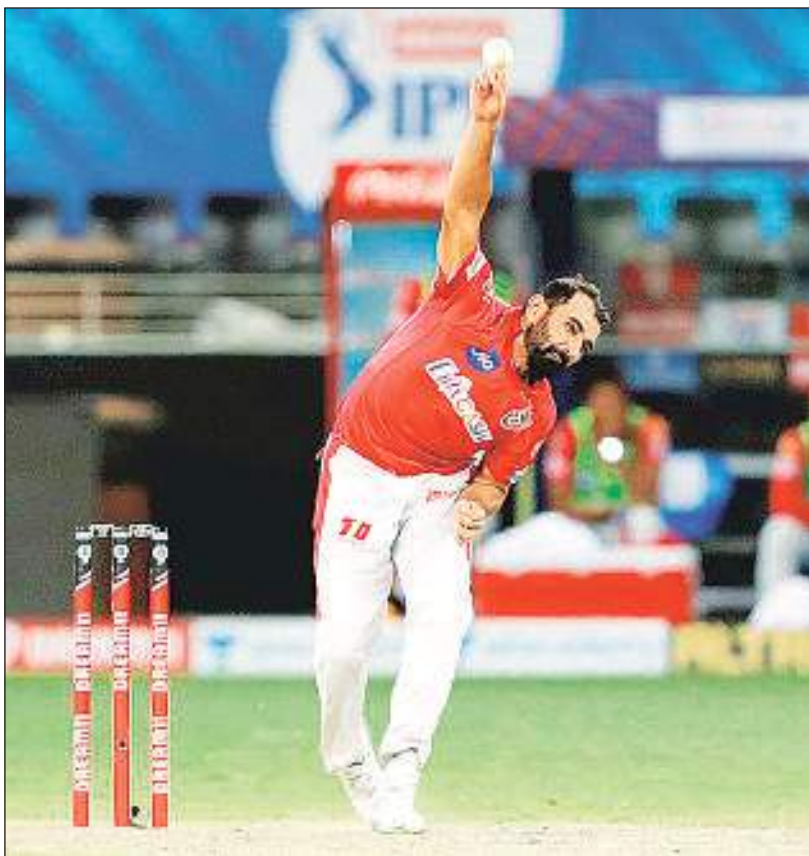
And so, when Mohammad Shami lingered at the top of his run-up, with just five runs to defend, not many would have felt he would be able to do it, as Kings XI Punjab's survival was at stake in the IPL, and Mumbai Indians' Quinton de Kock and Rohit Sharma were at the crease. Jasprit Bumrah's brilliance, when MI bowled in the first Super Over, had restricted the victory target to a very chaseable one. Unsurprisingly, Bumrah had gone with yorkers.

Shami has the yorker but doesn't rely on it. He likes to mix them up, often choosing back-of-length balls, bouncers or slower ones. In this tournament, he has even shown a child-like joyous obsession with his knuckle-ball slower ones. He took out Virat Kohli with a knuckle-ball bouncer, a variety he uses sparingly. He held his arms aloft, a smile rapidly filled his face, and had a look of joy as he glanced at Kohli, before his eyes jerked away. Subsequently, in that game and in the ones that followed, the knuckle ball has bled boundaries too.

Shami's reluctance to go all-yorkers in the past has been understandable as he doesn't have the control of a Bumrah. It has, every now and then, slipped out as a full toss, under pressure. Typically, he goes for an assortment of deliveries in the end overs, in the belief that variety would work in T20s. And to be fair, it has worked, even if a bit inconsistently. And the batsmen with their ramp shots and reverse laps rack up the pressure to get the yorker inch-perfect, resulting in most bowlers losing their nerve.

Clear plan, great execution

"He (Shami) was very clear he wanted to go six yorkers," KXIP captain KL Rahul said after the match. That's a surprise, a pleasant one. He hasn't always shown that sort of clarity in the past. Without a clear focus, the Super Over



Mohammed Shami defended six runs against Mumbai's Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock during the first Super Over.

BCCI

must feel like an untameable beast.

Last year, in a successful Super Over face-off against Kolkata Knight Riders, Delhi Capitals' Kagiso Rabada had talked about his choice of yorkers. "In the regular 20 overs, yorkers was Plan B. In the Super Over, it was Plan A. (Some days) you can be positive with two things you want to do, today it was just yorkers."

Rabada also made it clear that he had decided on yorkers before he took the field for that Super Over. As did Shami, with his predetermined clarity.

The choice of weapon was perhaps dictated by the batsmen - Sharma and de Kock.

Both don't move around their crease too much; they certainly don't ramp too well and aren't known for their lap shots. They might try, as they did, but it doesn't have the threat of a Jos Buttler.

Different mindset

Both are explosive batsmen but are essentially openers and don't carry the aura of a marauding big hitter. In the bowler's mind, the threat is different. Especially, when Shami had decided he was going with yorkers. The two openers might be best equipped skill-wise to put away a seaming or swinging delivery to the rope, but yorkers are different. These two

perhaps, since it was Shami, the two batsmen were also unsure if he would go all-yorkers on them. That might have influenced some of their decision-making and reflected in some of the weak shots they played. Shami had done the unthinkable.

How Champions League will change during the pandemic

TUSHAR BHADURI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

Europe's biggest clubs begin their quest for the Holy Grail, the UEFA Champions League, on Tuesday, but though the prestige and glory associated with it remains intact, the competition has introduced some regulations in light of the 'new normal' that the world is facing.

Bayern Munich were crowned champions of the continent less than two months ago.

They haven't had too long to celebrate as they open their title defence against Atletico Madrid on Wednesday. The late finish to last season has not only reduced the gap with the new season, it has also curtailed the time between two ties in this campaign.

What happened last season?

After football resumed after months of hiatus, UEFA was forced to stage the tournament, quarterfinals onwards, behind closed doors in Lisbon.

The last-eight and last-four stage matches were one-off affairs and not played on home-and-away basis as was usually the case.

The competition finished almost three months behind schedule.

How is the scheduling this season?

UEFA says the season "will be played out in its entirety, in its existing (traditional) format with the final in Istanbul" on May 29 next year. The Turkish city was due to host the showpiece game last season before the pandemic intervened.

Is it more hectic than ever?

The six rounds of group games - that begin on Tuesday - are scheduled to be over on December 9, i.e. in eight weeks. In contrast, last season's group stage ran for a week short of three months.

The Round of 16 ties will be held in February-March with the quarterfinals in the first half of April and the semifinals in late April and early May.

Will there be spectators at venues?

UEFA will allow fans at stadiums "at a maximum of 30 per cent of capacity", but whether spectators are allowed is dependent on local administrations.

What do new regulations state on the minimum number of players?

With coronavirus cases on the rise in the football world, including one of the biggest stars Cristiano Ronaldo, UEFA has put measures in place to ensure that its



Man United's Edison Cavani could get a chance to face his former club PSG.

premier club competition can proceed on schedule. Matches can go ahead if each team has at least 13 fit players, including a goalkeeper.

What's the way out if the host city for a match doesn't allow visitors?

With coronavirus cases on the rise in the football world, including one of the biggest stars Cristiano Ronaldo, UEFA has put measures in place to ensure that its premier club competition can proceed on schedule. Matches can go ahead if each team has at least 13 fit players, including a goalkeeper.

If there are travel restrictions in place for a host city, a game can be played at the away venue or even a neutral venue.

What if a team refuses to take to the pitch?

If a team refuses to play or is considered responsible for the match not taking place, they will be deemed to have forfeited the game.

If this applies to both the teams in question, both will be disqualified.

What if infections render a team unable to play?

If a team has players and/or officials testing positive for COVID-19 and as a result, unable to play the match before the deadline set by UEFA, they will be deemed to have forfeited the game.

Even if postponements are unavoidable, the group stage has to be completed latest by January 28.

SHAMI IN 1ST SUPER OVER

0.1 (1 RUN): A wide-low yorker, de Kock tries to ramp on the full.

0.2 (1 RUN): Sharma attempts an inside-out to a full ball.

0.3 (1 RUN): Wide yorker to de Kock, hits to deep cover

0.4 (NO RUN): A yorker to Sharma.

0.5 (1 RUN): Another yorker, Sharma tries the ramp shot

0.6 (1 RUN, WICKET/RUN OUT): Wide Yorker again, de Kock hits to extra cover.

batsmen also don't use the crease fully. A Pollard would have either gone well outside the crease or retreated back to try getting under the ball. With just five runs to overhaul, these two didn't feel the necessity to extend themselves thus. They perhaps thought this could be done the traditional way.

"When you are nailing them (yorkers), it seems to be happening automatically. When you are not, it's a completely different story," Rabada again, from last year.

In the here and now, Shami ran in to bowl.

His first ball was an attempted yorker outside off. It ended up as a low full-toss, which de Kock tried to ramp, unsuccessfully. Rohit faced the next ball, another attempted yorker, and scored another single, trying to play it inside-out. The third ball was a wide yorker. Once again, de Kock couldn't force the pace.

Shami's fourth ball was a dot, a copybook yorker that Rohit tried to play opening the face of the bat to try beating short third man and backward point but couldn't pierce the gap. Fifth ball, and Shami nailed his yorker again. Rohit attempted a ramp, got an outside edge and scampered a single. Two runs to get off the final delivery, and another excellent yorker restricted the scoring to one, as de Kock was run out, going for the second.

Perhaps, since it was Shami, the two batsmen were also unsure if he would go all-yorkers on them. That might have influenced some of their decision-making and reflected in some of the weak shots they played. Shami had done the unthinkable.

KEY CLASHES

Man United vs PSG

Chelsea vs Sevilla

Barcelona vs Ferencvárosi TC

TV GUIDE: Live Sony Ten 2 and Sony Ten 2 HD from 12:30 am (Wed)

How many substitutes are allowed?

As was the case with 'Project Restart' at the end of last season, five substitutions will be allowed per team in a match. A sixth will be allowed if a knockout game goes into extra-time.

But there will be only three opportunities to make substitutions (four if there's extra-time). There can be a maximum of 12 players on the substitutes' bench.

CSK's hopes seem all but over after RR defeat

SYNOPSIS

Buttler takes Royals home after CSK's muddled batting approach

VISHAL MENON
OCTOBER 19

THERE IS a sense of impending doom every time MS Dhoni gets run out. A lacklustre batting performance notwithstanding, Chennai Super Kings seamers provided a glimmer of hope when they had Rajasthan Royals in strife at 28/3.

Ultimately, it was Jos Buttler's masterful unbeaten 48-ball 70 that steered them through choppy waters.

The 7-wicket win catapulted Steve Smith's team to fifth spot in the points table, and with a chance of clinching a spot in the playoffs. For bottom-placed CSK, they could do with a bit of soul-searching.

CSK's muddled batting approach

Rarely does one see bowlers exerting complete control over batsmen in an IPL game. That's exactly what transpired when Chennai Super Kings batsmen were up against Rajasthan Royals in Abu Dhabi on Monday evening. They were facing a fiery Jofra Archer and two disciplined leg-spinners in Shreyas Gopal and Rahul Tewatia, on a slow, gripping surface.

Despite these challenges, there was no excuse for their shoddy batting performance. A score of 125/5 was pretty abysmal, one that hardly gave their bowlers a chance. The real issue was the utter lack of intent from their batsmen. Chennai lost their two in-form batsmen - Faf du Plessis and Shane Watson - inside the Powerplay. In the eight overs after the field restrictions, CSK choked under the pressure applied by the Royals' spinners.

Bowling in tandem, Gopal and Tewatia conceded just 32 runs and removed Sam Curran and Ambati Rayudu. From 43/2 after six overs, Chennai stuttered to 85/4 in the 14th over. The only crumb of comfort came during a 51-run fifth-wicket stand between Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja. But even this partnership did little to drag them to a position of respectability. The CSK captain, who has looked a pale shadow of himself in this tournament, not only struggled with his timing, as the big hits also deserted him. Dhoni's gamble of keeping wickets intact for a potential blitzkrieg in the end never paid off as he was run out in the 18th over for a run-a-ball 28.

Buttler takes Royals home

Shane Warne calls Jos Buttler his cricketing crush. For good reason. Over the years, the wicketkeeper-batsman has been an irresistible force in the shorter formats for England and Rajasthan Royals. Barring that 70 in the lost cause against Mumbai Indians, this season had been a grind for the 30-year-old. But he came with a typical counter-attacking knock that eased his team to victory on Monday.

What made the knock more impressive were the circumstances under which it was orchestrated.

In pursuit of 126, the Royals had lost three wickets upfront for precious little on the board when Buttler walked out to bat. But he absorbed the pressure and took control of proceedings to ace the chase.

The unbeaten 98-run stand with Smith took Royals past the finish line with the captain playing second fiddle.

BRIEF SCORES: RR 126/3 in 17.3 overs (Jos Buttler 70 not out) beat CSK 125/5 (Ravindra Jadeja 35 not out, Jofra Archer 1/20, Shreyas Gopal 1/14) by 7 wickets.

Conquering mind to rule court: Swiatek's secret to French Open triumph

GAURAV BHATT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 19

WHEN ROLAND Garros announced the new date for women's singles final, October 10, sports psychologist Daria Abramowicz turned to then-unheralded Iga Swiatek and said: "Okay, now you can give me the best birthday gift." Her ward responded by becoming Poland's first Grand Slam singles champion on Abramowicz's birthday - also, incidentally, the World Mental Health Day.

"The psychological work is very complex and continues all the time. Daria understands me very well and we talk a lot. She just made me smarter," Swiatek told reporters after winning the French Open without dropping a set. "You should not think that a psychologist is for people with problems, I think he is also for people who want to develop. The work that we do with Daria may not be ideal for everyone, because not everyone would be ready to allow a team member into their lives, but my advice is to try and see how it works."

It's not every day that a 19-year-old athlete realises the importance of having a mental

health professional by her side, let alone advocating for others to do the same. And Abramowicz couldn't be prouder.

"I respect that a lot," Abramowicz tells *The Indian Express*. "I appreciate that she's willing to talk about it. And it won't be an exaggeration to say that I'm proud of her because it's not an easy topic to speak about. But I do believe, as a coach, and as an athlete for many, many years, that it is very important."

Abramowicz, 33, took up sailing at five and competed in the Olympic single-handed dinghy class before an injury forced her to retire. It was during her time as a competitor that she realised that a high-performance athlete's struggles could be more than just physical or technical.

"I was 15 and competing in the European tournament. And I remember that I was sailing absolutely perfectly during training sessions just before the competition, and then something happened. I didn't know what it was, and the coach couldn't explain it to me. Other people couldn't explain it to me. The internet wasn't so popular, we didn't have many sources of knowledge or experience. I didn't know but I wanted to know."

She coached Poland's national sailing team for ten years, studied psychology and transitioned into working with cyclists and swimmers. The association with Swiatek began last year.

Covid-19 impact

Abramowicz believes a similar desire to learn and know more about mental health has been the silver lining of the Covid-19.

"The pandemic has shown not only the sports environment but the society, that mental health is important in terms of a satisfying, secure life. In my experience, a lot of athletes, teams, coaches, parents have decided that it might be a good time to start working on this side of sports development, not only high performance," she says.

The pandemic break also worked for Swiatek. "In her second professional season, there were the finals at school, the Tokyo Olympics... that would be a lot for Iga in one year. It is a little bit fortunate for her some ways, but on the other hand, we worked a lot to cope with other factors," Abramowicz adds.

Like getting used to the tennis bubble and the lack of crowd, "strange and uncomfortable"

for Swiatek "because she loves those interactions." For Swiatek, Abramowicz channelled the youngster's love for AC/DC, Pink Floyd and Guns N' Roses and advanced mathematics into tools. Throughout the French Open, Swiatek would march on to the court with 'Welcome to the Jungle' pumping through her earphones. For the final against Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin, Abramowicz changed it to soothing jazz because the GnR number was "a little bit too loud and energetic and too fast for that."

"We have a lot of research in terms of music's influence on the performance, but it's even simpler because she loves music, it's an important part of our life. I thought, let's use it in our work. The same was with maths when I first saw her solving problems before a competition. Use these things for her training and it becomes an enjoyable approach."

It's been little over a week since that day of double celebration in Paris, and Team Swiatek is on a little vacation together.

"The other day, I asked her, 'after nine weeks on the road together, if we're still not fed up with each other and want to spend more time together, we must be doing something right,'" Abramowicz laughs.



Sports psychologist Daria Abramowicz (extreme left) has played a prominent role in French Open champion Iga Swiatek's rise.

Instagram