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BILLS GET SUPPORT FROM ALL PARTIES, BJP ABSENT

Punjab Assembly rejects Centre's farm laws, clears own with MSP benchmark

If Governor does not give assent, will seek legal recourse, says Amarinder



Punjab CM Amarinder Singh in the Assembly, Tuesday. PTI

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 20

STRIKING DOWN key provisions of the Centre's new farm laws, and barring the sale and purchase of wheat or paddy below the MSP, almost all political parties in the Punjab Assembly cut across party lines Tuesday to pass four new state farm Bills, in-

cluding three amendment Bills, to counter the central laws cleared last month.

Except for the two BJP MLAs — Arun Sood from Fazilka and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED What the Bills really mean

APART FROM the Governor, the Punjab government's new farm Bills need the assent of the President since they seek to amend laws passed by the central government. If not, they can at best serve as a symbolic political statement against the Centre's farm laws.

Chhattisgarh plan hits Raj Bhavan wall, Rajasthan looks at special session too

MANOJ C G, GARGI VERMA & HAMZA KHAN
NEW DELHI, RAIPUR, JAIPUR, OCTOBER 20

AS THE Punjab Assembly passed Bills to counter the central government's farm laws, Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh's plan to follow suit ran into rough weather with Governor Anusuiya Uikkey ques-

tioning the state government's proposal to convene a special House session in October-end.

A third Congress-ruled state, Rajasthan, is also planning to convene an Assembly session to pass a legislation to nullify the farm laws. "We will convene the Assembly soon," Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot told *The Indian Express*. Later, the

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Covid not gone, can't be careless, cautions PM as festival season begins

Underlines use of masks, distancing, do gaz ki doori in address to nation

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

CAUTIONING THE nation that while the lockdown is over, the coronavirus is still there, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the people not to be careless and lower their guard during the festival season.

The battle against Covid-19 would not be over and successful until a vaccine was found, the Prime Minister said.

"In this festive season, the markets are bright again but we should not forget that the lockdown might have ended but Covid-19 still persists," Modi said in a 12-minute address to the nation on Tuesday evening.

"With the efforts of every Indian over the last 7-8 months, India is in a stable situation, and we must not let it deteriorate. We should improve it further," he said.

The Prime Minister spoke in the backdrop of repeated warn-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address to the nation on Tuesday. ANI

ings by experts that with nearly all activities having returned to normal, the festival season may result in a surge of infections.

This was Modi's seventh address to the nation since the outbreak of the pandemic. Since June, India has gradually lifted the curbs that were imposed with the lockdown in March.

Every Indian has struggled during the pandemic, the Prime Minister said, but the economic situation has now begun to slowly improve.

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Multiple IDs will be used to give Covid vaccine: govt

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

SEVERAL IDs apart from the unique digital health ID under the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) would be prescribed for the Covid-19 vaccination drive expected next year, the government said on Tuesday.

Dr Balram Bhargava, director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said that experimental convalescent plasma therapy was likely to be removed from the national clinical management protocol for the disease, based on evidence that has emerged from the world's largest clinical trial, which was conducted in India.

Asked whether the NDHM digital ID would be mandatory

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Twist in TRP case: UP Police file own FIR; case with CBI

Central agency enters picture as Republic tells HC to take case away from 'biased' Mumbai Police

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & OMKAR GOKHALE
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, OCT 20

EVEN AS the Bombay High Court is hearing a petition by Republic TV against Mumbai Police for lodging an FIR against the channel for allegedly fudging TRPs, police in Uttar Pradesh have registered a similar FIR against "unknown" channels and persons.

On Tuesday, the Centre transferred the UP case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which promptly registered an FIR. Sources in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), which has administrative control over CBI, said that after registration of the FIR by UP Police on October 17, the state government sent a request to the Centre for the case to be handed over to CBI. "The notification has been issued today by the Ministry for takeover of the case," a Ministry official said.

A CBI official said, "The FIR has been registered. It is against unknown people and is a reproduction of the FIR registered by UP Police."

UP Police registered the FIR at Lucknow's Hazratganj police station based on a complaint from one Kamal Sharma, who claims to run a media and advertising business called Golden Rabbit Communications.

In his complaint, which is part of the FIR, Sharma has alleged, "I have reliable information that certain unknown accused have in furtherance of a common intention, entered into a criminal conspiracy to cheat/attempt to cheat and also to commit the offence of criminal breach of trust, forgery and in the process gain wrongfully by manipulating Television Rating Points, commonly referred to as TRPs."

The FIR does not mention any accused, making it an "open" FIR, which means every TV channel

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Rahul pulls up Nath for comment on minister, she says insulted all women

IRAM SIDDIQUE & MANOJ CG
BHOPAL, NEW DELHI, OCT 20

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday disapproved of party colleague Kamal Nath's remarks against BJP leader Imarti Devi, saying he did not appreciate the use of such language and that it was "unfortunate".

Nath, however, stuck to his guns and, in fact, said Gandhi's remarks were "his views".

On Sunday, while campaigning for the Congress candidate in Dabra, one of the 28 Assembly seats in the state where bypolls will be held on November 3, Nath had referred to Devi, who is a Cabinet minister in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan govern-



Nath says that's Rahul's view; Imarti Devi asks Sonia to act

ment, as an "item".

Talking to reporters in his Lok Sabha constituency of Wayanad in Kerala, Gandhi said, "Kamal Nath ji is from my party. But I don't personally like the type of language that (he) has used. I don't appreciate (it). I think it is unfortunate. But as a general statement, our treatment of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav at a rally in Aurangabad on Tuesday. ANI

Tejashwi works campaign crowd with promise of jobs and change

JD(U) counters with Nitish crowd images

DIPANKAR GHOSE
PATNA, OCTOBER 20

ACROSS RALLIES, the images are much the same. Crowds packed in, with very few masks and no social distancing. But right from when RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's helicopter begins to descend, they begin cheering wildly, and then follow him in a wave as he walks to the stage, and speaks.

With the first phase of polling for the Bihar Assembly elections a week away, the crowds that are turning up to hear Tejashwi, the

Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial candidate, at his rallies are becoming a talking point. While the RJD is reading this as a sign that people in the state are ready for change, the ruling JD(U) is at pains to explain that the turnout at rallies are no measure of vote transferability.

What seems to be enthralling the crowd most is Yadav's promise — one that he makes in each of his speeches — of 10 lakh government jobs in his first act as chief minister. In his last rally of the day in Paliganj on Tuesday, Yadav told the crowd to loud

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DECISION 2020 BIHAR



IN YADAV SEAT NEAR PATNA, LJP SCARE MAKES NDA TASK HARDER PAGE 6

FULL COVERAGE, VISIT WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

NGT red-flags Kaleshwaram project: Green clearance was in violation of law, halt work

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 20

DECLARING THE environmental clearance (EC) granted to the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation system in Telangana as *ex post facto* (retroactive, after it is done) and illegal, the National Green Tribunal has directed the Telangana government to stop all work, except the drinking water component of the project, until further orders. The Tribunal's principal



The project is meant to provide drinking and irrigation water to nearly 45 lakh acres in 20 districts of Telangana. File

bench in New Delhi also directed the state government to obtain forest clearance before moving ahead with the project. The Kaleshwaram Multipurpose Lift Irrigation Project, the world's largest irrigation and drinking water system, was inaugurated last year by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. It is meant to provide water for drinking and irrigation to nearly 45 lakh acres in 20 of 31 districts of Telangana, apart from

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BUSINESS AS USUAL



‘Tried convincing my mother to get sterilised... gave her my example’

Death of a woman in MP village in her 16th pregnancy shows gaps in the system — and inside a home

IRAM SIDDIQUE
DAMOH, (MADHYA PRADESH), OCTOBER 20

REGRET IS all that now consumes 23-year-old Savitha who tries to calm her two-year-old brother as he yearns for the comfort of his mother. His cries engulf the Ahirwar family's two-room mud house that stands on the outskirts of Padhjari village in Batiyagarh tehsil of Damoh

district. It has been a week since Sukhrani Ahirwar, Savitha's 45-year-old mother, bled to death on her way to a government hospital less than 5 km from their hut. Not many in the local health system were surprised — she had delivered a still-born and this was her 16th pregnancy.

"I tried convincing my mother to get sterilised but she and my father did not agree. I told her about how I myself had

registered for sterilisation without informing my in-laws and got operated upon," says Savitha, recounting her last visit to her mother two years ago. Sukhrani was then pregnant for the 15th time and was severely ill.

Sukhrani's records with Kallo Bai Vishwakarma, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) of Padhjari village, show that she delivered her first child (a girl) in 1997 and had four more daughters. In her sixth pregnancy in



Sukhrani Ahirwar's family in Padhjari village of Damoh district. Iram Siddique

2005, she delivered twins, a boy and a girl. Her pregnancies continued, and between 2009 and 2020, she delivered five more children and had three abortions. In all, she lost eight children.

Vishwakarma said she did take Sukhrani to a medical camp and tried to convince her to get sterilised but after the initial testing, Sukhrani slipped away, allegedly under pressure from her husband.

It was not only Savitha who worried about Sukhrani. Her records worried the district administration too. According to R R Bagri, Chief Medical Officer of Batiyagarh civic hospital,

Sukhrani was counselled and advised sterilisation after her 15th pregnancy. "But she was hesitant and thought that she had already crossed 40 and would soon hit menopause. If her daughters had been with her, they could have convinced her," said Bagri. The administration could do little without her consent.

While Sukhrani believed she had hit menopause, in July this year it came to light that she was five months pregnant at the age of 45. She visited the hospital only in September when she was seven months pregnant.

Sukhrani's husband Dullah

works as a farm labourer. He had to borrow money when his wife was identified as a "high-risk pregnancy" by the civic hospital in Hatta, an adjacent block, and advised consultation with a gynaecologist along with a sonography at the district hospital, about 40 km away.

"We got the sonography done. We spent about Rs 40,000 on tests and medicines," said Dullah, who had taken her to a private hospital in Damoh, since they did not have an Ayushman Bharat card which entitled BPL families for a medical cover of Rs 5 lakh.

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TECHNOLOGY



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Sony recently revealed the Indian pricing details for console

TRENDING



PAIN IN EARS WHILE WEARING MASKS?

Class XII student made a headband that helps reduce pressure on ears

EXPRESS AUDIO

Why Australia taking part in the Malabar naval exercises matters

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode we're looking at the importance of all four nations that are part of the informal grouping of the Quad participating in a naval exercise

FROM PAGE ONE

Punjab House

Dinesh Singh from Sujampur, who were absent — representatives of all other parties, including Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Lok Insaaf Party (LIP) voted in favour of the state Bills and a resolution against the central laws. The move comes as a relief for the state government led by Capt Amarinder Singh after intense pressure from the Opposition SAD after it quit the NDA government at the Centre over the farm laws that triggered widespread protests in the state.

The state Bills will now have to gain the assent of Punjab Governor V P S Badore, and the President. Speaking to reporters after he had led all the MLAs to Raj Bhavan to submit the House resolution, the Chief Minister said that if the Governor does not give his assent to the Bills, his government would seek legal recourse. Asked about the possibility of the Centre imposing President's Rule in the state, Amarinder said: "Let's wait and see, we will move step by step. But if the situation comes to such a pass, the Centre won't have to dismiss me, I am carrying my resignation in my pocket and will give it willingly." Responding to Punjab's move,

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar said the Bills would be examined once they come to the Centre.

"It has come to my knowledge that the Punjab Assembly has passed a law in relation to the Agricultural Reform Acts. When these laws come to the Centre, the Government of India will examine and take action in the interest of farmers," Tomar said in a statement.

Under Article 254(2) of the Constitution, a state can make changes to a central legislation on a subject on the concurrent list provided its law gets Presidential assent. In the Assembly, the BJP came in for sharp attack from the Congress over the absence of its two MLAs, with Minister for Jails Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa describing the BJP MLAs as "gaddar" (traitors).

(WITH HARIKISHAN SHARMA/DELHI)

Chhattisgarh

Rajasthan Cabinet said it has decided to call a special session of the Assembly "to protect the interests of the farmers".

The Congress does not expect President Ram Nath Kovind to clear any move to circumvent the new farm laws but its leadership

believes that party-ruled states passing a counter Bill would be "a strong political statement".

On Tuesday, returning the proposal sent by the Chhattisgarh Cabinet to convene the Assembly on October 27 and 28, Governor Ukiye pointed out that the Monsoon Session had concluded only 58 days ago.

Chhattisgarh Legislative Affairs and Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey told *The Indian Express* that his government has sent a revised proposal to the Governor. "The Supreme Court has made it clear that the Governor cannot make any change in dates sought by a duly elected government, which enjoys the majority, for convening the Assembly," he said.

The Chhattisgarh Governor's comment on the file sent by the government is being seen as another point of contention between the state and the Governor.

Meanwhile, asked whether his government is planning to pass its own farm Bills, Rajasthan Chief Minister Gehlot said: "We are examining how to do it. We want to protect the interests of farmers. I had a meeting yesterday where I reviewed the issue. We have sought the opinion of the Advocate General. We have also sought the views of the

Agriculture (department)... agricultural marketing. We will take a decision taking into consideration all their views," he said.

Rahul Gandhi

women... at all levels leaves a lot to be improved... whether it is in law and order, whether it is in just basic respect, whether it is in how much space they are accorded in business, in government, in other areas... I don't appreciate this type of language regardless of who is using it."

Asked about Gandhi's comments, Nath told reporters in Bhopal, "Ab wo Rahulji ki rai hai (That's his view). Aur unko jo samjhaya gaya ki kis sandarbh mein maine yeh kaha tha... I have already made it clear in what context I said that. There is nothing more to be said."

On whether he would tender an apology, the former CM and Madhya Pradesh Congress chief said, "Main kyun maafi magoonga (Why should I apologise)? I have said that my intention was not to insult anyone. If somebody feels insulted... I express my regret. That is what I said yesterday."

Devi, one of the 22 MLAs in the Jyotiraditya Scindia camp who resigned in March, bringing down the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh, told *The*

Indian Express on Tuesday that Nath had ended up insulting "all the women of Madhya Pradesh and India".

Devi, 45, is a third-time MLA from Dabra, a seat reserved for SC candidates.

She said that in her 10 years in the Congress, no one had ever used "such language" for her.

When the Nath-led Congress government came to power in 2018, Imarti Devi, who dropped out after Class 12, was made Cabinet minister for Women and Child Development. She found herself at the receiving end of Internet memes after last year's Republic Day function in Gwalior, where she failed to read her speech and had to ask the Shivpuri collector for help.

During her tenure as minister in the Congress government, she tried to introduce eggs in anganwadis as part of the midday meals, a move that the opposition BJP vehemently opposed.

Tejashwi

cheers: "Ek mauka milega, toh jis din peh mantrimandal ki baithak hogi, pehli baar mukhyamantri hote hue pen chalegi, toh desh ke itihaas mein pehli baar ek saath 10 lakh naujawaan ko ikatthe sarkari naukri milega." Loosely translated, it means that if given a chance, he will sign on his promise of 10 lakh government jobs on his first day in office.

Given Bihar's long history of caste and social justice politics, those gauging the Opposition's chances have largely stuck to seeing whether the RJD can expand beyond its core voter base of Yadavs and Muslims.

RJD leaders, however, believe that the rallies are proof that this conventional wisdom may not hold true for 2020, a year of deep economic distress.

RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha told *The Indian Express*, "There is a rigid arithmetic some people in Delhi follow. But that rigidity of caste arithmetic is breaking. Whether it is breaking 35 per cent or 30 per cent, I can't tell you... What I can say for sure is that it is breaking."

In a sign that Tejashwi's rallies are having an effect on the rival JDU camp, party working president Ashok Choudhary recently posted photographs of a rally Nitish Kumar held in Bhore in Gopalganj, where a sizeable crowd had turned up.

"...Opponents should not be scared while looking at the

crowd. Please see, so-called youth leader Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD and Tej Pratap Singh, the sons of Lalu Prasad. This is the love and respect Nitish Kumar gets," he tweeted.

And yet, the pictures tell the story. While Yadav's rallies are chaotic, with the crowds almost surging on to the stage, the CM's are more orderly. In the Gopalganj rally, as in many others, the crowds were at least 20 metres away from the stage, and while masks and social distancing were in short supply here, too, most participants sat on chairs under a shamiana.

Jha said the spontaneity at Yadav's rallies was because he had become the "face of Bihar versus Nitish Kumar". "We have seen huge crowds before, but what is interesting is that this is an interactive, active crowd. This crowd has not come to listen to the leader, it has come to engage with the leader," he said.

Senior JDU spokesperson Arvind Nishad, however, dismissed the numbers at Tejashwi's rallies. "Those who come to Nitish Kumar's rallies are the chuppa (silent) voters. He only knows how to come and show his support by voting," he said.

AMU doctor

stated: "This is to inform you that as directed by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Tariq Mansoor via telephone on 20.10.2020 at 11:14 am, your appointment on the post of Medical Officer, Emergency & Trauma, JNMCH, is rejected with immediate effect. Therefore, you are requested not to perform any further duties."

The AMU administration, when contacted, said: "The administration has not suspended any doctor related to Hathras incident. Two months back, there were vacancies because existing CMOs took leave. Few of them were infected with Covid. There was an emergency and the two doctors — Dr Malik and Dr Haque — were only appointed to fill the 'leave vacancies'. Now that the CMOs are back, there are no leave vacancies, hence their services are not required."

Later, the AMU administration said: "It has come to our notice that the doctors aren't happy with the decision. We are looking into their grievances and they might be adjusted somewhere else in the hospital."

Shafey Kidwai, professor and member-in-charge of public rela-

tions at AMU, said: "The university has not suspended any doctor for giving interviews related to the Hathras incident to the media. The two doctors worked on leave vacancy and their terms expired on October 8, but they attended the hospital and signed on some medico-legal cases. Hence, if CMO recommends their extension, the university may consider it."

Dr Haque said: "I was last paid in August. I worked during the pandemic and risked my life and now they have terminated us because Dr Malik spoke to the media and they think that I leaked information... We still don't have a written statement from the Vice-Chancellor about this... This is sad, we didn't do anything wrong." The MLC attested by Dr Haque had, under "provisional opinion", referred to "signs of use of force".

Dr Malik, when contacted, also said he wasn't given last month's salary and was "scolded" by his seniors because he had given his "personal opinion" to the media.

"Earlier I was scolded but they didn't do anything. Late in September, I had filed my application for an extension, but they have rejected it a month later. We have been terminated and they have not given us any reason," he said.

V-C Tariq and chief medical superintendent Dr Shahid Ali Siddiqui did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment.

TRP case

could be investigated. It has invoked Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 34 (common intention), 406, 408 and 409 (all dealing with criminal breach of trust), and 420 (cheating) of the IPC.

On October 6, Mumbai Police had registered an FIR alleging the fudging of TRPs by certain TV channels. It later said at a press conference that investigations had found that three channels, including Republic TV, were prima facie involved in manipulating TRPs.

The new development comes when counsel for Republic TV Harish Salve has asked the Bombay High Court to transfer the Mumbai Police case to the CBI.

The UP FIR describes how important TRPs are for advertisers and investors, and the way in which they are manipulated by certain channels. The complaint attached with the FIR also asked for an examination of the role of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC), the industry body that publishes the TRPs.

"If BARC functions partially by tweaking the data pertaining to TRP as a result of conspiracy to favour certain channels, not only can there be serious repercussions... it would also cause financial benefit (wrongful gain) to the channel in whose favour such manipulation... is done."

The writ petition filed by ARG Outlier Media Pvt Ltd, Republic TV's parent company, stated that the Mumbai Police were "determined to falsely implicate" the channel and "silence (its) news reporting", and asked for the case to be transferred to the CBI.

"It is important to entrust the investigation to centralised agency to repose faith of all stakeholders and any investigation to be carried out by Mumbai Police in a premeditated and pre-planned manner to implicate the petitioners will have ripple effect on the TV industry but also set a very wrong precedent for future investigations."

Teltumbde

and classes after approval in Central Committee Member meetings," it claims.

While denying such charges during the probe, Teltumbde had said that his visits abroad for academic conferences were through

official invitations and well-documented.

The chargesheet, which was filed on October 9 before a special court in Mumbai, also includes a statement by a witness claiming that he recalled Teltumbde making a statement during a meeting to "reinvent Dalit militancy as well as revolutionary resurgence under Maoist leadership".

Citing statements of witnesses, the NIA has claimed that Milind visited various cities, including Pune, Chandrapur, Bhopal and Indore, and would meet Teltumbde "for taking guidance to advance the movement of CPI (Maoist) in jungle as well as urban areas".

In an open letter written before his arrest, 70-year old Teltumbde had said: "Never in my worst dreams could I imagine the things that began happening to me. Although I was aware that the police used to visit the organisers of my lectures — mostly universities — and scare them with enquiries about me, I thought they might be mistaking me for my brother who left the family years ago."

The NIA took over the probe in January from the Pune police. It filed a supplementary chargesheet running into 10,000 pages against eight persons, including Teltumbde, activist-journalist Gautam Navlakha, Delhi University associate professor Hany Babu, three members of the cultural group Kabir Kala Manch, Jharkhand-based Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist Stan Swamy, and Milind.

On Navlakha, the NIA has cited claims by a witness that he wrote books on Maoists and visited jungles along with a Swedish writer and met Maoist leaders. Navlakha wrote for a weekly magazine.

"Gautam Navlakha always speaks of Left-oriented politics and had done fact-finding to further the ideology of CPI (Maoist), so he was a sympathiser of Maoists," the NIA quoted a witness as saying. The witness also claimed that Navlakha is a "very good friend" of arrested accused Telugu activist and poet Varavara Rao.

On Swamy, the chargesheet claims: "Since from the maximum part of the country, party members (of CPI Maoist) were arrested and the party was not having any face, so it gave responsibility to Stan Swamy as he was against the government. Stan Swamy is having his own identity. Stan Swamy is having his own NGO at Jharkhand."

The NIA has also recorded statements of witnesses who submitted that Babu and another accused Rona Wilson were "instrumental in arranging meetings and funds in support of G N Saibaba" who has been convicted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The chargesheet claims that Wilson was involved in organising legal support for political prisoners. "Rona and Hany Babu have inculcated Maoist sympathies in the students in Delhi and more specifically Dalit and students coming from other oppressed backgrounds," a witness is quoted as telling the NIA. The chargesheet also includes a statement by a witness claiming that he "had heard about Umar Khalid" being an urban party member.

On the three Kabir Kala Manch members — Sagar Gorkhe, Ramesh Gaichor and Jyoti Jagtap — the chargesheet claims that Milind used to discuss with them about the Elgar Parishad event held at Shanivara Wada in Pune on December 31, 2017. It alleges that with the help of these members and others, including social workers, teachers, advocates, doctors, the event's platform was to be used for spreading Maoist ideology.

FULL REPORTSON www.indianexpress.com

Bihar: What is at stake in India's first Covid election?

EXPRESS explained.Live

with

Suhas Palshikar
Political Scientist

The Assembly election in Bihar will be the first big democratic exercise in India — and among the biggest in the world — since the outbreak of Covid-19. It will also be one of the most consequential.

Nitish Kumar, last of the Mandal men who have dominated Bihar for 30 years, seeks one last shot at power.

A new generation — Tejashwi Yadav and Chirag Paswan, political heirs of Lalu Prasad and Ram Vilas Paswan — believes its time has come.

The BJP wants to finally establish Hindutva as the state's dominant political narrative.

Which way will Bihar go? What role will caste, traditionally the key to voting in Bihar, play? Will this election predict the future of identity politics in North India?

Will the context of the pandemic matter in any way?

Listen to Prof Suhas Palshikar, one of India's most insightful political scientists, answer some of these questions at the next session of **Explained.Live** — on the evening before the first phase of polling.

In conversation with

Vandita Mishra

National Opinion Editor, The Indian Express

27 OCT 2020

07:00 PM

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IAS TOPPERS

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3 THE CITY



TOTAL CASES	Total		Vacant	
	HOSPITAL BEDS	15,723	VENTILATORS	1,264
3,36,750	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
	Oct 19	2,154	2,845	31
	Oct 20	3,579	2,186	41
	Total	23,922*	3,06,747	6,081

*Total active cases: 40,83,476

ALMOST TWICE AS MANY MEN SUCCUMBED AS WOMEN Covid: Diabetes, hypertension combo proves especially deadly

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

ONE IN five people, who died of Covid-19 between March and October, were suffering from both diabetes mellitus and hypertension. These two co-morbid conditions were the most common, followed by pneumonia, Delhi government's reply to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by *The Indian Express* states.

Almost 45% of people did not have any co-morbid conditions. Data shows that between March 1 and September 30, 5,509 deaths were tagged as Covid deaths in the city. Complete age and gender data was available in 5,283 cases. Of these, 1,086 people were suffering from both diabetes mellitus and hypertension, following by 989 people who were suffering from pneumonia. 695 people had diabetes mellitus only and 678 had hypertension.

In Delhi, Covid deaths are categorised such by a Death Audit Committee set up in April. Not all those who died and tested positive for Covid are categorised as Covid deaths. The committee takes a call on how deaths are categorised. Several countries across the world have reported higher mortality among men as compared to women. This trend is visible in Delhi as well. Of the 5,283 deaths for which data is available, two thirds, or 66%, are male. The highest number of deaths – 2,697 – was seen in people between the ages of 51 and 70, data shows. Of those who succumbed to the dis-

CAPITAL'S COVID DEATHS

THE BREAK-UP

5,509 Covid positive deaths between March 1 and September 30*

Men **3,507** Women **1,776**

- Number of those with co-morbid conditions: 2,914
- Most common co-morbid condition: Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension
- Second most common co-morbid condition: Pneumonia

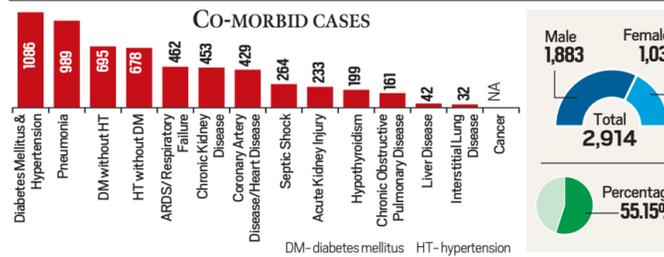


2,914 of 5,509 people who died of Covid-19 till September 30 were co-morbid. Archive

GENDER & AGE WISE CASE FATALITY

Age	<10 years	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	>80	TOTAL
Male	26	35	112	230	499	837	984	559	225	3,507
Female	11	49	67	120	280	431	445	258	115	1,776
Total	37	84	179	350	779	1,268	1,429	817	340	5,283
Percentage	0.70	1.59	3.39	6.63	14.75	24.00	27.05	15.46	6.44	100.00
Co-Morbidity	22	35	65	162	383	711	800	494	202	2,266

*Insufficient Data 226
Data subject to change depending upon updations received from sources



ease, co-morbidities were present in a over half the people. The age group for which co-morbid conditions were the smallest fraction of the total deaths was 21 to 30. Of the 179 people belonging to this age group who died, only 36 percent had any comorbidity. It was highest in the 71 and above

age group, where 60% of those who died had co-morbid conditions.

"The data clearly show diabetes and hypertension are the two diseases, which are also very common in the population, forming the high-risk group. If you look at most common co-

morbid conditions, these are in the top four. This is why in our messaging, we have been clear about highlighting the role of these conditions, along with the risk that comes with age," said a senior government official involved with Covid strategy planning.



Applications are invited from general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Group Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (details available at the Department website, ie. tpharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	Signature Infrabuild Pvt. Ltd.				
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 73 of 2019 dated 04.07.2019. Building Plan Approved on 30.09.2019 Memo No. ZP-1339/AD(RA)/2019/24562 Haryana RERA Registered No: 69 of 2019 Dated 14.11.2019				
3. Location	Sector 95, Gurugram, Haryana				
4. Provisions Project Area	285 no. of apartments available out of total 738 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 5.1125 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-creche of 2000 sq.ft.				
5. Apartment Details, Allotment Rates & Payment Terms	Apartment details				
Category (Type)	No of Units	Carpet Area sqft(approx)	Balcony Area sqft(approx)	Allotment Rate of Apartment (all inclusive)*	With application Booking amount 5%
2BHK TYPE -01	86	585.551	83.701	23,84,055	1,19,203
2BHK TYPE -02	34	594.065	82.151	24,17,336	1,20,867
2BHK TYPE -03	101	594.829	74.401	24,16,517	1,20,826
2BHK TYPE -04	27	592.860	85.703	24,14,292	1,20,715
2BHK TYPE -05	34	586.573	83.055	23,87,820	1,19,391
2BHK TYPE -07	3	548.889	99.589	22,45,351	1,12,268

(i) Balance 75% of the amount in six equated 6 monthly installment spanning over a period of three years. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment will bear penal interest as provided in Rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017.

6. Parking	Two-wheeler parking with each apartment
7. Broad Specifications of the Apartment	• Flooring: Rooms Vitrified Tiles, Kitchen Vitrified / Ceramic Tiles, Toilet Anti-Skid Ceramic Tiles, Balcony Anti-Skid / Matt Finish Ceramic Tiles, • Windows: M.S. Sections as per IS Codes / Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Doors Frame: Red Merandi / Mild Steel/ Aluminium Powder Coated / UPVC • Wall Tile: Ceramic Tiles till 4 Feet / 7 feet high & Oil Bound Distemper Above, • Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite • Wall: Oil Bond Distemper • Sanitary fitting: ISI marked CP Fittings, W.C & Washbasin • Electric Fitting: ISI Marked. Structure: RCC Frames Structure designed for SEISMIC forces as per latest IS code and NBC Recommendations.
8. Applications Timelines	(i) Applications can be procured & submitted at: Signature Infrabuild Pvt. Ltd., Corp. Office - Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City-1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001, 0124-4908200 by paying an application form fee of Rs 1,000/- starting from date 21.10.2020. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 10.11.2020. (iii) The list of Distribution and Collection centers is available on www.signatureglobal.in (iv) Application Forms & Facility of applying Online is also available at www.signatureglobal.in .

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any licenced colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UP or Chandigarh and NCT Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.
3. An applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony. In case, he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have choice of retaining only one flat.
Allotment Criteria: 1. The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.
2. After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.
3. For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Group Housing Policy 2013 vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 & amendment thereof (available at the Department website, i.e., tpharyana.gov.in).



SIGNATURE INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN : U70100DL2013PTC247676
Regd. Office: Unit No. 1310 at 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001
Corp. Office: Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City-1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001 | www.signatureglobal.in

HOME LOAN PARTNER



AVAIL INTEREST SUBSIDY BENEFITS OF ₹2.67 LAC (APPROX) UNDER PMAY (PRADHAN MANTRI AWASA YOJANA)

Promoter urges every applicant to inspect the project site and shall not merely rely upon or to be influenced by any architectural impression, plan or sales brochure and therefore, request to make personal judgment prior to submitting an application for allotment. The images shown here are indicative of design and for illustration purposes only. Further, the actual design may vary in fit and finished from the one displayed above. Project details / specifications can also be accessed at the office of Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website <https://haryanaera.gov.in>, Journey Time shown, if any, is based upon google maps which may vary as per traffic at relevant point of time. *Rate mentioned above does not include GST and other statutory charges, if applicable. *B & Apply, 1% up to = 10,000 sq. ft. **The subsidy offers as per the eligibility of the client's profile and the loan amount. This is the max amount of subsidy that a client can receive and the same goes with the loan amount too for availing the subsidy. Please note that the loan can be sanctioned more than 12 lacs but subsidy can be availed only till 12 lacs of loan amount.

7053-121-121

'Most unacceptable' if people don't get RT-PCR results within 24 hrs: HC

SOFIA AHSAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday said there have been repeated instances where RT-PCR test results were not made available to people within 24 hours, and called it "most unacceptable" that the time taken for results was still extending upto even four days.

The court asked the Delhi government in its next status report to clarify how the system is being streamlined to ensure the turnaround time for testing is adhered to. There is obviously "some lag" which must be addressed at earliest, observed the court, while hearing a petition filed by advocate Rakesh Malhotra regarding Delhi's Covid testing strategy.

"The direction is considered necessary in light of the fact that on most occasions where the samples are collected and sent to the laboratories for testing, the person who is tested is not given

any information about the results unless he/she tests positive. In other words, the person is completely in the dark about the results," the division bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium observed, adding there is no reason why results should not be communicated on the mobile phone to the persons. The court made the observations after taking note of recommendations made by an Expert Committee on the Testing Strategy, which said results should be available within 24 hours and suspected cases should ensure strict isolation till then.

"When the government has declared a complete unlockdown which requires all employed persons to report for duty regularly... nor can the self-employed persons/professionals be expected to remain in isolation unnecessarily, it is most unacceptable that turnaround for results is still far exceeding 24 hours and extending upto four days," said the court.

3 Covid cases in jails, time for inmates out on bail, parole to return: HC

SOFIA AHSAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday said it was time for prisoners out on interim bail or parole on account of Covid-19 pandemic to return to jails, after it was informed that only three inmates now suffer from Covid-19. A total of 6,711 inmates would have to surrender if the court decides not to extend its blanket order extending the interim bail and parole of prisoners.

The full bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Siddharth Mirudal and Justice Siddharth Singh was hearing a suo-motu case regarding extension in interim bails and parole. Directions were passed by the court earlier to decongest the city's jails to contain the spread of Covid-19 there.

"We are not concerned with the capacity of jails and the nature of offence. The order was passed only due to Covid and

only three persons are there... Hundred or two hundred or three hundred persons are not having Covid," Chief Justice Patel said.

However, the Delhi government's senior standing counsel (criminal) Rahul Mehra submitted the state has not brought anything before the court to show the decongestion has led to widespread crime in the city. Mehra also said Covid-19 by "no means is over in Delhi" and there are still a high number of cases.

Mehra also submitted it would be against the spirit of the Supreme Court judgement regarding decongestion of jails during the pandemic. However, CJ Patel observed the "Covid chapter" should close, adding that other avenues for bail and parole exist, and the power of the apex court's high-powered committee will still remain. "Let them surrender and get bail on merits... in a usual manner," he said.

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान गुवाहाटी
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
Guwahati - 781 039, Assam

Admission to PhD Programmes (December 2020)
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to PhD programmes. Online application process starts on 20.10.2020. For more details, please visit <https://www.iitg.ac.in/acad>.

ADVT. NO. - ACAD/Admissions/03/2020

SML ISUZU LIMITED
(Formerly known as Swaraj Mazda Limited)

Regd. Office : Village Aeron, Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar (Moga), Punjab-144533
Phone : 01881-270255, Fax: 01881-270223. CIN : L50101PS1983PLCO05510.
Email : investors@smlisuzu.com Website address : www.smlisuzu.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on 6th November, 2020 (Friday) to consider and approve the un-audited Financial Results for the second quarter ended on 30th September, 2020.

The information is also available on the Company's website www.smlisuzu.com and also on the website of the Stock Exchanges viz. BSE Limited-www.bseindia.com and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited-www.nseindia.com

For SML ISUZU LIMITED
(PARVESH MADANI)
Company Secretary

Dated: 20.10.2020
Place: Chandigarh

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN KATIYAR AND DELHI

It has been decided to run 04083/04084 Katihar-Delhi-Katihar Festival Special (Via Shahpur Patoree) trains to clear extra rush during Pujas/ Dipawali 2020. Details are as under:

ARR.	DEP.	STATION	ARR.	DEP.
-	23.50	Katihar	22.00	-
01.50	01.52	Khagaria	19.10	19.12
02.50	02.55	Barauni	17.40	17.45
05.10	05.15	Hajipur	15.40	15.45
09.35	09.45	Gorakhpur	11.25	11.35
19.35	19.43	Moradabad	01.55	02.03
22.50	-	Delhi	-	23.00

Other Commercial Stoppages : Naugachia, Begu Sarai, Chhapra, Sitapur, Bareilly and Ghaziabad.
Composition: AC-2 Tier (Two), AC-3 Tier (Four), Sleeper Class (Seven).
Brake, Luggage cum Generator Car (Two), UWS (Five) = 20 Coaches.
General Manager (Operations)

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN No. U40108JH2013SGC001702
Regd. Office : Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Telephone :-0651-2400799 & Fax : 0651-2400799 / <https://www.jbvnl.in>

e-procurement Notice

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited, Hq. Office at Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004, Jharkhand reschedule critical date of e-tender No. 39/ PR/JBVL/2020-21 to eligible Bidders for Engineering, Design, Supply, Installation and O&M Support of AMI System including AMI Software Applications, RF Canopy/4G"

Calendar of Events:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Details
1	Name of Work	1. Pre-Paid Smart metering under Electric supply circle Ranchi for 3.5 Lakhs consumer (Installation and commissioning work turnkey basis complete ready to use.) estimated cost Rs 250 Crores 2. Pre-paid Smart Metering installation for above 10 KW load consumer in Jharkhand State (Installation and commissioning work turnkey basis complete ready to use. estimated cost Rs. 50 Crores Engineering, Design, Supply, Installation and O&M Support of AMI System including AMI Software Applications, RF Canopy/4G
2	Date of Publication of NIT on website	18-11-2020 at 12:30 hrs
3	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time	01-12-2020 at 12:30 hrs
4	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids	14-12-2020 till 18:00 hrs
5	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid	16-12-2020 at 16:00 hrs

1. The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

2. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, interested bidder may participate in the pre-bid meeting Video Conference by sending a request on email ID : itcelljbvn@gmail.com by date 31-11-2020 and Time: 15:00 hrs. Also, the bidder may send their pre-bid queries through email: itcelljbvn@gmail.com by date: 01-12-2020 and time 11:00 hrs.

Sd/-
General Manager (IT)
PR234615 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)20-21'D

KALOJI NARAYANA RAO UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES TELANGANA

ADMISSION INTO MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) COURSE THROUGH COMPUTER BASED ENTRANCE TEST

Applications are invited for admission into MPH Course for the academic year 2020-21 in Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad from 21-10-2020 to 04-11-2020. For detailed notification and prospectus, refer to website <http://knruhs.telangana.gov.in>.

Dated: 19-10-2020 Sd/- REGISTRAR

GAIL (India) Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Public Notice

Public at large is hereby informed that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has accorded Environmental Clearance to the project for expansion of Petrochemical Complex by adding 60 KTA Polypropylene Unit by GAIL (India) Limited located at Pata, Distt- Auraiya, Uttar Pradesh. The copies of the clearance letter are available with the UPCCB/Committee and may also be seen at website of MoEF&CC and at <https://parivesh.nic.in/>. This public notice is being issued as per the instruction of MoEF&CC, vide letter number F.No. J-1011/595/2010-IA(III) dated 16th October, 2020.

"Safety First..." For any safety concerns of Gas Pipeline/Enquiry, Dial 1800 1231 2111 (Toll Free)

Regd. Office: GAIL Bhawan, 16, Bhikaiji Cama Place, R. K. Puram, New Delhi-110066

Corporate Identification Number : L40200DL1984G01018976

#AtmanirbharBharat Think Digital, Be Digital

Revised Timings of 02305/02306 Howrah-New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Special (via Patna Jn)

Revised timings of 02305/02306 Howrah-New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Special Train (via Patna) will be as under :-

02305 Howrah-New Delhi		Station	02306 New Delhi-Howrah	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
-	14.05	Howrah	12.25	-
15.08	15.10	Bardhaman	11.05	11.07
17.12	17.15	Madhur Jn	08.49	08.51
17.40	17.44	Jasidih Jn	08.20	08.24
20.55	21.05	Patna Jn	04.30	04.40
00.55	01.05	Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jn	01.55	02.05
02.53	02.55	Prayagraj Jn	23.45	23.47
04.55	05.00	Kanpur Central	21.40	21.45
10.20	-	New Delhi	-	16.55

All other information in the earlier notification published in this newspaper on 20.10.2020 will remain unchanged.
Chief Passenger Transportation Manager
EASTERN RAILWAY

PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

B-14/A, CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI BHAWAN, QUTAB INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KATWARIA SARAI, NEW DELHI - 110016.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) FOR ENGAGEMENT OF BUSINESS/ STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

Expression of interest (EoI) are invited from professional business / strategic management consultant to study and examine and make appropriate recommendations to PFRDA, in the areas of:

- Organisational structure,
- Segregation of roles and responsibilities of NPS Trust,
- Human Resources,
- Technological Requirements.

The detailed advertisement is available on the website of PFRDA i.e. www.pfrda.org.in.

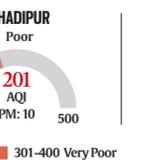
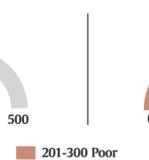
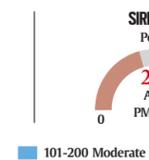
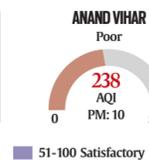
2. Corrigendums/ addendums/ notices (if any) relating to this notification shall be issued only on the website of PFRDA.

3. The last date for submission of Expression of Interest (EoI) by eligible consultants, in the prescribed format along-with relevant enclosures, is extended till **29 October 2020 (Thursday)**.

16.10.2020 Sd/-
New Delhi The General Manager
davp 15102/11/0010/2021 (Admin & HR)



0-50 Good



51-100 Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

201-300 Poor

301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

52,000 WORKERS ENROLLED WITH BOARD Bribery allegations surface in board for construction workers

Sisodia carries out surprise inspection, warns of stern action

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

A MEMBER of Delhi's construction workers welfare board has levelled charges of bribery against a district secretary of the body, a development which has been conveyed to the Delhi High Court through an affidavit. "You are requested to look into the demands being made by the district secretary from the construction labourers during the Covid-19 pandemic, who has been ignoring the directions, which is also in direct contempt of the Hon'ble High Court," member Mohan Kumar wrote to the secretary of the board on October 7.

Kumar, who represents a union, also wrote that despite standing instructions to call workers to the board's offices only once for paperwork, they were being made to make multiple rounds by the district secretaries. One of the secretaries has been demanding bribes of up to Rs 2,000 from workers, he alleged.

On Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who recently took charge of the labour department, also expressed disappointment over the state of affairs in the board following an inspection of one of its district offices at South Delhi's Pushp Vihar.

Sisodia lashed out at officials in charge of the registration, renewal and verification process of applicants. When one of the officials claimed that the "server was down", thus stalling



Sisodia, who recently took charge of the labour dept, inspected one of its district offices at Pushp Vihar. Express

their work, Sisodia asked them if they had raised the issue with their superiors.

"Have you seen the queue outside? People are standing since 3.30 am... There is a deep nexus between them and middlemen. I will send everyone to jail if they indulge in such acts. The workers are standing in line for hours. They are not lying," Sisodia said.

The issue of low capacity of the server has been repeatedly highlighted by the Delhi High Court in the recent past. The court has been asking the board to launch a dedicated portal, instead of depending on the e-districts portal which also handles many other services of the government. However, the board has so far maintained that launching a dedicated portal was beyond its expertise and that it has requested the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to handle the issue. The court's suggestion on ver-

ification of applications over video conferencing has also not made headway, with confusion over whether a government or private agency should bring the necessary technological changes. During his visit around 10.45 am, Sisodia also found that the district secretary was yet to turn up. "Why should he not be suspended? If he has no explanation (for the delay), then suspend him."

Currently, 52,000 workers, whose memberships are active, are enrolled with the board, which is down from over 1.28 lakh in 2015. Around 66,000 applications are pending for verification, which Sisodia said will be taken up on a priority basis.

The board runs a number of welfare schemes funded by the cess collected from building projects under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996. The Delhi board has a corpus of over Rs 3,200 crore.

Ban on gensets in place, over 1,000 families in Gurgaon left without power through Tuesday

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, OCTOBER 20

AMIDST THE ban imposed on use of diesel generator sets in Gurgaon by the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), over 1,000 families living in housing colonies in Sector 37D were left in the lurch when electricity supply in the area went off on Tuesday morning.

Residents of Ramprastha City, which has multiple housing societies, said electricity went off around 5 am. "More than 1,000 families were left without electricity all through Tuesday. This was a major problem... Children missed online classes; residents on work from home lost an entire working day," said Pradip Rahi, president of the Atrium Condominium Welfare Association.

"Our societies use generator sets for eight hours every day as the builder only has a temporary connection. Residents have also not procured inverters or made other provisions as we expected to have full power back up. How will we manage?" he said.

In a submission to the deputy commissioner Tuesday, Rahi stated, "Builders started giving

possession in 2016 but as on date, source of supply is through construction line (temporary connection) which they obtained for construction purpose. Electricity supply is very irregular and is mostly from the generator..."

Officials from Dakshin Haryana Biji Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) confirmed that Ramprastha City has only a temporary electricity connection. Power was restored by 4.30 pm.

"There was a fault at a local substation because of which the entire area was impacted, not just Ramprastha City. There is otherwise no electricity issue in the area... The builder has taken an electricity connection under the temporary category to meet temporary requirements. Regarding the permanent connection, as per their commitment, the builder is working on infrastructure for the same. It will be provided once it is developed," said Manoj Yadav, superintendent engineer, DHBVN.

"If they want... to run DG sets, we have asked the builder to file an affidavit. They have sought an exemption of 3-4 months in the affidavit, which we will recommend to higher authorities," he said. Officials from Ramprastha Group did not respond to calls, messages seeking comment.

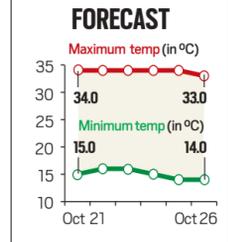
At 13.7°C, minimum temperature for October lowest in a decade

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE in Delhi dipped to 13.7 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, four degrees below normal, and also the lowest it has reached for the month of October in a decade.

Clear skies and calm winds were credited as causing the dip in night time temperature. The reading was recorded at the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Safdarjung observatory, which is representative of the city.

Previously, the lowest night time temperature recorded in October was in 2009, with a reading of 13.5 degrees Celsius on October 26 and 28, as per IMD data. Kuldeep Srivastava, head of IMD's regional weather forecasting centre, said, "The sky is clear at night as there are no clouds and wind speed is calm. These two conditions help in increasing the earth's radiation — during day time, the earth heats up and in the absence of clouds and



due to calm wind, there is fast cooling at night time."

Minimum temperature in the city has been steadily dipping since October 15, when it was 20.4 degrees Celsius. Between October 17 and October 19, night time temperature was in the range of 16.8 to 16 degrees.

Areas other than Safdarjung also recorded low minimum temperatures. Lodhi Road recorded 13.6 degrees Celsius, South Delhi's Aya Nagar recorded 16.4 degrees, and North Delhi's Mungeshpur 14.5 degrees. In NCR, night time tem-

perature recorded at IMD's Gurgaon observatory was even lower, 11.4 degrees Celsius, while Noida recorded 16.1 degrees Celsius.

Maximum temperature also dipped in Delhi for the third consecutive day. On October 18, at the Safdarjung observatory, it was recorded at 35 degrees Celsius, and on Tuesday it was recorded as 33.8, one degree above normal for this period of the year.

Srivastava said conditions that are causing a dip in night temperature are expected to continue for the next three days. As per IMD's forecast, minimum temperature in Delhi on Wednesday is expected to be 15 degrees Celsius while maximum is expected to be 34.

Average air quality index of Delhi improved within the 'poor' category Tuesday with a reading of 223, lower than Monday's 244. A daily report from SAFAR Tuesday said, "Air quality is forecast to stay in 'poor' or lower end of 'very poor' category for the next two days."

For 20 kids living near Red Fort, cop dons teacher's hat

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

INSIDE A temple courtyard at the Red Fort parking lot, constable Than Singh (32) takes time out from his duty hours to teach children living in the slums near the monument. Singh is posted at Kotwali police station in Chandni Chowk and is the area's beat constable. "Being in class stops them from getting into any kind of trouble outside," he said Tuesday before his 5 pm class.

On Tuesday, Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava met Singh and lauded his efforts.

At the class of 20 were students aged between 4 and 18 years, whose parents work as migrant labourers or at Lal Qila as labourers or gardeners. "We have disinfected the carpets and sanitised the hands of each child. We also ensure they wear masks," said Singh, adding that classes resumed a week ago.

When he first began taking classes in 2016, Singh had only a handful of students. "I had to persuade parents to send their children. But eventually, around 50 kids would come regularly — the number has gone down since the lockdown," he said.

At times, Class XII student Ankita Sharma (16), who lives



Constable Than Singh holds the class at a temple courtyard inside the Red Fort parking lot. Praveen Khanna

nearby, helps with the class. "If I get a call and need to rush, Ankita takes over," he said. Her brother Ankit (18), also in Class XII, was present on Tuesday, helping children with their doubts.

At the class, Singh made the children recite the alphabet and multiplication tables, periodically checking their notebooks or making them recite in turn.

Students are enrolled in schools either at their villages or in Delhi. Due to the migratory nature of their families, their studies often get interrupted.

Mahesh (18), who is in Class IX and hails from MP's Damoh district, said: "I am enrolled in a

school in the village, but there is hardly any learning there." He and his parents, who work as labourers, returned recently.

Right after the lockdown, Dharam Das (32), a gardener working at Lal Qila, left with his wife and three children aged below 9 years on foot to Tikamgarh in MP. They returned a few months ago. "I want my daughter Rashmi (8) to learn something, get some education," he said, as he watched her recite tables.

Singh said there are talks to tie up the classes with YUVA, a joint initiative of Delhi Police and Skill Development Ministry to provide training to marginalised youth.

ON THE ROAD

At Lodhi Colony, where a cycle track has been opened to the public this month. Abhinav Saha

On theft tail, cops ditch bikes for autos

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

TO CATCH auto lifters in South Delhi's Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi Police personnel are now conducting night patrolling in autorickshaws instead of on motorbikes. As part of the new plan, two teams comprising three policemen each pose as passengers to carry out patrolling.

In the last one month, the teams have arrested six men, all members of an interstate Haryana-based Mewati gang, on charges of auto-lifting. The teams go on patrol from 11 pm to 7 am DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said the new strategy was devised after "conducting crime mapping of the area".

A senior officer said that despite increasing police vigil during night hours, it was noticed that incidents of motor vehicle theft didn't decrease and no ar-

rests were being made. That's when they hit upon this idea.

"Before September, around 20 incidents of motor vehicle theft, especially of two-wheelers, were reported in Ambedkar Nagar area. Through the local intelligence network, it was found that criminals were alerted by police sirens during patrolling and managed to hide," said the officer.

The first breakthrough came on September 25 when the night patrolling team noticed suspicious movement of three men on a bike. They alerted picket staff, who stopped the men and carried out checking. "They recovered one mechanical knife and two master keys. On their instance, 10 stolen vehicles were recovered," Thakur said.

The DCP said another breakthrough came on October 13 when they found three men on a bike around 1.30 am and intercepted them. "They were selling stolen vehicles in Mewat for Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000," he said.

Gymkhana Club's bar licence suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE DELHI Excise Department has suspended the bar licence of Gymkhana Club, holding it guilty of selling liquor during the lockdown to individuals and entities, including the Delhi Police.

The suspension order, dated October 20, was issued by Deputy Commissioner (Excise) Ranjeet Singh. The club's management has been directed to appear before the department on October 27 for further proceedings. "Perusal of documents submitted with the written submission reveals that prima-facie various types and quantities of liquor was issued by the Club on different dates in April and May 2020 to different persons, including Delhi Police, in violation of directions issued by Excise Department and Delhi Disaster Management Authority wide various orders wherein activities related to bars

were prohibited for all licensees of hotels/clubs/restaurants during lockdown," said the order.

It also said it is "reasonably clear" the club was involved in selling liquor during the lockdown. The action against the club was taken based on a site inspection on September 17.

As per the order, a staffer flagged that some liquor stock was found to be short from the bar sub-store as a former official had taken out liquor from it during the lockdown, without bringing it to the knowledge of the manager or members of the club's managing committee. The club management has informed the department that an FIR has been lodged against Col (ret'd) Ashish Khanna based on findings of a committee set up to probe the matter.

DCP New Delhi Dr Eish Singhal said, "We have received complaints from both sides, and are inquiring into the matter." A senior police officer said no FIR has been filed so far.

Plea claims riot probe flawed, HC seeks police response

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday ordered the Delhi Police to respond to allegations made in a petition seeking a court-monitored reinvestigation in a Delhi riots case and a probe into actions of police officers posted at Dayalpur police station, including its SHO.

The petition filed by Shadab Alam, accused in a case of rioting registered in February, alleges that police have suppressed relevant evidence and the investigation conducted by it is deeply flawed and "patently mala fide".

The petition also seeks transfer of investigation out of the Northeast district to another district or to an independent agency. Justice Yogesh Khanna gave police two weeks to file a reply.

Advocate Taru Narula earlier submitted before the court that Alam, who works at a medical store, and his co-worker were picked up from their workplace on February 24 without any case and were kept in unlawful detention for four days. They and others were allegedly subjected to "inhumane treatment including regular beatings".

The court was also told that a coordinate bench of the HC, while hearing Alam's bail application in April, has observed that there was "undoubtedly a mystery surrounding the arrest."

The petition states Alam's employer and others have given statements to the DCP that he is not involved in any offence. It alleges the statements have not been included in the chargesheet.

CCTV footage showing Alam's presence on February 24 at the medical shop and the medical report dated February 29 from Mandoli jail showing evidence of beating do not find mention in the chargesheet, it alleges.

67% GIRLS; KEJRIWAL PROMISES LOANS OF UP TO RS 10 LAKH TO STUDY

569 from Delhi govt schools clear NEET, CM says talent, money not tied

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday said 569 students from Delhi government schools had cleared the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), of which 67% were girls.

Speaking at a digital press conference, Kejriwal said talent was not tied to money: "I want to promise every student that they need not worry about financial re-

sources. All students who have cleared Class XII and lack resources for higher education, but have secured admission in colleges, Delhi government has scholarships to offer. Any student, rich or poor, can get a loan of up to Rs 10 lakh — without submitting any collateral — from Delhi government and can exercise their right to education," he said.

He said 48 students had scored more than 500 marks out of 720. Three schools had the largest concentration of NEET

qualifiers — SKV Molar Band School where 32 of 118 qualified; SKV C-1 Yamuna Vihar, where 24 of 137 students cleared the exam; and SKV Noor Nagar where 23 of 81 qualified.

"We have always paid attention to our students and I expected they would do well... The overall stress levels were also managed because of the happiness curriculum," said principal Sujata Tamta of SKV Molar Band.

Head of school of SKV Noor Nagar, Mudassar Jahan, said, "Al-



(From left) Tamanna Goel, Khush Garg, Amit Kumar are among those who qualified

ways told my students — mehnat itni khamoshi se karo ki kamyabi dhoom macha de (work hard in silence so that your success makes a splash). They have

achieved that success today as they were preparing hard."

Many government school students who cleared the exams are from humble backgrounds.

Among them is Tamanna Goel (20), who scored Rank 11 in the EWS category and an AIR of 173. She studied at RPVV Rohini. Her parents divorced when she was four years old, leaving her mother to raise Tamanna and her brother. "My mother is a helper in a medical clinic and earns Rs 6,000 a month. We also get some money as rent from tenants who live below us," she said. Tamanna also sat for NEET in 2019. "This time, I spent 10 hours studying and took coaching. I got a scholarship for

that; before that, my teachers helped financially. I want to become a gynaecologist," she said.

Khush Garg (19), who scored 680 out of 720, with AIR 709, couldn't afford coaching. His father has a small bookshop in Shahdara, which hasn't been doing well since the lockdown. "I taught myself by reading books, watching YouTube videos. I studied sometimes till 6 am," said Garg, a student of SPVV Gandhinagar, who wants to eventually specialise in neurology.

Amit Kumar (21) got 647 out of 720 marks with AIR 4444 and stays with his uncle who works as medical staff at a hospital. He said he left his village in MP's Morena 11 years ago and shifted to Delhi for his education. His father is a small farmer. "I completed my school from SBV Vikasपुरi in 2018. I prepared for JEE but didn't get a good rank. I didn't clear NEET last year; this time, I gave it my all and cleared it. I just took coaching from a small institute near home," he said.

QUAD MALABAR EXERCISE

US wants Quad to be 'more regularised', China 'notices' it

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

A DAY after New Delhi said that the Quadrilateral grouping of US, Japan, India and Australia are sending their warships for the Malabar Exercise next month, US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E Biegun on Tuesday said that Quad should be "more regularised", and at some point "formalised" with the passage of time.

China gave a measured response, stating that it has "noticed" the development and believes that military cooperation between countries "should be conducive to regional peace and stability", while Japan welcomed the development.

Biegun, who did a telephonic briefing with journalists from India and Bangladesh on Tuesday, said, "I will say that it is our view that in the passage of time, the Quad should become more regularized and at some point formalized as well as we really begin to understand what the parameters of this cooperation are and how we can regularize it."

In the discussions and practices in the security sphere, he called for a "continuation and regularisation of the Quad, with



US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E Biegun

an eventual goal of how it can be best formalised." Biegun also welcomed cooperation with any country in the Indo-Pacific, which is committed to defend "free and open Indo Pacific that guarantees sovereignty and prosperity for its members".

Earlier in the day, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato, responding to questions, said in Tokyo, "If this is to be realised, it would be welcomed by the Japanese government."

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said, "We noticed this development. China believes that military cooperation between countries should be conducive to regional peace and stability."

Welcoming the decision on Twitter, the US Navy's Chief of

E **EXPLAINED**
The next step

WITH QUAD countries going for a military exercise within a month of the Foreign Ministers' meeting, next steps are already being planned. So Washington has put the idea of formalising it on the table. All eyes will now be on other Quad countries, including India, on whether to give it some sort of a permanent structure. China's response will be watched on this front, as the group ponders on ways to regularise the grouping.

Information tweeted "Seapower x 4" with the flags of India, the US, Japan and Australia. The US Navy's Pacific Fleet, part of the US Indo-Pacific Command, tweeted, "Looking forward to exercise #Malabar in November."

Amid the Sino-Indian military standoff along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh and rising tensions in the South China

Sea, India on Monday announced that Australia will be part of the Malabar Exercise in November, making it the first military exercise between all countries that make the Quadrilateral grouping, better known as Quad.

The Defence Ministry had said: "As India seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence co-operation with Australia, Malabar 2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy. This year, the exercise has been planned on a 'non-contact-at sea' format. The exercise will strengthen the coordination between the Navies of the participating countries."

"The participants...are engaging to enhance safety and security in the maritime domain. They collectively support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules-based international order."

Responding to this announcement, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne said, "Following an invitation from India, Australia will participate in Exercise Malabar 2020. The exercise will bring together four key regional defence partners: India, the United States, Japan and Australia in November 2020."

Rajnath releases new manual for DRDO to procure from domestic industry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE GOVERNMENT has launched a new version of the manual for the DRDO to follow during procurements from the domestic industry.

The Procurement Manual 2020 was released by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday. Singh said the "new DRDO Procurement Manual will facilitate the indigenous Defence

Industry by simplifying the processes and ensure their participation in design and development activities".

The Defence Ministry said in a statement that the new manual has been released to "encourage more participation of Indian industry, including Start-ups and MSMEs in Defence Research & Development (R&D) for achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'".

The manual, the ministry said, "will facilitate faster execution of R&D projects/programmes" and

the "modified features (of) the Manual will go a long way to facilitate participation of industry in various R&D projects".

Mentioning some of the features, the ministry mentioned that the "bid security declaration option for earnest money deposit, increase of threshold limit for advance payment, placement of order on lowest bidder 2 (L2) in case L1 backs out are some of the salient features of the new manual, which will assist the industry for the speedy execution

of projects".

In the manual, the liquidated damage rate for development contracts has been reduced, and the delivery period extension process has been simplified for faster decision making, the ministry said.

The last procurement manual for DRDO was adopted in 2016 and had seen some subsequent changes. Sources said that DRDO now has more budget to procure from industry, the manual will make the process easier and faster.

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Medical Education at SGT University – Cut above the rest!

SGT University is a leading educational institution located in NCR Gurugram. Where students develop their educational, artistic and sports talents. The inspiring atmosphere here gives them new experiences which develop a curious mind in them. The University provides an attractive and intellectual environment for the all-round development of students. The university's central vision is to achieve excellence in training, teaching and research by promoting quality and inclusive education in line with global standards in the fields of education and academic sciences. The best part of the University is that all departments have their own specialized libraries, laboratories and practice areas / studios. The university focuses on PBL pedagogy, that is, problem-based learning where students are encouraged to have a focused approach to learning, which allows students to be self-directed, interdependent and independent.

SGT University is ranked amongst the top-most medical colleges in India and offers an extensive range of undergraduate, post-graduate and higher specialty courses in medicine, dental sciences, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy, allied health sciences, Indian medical system and related disciplines. SGT University's commitment to education is a 'hands-on' approach. Almost every clinical specialty is catered for, and departments are sub-divided into units each one has particular expertise in specific areas as well as providing services of a more general nature.

The University aims to bring high quality health care education. The central strategy in this vision is to develop, through education and training, compassionate, professionally excellent, ethically sound, caregivers in health care sector.

Recognizing the need for Simulation Based Education to be integrated into medical curriculum at the development stage, with careful attention paid to transfer of skills learnt to the real clinical environment, SGT University has setup



Asia's first National Reference Simulation Center in partnership with Laerdal of Norway & John Hopkins University etc., which is a true Center of Excellence.

It is expected of medical training programs to ensure that students have the necessary learning opportunities and assessed by the appropriate methods. Clinical skills competencies including communication skills, history-taking, professional attitudes, awareness of ethical basis of healthcare, physical examination, procedural skills, clinical laboratory skills, diagnostic skills, therapeutic

skills, resuscitation skills, critical thinking, clinical reasoning, problem solving, teamwork, organization skills, management skills, and information technology skills should be part of the core undergraduate curriculum.

We at SGT University believe that one of the most important steps in curriculum development is the introduction of simulation-based medical teaching and learning. Although medical simulation is relatively new, simulation has been used for a long time in other high risk professions such as aviation. Medical simulation allows the acquisition of clinical skills through deliberate practice rather than an apprentice style of learning. Medical simulation has been found to enhance clinical competence at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It has also been found to have many advantages that can improve patient safety and reduce health care costs through the improvement of the medical provider's competencies.

The objective of this narrative review article is to highlight the importance of simulation as a new teaching method in undergraduate and postgraduate education.





DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Police Commemoration Day
21st October, 2020

**Every Day
We Fight Crime.
Today, We Fight
Our Tears.**



**Our heads bow today
In the memory of colleagues
Who laid down their lives
In the line of duty.
Their supreme sacrifice makes us
Proud to wear the khakhi.**

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RAMESHWAR PRASAD CHAURASIA
Lok Janshakti Party, Sasaram

TOTAL ASSETS
₹1.35 CRORE
24% rise since 2015 (Rs 1.08 crore)

MOVABLE ASSETS
₹19.01 LAKH

Assets	2015	2020
Cash in hand	3.11 lakh	17,000
Bank balance	5.89 lakh	3,700
Stocks & bonds	78,946	-
Other investment	-	1.38 lakh
Jewellery	51,000	2 lakh
Vehicle	4.38 lakh	4.38 lakh
Other	9.27 lakh	11 lakh
TOTAL	23 lakh	19 lakh

IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹1.16 CRORE

Assets	2015	2020
Agriland	-	6 lakh
Commercial	10 lakh	30 lakh
Residential	75 lakh	80 lakh
Total	85 lakh	1.16 cr

LIABILITIES NIL

CRIMINAL CASES
One pending case under Sec 188 (disobedience to public servant) and 171F (undue influence during polls)



LJP chief Chirag Paswan taking blessings of JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar at a post-death ritual held for his late father, Ram Vilas Paswan, in Patna on Tuesday. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav (extreme left) and BJP leaders including Union minister of state Nityanand Rai also came to offer their respects. ANI

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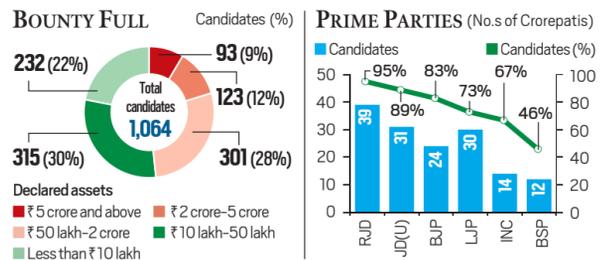


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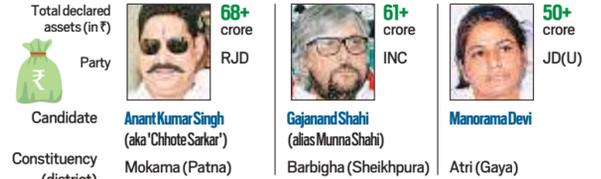
WHO ARE THE MAHADALITS?

WHO'S WHERE TODAY
RAJNATH SINGH IN KAHALGAON, BARHARA, CHAINPUR; UPENDRA KUSHWAHA IN MOHANIYA, BUXAR

PHASE I CAPITAL COUNT



MILLIONAIRE MOGULS



HASHTAG POLITICS

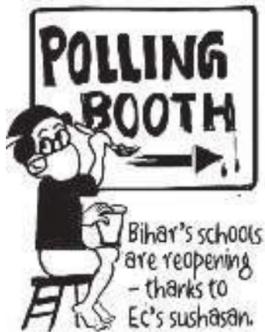


@INCBihar on PM package
With a 2015 clip of PM Narendra Modi where he promised a Rs 1.25 lakh crore "special package" to the state, @INCBihar tweeted: "The people of Bihar are still waiting for the jumla package. The greed for power has made Kushasan Babu forget Bihar's humiliation, but Bihar hasn't forgotten. #Mahilaayon_ke_liye_ka_kiye_ho?"

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Bihar's schools are reopening - thanks to EC's sushasan.

PALIGANJ

In a Yadav seat, LJP scare makes NDA task harder

CPI (M-L) candidate banks on RJD support base; BJP rebel on LJP ticket worries JD(U)



Usha Vidyarthi's campaign vehicle. BJP cadre are openly supporting her. Dipankar Ghose

DIPANKAR GHOSE
PALIGANJ (PATNA), OCTOBER 20

ADORNING Sandeep Sourav's campaign vehicle in the Paliganj Assembly seat are both colours red and green. Red for the CPI (M-L), and green for the RJD, with the beaming face of Lalu Prasad.

The constituency could be a microcosm for the shifting sands of Bihar Election 2020. The RJD won this seat in 2015, but it has gone to ally CPI (M-L) in the Mahagathbandhan alliance that includes the Congress. Meanwhile, RJD sitting MLA Jai Vardhan Yadav is contesting on the JD(U) ticket, while Usha Vidyarthi, who won Paliganj as a BJP candidate in 2010, is in the race as LJP nominee.

As he walks through the by-lanes of Bella village, Sourav, who rose from student politics in JNU, says they are raising issues close to the people like education and employment. "There has been no maintenance of canals so farmers are facing problems... there is no rail connectivity either," says the 33-year-old.

The unsaid factor helping him is caste. The CPI (M-L) is not new to Paliganj, having won it in 2005 in a close contest. In the next two Assembly polls, 2010 and 2015, it had come third with above 16,000 votes. This time, Sourav is expected to also get the support of Yadavs, the predominant caste in the constituency and the RJD's vote bank. Sourav himself is a Yadav.

During his campaign stops, he is accompanied by RJD's Dinanath Yadav, who won the seat in 2000. Amid slogans seeking votes for "teen taara (the M-L symbol)", Dinanath urges everyone: "Nitish sarkar ko hataake Tejashwi Yadav ka sarkar banana hai (We have to remove Nitish and bring Tejashwi to power)."

The call is finding some support even in Harirampur, the village of Jai Vardhan Yadav, the former RJD leader standing on the JD(U)

ticket. Jai Vardhan has a strong political legacy, being the grandson of former Union Minister Ram Lakhman Singh Yadav. Naresh Yadav of Harirampur says that while he will vote for Jai Vardhan given the "old loyalty", the latter would not have it easy. "In this seat, if the Yadavs unite, it is hard for anyone else. People from the community want to see Tejashwi as Chief Minister."

Jai Vardhan is also up against the fact that ex-BJP leader Usha Vidyarthi will take some NDA votes to the LJP camp. Vidyarthi, who won in 2010 and lost in 2005, is a known face in Paliganj and said to have the backing of the Bhumihars and upper castes. Many BJP cadre are with her despite her switch to the LJP just before the polls after Paliganj went to the JD(U).

Accompanying an autorickshaw canvassing for Vidyarthi, a BJP worker reasons, "She has always been with the BJP. Plus, there is no point backing a Yadav candidate (Jai Vardhan) when the Mahagathbandhan candidate is also a Yadav..." The full BJP is with Vidyarthiji.

While the BJP has been underlining that it has no truck with the LJP, despite president Chirag Paswan avowing loyalty to Narendra Modi, the BJP leader says he sees no contradiction in what he is doing. "If Vidyarthiji wins, she will also back the BJP. So the way we see it, we are backing a candidate that has a chance to win."

While the social conflict in Paliganj essentially involves the Yadavs and SCs, the CPI (M-L)'s Sourav may also override that. The SCs have consistently stood by the Left party, ensuring it 13% of the votes even at its lowest in Paliganj.

A key CPI (M-L) functionary says they are making extra effort to reach out to the Extremely Backward Classes and poor. "The CPI (M-L) has never lost the confidence of these voters... There are other factors too in the mix, such as the economic distress, which has hit them the hardest... If they stand with the party, then, with the Yadav votes, we have a good chance."

'BJP runs the show... It says Nitish will be CM. He is at their mercy'

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 20

The BJP appears to have intensified its attack on the CPI (M-L).

In Bihar, the BJP is jittery for the first time in the recent past. It is rattled with the alliance we (the RJD, Congress and Left parties) have managed to stitch together.

The BJP has accused the CPI (M-L) of provoking caste wars in the past.

I don't know what they are referring to. We represent the working class. We talk about farmers' autonomy. Agriculture was the only sector that enjoyed autonomy. Now, even agriculture has corporate dominance.

Why has the CPI (M-L) joined hands with the RJD for the first time?

We are passing through an unprecedented phase in Indian democracy. The dominant feeling in the country is that non-BJP votes should not be divided... What is happening in Uttar Pradesh is a warning signal. Rape accused are being protected. There is a collapse of the rule of law. What if the same happens in Bihar? This is what made all of us think differently.

But doesn't your alliance partner, the RJD, face similar charges?

That is insignificant. If the RJD's tenure can be called jungle raj, what we are witnessing (in UP) is superjungle raj... The BJP is not talking about livelihood and employment, but invoking the past and raising bogeys.

Why are you targeting the BJP more than the man in the saddle, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar?

Nitish Kumar is the person in the saddle but it is the BJP that is running the show. Nitish betrayed the 2015 mandate. It was the defection of a government... The CM has now become a part of the BJP's use-and-throw politics. His utility in the NDA seems to be over. (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah spoke about making him CM even if the BJP gets more seats than the JD(U). Nitish is at the mercy of the BJP... He is also facing peo-

ple's anger. He has failed his promise of delivering good governance.

The Grand Alliance manifesto promises 10 lakh jobs, loan waivers to farmers and pay parity for panchayat teachers. Is it not populist?

There are many job vacancies in the state. Aren't they meant to be filled? The government should also create jobs. There is talk of digital India. Shouldn't there be a computer teacher in every school? Giving 10 lakh jobs is not promising the moon. Teachers are not wrong in seeking pay parity (with government teachers). The CM could not get special status for Bihar. He could not even get central status for Patna University.

But where will the money come from? Bihar still receives 76% of its revenue from central taxes.

The Centre is talking about cooperative federalism. But this is coercive federalism. States are being denied their GST dues. If Bihar receives its dues from the Centre, money will come in... As for loan waiver to farmers, the Centre has been talking about it.

Some of your party candidates are not comfortable with Kanhaiya Kumar (former JNU students' union president and CPI leader) campaigning for them...

Kanhaiya is a good orator. He can surely campaign for us but there could be some issue of practical convenience. He could be concentrating on Begusarai (from where Kanhaiya fought the 2019 Lok Sabha polls). I do not know about the reservations of our candidates against him.

Does Tejashwi Yadav inspire confidence as CM nominee of the Grand Alliance?

Tejashwi is the leader of the RJD, the largest party in the Grand Alliance. So, he is naturally the leader of the Grand Alliance... It was Nitish who made him his deputy five years ago (Tejashwi served as Bihar Deputy CM from 2015 to 2017). If he was good enough to work as deputy CM five years ago, why cannot he be CM five years later? Nitish, who is about to turn 70, talks about youth representation... This is double standards.

KEY PLAYERS

BJP's friendly face, with right legacy, moves

State chief Sanjay Jaiswal has good equations at centre, Bihar — even Nitish can't disagree

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

IT'S BEEN a dizzying rise for Sanjay Jaiswal in the Bihar BJP. In February 2005, he contested from Bettiah Assembly constituency on an RJD ticket and lost miserably. By 2009, he had moved to the BJP, and would go on to win the Lok Sabha election from Paschim Champaran thrice. By September 2019, he was the president of the Bihar BJP unit.

At the same time, the BJP is Jaiswal's natural home. His father Madan Prasad Jaiswal was a Sangh Parivar activist and one of the founding members of the BJP. A three-term Lok Sabha MP, he represented Bettiah Lok Sabha constituency from 1996 to 2004.

When the BJP was selecting a state president, this worked in Jaiswal's favour. Along with the fact that, as a practising doctor, belonging to the Vaishya community, Jaiswal was the right man and right caste for the post.

Jaiswal, 55, had another qualification — he was not strongly disliked by any faction, though many saw his promotion as a bid to cut Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi to size, with a leader belonging to the same community. The BJP is hoping to register its best performance in Bihar in the coming Assembly elections, and Modi's proximity to JD(U) leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar — a fellow product of the JP Movement — doesn't gel with those plans.

Jaiswal is believed to enjoy the confidence of Bhupender Yadav, the BJP general secretary in charge of the state. Party insiders say his performance in the Lok Sabha too is appreciated by both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, earning him the position of chief whip



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

of the party in the Lower House.

While seen as not much of a mass leader, Jaiswal appears to have filled that gap too since the coronavirus pandemic, with the BJP holding well-received programmes such as food packet distribution, call centre assistance for migrants and free medical camps, during and after the lockdown.

Party leaders say Jaiswal's father always intended him to inherit his political legacy, though his brother Deepak is also in politics. Jaiswal did his MBBS from Patna Medical College, followed by MD from Darbhanga Medical College. His wife is also a doctor.

In 2005, Jaiswal accepted an RJD ticket only after Jaiswal Senior's attempt to get him one from the BJP failed. In that election, he got just 7,000 votes and trailed at fourth spot, with BJP leader Renu Devi winning the seat.

Jaiswal finally managed to get a BJP ticket only after his father's death. BJP leaders say Jaiswal's biggest strength remains his proximity to the leaders at the centre as well as his ability to take everyone along. "He is a hard worker and has got a clean and suave image that appeals to the BJP's support base," says a party leader. Even Nitish wouldn't disagree, the leader adds. "Although he belongs to the camp that does not appreciate the Chief Minister much, Nitish can't find much to crib against him."



7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TROLL TAX

IT HAS been a stressful month for National Commission for Women chairperson Rekha Sharma. Earlier this month, Sharma was trolled on social media after she called the manhandling of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi by Noida police, while she was headed to Hathras to meet the victim's family members, ₹run-fortunate and sought an explanation. She was trolled by both Congress supporters, who alleged that Sharma dragged her feet over the incident and didn't issue her orders soon enough, and BJP supporters, who accused her of selling out to the Congress by taking up a Gandhi cause. On Tuesday, Sharma says that her Twitter handle was hacked and a series of tweets against PM Narendra Modi and against the Gandhi family were posted from it. The tweets, often in foul language, had led to a clamour for her resignation. Sharma has pointed out that she was on a flight back from Mumbai when these were tweeted. Incidentally, in her meeting with the Maharashtra Governor while in Mumbai, Sharma discussed, among other issues, the rise in 'love jihad' in Maharashtra. For that, too, she was slammed on social media.

VOCAL ON LOCAL

IN HIS election rallies in Bihar, BJP president J P Nadda doesn't forget to give a personal touch — he reminds the crowd that he was born in Patna, how he had walked through some particular streets, his student days, etc. Nadda's speeches have one more element in common — the Narendra Modi government's schemes and programmes in the health sector. While referring to it, he brings in the point that when he was the Union Health minister, Modi had asked him to pay "special attention" to Patna, and that he himself took the initiative in improving health facilities in the state capital. He also doesn't forget to mention how cooperative CM Nitish Kumar has been in his attempts to build a super-specialty hospital in Patna. Not a single speech misses these points.

THE POWER OF 56

INDIAN-AMERICANS are finding new ways to mobilise support for Democratic Party's Vice President nominee Kamala Harris. They are asking friends and family members in India and the US to make 56 calls on Tuesday to generate support — Harris turns 56 on October 20.

RECALLING ROOTS

TRIBAL AFFAIRS Minister Arjun Munda has not forgotten life back home in Jharkhand even in a sprawling official bungalow in Lutyens' Delhi. Recently, he told officers, who were gathered for a meeting, the technique of extracting honey without destroying the honeycomb. He also narrated how he had extracted honey from the hive on the chickoo tree in the backyard of his Delhi residence. Offering those present a taste of fresh honey, Munda fondly recalled his days as a young boy, when he had mastered the art of licking honey directly from the beehive without getting stung.

Rajnath, Adityanath inaugurate Rs 1000-cr projects in Lucknow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 20

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday inaugurated projects worth Rs 1,000 crore in Lucknow, including the OPD complex of Super Speciality Cancer Institute and Hospital in Lucknow, which is being developed in collaboration with Tata Memorial Cancer Institute of Mumbai, and two flyovers.

Speaking at the event held online, Adityanath said 54 beds are being made operational at present at the cancer institute, but once fully completed, the hospital will have 1,250 beds, making it the "biggest dedicated facility for can-

cer treatment in the country". The CM said in the first phase of the Rs 800-crore project, 750 beds will be made operational. He also laid the foundation for a residential block of the hospital.

The newly inaugurated OPD block has radiation and daycare services, including one operation theatre, linear accelerator, CT scan and 54-bed facility, officials said.

Notably, the foundation stones of the project was laid by former CM Akhilesh Yadav in 2016. A temporary OPD was also started the same year with the help of King George's Medical University of Lucknow. In November 2018 after Adityanath became CM, an MoU was signed with Tata Memorial Center of Mumbai for setting up the cancer institute.

Karnataka bypolls a prestige battle for CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 20

THE UPCOMING bypolls to two Assembly seats in Karnataka may not have a bearing on party positions in the House — with the BJP holding a comfortable majority of 116 out of 224 seats — but they will be a matter of prestige for Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa.

The November 3 bypolls at Sira in Tumkur district and Raja Rajeshwari Nagar in Bengaluru come at a time when the Chief Minister faces allegations of corruption and interference in governance by members of his family. The bypolls are also going to

be significant for state Congress chief D K Shivakumar. Shivakumar too is being investigated by the CBI on charges of corruption and was arrested last year in a money laundering case. He has called the bypolls a referendum on the BJP government headed by Yediyurappa.

The Sira seat fell vacant after JD(S) MLA B Satyanarayana died. The RR Nagar seat fell vacant in July 2019 after Congress MLA Munirathna Naidu crossed over to the BJP.

While the Congress and BJP are trying hard to clinch a victory, the JD(S) too is a contender with a strong support base in these regions.

The BJP, which has tradition-

Oppn alliance tukde-tukde gang, anti-national: Nadda

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

SHIFTING THE focus of his election speeches in Bihar from the RJD's "misgovernance", BJP president J P Nadda on Tuesday alleged that the Opposition Grand Alliance in the state is "dangerous" to the country and targeted Congress leaders for their "anti-national" statements.

Termining the Opposition alliance, comprising RJD, Congress and the Left parties, including CPI(ML), as the "tukde-tukde gang (people who want to break India into pieces)" and "urban Naxals" Nadda, in election rallies at Buxar and Arrah, cautioned the electorate that their votes should not cause "disturbances" in the state.

"The Opposition alliance is an unholy combination, it is an unnatural alliance. The three do not have any love for the society; they



BJP chief J P Nadda at a rally in Arrah in Bhojpur district. PTI

break the society and disturb peace. You should understand this," Nadda said in Arrah.

Recalling the killing of "Ram bhakts" by activists of CPI(ML), Nadda said: "This is that tukde-tukde gang. This is the gang that spread destruction in the society. The interesting fact is that Tejaswini Yadav (RJD leader and Opposition's CM candidate) does not even have an idea of what's happening. Nineteen seats have been taken by CPI(ML)... Where

is RJD? You know the record of CPI(ML)... wherever there are moves against the nation, it stands with them — right from Shaheen Bagh. You know who are urban Naxals? You want people who create disturbance in Bihar?"

On RJD, he asked people not to forget the "lawlessness" when the party governed the state.

In Arrah as well as in Buxar, Nadda called the Congress party "anti-national". He said Congress leaders have been praising

Pakistan since it had nothing worth talking about its past records.

"So what do they do? When election is on in Bihar, (they) talk about Pakistan. What has Bihar election got to do with Pakistan? But Congress leaders are praising Pakistan. And who is leading them in this praise? Rahul Gandhi," Nadda said.

The Congress leader had on Friday targeted the Centre over the IMF's projection that Indian economy is set to contract by a massive 10.3 per cent this year, sarcastically calling it another "solid achievement" of the government. "...Even Pakistan and Afghanistan handled Covid better than India," he tweeted.

Nadda alleged while the entire world, including the WHO director-general and the United Nations secretary-general, had lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for managing the Covid-19 crisis well in a country of 130 crore people, accused Rahul Gandhi was "humiliating" the country. "It is strange that Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders are speaking the language of Pakistan and separatists," he maintained.



YOGI RAKES UP RAM, KASHMIR, PAK

UP CM Yogi Adityanath in Ramgarh, at one of his three rallies in central Bihar on Tuesday, the first in the campaign. With slogans of Vande Mataram and Jai Shri Ram, he said the BJP had kept its promises on Ayodhya, Kashmir and Pakistan, and that while the Narendra Modi government would "eliminate" the Maoist problem, the RJD had tied up with CPI (M-L). ANI

23% candidates in 1st phase face serious criminal cases: ADR

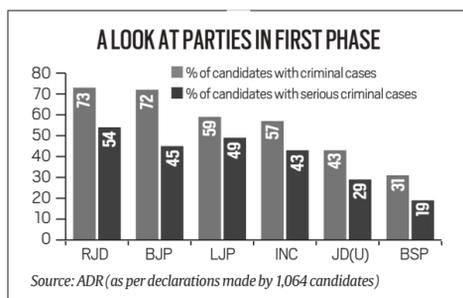
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE SUPREME Court's order forcing political parties to publicise the criminal history of their candidates with reasons for fielding them has barely done anything to clean up electoral politics, shows an analysis of self-sworn affidavits of candidates contesting Bihar polls.

The Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) scrutinised declarations made by 1,064 out of 1,066 candidates contesting in the first phase of Bihar elections to find that almost a quarter (23%) of them face serious criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder and rape.

Among major parties, the RJD has fielded the largest number of candidates (22) with serious criminal cases, followed by LJP (20), BJP (13), JD(U) (10) and Congress (9).

To check criminalisation of politics, the Supreme Court made it mandatory for candidates to publicise their criminal an-



tecedents aside from declaring it in poll affidavits. Last month, the Election Commission made it mandatory for candidates to publicise this thrice.

Political parties have been directed to offer cogent justification for fielding candidates with a criminal history. According to ADR, political parties have not followed the SC order in spirit.

"As per these mandatory guidelines, the reasons for such selection has to be with reference to qualifications, achievements and

merit of the candidate concerned. unfounded and baseless reasons given by political parties like popularity of the person, does good social work, cases are politically motivated etc are not sound and cogent reasons for fielding candidates with tainted backgrounds.

This data clearly shows that political parties have no interest in reforming the electoral system and our democracy will continue to suffer at the hands of lawbreakers who become lawmakers," states ADR's press release.

EXCEED 2015 FIGURES

Black money, inducements worth over Rs 35 cr seized

PRESSTrust OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

CASH AND suspected illegal inducements for voters such as liquor seized in poll-bound Bihar have been valued at over Rs 35 crore, a figure much more than what was impounded by surveillance teams during the last assembly polls in 2015, according to the latest EC data.

The items seized during the last Assembly elections in the state were worth Rs 23.81 crore.

As per data available till Monday, the Election Commission (EC) appointed expenditure monitoring teams have seized cash and other illegal inducements like liquor valued at Rs 35.26 crore. In addition, Rs 79.85 lakh Nepalese currency has been seized in the state till now, the data said.

Polls for the 243-member Bihar assembly will be held in three phases — October 28, November 3 and November 7 — and the counting of votes will be held on November 10.

The EC has deployed 67 expenditure observers in the state apart from deputing two high-ranking retired officers of the Income Tax Department who are deployed as special expenditure observers.

A total of 91 assembly seats have been declared as 'expenditure sensitive' and brought under 'focussed monitoring' by the poll panel so that a level playing field is maintained and voters are not bribed.

The EC said "881 flying squads and 948 static surveillance teams have been formed for election expenditure monitoring work for the assembly elections of Bihar".

Distributing cash and gifts during the electoral process is not permitted under the law along with distribution of money, liquor, or any other item disbursed and given to the electors with the intent of influencing them.

UN rights chief slams FCRA 'used to stifle' NGOs, govt reacts sharply

SHUBHAJITROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

UN HIGH Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on Tuesday slammed the Indian government for the tightening of space for human rights NGOs through the recent FCRA amendments and indiscriminate use of UAPA against activists, including Stan Swamy.

Hours later, New Delhi reacted sharply, stating that "violations of law cannot be condoned under the pretext of human rights".

Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We have seen some comments by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on an issue relating to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). India is a democratic polity based on rule of law and an independent judiciary. Framing of laws is obviously a sovereign prerogative. Violations of law, however, cannot be condoned under the pretext of human rights. A more informed view of the matter was expected of a UN body."

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet appealed to the government to safeguard the rights of human rights defenders and NGOs, and their ability to carry out their crucial work on behalf of the many groups they represent. She expressed regret at the tightening of space for human rights NGOs in particular, including by the application of "vaguely defined" laws that constrain NGOs' activities and restrict foreign funding.

"India has long had a strong civil society, which has been at the forefront of groundbreaking human rights advocacy within the country and globally," Bachelet said. "But I am concerned that vaguely defined laws are increasingly being used to stifle these voices."

Bachelet cited as worrying the use of FCRA, which many UN human rights agencies have said is vaguely worded and over-broad in its objective. The Act prohibits receipt of foreign funds "for any activities prejudicial to the public interest".

In a statement issued in Geneva, Bachelet said: "The Act, adopted in 2010 and amended



Michelle Bachelet

last month, has had a detrimental impact on the right to freedom of association and expression of human rights NGOs, and as a result on their ability to serve as effective advocates to protect and promote human rights in India. It is expected that the new amendments will create even more administrative and practical hurdles for such advocacy-based NGOs. Most recently, Amnesty International was compelled to close its offices in India after its bank accounts were frozen over alleged violation of the FCRA.

"The FCRA has been invoked over the years to justify an array of highly intrusive measures, ranging from official raids on NGO offices and freezing of bank accounts, to suspension or cancellation of registration, including of civil society organizations that have engaged with UN human rights bodies," Bachelet said.

She stated: "I am concerned that such actions based on the grounds of vaguely defined 'public interest' leave this law open to abuse, and that it is indeed actually being used to deter or punish NGOs for human rights reporting and advocacy that the authorities perceive as critical in nature. Constructive criticism is the lifeblood of democracy. Even if the authorities find it uncomfortable, it should never be criminalized or outlawed in this way."

The statement also said that activists and human rights defenders have come under mounting pressure in recent months, particularly because of their engagement in recent protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. More than 1,500 people have reportedly been arrested in relation to the protests, many charged under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) — "a law which has also been widely criticized for its lack of conformity with international human rights standards", she stated, it said. FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

Instant triple talaq petitioner appointed to Uttarakhand women panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 20

SHAYARA BANO, the first petitioner in the case challenging instant triple talaq in Supreme Court, was on Tuesday appointed vice-chairperson in the Uttarakhand State Commission for Women and has been given a state minister's rank. The state government made the appointment 10 days after she joined the BJP in Dehradun.

The state government appointed two more BJP workers as vice-chairpersons with minister's rank in the state commission — Jyoti Shah of Almora district and Pushpa Paswan of Chamoli district. Both are full-time BJP workers who have been associated with



Shayara Bano earlier joined BJP

the party for several years now. The state government projected the appointments as a step towards honouring women during the Navaratri.

The panel's chairperson Vijay Barthwal said, "There will be no difference. All three will hold the same powers. They will receive matters and forward them to me for hearing."

Shayara joined the BJP earlier this month. The party had then said she will publicise BJP's ideologies and play a "very important role".

BSY won't continue for long, people on top fed up: Karnataka BJP leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 20

IN THE first such remarks by a BJP leader following allegations — of corruption and interference in the functioning of the government — against Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's family members, senior party leader and former Union minister Basavaraj Patil Yatnal Tuesday said Yediyurappa "will not continue for long" and "people on the top are fed up".

Speaking in Bijapur region, the BJP MLA alleged that development funds for the region were being diverted to the CM's



Basavaraj Patil Yatnal

home constituency in Shimoga district in central Karnataka.

While there has been speculation of the BJP high command intending to affect a change in the chief minister's post in Karnataka, and several leaders also acknowledge "off the record" such a possibility, the state BJP has until now maintained that no changes have been proposed.

Yatnal, who has been engaged in a feud with

Yediyurappa after he was not inducted into the state cabinet, said the next CM would be from northern Karnataka since the region gives the BJP the majority of its seats in the Assembly.

"People are now wondering if the present CM is chief minister of Shimoga (central Karnataka) or all of Karnataka. It is the voters of north Karnataka who decide on who should be the chief minister in the BJP," Yatnal said. "Even the BJP leadership has realised that it is north Karnataka that contributes the maximum seats to the BJP and they want to make someone from north Karnataka the chief minister," he said.

BRIEFLY



After the accident. PTI

MAHARASHTRA
BEST bus rams into signal post as driver faints

Mumbai: A BEST bus ramed into a signal post in Chembur after its driver fainted at the wheel on Tuesday, officials said. Nobody was reported injured in the incident. On Tuesday, driver Haridas Patil (52), was plying the vehicle when he collapsed. "Patil has been taken to Rajawadi Hospital at Vidyavihar, where he is being treated," an officer from Chembur police station said. The driver has sustained an injury on his forehead. "He fainted because of reduced blood supply to the brain. He is under observation. We are investigating and doing a few tests. He will remain admitted for now," Dr Vidya Thakur, superintendent of the hospital, said. While police have not registered any case against the Patil, the incident has been mentioned in their station house diary. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH
Jeep explodes after running over firecrackers

Hamirpur: Six people were injured on Tuesday and four vehicles damaged when a jeep exploded after running over a bag of firecrackers in Hamirpur, police said. "The incident took place in the afternoon when there was an explosion under the running jeep injuring six persons," Superintendent of Police Narendra Kumar Singh said. The injured persons were rushed to hospital where their condition was said to be stable. The SP said a forensic team had taken samples from the spot. Police seized the vehicle and a probe is underway. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH
Girl falls from roof as monkeys chase her, dies

Muzaffarnagar: A 13-year-old girl died after she fell from the roof of her house as she was chased by a troop of monkeys in Muzaffarnagar district in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, police said. The girl, a student of class 8, had gone to the roof to bring dry clothes when she was chased by monkeys at Nolly village in Bhopa police station area, they said. She was rushed to a hospital where doctor declared her dead on arrival. **PTI**

WEST BENGAL
26-yr-old man killed in Kolkata building collapse

Kolkata: A 26-year-old man was killed in a building collapse in Kolkata's Entally area on Tuesday, the police said. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Salim. According to the police, a portion of the roof of the two-storey abandoned pharmaceutical factory on Convent Road collapsed on Salim in the morning. He was brought out from under the debris and taken to NRS Medical College and Hospital, but he was dead by then. **ENS**

Over to President on farm Bills, but Punjab ready to take legal course

KANCHAN VASDEV
 CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 20

THE FOUR amendment Bills passed by the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday would require the assent of the President as the state has put the ball back in the Centre's court. If the President does not give his assent, the issue is likely to end up in the Supreme Court. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who along with a delegation of all party MLAs met Governor V P Singh Badnore, indicated that they will not shy away from taking a legal recourse. He said that the Bills would have to first go to the Governor.

"Thereafter, they would also need to go to the President, who may approve or reject them... The state government will continue to fight the central laws legally. We will take the legal recourse, for which a team of lawyers and experts is on board," Amarinder said.

He said that he will lead a delegation of all party MLAs to President between November 2 and 5 and impress upon him to give his assent to the amendments for the sake of farmers.

For Punjab, history is repeating itself as during Amarinder's last tenure in 2004, the Vidhan Sabha had passed the Punjab Termination of Water Agreements Act and the legislation finally landed up in the apex court.

However, Punjab Advocate General Atul Nanda hopes that this time, the President would give his assent.

"If even a single MLA had voted against the Bills then it was a different story. Now, all members voted in its favour. When it was passed unanimously, that

means it was the wish of the people. Everybody should yield to the wish of the people..." Nanda said.

He said that the Centre's farm laws were not only an attack on federalism but it is also intended at snatching livelihood from the farmers of the country.

As per the procedure, the Bills would be routed through the Governor to the President, who will send the legislations to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs for their comments. The legislations could be sent to the Council of Union Ministers also for their advice before finally signed by the President if he chooses to do so.

Sources said the government is hoping that the matter will end up in the SC and take years for a final decision.

Rajvinder Singh Bains, an activist lawyer, who has been helping the state's farmers organisations with his legal advice in their fight against Centre's Farm Laws said the amendments brought in by Punjab had no doubt about their legal tenability. "The ball is now in Delhi's court. If they do not care then a traditional narrative of antipathy against Centre will find more ground in the state," said Bains.

Meanwhile, Dr Pramod Kumar, Director of Institute of Development and Communication, Chandigarh, said, "Unanimous rejection of farm laws sends a political message but without any constitutional and legal implication. It does not answer the apprehensions of farmers that the procurement may not be undertaken and the MSP may be withdrawn. It does not answer any questions related to food security concerns."

Those not sowing paddy, wheat upset: Who will give us MSP?

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
 JALANDHAR OCTOBER 20

NON-WHEAT, non-paddy farmers are not impressed with the Bill passed on Tuesday by the Punjab Assembly to negate the Centre's recently enacted farm laws.

The Bill does not allow any sale of paddy or wheat to take place within Punjab at below their official minimum support prices (MSP). Such sales would invite fine and imprisonment of up to three years, the proposed law says.

"How does this new law make a difference, when the entire wheat and paddy (non-basmati) of our state is anyway being bought by the government at MSP? What will happen to my maize? Who will pay MSP for it," asked Balkar Singh, who has grown maize on 15 out of his 24-acre holding at Bhanwal village of Pathankot tehsil and district.

Maize is currently quoting at Rs 1,300-1,350 per quintal at Kartarpur grain market near Jalandhar city. "The MSP, I am told, is Rs 1,850 per quintal this year. But I sold some quantity in Pathankot mandi at Rs 800 two weeks ago. Prices improved slightly to Rs 1,000 ten days ago and Rs 1,200 two days back, but MSP is a dream," he said.

"The Centre's law was anti-farmer. But this Bill of Punjab government is only a halfhearted response and is discriminatory," said Kaur Singh Brar, who grows cotton on 3.5 acres and paddy on another 13.5 acres in Lakhji Jungle village of Bathinda.



Farmers gherao Jalandhar's Circuit House on Tuesday.

EXPLAINED
'Minimum support'

COTTON, MAIZE and basmati paddy have been planted on 5.01 lakh hectares (lh), 2.42 lh and 6.60 lh area in Punjab in the current kharif season. But there is no MSP protection - legal or otherwise - for farmers growing these crops even after the passage of the Punjab's "historic" Bills.

Brar sold his first picking of 12 quintals of narma/kapas (raw unginned cotton) at Bathinda mandi on October 4 for Rs 4,500 per quintal, as against the MSP of Rs 5,725 per quintal for long-staple varieties/hybrids.

The contrast between crops enjoying MSP support - now

sought to be "legalised" through a state legislation - and those selling at virtually market-determined rates is also highlighted in data on government procurement and mandi arrivals.

In 2019-20 kharif marketing season, the FCI and state government agencies together procured 163.44 lakh tonnes (lt) out of total 164.27 lt of non-basmati paddy that arrived in Punjab's mandis. In case of wheat, government procurement accounted for 127.62 lt out of total arrivals of 131.70 lt during the recent rabi season.

However, there was no procurement of the total basmati paddy crop of 25.54 lt and 6 lt of maize that arrived in the state's mandis in the last kharif season. CCI bought around 35 per cent of 42.60 lakh quintals of kapas that came to markets in 2019-20, but there is no legal guarantee for these purchases in the Bill passed by Punjab Assembly on Tuesday.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Looking for body, 3.5 km stretch of Narmada canal dug up; more in pipeline

ADITIRAJA
 VADDARA, OCTOBER 20

A 10-HOUR search by over 100 personnel from police, administration, fire and forensics, in the Narmada main canal passing through Vadodara, to recover the body of a migrant worker from Telangana who allegedly died in custody at the Fatehgunj police station, resulted in failure, with only a 3.5-km stretch of the canal being covered Tuesday.

The Gujarat CID, which is investigating the death of Babu Sheikh Nisar, 65, allegedly due to custodial torture in December 2019, suspects that his body was dumped in the canal by six accused policemen.

The CID, based on the mobile phone location of the accused on the day of the crime and the GPS location of the vehicle used to dispose the body, narrowed down on five spots in a 7-km stretch where the body was suspected to have been dumped.



Search operations by Vadodara fire department and Gujarat CID underway in Narmada main canal. Bhupendra Rana

NIA chargesheets slain Hizb militant, 9 others in narco-terror case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against slain Hizbul Mujahideen militant Riyaz Naikoo and nine others in a case of narco-terrorism in which money allegedly earned through heroin smuggling was funnelled into terror activities.

Apart from Naikoo, killed in an operation by security forces in May in Kashmir, the other chargesheeted have been identified as Hilal Ahmed Shergoiji from Pulwama and Zafar Hussain Bhat from Anantnag—suspected to have fled to Pakistan. Bikram Singh, Maninder Singh, Ranjit Singh, Gagandeep Singh and Iqbal Singh from Amritsar, and Ranjit Singh and Jaswant Singh from Gurdaspur are also chargesheeted.

The case arose from Shergoiji's arrest by Punjab Police in April with Rs 29 lakh. The probe was later handed over to the NIA.

"During investigation... it emerged that accused Hilal, who had come to Amritsar to collect the amount of Rs 29 lakh, was a member of proscribed terrorist organization Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and a close associate of

Riyaz Ahmed Naikoo, the then HM commander of Kashmir Valley. This led to busting of a major narco-terror module involved in smuggling and selling of heroin in India and channelising of drug proceeds to Pakistan through hawala and to the HM terrorists based in J&K," the NIA said quoting its chargesheet.

The agency claimed its probe unearthed a conspiracy hatched by Pakistan-based HM commanders and their associates in Punjab to support the terror infrastructure of HM in India by raising money through drug smuggling.

"During investigation, it emerged that the accused had received at least six consignments of heroin through Attari Indo-Pakistan Border in the garb of importing rock salt granules from Pakistan. Of these, money proceeds of five consignments were partly sent back to Pakistan through hawala operators while a substantial portion was channelised to HM terrorists in Kashmir through a network of OGWs and other associates. In July 2019, 6th consignment of around 532 kg of heroin was seized at Attari border and a separate case was registered, which was investigated and chargesheeted by NIA," it said.

MONTH AFTER 6 'TERROR SUSPECTS' HELD BY NIA IN MURSHIDABAD

'If guilty, punish him; else those who caught him will have to be judged'

ATRIMITRA
 MURSHIDABAD, OCTOBER 20

BEFORE THE crack of dawn on September 19, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), in a joint operation with BSF, arrested six men from small towns near the Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Murshidabad district: Abu Sufiyan, Najmus Sakib, Mainul Mondol, Leu Yean Ahmed, Al Mamun Kamal, and Atitir Rahman. In a simultaneous operation, the agency arrested three others in Ernakulam, Kerala, who hail from Murshidabad: Murshid Hassan, Mosaraf Hosen, Yakub Biswas.

The NIA said the nine are allegedly part of an "inter-state module of Al-Qaeda operatives at various locations in India, including West Bengal and Kerala", and the group was allegedly "planning to undertake terrorist attacks at vital installations in India".

Nearly a month on, when *The Indian Express* visited their villages last week, the families and local residents appeared still as clueless about their alleged terror activities.

The nine arrested men come from Domkol, Jalangi and



The family of brothers Mosaraf Hosen and Atitir Rahman, who were arrested from Ernakulam and Murshidabad. Partha Paul

Raninagar — areas that are between 10 and 20 km from the Bangladesh border. Most people, including family members and neighbours, *The Indian Express* spoke with recalled the men as religious, courteous, humble, with most of them quiet and generally keeping to themselves.

According to Sufiyan's elder son Wasim Akram (15), "they" came around 2.30am. "I first saw them. I informed abbu (father) — he tried to run away but they caught him near the gate. Then they beat him..." Sufiyan's wife

Nurunnisa said, "They forced me to sign on some papers. They ransacked all the rooms and snatched our mobile phones."

Barely 500 metres from Sufiyan's house in Madhyapara of Kalinagar is Murshid Hassan's house — a broken, rundown structure. His mother said, "We are very poor. Like me, Murshid also has psychiatric problem. We went to Berhampore to get him treated. After he got better, we sent him to Kerala for work."

His father Abdul Matin (55) and brothers Sohel Rana (17)

BENGAL MINISTER CALLS FOR RELEASE OF THOSE ARRESTED

Kolkata: West Bengal minister Siddiqullah Chowdhury on Tuesday demanded the immediate and unconditional release of 10 suspected al-Qaeda operatives from Murshidabad arrested by the NIA last month.

Chowdhury, who is the minister of mass education extension and library services, said, "We already talked with many people and after that I am demanding that immediately all who were arrested by NIA should be released unconditionally." **ENS**

Mahafuj Alam (12) work as farm labourers. "After lockdown, we are almost jobless. Now Murshid is also arrested. We do not know what to do," Matin said.

In Paschim Naodapara village of Jalangi, local residents said Forajali Mondol, 74, volunteered in the 1962 war with China and is well-respected in the locality, has nearly slipped into depres-

sion since the arrest of son Al-Mamun Kamal (35) — third of his four children. Mondol told *The Indian Express*: "If he is guilty, let him be finished. Otherwise, those who caught him in this way will have to be judged."

Forajali said: "In this village, many youths go to Kerala for better earnings... They (residents) gave donations to the village madrasa (Al-Mamun was secretary of the madrasa committee). Now many are saying the madrasa was funded by foreign money. Is Kerala abroad?"

Brothers Mosaraf Hosen and Atitir Rahman were arrested from Ernakulam and Jalangi simultaneously. Their father, Tajimuddin Mondol, 66, said Mosaraf went to Kerala nearly 15 years ago. He works at a garment shop there and got married in Ernakulam. He last came home three years ago. Atitir is studying English (Honours) at Ramna Basantapur College in Jalangi.

Mondol said, "Let the court judge. If they are found guilty, both my sons should be punished. I have nothing to say. But why are they being made militants before their trial?"

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

'Might be useful to provide money to mothers to buy vegetables... so that it helps expand local production'

LAST WEEK, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize to the UN agency World Food Programme (WFP) for its efforts to combat hunger. WFP has been working in India since 1963. WFP Representative and the Country Director in India **BISHOW PARAJULI** speaks to **HARIKISHAN SHARMA** on challenges in food and nutrition security in India in wake of the pandemic. Excerpts:

On the 2020 Global Hunger Index, India has been ranked 94th out of the 107 countries. What is the reason for such a dismal performance?

I think progress needs to be seen from the trend. India is a

country with 1.3 billion people... If you see past trends, there has been good improvement. So, it is not fair to say that India has not progressed. There are lots of efforts being made...

Sadly, because of Covid... a lot of challenges... people lost jobs etc, but then they were all supported with these extra resources... What is more needed is also looking at the NITI Aayog Index on SDG. You go to their website and you see that there are states which are lagging behind in various areas... Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and parts of UP etc...

It has been 7 years since India enacted National Food Security Act, 2013, entitling 67



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
 WITH
BISHOW PARAJULI
 WFP REPRESENTATIVE AND COUNTRY DIRECTOR

per cent of the population to subsidised foodgrains — wheat and rice. Do you think it is the right time to universalise PDS in wake of the pandemic?

Universalising is not a solution... It must be targeted. But probably what is important is there should be no one left behind. That's why I was saying that there should be an assessment to check if there is anyone missing and should include them...

Do you think such assessment should be conducted at national level?

... It should be done at state level, not at national level, where there is risk (of food insecurity)...

The focus of PDS has been

on distribution of wheat and rice. Do you think it is time to focus more on nutrition?

It is practically difficult to include many food items... There is this staple food — rice and wheat or pulses — and then there is a programme like mid-day meal to provide hot cooked meals to children at schools. And there is this special intervention of ICDS. In principle, these three should cover the needs of the people, but what might be also useful to think going forward is to provide money to mothers so they can buy vegetables, fresh food. So that it also helps expand local production. If you provide cash then anyone can buy milk or fish etc.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Press Council advises against publishing poll predictions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

THE PRESS Council of India has advised newspapers and magazines to not publish election predictions in any format. With elections in Bihar just a week away, the Press Council has said that publishing predictions is not allowed during the prohibited period.

It said in an advisory issued on Tuesday that "while considering communication received from Election Commission of India", it advised the print media to "refrain from publishing article which in any way whatsoever predict the results of the elections during the prohibited period" as defined in Section

126A of the Representation of the People Act "to ensure free, fair and transparent election".

"The Council is of the view that prediction of results of elections in any form or manner by way of predictions etc. by Astrologers, Tarot Readers, Political Analysts or by any persons during the prohibited period is violation of the spirit of Section 126A which aims to prevent constituencies still going to polls from being influenced in their voting by such predictions about the prospects of the various political parties."

Mentioning the time period, the Council said that the media should not publish predictions in any format from morning of October 28, when the polling starts, till 6.30 pm on November 7, the last day of polling.

Puja organisers seek review of Calcutta HC order, say no time to redesign pandals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 20

A DAY after the Calcutta High Court ordered that Durga Puja marquees should be out of bounds for visitors "in public interest" amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Forum for Durgotsab, an umbrella organisation of more than 400 community Durga Pujas, on Tuesday filed a review petition in the court. Five community puja committees in Kolkata, including Suruchi Sangha, Hindustan Club and Samaj Sebi Sangha, also filed separate review petitions.

The forum's review plea was filed before the Division Bench of Justices Sanjib Banerjee and Arijit Banerjee that delivered Monday's order. The petition is likely to be heard on Wednesday.

"We have prayed before the court to modify its earlier order for practical purposes. We have mentioned several grounds in our petition. Most of the puja committees have followed the Centre and state government's guidelines in organising the Durga Puja. Several puja committees have the same entry and exit gates. If people are stopped at entry points then it can lead to more chaos and



A Durga Puja pandal depicting the lockdown, in Kolkata. Partha Paul

crowding. This will complicate the matter and create more confusion," advocate Proloy Kumar Roy said after filing the petition on behalf of the forum.

"We have appealed before the honourable High Court to review its order on Durga Puja. We believe it will take into consideration the real problems that most of the puja organisers will face in adhering to its earlier order. We don't have the time to redesign our pandals. It is not possible for only 25 persons to look after a Durga Puja that continues for over five days.

Fifty to 100 persons from each puja committee must be allowed to conduct the puja," said Saswata Basu, general secretary of the forum. "From the beginning, we took measures to ensure the safety of visitors. No one would have been allowed inside the pandal without a face mask and without using sanitisers," he added.

A large number of committees, whose pandals are in narrow bylanes and congested areas, are looking forward to the review plea hearing.

Meanwhile, several organisers started preparing for a change in layout of their pandal.

"We had put up barricades before our pandal so that people are not allowed inside it. Now after the court's order, we have to shift the barricade further. Visitors will be inconvenienced after the change," said a member of Salt Lake's FD Block puja.

Manoj Shaw of the Mudiiali Durga Puja committee said his organisation had complied with the court order, but the idol was not visible because of the changes ordered by the judges. "People are coming to see the idol but they cannot view it following the changes. This is not the way to celebrate Durga Puja here," he said.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

232 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 75,97,063
RECOVERED: 67,33,328
DEATHS: 1,15,197
TESTS: 9,61,16,771 | DOUBLING RATE: 88.01**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING TIME**
■ Maharashtra	16,01,365	5,984	0.60%	119.30
■ Andhra	7,86,050	2,918	0.50%	143.30
■ Karnataka	7,70,604	5,018	1.02%	70.80
■ Tamil Nadu	6,90,936	3,536	0.63%	114.46
■ Kerala	3,46,881	5,022	2.33%	30.84

* 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: 8.07 NOW: 7.90	DETECTED TODAY: 46,790 RECOVERED TODAY: 69,720

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 19, 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

ELGAAR PARISHAD CHARGESHEET

CPI (Maoist) gets crores from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and MP zones: NIA quotes witness

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency's (NIA) 10,000-page chargesheet in the Elgaar Parishad case relies on witness statements to draw up details about the banned CPI (Maoist), including its means of funding, training and recruitment.

According to a witness, members of the organisation collect Rs 350 per bag of tendu leaves — containing 1,000 pouches — as tax. "The amount is collected as tax/levy from adivasi/contractors. Road contractors and adivasi villagers donate some amount yearly to CPI (Maoist). Altogether, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (MMC) zone of CPI (Maoist) gets around Rs 2.5 crore to 3 crore per year. The said funds are used for Maoist activi-

ties," a witness has claimed in a statement that is part of the chargesheet.

Another witness statement stated that the organisation collects "jungle tax" from tendu patta and bamboo contractors, as well as from road contractors. Shopkeepers in towns provide funds as "party help". The party members collect funds from voluntary villagers once a year, the witness added.

It is further alleged in the chargesheet that the weapons and ammunition used by the Maoists are looted from government forces and the gelatine used for explosives is sourced from "illegal mining businesses".

The chargesheet claimed that the organisation has an active presence in nine districts of Maharashtra including Mumbai, Pune, Ahmednagar and Gadchiroli, Surat in Gujarat and ar-

reas of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

One witness statement is about how demonetisation had affected the party's finances. "After demonetisation, Milind Teltumbde had sent Rs 50 lakh in old currency from jungle to exchange with new currency... in 2017," the witness has said, alleging that it was received in Nagpur by a person who claimed that Teltumbde had directed it to be sent to the city to be exchanged. But the currency could not be exchanged as the time for exchange was over and the person was then told to burn the old currency.

The witnesses also claimed that training programmes are conducted for the cadre in July-August every year. These included training on weapons and surveillance.

Karnataka CPM leader dies

Bengaluru: Veteran CPI(M) leader Maruti Manpade died at a private hospital in Solapur, Maharashtra, on Tuesday, due to Covid-related complications. Manpade, 65, is survived by wife and two sons. Manpade was recently

shifted to a private hospital in Solapur from Kalaburagi. Remembering Manpade as the voice of Dalits, farmers and labourers, Karnataka Deputy CM C N Ashwath Narayan said he was pained to know about the death. PTI

Balwinder Singh kin accuse cops of ignoring terror angle in probe

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 20



Shaurya Chakra awardee was killed at home

DAYS AFTER a Shaurya Chakra awardee, Balwinder Singh Sandhu, was killed by two bike-borne assailants at his residence, his family has accused Punjab Police of ignoring the terror angle in its probe.

The police, meanwhile, said they are looking at all possibilities, including terror angle and personal rivalry. They said that they are taking help from sons of the deceased in the probe.

Jagdish Kaur, wife of Balwinder Singh, said: "My sons have been called to police station. Police is also coming to our home to investigate my sons. It is sheer harassment. My sons have nothing to do with the murder of their father. It was a

terror attack. Police should investigate terror angle in this case instead of focusing on my sons."

There are three old FIRs against Balwinder Singh's younger son, Arshdeep Singh, and in one of these FIRs, the elder son, Gagandeep Singh, is also named.

Tarn Taran SSP Dhruvan H Nimbale, said, "We have taken assistance from Arshdeep in the murder case. We called him to the police station only once, that too to seek his assistance. You can confirm it from Arshdeep that we detained some persons

after getting a lead from him. So we are not investigating Arshdeep. He is just assisting us."

However, Jagdish Kaur alleged, "Police have been planting all the stories to divert the attention from their failure to provide security to my husband. He was killed because there was no security... We fought against terrorism and it is the only reason behind the murder."

Sandhu (62) had received the Shaurya Chakra for fighting militancy in Punjab. He was gunned down at his home in Tarn Taran's Bhikhiwind on Friday. The attack took place months after his security cover was removed by the state government.

"We are close to cracking this case. It is also true that we have not found any terror angle in this murder so far," a senior police officer said.

Rlys allows women to board Mumbai local trains

NEERAJ TIWARI
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

IN A much needed relief to women commuters of Mumbai, the Railways finally allowed them to travel in suburban local trains from Wednesday.

The decision comes four days after the Maharashtra government, on October 16, issued a circular stating that women would be allowed to travel in local trains from Saturday — between 11 am and 3 pm and again from 7 pm till the end of services.

The Railways had, however, stalled the move stating that it would require clearance from the Railway Board. It had also suggested a joint meeting of rail and government officials to work out the modalities.

"I am happy to announce that Railways will allow women to travel on suburban trains from October 21 between 11 am to 3 pm and after 7 pm," Railways Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted on Tuesday.

The decision comes after much wrangling between the Uddhav Thackeray government

and the Railways, which squared off over starting local train services amid the pandemic. Both had differed over starting special trains to facilitate movement of people to districts in Konkan for Ganesh Chaturthi in August. In May, a war of words had broken out between Goyal, rail officials and the Maharashtra government over the Shramik special trains with the ministry accusing the state of not getting passengers in time at stations to board these trains.

Earlier in the day, Maharashtra Chief Secretary

Sanjay Kumar wrote another letter to the general managers of Western Railway (WR) and Central Railway (CR), seeking action on the state's October 16 request. "The implementation of the joint decision is yet to be initiated. Thus, women commuters may kindly be allowed to avail of the local train service," he wrote.

Welcoming the decision, Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant, who had been raising the issue with the Railways, termed as "political" the ministry taking four days to take a call on the matter.

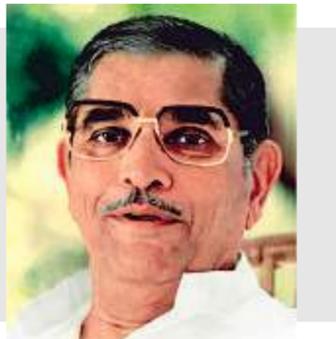
Suburban train services were shut on March 23 amid the pandemic. Partial resumption of services was announced on June 15. However, only those deemed to be essential service providers were allowed to board these trains after being allotted special passes.

At present, both WR and CR are not operating trains to their full capacity. Currently, 700 services are plying on WR against 1,316 before the lockdown. On CR, 481 services are running against the 1,719 before March.

ADVERTORIAL

Gratefully remembering the Visionary

The lasting legacy of Rev. Pandurang Shastri Athvale



October 19, 2020 marks the 100th birthday of Pandurang Shastri Athvale (affectionately called Dada, "elder brother"). Dada is the founder of the Swadhyaya Movement which has transformed the lives of millions throughout all 6 continents. In a time when people said the only way to advance is through technological development and through economic, social and political reforms, he stood out and firmly believed that the only way forward is through a God centered, devotion based, spiritual solution. Dadaji was never reactionary, but he was truly revolutionary! He rediscovered the essence of the Bhakti of the ancient scriptures, he redefined it in a reason based and dynamic way to bring about individual and social change. Dadaji said Bhakti at its core is not in mechanical rituals, but in the understanding that God is with and within you. This understanding:

Inspires self-reverence, self-confidence and self-restraint in man. It makes man regain his self-worth and dignity.

Evokes a sense of love and gratitude for the Creator bringing man closer to God.

Creates an awareness of the shared divinity that makes another my brother and motivates devotional activism to make His world a better place by serving His divine family.

As a young boy, he witnessed firsthand how on the one hand, the haves were overfed and wasting food, and on the other hand, their leftovers were thrown on the ground as the have-nots desperately fought each other for scraps. This moment crystallized his life's mission to instill human dignity in the have nots, and to awaken brotherly love in the outlook of the haves. In 1954, at the World Religions Conference in Shimizu,

Japan, he was asked, are there villages living by the ideals of Lord Krishna? He could not point to one, but he resolved to not rest until he created an alternative society that did. Over 6 decades, he tirelessly went from heart to heart, hut to hut, reaching thousands of villages. In stark contrast to others, Dadaji never preached, never used other platforms, never solicited funds, never used mass media to reach others. He inspired hundreds of thousands of people to leave their comfort zones in the city and go to villages to diverse sections of the society and practice selfless love and build divine relationships. In 1986, at Tirthraj Milan on the banks of the Ganges, he proclaimed that God alone is the answer to all of man's problems. He showed the world that entire villages could be transformed by Bhakti. In 1997, after being awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, he invited world leaders to see how devotion-based experiments could be used to eradicate social injustice, bring man closer to God, and man closer to man. Dadaji demonstrated how "Bhakti is a social force" and how impersonal wealth can be generated, used to do cultural work, and rectify social injustices without compromising the dignity of man.

In a time when groups are being galvanized and polarized based on their identity that divides them (race, nationalism, religion, socioeconomic status), Dadaji unified millions on the basis of shared Indwelling Divinity (their inherent divinity as children of one God). Currently, the world is at a very critical juncture. There are crises due to religious fundamentalism, racial injustice, social inequality, self-centered materialism, moral degradation, and indifference to climate change.

In this turmoil, Dadaji's silent and singing revolution, with decades of quiet efforts and toil, is a model of how individual and social transformation is possible using Devotion as a basis for all issues faced by mankind.

Throughout all his achievements, he remained humble and always gave credit to the Rishis, God, and to the selfless workers who joined his efforts. Dadaji had an unwavering faith in God and God's promise to take care of His devotee. Above all else, to us Dadaji is a visionary who (through his unselfish love and faith) inspired us to feel the God within, to express gratitude to that God, and to change our life and our world out of devotion to that God. We gratefully pay our respects to Dadaji on his 100th birthday with heartfelt gratitude. Dadaji, before you came into our lives, God seemed so distant and difficult to attain, ideals seemed impossible to achieve, and spirituality seemed so otherworldly -- you made them accessible to common folk like us. Today we bow down to you and feel blessed that the Swadhyaya work and global family are guided by your beloved daughter Jayshree Talwalkar, following in your footsteps.

Dr. Darshan Patel
MD Anesthesiology and Pain Management
Regional Chair of Pain Management – The Permanente Medical Group, California.



Pujya Didiji



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Lane driving & court

Right to default on interest is no fundamental right.
Banning NPA recognition violates constitutional lanes



MANISH SABHARWAL

MALABAR SIGNAL

Australia's return shows Delhi is reconsidering deference to Beijing's interests, giving primacy to its own

IN A MAJOR move coming after years of deliberation, Delhi has invited Australia to participate in this year's Malabar naval exercises. The decision marks an important inflexion point not only in India's bilateral relations with Australia but also in the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific, the new strategic geography stretching from the east coast of Africa to the waters of East Asia. The naval exercise, which is scheduled to take place next month in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, imparts a military dimension to the so-called Quadrilateral Dialogue Framework, involving India, US, Japan and Australia. Despite the eagerness of Australia to join Malabar, Delhi held back and limited it to India, US and Japan. The main reason behind Delhi's hesitation was the concern that including Australia into the Quad might offend China's rather fragile political sensitivity. Something, then, has clearly changed India's calculus on China. As China's muscular unilateralism rises and undermines India's core interests across a broad range of issues — from territorial integrity to regional and multilateral interests — Delhi has had no option but to reconsider its strategic deference to Beijing. China's Ladakh aggression this spring was possibly the last straw. The reluctance to turn the Quad into a military coalition, Delhi could not but note, produced no Chinese consideration for India's concerns. The die is now cast.

The last time Australian naval ships joined Malabar was back in 2007, when it was a five-nation exercise involving India, US, Japan, Singapore and Australia. Until 2007, Malabar was an annual bilateral exercise with the US Navy that was launched in 1992. The Indian Navy's decision to convene the five-nation exercise was probably more administrative than geopolitical. Rather than have separate exercises with each of these partners, it was considered sensible to combine them into one. But the multilateral exercise in the Bay of Bengal produced vehement protests from China, which dubbed it as an "Asian NATO". The external Chinese opposition found an internal political echo. The CPI(M) and the Left parties, which formed a sizeable part of the UPA coalition, demanded an end to the exercise. A flustered UPA government ordered an end to multilateral Malabar. This policy endured until 2015, when the NDA government invited Japan to join the annual Malabar exercises. It has now taken the next step towards quadrilateral military engagement.

Although the decision to welcome Australia into Malabar has come in the middle of the continuing confrontation with China in Ladakh, the naval exercise is not about changing the military equation in the Himalayan theatre. Delhi has no interest in bringing its Quad partners into India's territorial battles against Beijing. It is about expanding India's bilateral security ties with Australia, whose potential is immense. The military Quad is, above all, an important part of building a sustainable Indo-Pacific coalition that is capable of addressing the massive strategic imbalance generated by the rise of an aggressive Chinese party-state.

THE SEXIST PLAYBOOK

It is used by all parties, with little or no consequences.
Kamal Nath brazening it out is only latest instance

THE UGLINESS OF the Indian male politician was on show again in Madhya Pradesh this week. In Gwalior to campaign for the coming bypolls, state Congress chief Kamal Nath sniggered before an audience at a woman leader from the BJP, who he wouldn't deign to name. "You know her better. What an item she is," he said, before breaking into derisive laughter. It's a trick as old as entitled masculinity: If you are up against a woman, run her down with innuendo and the cheap shot, and swagger in the illusion that you have won the debate. In Indian politics, unfortunately, this sexist playbook is used generously by all political parties, and comes with little or no consequences — the Congress initially brazened it out in Nath's defence, and even Rahul Gandhi's disapproval has not inspired the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister to budge from his non-apology. Sexist abuse is, of course, deployed more fearlessly against women from marginalised communities. The target of Nath's coarse attack was Imarti Devi, a woman from a Dalit family of labourers, who spent two decades in the Congress before she switched sides to the BJP in March this year, helping bring Nath's government crashing down.

The few Indian women who dare to enter public life are reminded almost daily that they have crossed over into a hostile, male world, where the rules are loaded against them. From Mamata Banerjee to Jayalalitha and Smriti Irani, women leaders are routinely subject to demeaning language, even when they are careful not to transgress patriarchal norms. For years now, BSP leader Mayawati has been at the receiving end of dehumanising abuse. The internet, too, has emerged as a vicious space for women politicians. Even so, a morphed video of a young tribal BJD leader that went viral in Odisha ahead of the Lok Sabha elections last year marked a new low. Chandrani Murmu was eventually elected from Keonjhar parliamentary constituency. Investigations into the slanderous video have led the MP to accuse a channel run by a BJP leader of harassment.

If Indian politics is a negotiation with entrenched power structures and multiple bogtrotters, both instances underline how and why women continue to be at a disadvantage; and how easy it is to turn on the tap of prejudice to discredit women in public life. But Imarti Devi's and Chandrani Murmu's dogged persistence in the face of men who snigger and slander from behind the shield of their feudal privileges is also a sign — women politicians may be few in number, but they are not backing away from a hard fight.

PUJO, QUARANTINED

COVID-19 has affected pandals in Bengal and beyond, changing the character of the celebration

IN WEST BENGAL, if not in the country as a whole, the gods are as earthly as they are sacred. And the *pratimas* (Durga idols), in *pujo* pandals across Kolkata, find the divine in the everyday. This year, for example, Mahishasur has been depicted as the COVID-19 virus, and Durga and her offspring as frontline workers slaying him. Then, there's Durga depicted as a migrant worker — a rendition which sees divinity in those who do the most and, in return, receive the least. In the upcoming festive season — the celebrations were to begin in full force on October 22, *shoshti* — the goddess must be isolated, and the jostling equality of the crowd, eager to worship and celebrate her conquest and its interpretations, must give way to the necessary precaution of isolation.

The Calcutta High Court's decision to bar visitors from pandals given the "uncontrollable" rise in COVID-19 cases certainly serves the public interest — only members of the *puja* committees and priests will be allowed into their respective pandals. It is likely that the rituals will be unaffected. And there will undoubtedly be live-streaming of *aartis*. Zoom calls where families and friends will eat together, in isolation, across distances, and the attempt at rescuing tradition in the face of the pandemic.

But the culture of Durga Puja is not just about religion. It is about community. *Bhog* is not about the food, but about communal eating — sharing a meal as much with acquaintances and strangers as with friends and family. It is a time when people across classes and backgrounds can enjoy a public space, and, for a period of time, come out from the mechanical oppression of modern life. In fact, even the inconvenience of the crowded pandals is part of their charm. The virus has certainly robbed people of something this year. Hopefully, it will be slayed in time for Pujo 2021.

BANKS DON'T MAKE loans; depositors do. India's Rs 144 lakh crore in bank deposits make our Rs 110 lakh crore in bank loans possible. The "common man" is more likely a depositor than a borrower; banks have 210 crore deposit accounts but only 27 crore loan accounts. I make the case that a court-ordered interest waiver and bad loan recognition ban is scope creep that hurts the common man, has nothing to do with economic justice defined as the greatest good for the greatest number, and is hardly what our Constitution imagined as the role of courts.

Banking seems simple — banks pay interest to depositors, charge higher interest to borrowers and use this "net interest margin" to meet expenses, write off bad loans, and generate profits for shareholders — but is complex because of bad behaviour. Sins include overpaying depositors or employees, undercharging borrowers and making bad loans. Stupidity is not illegal but banks are special because, unlike industrial firms, a liquidity crisis is practically indistinguishable from a solvency crisis. Protecting bank depositors needs ensuring reasonable expenses, collecting loans with interest, ensuring accurate financial statements and fighting political temptations to gift-wrap spending as lending. Tools include prudential norms and subjective judgments on leadership, growth rates and governance. Central banks have tough jobs in the best of times but the courts consistently choose borrowers over depositors; a court warned the RBI pursuing a loan defaulter to not twist arms so hard that they break. Courts taking depositors for granted combines with COVID-19, past banking sins and suspended bankruptcy to make financial stability harder when it is most important.

The average Indian enterprise is small for many reasons but one of them is the availability and cost of credit. Our embarrassing 50 per cent credit-to-GDP ratio — Bihar is 12 per cent and Arunachal is 1 per cent and MSME lending is stuck at Rs 20 lakh crore — needs to rise to 100 per cent. And despite lower inflation and fiscal discipline, most borrowers don't get globally competitive interest rates because our banking system has high

bad loans (above Rs 10 lakh crore for the last decade) and financial statement uncertainty (investors know that breaking the thermometer does nothing for the fever so weak bad loan accounting has them imagining the worst). The availability of credit is more important than the cost of credit for entrepreneurs but availability will not rise and cost will not fall till our banking system has strong competition, consistent regulation, effective supervision and non-fiscal sustainability.

Waiving interest dues or banning bad loan recognition is economically ignorant because more than 20 per cent of Indians are depositors while less than 2 per cent are borrowers. It's commercially ignorant because any "annualised effective rate" is adjusted for interest payment frequency. It's spatially ignorant because a common man can't borrow Rs 2 crore. It sabotages economic justice because fiscally funding banking diverts money from education, health and skilling expenditure. Resources are finite (total central government expenditure is Rs 29 lakh crore), scarce (COVID creates a Rs 3 lakh crore GST shortfall) and fragile (our fiscal deficit may exceed 12 per cent).

Government money for bad loan write-offs or interest payments is dysfunctional; the Rs 2 lakh crore fresh equity in the last two years for nationalised banks is 40 times the Ministry of Skills' budget; Bhushan Steel defaulted on more nationalised bank loans than the central government allocation to primary education; and the first 12 defaulters forced into IBC by RBI had nationalised bank loans equal to four times the central government allocation to healthcare. Private banks are not saints but their problems are borne by shareholders (crushing dilution by Rs 1 lakh crore fresh capital raising), management (removal) and market capitalisation calibration (differential price-to-book ratios capture important information).

Our 299 remarkable Constitution writers made two visionary partitions. Their distinction between fundamental rights and directive principles was not a lack of ambition — if fiscal deficits could make countries rich, no country would be poor — but a measured assessment of state capacity, resources and se-

quencing. The other was distinct driving lanes for the judiciary, executive and legislature to balance *samaj* (society), *bazaar* (markets) and *sarkar* (government). Courts have become less mindful of these two distinctions; the right to default on interest hardly qualifies as a fundamental right and banning NPA recognition is a violation of constitutional lanes. The most powerful case for lane driving by courts in a democracy comes from Bernard Crick's 1963 book, *In Defence of Politics* that suggests that the messy, slow and clunky process involving conciliation, compromise and squeezing collective decisions out of conflicting citizen demands is best left to people who fight elections.

Institutional immunity needs balancing of independence and accountability; rising citizen concern about mandates and appointments should trigger court introspection. Ashoka University Professor Madhav Khosla's new book *India's Founding Moment* wonderfully captures our constitutional imagination; the court's self-assumed mandate as protector of the Constitution's "basic structure" may contradict Ambedkar's view of the text as a living document whose easy amendment procedures protected it from "the faults of rigidity and legalism". And Michael Sandel's new book *The Tyranny of Merit* should catalyse an open debate on whether current rules for court appointments diminish cognitive diversity and are biased in favour of candidates born in legal households. Meritocracies can be incestuous and unfair.

A modern state is a welfare state but banks are lousy vehicles for "common man Diwali gifts". Gandhiji said "When you are in doubt, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will it restore his control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry and starving millions?" A loan interest waiver and bad loan recognition ban fail this test.

The writer is with Teamlease Services. Views are personal



CLARE M WILKINSON

CLOTHES THAT TELL A STORY

Bhanu Athaiya's art was not beholden to star system, spoke its own language

I MET BHANU Athaiya, the legendary costume designer who died on October 15, twice in my life. The first time was at the long-defunct Centaur Hotel in Juhu, where we talked briefly about costumes before she set off to do some work-related shopping. I wanted to interview her formally for my research project, but she demurred, politely but firmly. She wanted to tell her own story, she explained, not hand it over to someone else. The next time, a full eight years later, was at her workshop at Breach Candy, where we talked about her philosophy of film costume. Her book, *The Art of Costume Design* (2010), had recently been released. As a document of her long and illustrious career, it was, and remains, a must-have for anyone interested in film costume in India.

Like other costume designers, Athaiya had been called on to make costumes for select stars or for the female leads. But she also designed for the entire cast, a rarity — until recently — outside the parallel cinema. One advantage of designing for the whole film, she confessed, was that it liberated her from worrying about pleasing stars. But that wasn't the only reason, since her work for select stars and films afforded her opportunities to explore new styles and themes. The clue came from her reflections on discovering a shared sensibility with other Oscar-winning costume designers, a sensibility rooted in conceiving of costume as something not beholden to a star, not even a director. Costume simply isn't draping one outfit after another

on the actor. All the costumes, in all the scenes, form a set with its own contours and rhythms. For Shah Rukh Khan's scenes in Nasa at the beginning of Ashutosh Gowariker's *Swades* (2004), Athaiya had his shirts tailored in her workshop, even though she could have picked them up ready-made. To her, every element of the design required close supervision. She was able to exercise this singularity of purpose because of her seniority in the industry and the sway that her Oscar commanded.

For this alone she would be remarkable. But she is remembered most fondly by film fans for the iconic costumes she crafted for some of the industry's biggest stars. Revisiting them in the last few days, I've been struck by how beautifully they punctuate the film's narrative. In the stunning ensembles worn by Nadira as Maya from *Shree 420* (1955), Athaiya was able, in a series of compact images, to drive home the contrast between her and Nargis's virtuous, sari-wearing Vidya. For *Waqt* (1965), her designs for Sadhana as Meena and Sharmila Tagore as Renu — their sleeveless kurtas, form-fitting churidars, and gorgeous saris — didn't just introduce a jolt of fashion. In a film with a fair measure of loss and humiliation, they sounded the notes of youthful optimism that helped bring about a happy conclusion.

Within the industry, Athaiya was renowned as a designer of historical films and films that demanded a strong regional iden-

tity. She was typically given full rein to steer the costume as she wanted, guided by meticulous archival and visual research but also by talking to locals, observing their costumes, and integrating what she learned into her work. She is most famous for her work on 2001's *Lagaan* and her masterpiece, *Gandhi* (1982). Athaiya was responsible not just for outfitting the principal characters but all the secondary characters and junior artists too. There was no option in the early 1980s of adding crowds with computer special effects: Every figure in the crowd had to be dressed. All of this had to be done after only a few months of preparation and within the unbending constraints of the shooting schedule. The operational demands, on top of the creative ones, are staggering to imagine.

Athaiya's career began in the golden age of Hindi film, with Guru Dutt and Raj Kapoor; it drew to a close as costume design was undergoing significant change in the industry, with more filmmakers opting to hire one designer for the film instead of several. Where Athaiya led, others have followed. Costume even now rarely attracts the respect it is owed as a critical component of communication and feeling in films. But thanks to Athaiya's meticulous artistry, it has happily gained some of the spotlight.

The writer is associate professor of anthropology at Washington State University, Vancouver, US



OCTOBER 21, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

CITY OF BLOOD
IRAQI MECHANISED INFANTRY, covered by steady artillery fire, edged closer to Abadan to tighten their stranglehold on the embattled city, supplier of two-thirds of Iran's fuel needs in peacetime. Iraqi sources say infantry and armoured personnel carriers were in position in palm groves on the eastern edge of Abadan, but reports from the front said Abadan's defenders were continuing to offer tenacious defence. In nearby Khorramshahr, Iran's chief trading port, Iraqi forces appear to have gained control over key areas. Iran announced it had renamed Khorramshahr, fertile city in Farsi, to Khuninshahr, the city of blood.

IRAN ON MEDIATION
IRAN'S LEADER, AYATOLLAH Khomeini, agreed to allow a mediation committee of Islamic Heads of State to come to Tehran but said that its task was confined to "investigating the criminal investigation" ordered by the Iraqi president.

VIOLENCE IN UP
TWO PERSONS WERE killed and 31 others were injured following a violent clash between members of two communities and subsequent police firing in Malipurpur village in Saharanpur district. The army was called out and police reinforcements were deployed in order to maintain law and or-

der as communal tension arose following the clash. The trouble is said to have arisen when two persons of one community objected to a procession route of a Dussehra procession.

ID IN DELHI
ID-UL-ZUHA WAS celebrated with traditional amity with thousands of Muslims congregating at the Jama Masjid, Fatehpuri and other mosques to offer prayers. At the Idgah, Hindus and Muslims greeted each other. Amongst those present were Union Home Minister Giani Zail Singh, Khurshid Alam Khan, minister of state for commerce, and Delhi's Lt Governor Jagmohan.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Blacklist? It is more like a black hole that has devoured thousands of Pakistani passport holders wanting to travel."
—DAWN

A reform that cannot wait

Hathras incident and its aftermath shine a light on need to sensitise police to its role in society



JAIVEER SHERGILL

MARTIN LUTHER KING had said if as law enforcement officers, we side with justice, then we must recognise that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". The Hathras incident that involved manhandling of Opposition leaders and media by the "protectors of law" has once again reminded us of the triad of malaises afflicting law enforcement in India — the lack of sensitisation of police personnel, absence of accountability under the garb of khaki and politicisation of the police.

In a well-ordered democracy, the police are supposed to be a disciplined force trained to uphold the law and enforce the functioning of democracy on constitutional lines. But, setting aside basic human values of dignity, the Uttar Pradesh police cremated the victim's body in the middle of the night, in the absence of family members. They denied her dignity even after death. Then, violating the basic principle of policing, male police officials manhandled female media persons and female politicians, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Such behaviour by the police and the absence of any effective accountability mechanisms — other than expressing hollow remorse over Twitter and periodic review of performance of the police force — is causing the police to lose the public's confidence. The country must wake up to the crying need for police reform — this is one reform India cannot afford to delay.

Reform should start from the basic level, where it is badly required. The police need to be sensitised about their role in society. There has to be promptness of action and decency of behaviour. They need to be trained in body language and strictly advised to refrain from abusive behaviour. The sensitisation module should aim at bringing about attitudinal change — especially pertaining to gender and power relations and police behaviour. It is necessary to increase public confidence in the police by upgrading levels of police service delivery as well as by investigating and acting in cases of police misconduct.

The second important aspect is police accountability. Confidence in police, which is a prerequisite to effective policing, erodes significantly when the public perceives that police abuses are not investigated effectively. The Police Ombudsman of Northern Ireland, the Danish Independent Police Complaints Authority and the Independent Police Conduct Authority in New Zealand are classic examples of mechanisms for accountability of the police for acts of abuse of power. Enhancing accountability will improve police legitimacy and increase public confidence, which, in turn, will reinforce the integrity of the system. Linked to accountability is de-politicisation of the police force. This is a must for the effective functioning of the country's criminal justice system. The police, as the custodian of

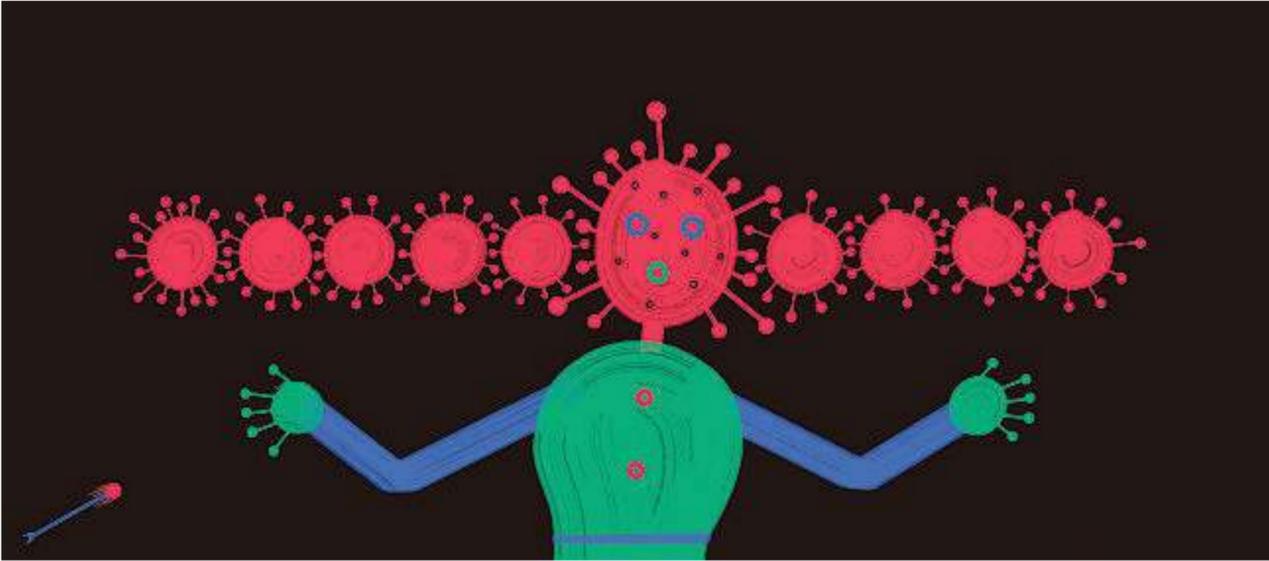
maintenance of law and order, must stay away from agenda-driven politics.

In order to achieve these objectives, structural issues within the force must be given priority. According to a report by Common Cause in 2019, the Indian police force is at only 77 per cent of its sanctioned strength. India has 144 police personnel for one lakh population and, in some states, the figure is less than 100. One in every five posts sanctioned in the Indian Police Service remains vacant. The situation is more worrying when it comes to vacancies in low and middle rank posts. In these positions, the vacancies of 5.28 lakh personnel account for nearly one-fourth of the total sanctioned strength of over 22 lakh. A fully staffed police force would only increase India's police-to-population ratio to 185 against the UN recommended ratio of 222. The police-to-people ratio should be improved by at least 50 per cent to meet the challenges faced by the force. Women are grossly underrepresented in our police force. They constitute less than 7 per cent of our total police strength. With the increase in the number of gender crimes, it has become a necessity to augment the strength of police by recruiting more and more women police personnel. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is the worst where police are at roughly 50 per cent of sanctioned strength. When the numbers are inadequate, police personnel are stretched, leading to shoddy policing. The existing police personnel are also not adequately trained. Less than 7 per cent police get in-service training. Gujarat scores the lowest, with less than one per cent having received any in-service training.

Since the National Police Commission in 1977, several committees were set up, including the Gore Committee, Padmanabhaiah Committee and Malimath Committee. These commissions and committees have made far-reaching recommendations. The recommendations of the Dharma Vira Commission have far-sighted implications. One of its recommendations is that the top police leadership should be selected by apolitical representatives and an impartial body. It was a strong antidote to opportunistic appointments and transfers. Recommendations of the commission, if implemented, along with the Supreme Court directives of 2006 by Justice Sabharwal, in true letter and spirit, will go a long way in police reform. Reforms in the criminal justice system and separation of law and order from investigation and prosecution are the other areas that need the attention of the authorities. These aspects have been highlighted by many commissions and committees constituted by the Centre.

The challenge of India is to restore the culture of rule of law, and make police and justice accessible, effective and credible. A new role and new philosophy have to be defined for the police to not only make it a capable and effective body but also one accountable to the law of the land and to the people whom they serve. The government of the day should take keen interest in the matter. We have to address the fundamentals if we want better policing.

The writer is a Supreme Court Lawyer and national spokesperson, the Indian National Congress



C R Sasikumar

Every citizen a Covid warrior

Remaining within the 'lakshman rekha' is key as we embrace the festive season with responsibility and caution



SHASHANK R JOSHI

OFTEN, WE THINK of the "worst-case scenario" during pandemics. This fuels panic and fear and, at times, makes us take decisions that are not guided by prudence, logic and evidence. The COVID-19 pandemic has been no different. India rose to the occasion initially, screening airline passengers and then, suddenly, announcing a nationwide lockdown. In retrospect, we can say that the lockdown restricted movement, made Indians homebound but it also contained the pandemic and, most definitely, saved lives. The trapped migrant workers, however, struggled for livelihood and had to be gradually transported back to their homes — this created a strain for the establishment.

The lockdown gave India time to prepare. But we had to take an economic hit — a transient one, it seems — and ramp up our healthcare infrastructure. The healthcare sector responded proactively across the board; that clearly made a significant dent on the number of infections and helped keep the fatality rate in check. Unfortunately, the sign of a catastrophe often compels us to act impulsively — we tend to forget "balancing" between saving lives and hampering livelihoods. Plans and policies based on mathematical models are, unfortunately, not often valid in the biological world of lethal pathogens like the coronavirus. Systematic evidence-based research in public health can map the pandemic geographically and generate more informed decision-making. The Centre and state governments rose to the occasion, often relying on expert advice. However, the heterogeneity of India and the complexities in our systems made implementation of simple things tough.

So, what are the lessons we have learned from the pandemic? And are we in a position to deal with the health crisis better?

Indians showed enormous resilience. The data speaks for itself — the second-most populous country in the world has one of the best recovery rates and one of the lowest case fatality rates.

It is often said that we did not test enough. But a careful analysis of the Indian strategy shows that testing was scaled up from a near-absent base to one of the largest testing capacities, with the fastest turnaround time in the world. The COVID-19 antigen test has a response time of less than an hour and the RT-PCR test less than 24 hours — this is something that even large countries like the US and the UK struggle with. We will still need more innovations that produce rapid solutions — saliva tests, for example. The CRISPR-based tests are likely to provide a cutting-edge dimension to the battle against the virus. The need to validate the viral load cycle threshold values is the next research milestone that will help assess who needs extra care among the infected.

As we mindfully unlock the country, it is time to focus on protecting the most susceptible — those above 55 years of age with comorbidities. However, we can't be complacent about adults and youth, who can be the silent spreaders. They need to follow the COVID-19 *kavach mantra* of using masks, following social distance protocols and being scrupulous about hygiene. Self-care, self-protection and *atmanirbharta* (self-reliance) is the key to COVID-19 control. The virus is unpredictable and tricky. Localised transmission is well known in the community and a clear-cut containment strategy is mandatory. A strict and result-oriented containment plan driven by sound public health science is still needed in hot-spots. The transmission trajectory of the virus has moved from the poorer urban slums to middle-class localities and has seeped into the community. Indians have risen to this challenge, while also negotiating an infodemic that has often been full of myths.

Demystification and allaying fears are important, but we have often seen extreme posturing in the past few months. We now know that the coronavirus is an airborne droplet which thrives in moist environments, and is transmitted via saliva, nasal, throat secretions and cough droplets, apart from physi-

cal contact with contaminated surfaces. We need to minimise activities that require physical contact. Exhaust fans and air recirculation in public kitchens and toilets can impact the disease transmission.

Gatherings — small, medium or large — can be potential spreaders. Avoiding crowds and breathing fresh air in well-ventilated spaces is the way forward. Indian culture is full of feasts and festivals and these often involve travel, movement and interaction. The lockdown has impacted minds in a mixed way — people are trapped between fear and recklessness. Remaining within the *Lakshman rekha* is the key as we embrace the festive season with responsibility and caution. Indians have the highest tolerance threshold for centuries, which now needs to be channelled in COVID-appropriate behaviour and habits.

Simple habits enshrined in our traditional culture can be re-inducted in our daily lives. Eating healthy protein-rich food — but not in excess — avoiding fried and fast food, as well as not eating excessively will stand us in good stead. Eating slowly, eating on time and focusing on traditional foods that build immunity hold the key. Exercising is important — from a simple *suryanamaskar* and breathing exercises like *pranayama* to expanding and improving our lung capacity. Often chanting mantras generates positive energy, reduces anxiety and allows us to focus without fear. Sleeping well, sleeping on time and sleeping early is also important

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The writer is the dean of Indian College of Physicians and a well-known endocrinologist in Mumbai. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2014



DIPANKAR BHATTACHARYA

A bogey for the BJP

In Bihar, the party is trying to spread fear about the CPI(ML). It won't work

THE BJP, WHICH hijacked power in Bihar in 2017 by colluding with Nitish Kumar against the emphatic anti-BJP 2015 mandate of the people of Bihar, had thought it could steal the Bihar elections again by using COVID-19 and the lockdown as shields for the BJP and the party is trying to scare the people against the RJD-Left-INC Mahagathbandhan and, especially, the presence of the CPI(ML) in the alliance.

What makes the BJP so desperate? The party clearly has no answer to the questions that are uppermost in people's minds in these elections. It needs bogeys to divert the attention of the people and it hopes it can invoke the CPI(ML) as a bogey to cover up the fear the BJP has spread throughout the country through its disastrous policies, hate-filled politics and cruel and repressive governance.

The people of Bihar have reasons to fear the BJP for all that it is doing in neighbouring UP, where Yogi Adityanath Raj is marked by a complete collapse of the rule of law.

What has been the track record of the CPI(ML) in the electoral arena? The CPI(ML)

made its mark in Bihar in the late 1980s as the party which resisted booth-capturing and inspired and empowered the landless poor and disenfranchised Dalits to exercise their right to vote. Dalits had to face a massacre in Bhojpur after their first vote, but they succeeded in sending Rameshwar Prasad to Parliament as the first CPI(ML) MP in 1989. The other CPI(ML) leader to have been elected to the Lok Sabha in four consecutive elections was Jayanta Rongpi from the Autonomous District constituency in Assam.

Who have been the CPI(ML) MLAs in Bihar and Jharkhand?

Ram Naresh Ram, the iconic communist leader of Bhojpur who won three successive elections from Sahar; Yogeshwar Gope, legendary leader of state government employees' movement in Bihar; Mahendra Singh, the boldest voice of the people in Jharkhand who was assassinated during the 2005 elections just after nomination; peasant leaders such as Chandradeep Singh, Amarnath Yadav, Rajaram Singh, Arun Singh and Sudama Prasad; agricultural labour leader Satyadev Ram; popular communist leader of Seemanchal, Mahboob Alam; popular Jharkhand leaders like Vinod Singh and Rajkumar Yadav — such has been the team

of CPI(ML) members in Bihar and Jharkhand assemblies.

Many BJP MLAs and MPs would mark an ignominious contrast to this illustrious list. Rape accused and convicted MLAs of the likes of Kuldeep Sengar, the likes of terror accused Pragna Thakur who glorifies Gandhi's assassin Godse, or ministers like Giriraj Singh celebrating notorious massacre mastermind Brahmeshwar Singh as Bihar's Gandhi, and chief minister Yogi Adityanath misusing his position to drop all criminal charges against himself — the BJP can boast of such shameful examples that will go down in history as a disgrace to India's democracy.

The BJP is afraid of the poor and the oppressed finding a voice. The BJP just cannot stomach the fact that the poor have managed to emerge as a fighting force energising Bihar's ongoing battle for change.

The Mahagathbandhan or the grand alliance in Bihar marks the coming together of communist, socialist, and Congress streams of India's glorious movement for freedom. The ideological and organisational predecessors of BJP betrayed the freedom movement then by collaborating with the British rulers.

Today they are trying to rule India like the *bhure angrez* (brown sahibs) Bhagat

Singh had warned us against — imposing a new company raj and silencing the voices of dissent and democracy with cruel draconian laws and repressive governance exactly as the colonial rulers did.

We have the inheritance of the freedom movement and democracy. We are the heirs of Bhagat Singh and Ambedkar, who blazed the trail for social equality and people's emancipation.

The RSS, which was inspired by Mussolini and Hitler, remains fiercely opposed to India's secular, democratic inheritance and the quest for justice, freedom, equality and fraternity cherished in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Let the BJP dread the assertion of the poor and the oppressed people for their rights, and the coming together of forces in defence of democracy and the Constitution. Bihar is determined to punish the betrayers of the 2015 mandate, the destroyers of India's economy and the cruel and sadist architects of the lockdown that caused limitless pain and humiliation to the people of Bihar. The decisive hour for change has arrived and Bihar is ready to fight and win this battle.

The writer is general secretary, CPI(ML) Liberation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRUDENT SILENCE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Hope and caution' (IE, October 20). The pandemic has been a bottomless pit and countries across the globe are at sea in dealing with it. The Department of Science and Technology painting a rosy picture has to be taken with a pinch of salt, given that factors such as the approaching winter and festive season are conducive to the virus's spread. For a common man, such predictions have no relevance: Since the onset of COVID-19, predictions have gone haywire. It would be prudent of government agencies to refrain from the dissemination of good or bad news on pandemic behaviour.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

POOR DECISION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Numbers don't lie' (IE, October 19). Sidharth Nath Singh's article read as a distressing government PR job. It is shocking that it secured such a prominent space in a leading and respected newspaper. The Uttar Pradesh minister is not apologising for Hathras or the heinous crimes in his state but praising his chief minister for performing better than the 10 states languishing below UP. If a leading newspaper allows such an article, what chance do common people have of demanding political accountability?

Nirupama Selkhi, via email

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● THE FCRA CATCH-22: KABIR DIXIT

● LAWS LIBERATING THE FARMER: FAUZAN ALAVI

www.indianexpress.com

INDIA IS READY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Along way from 1962' (IE, October 20). While China has stolen the march on the economic front, India is not very far behind in the military dimension. Chinese armed forces have an advantage in terms of numbers and the backing of a huge indigenous arms industry but the Indian armed forces are battle-hardened, having successfully fought three wars after 1962. The PLA suffered reverses against Vietnam. The Indian army also has experience of fighting in high altitudes and is psychologically better prepared, having fought an asymmetric war in the Kashmir valley for the last 30 years.

HN Bhagwat, Chiplun

MISSION SHAKTI

UP: 400 cases against women, children on priority list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 20

THREE DAYS into the launch of the Mission Shakti campaign by the Uttar Pradesh government for women security, the state's prosecution directorate has identified as many as 400 cases related to crimes against women and children for their earlier judicial remedy.

In most of the identified cases — 134 of the 400 being of "serious nature" — the trial has been completed, officials at the prosecution department said.

"With coordination from every level, we are working hard to conclude them at the earliest. We are monitoring the progress in these cases on a daily basis," Additional Director General (Prosecution) Ashutosh Pandey said. "With prompt prosecution, our efforts is to ensure that accused get punished," the official added.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had launched "Mission Shakti", a six-month drive to ensure safety and security of women and children, on



UP CM Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched Mission Shakti, a six-month drive to ensure safety and security of women and children, on October 17

October 17, coinciding with the beginning of Navratri.

Speaking to a group of women gram pradhans on Sunday, the Chief Minister had said that his government would

soon launch a special drive to initiate "legal action against all those who are a threat to women security or those who are indulging in corruption in the welfare schemes for women".

"In the first phase of the Mission Shakti programme, we are going to spread awareness on women safety. In the second phase, legal action will be taken, and in the third phase, we will launch massive action against two kinds of people — one who are a threat to the security of women and those who are promoting widespread corruption in schemes meant for the welfare of women," the Chief Minister had said.

In the last three days, the government said that as 14 people received the death penalty in 11 cases related to crimes against women and children in the state. An official said life imprisonment was awarded to 28 convicts and 39 others were sentenced to jail terms of different durations. "The prosecution department also got bail cancelled of 398 accused in cases related to crimes against women and children," the official added.

Over 230 Dalits embrace Buddhism in NCR: 'Hathras crime tipping point'

SOMYA LAKHANI NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

WHEN SUNITA, 45, a household help, asked her employer for a glass of water, she was reluctantly handed a steel tumbler and asked to use only that. "It was kept in a corner of the kitchen, marked aside for me to use — for everyone entering the kitchen to know that I am a Valmiki... This incident repeated in most houses I worked in," said Sunita, seated outside her house in Ghaziabad's Karera village, near Hindon residential area.

In 2009, when her eldest son Pawan went to a luxury apartment complex in Ghaziabad to apply for the job of a peon, his surname — "Valmiki", a Scheduled Caste community — was enough for the employer to say he could only work in the cleaning department. "I didn't apply for a cleaning job (but) I took it because I needed the money. However, I recognised the discrimination. We are facing this for generations," Pawan said.

In a bid to ensure that his two children don't undergo the same discrimination, Pawan converted to Buddhism on October 14, along



At Karera village in Ghaziabad. Gajendra Yadav

with his family members and several neighbours. He said 236 people from Karera embraced Buddhism in the presence of Rajratn Ambedkar, the great grand-nephew of Dr B R Ambedkar.

Among them is Inder Ram (65), who worked as a mechanic in east Delhi's Shahdara until a few years ago. "After what happened in Hathras with the 19-year-old Dalit woman, we decided to convert," he said. "There is no caste in Buddhism; no one is a Thakur or a

Valmiki there. Everyone is a human being, everyone is just a Buddhist."

The Hathras victim was allegedly gangraped and assaulted, leading to her death, by four upper-caste men last month.

"We thought of converting in the past as well but this (Hathras) incident shook us up — the way state machinery is grilling the victim's family, the way she was cremated at 2.30 am without her family's permission," Pawan said.

He said people in Karera took out a candlelight march in the area a few days after she died. Soon after, Pawan said, he began pitching the idea to convert to Buddhism.

Kamlesh, 50, who used to collect scrap before the lockdown, said, "The Hathras incident was the tipping point for most of us. Converting to another religion is not an easy decision. It means leaving behind old rituals, but we are now tired... aaj se hum Valmiki nahi, Buddhist hai (from today, we are not Valmikis but Buddhists)."

Talking about rituals, Sunita said this is the first time in years that she isn't fasting on Navratri. Tara Chand, 70, who worked as a sweeper, said, "In Buddhism, there is no fasting, no idol worship. We have embraced it fully. My father was discriminated against, so was I, so are my children, and their children. When will this stop? When will we progress?"

Recalling a conversation with his children about their classmates, Kamal said: "Upper-caste children don't want to sit with our children; teachers want our children to be backbenchers. Why? Because of their surname: 'Valmiki'. So we will change it. This is for our future."

Unnao gangrape victim kin missing: Police get court's nod for polygraph test on accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 20

UNNAO POLICE have obtained a local court's permission to get a lie-detector test done on five accused, including three women, arrested for allegedly kidnapping the six-year-old nephew of a gangrape victim on October 2.

Those arrested for allegedly kidnapping him are relatives of the five booked in the gangrape case. The 23-year-old woman was raped and later set on fire while she was on her way to the court to attend the hearing in the gangrape case last December. She died of the burn injuries.

"Recently, we moved the court seeking permission to get the lie-detector test done on the five accused booked in the kidnapping case. Police moved the court only after obtaining consent from the accused. The court has given us permission," said SP, Unnao, Suresh A Kulkarni. Police have contacted officials of Forensic Science Laboratory, Lucknow to get the test lie-detector done.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE							
Sr. No.	Name of DEPARTMENT/BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE TIME	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX) IN rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL	TENDER REF NO./ TENDER NO.
1	Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad	Supplementary Material i.e. Big Book/Posters/Cards for Class-I & Class-II for Academic Session 2020-21 under Prarambhik Bhasha Shikshan Karyakaram	22.10.2020 (17.00 hrs.) & 29.10.2020 (14.00 hrs.)	Rs. 70 lacs & 1,40,000/-	www.hsspp.in	Sh. Rajnish Sharma 0172-2590500 pohspp@gmail.com	660/2020P Q/HSSPP

Sd/- (Rajnish Sharma) Procurement Officer HSSPP, Panchkula

83305/HRY

15 get life for shooting 3 men dead in 1996

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 20

A court in Fatehpur has sentenced 15 people to life imprisonment for shooting three men dead during a clash between two groups in the city on August 6, 1996. "In the

triple murder case, Additional District and Sessions Judge Ajay Kumar sentenced 15 people to life imprisonment. After the court pronounced its judgment, all accused, who were out on bail, were taken into custody and sent to jail," said government counsel (Fatehpur) Sahdev Gupta.

According to the prosecution, two groups clashed near a bus stand in Fatehpur after one group demanded 'goonda tax' from a private bus. Three men — Sunil Singh, Ram Niranjn Singh and Rakesh Singh — died in the subsequent firing and five others were injured.

Those convicted are Pradeep Pandey, Kamal Pandey, Pappu Pandey, Prakash Pandey, Santosh Pandey, Neeraj Pandey, Sanjay Pandey, Rajendra Pandey, Tarachand Pandey, Santosh Tiwari, Chhotu Tiwari, Gyan Singh, Vijay Pandey and Mukesh Pandey.

78-yr-old doctor held for sexually harassing woman patient: Police

SAGAR RAJPUT MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

A 78-YEAR-OLD dermatologist has been arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a woman in his clinic on Friday. The police said the skin specialist had also been arrested in 2015 for allegedly molesting another woman.

According to the police, in the latest incident, a 48-year-old woman visited the doctor in his clinic on August 26 for treatment of an allergy on her forehead. The woman has alleged in her complaint that the doctor touched her inappropriately and asked her questions that made her uncomfortable. The doctor gave her medicines and asked her to return after 15 days. Accordingly, she visited his clinic on September 12. Again, he touched her inappropriately, the woman has alleged.

She visited his clinic again on Friday, as the doctor had given her another appointment. "This time I went with my two sons. Elder son remained in the car while I took the younger one along as he had some allergy on his forehead. The doctor called him first. After he came out, I went in at 5 pm," she told the police.

The woman alleged that the doctor locked the door from inside. "He then touched me inappropriately and kissed me. I tried raising an alarm, managed to push him and escaped," she has said in her police complaint.

The woman then called her husband, who asked her to lodge a complaint at the local police station. Police have registered a case under sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354 (B) (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disobey) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the IPC.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (zone II) Rajiv Jain confirmed the arrest. "The incident took place in the evening after which she came to the police station. Case was registered by night and the accused was arrested."

The police said the accused was remanded in police custody till Monday. He was again produced in court on Monday and sent to jail.

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI DIRECTORATE OF GURDWARA ELECTIONS F BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, IP ESTATE, NEW DELHI - 110002.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All Sikh citizens of Delhi are informed that the work of revision and preparation of Photo Electoral Rolls of Sikh Citizens of Delhi in respect of all 46 Gurdwara Wards of Delhi for election of members to the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee on door to door basis is being started by this Directorate w.e.f. 22.10.2020. For this purpose, the Sikh citizens fulfilling the following criteria are eligible to be registered as an elector for the respective Gurdwara Ward:

- Residing at a place for not less than 180 days in a ward.
- Have attained the age of 18 years or more as on 1st January 2021.
- Who don't trim or shave his beard or keshas.
- Don't smoke or take alcoholic drinks.

Eligible Sikh Citizens may fill the following forms for inclusion, deletion and correction in the Photo Electoral Rolls which are available with the Zonal offices along with their latest coloured Photographs or online through website i.e. "www.gurdwara.delhigovt.nic.in". These are as under:

- (I) Form No. 4 for becoming an elector.
 - (II) Form No.5 for objection to an elector.
 - (III) Form No. 6 for correction in the existing electoral rolls.
- Following Zonal offices have been set up in the Gurdwara Shaib of various areas of Delhi to receive the forms from the Sikh Citizens for the above purpose:-

Zone No.	Name & Designation of ERO (S/Sh.)	Contact No.	No. and Name of the Wards	Locations of zonal offices
1-Rohini	Sh. Kulvendra Yadav, Dy. Director	9818027374	1-Rohini 2- Swaroop Nagar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha (Pocket B-5 & B-6) Guru Tegh Bahadur Road Sec-7, Rohini Delhi-85. Gurdwara Sri Singh Sabha, B Block, Swaroop Nagar, Kushak Road No.02, Delhi-110042.
2-Civil Lines	Sh. Yogesh Pal Singh, Assistant Director	9868875758	3- Civil Lines 5- Model Town	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha (Gurdwara Rab ta Kutta), Nirankari Colony, Dhirpur Delhi. Gurdwara Sri Singh Sabha, single Storey Vijay Nagar Delhi-09.
3- PritamPura	Sh. Ravinder Kumar Saini, Admn. Officer	9891772547	4- Pitam Pura 8- Shakur Basti	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, BC- Block, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88 Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha-1005 Rani Bagh, Shakur Basti, Delhi-34.
4- Shakti Nagar	Sh. Jitender Admn. Officer	9999475538	6- Shakti Nagar 7- Tri Nagar	Gurdwara Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha, Basti Punjabian, opp community centre, Subji Mandi, Delhi-07. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Lakhu Nagar, Tri Nagar, Delhi-35.
5- Punjabi Bagh	Sh. Ram Chander Antil, Admn. Officer	9711852061	9- Punjabi Bagh 10- Guru Harkishan Nagar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Pocket-2-3, Club road, Paschim Puri, Delhi-63. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Block No. 08 Sunder Vihar, Delhi-87.
6-Tagore Garden	Sh. Dinesh Jha, Assit. Director	9899186930	16- Tagore Garden 17- Raghuraj Nagar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Tagore Garden, D-Block, New Delhi-110027 Gurdwara Sri Singh Sabha, NA, NE Block, Vishnu Garden, Delhi-18
7-Khyala	Sh. Sanjeev Gupta, Dy. Director	9818420775	21- Khyala 24- Ravi Nagar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Block -05, Vishnu Garden, Near 830 Khyala New Delhi-18 Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Extn.-1, Maddi Wali Gali, Gali No.10, Vishnu Garden, Baapu da gurudwara, New Delhi-18.
8- Sham Nagar	Sh. Rajesh Kumar Bhardwaj, Admn Officer	9810694207	22- Sham Nagar 23- Vishnu Garden	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Main Vishnu Garden (Sham Nagar Extn.) Vishnu park, Navyug Block (A,B,C,D,E,F,G Block) Delhi-18. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Chand Nagar, New Delhi
9- Tilak Nagar	Sh. Gurpreet Singh, Admn. Officer	9560196544	25- Tilak Nagar 27- Tilak Vihar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Gurudwara Road, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18 Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Prithvi Park, New Delhi-18
10- Sant Garh	Sh. Gurpreet Singh, Admn. Officer	9560196544	26-Sant Garh 28-GuruNanak Nagar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Sant Garh, Delhi-18. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Main Bazar, Sahib Pur, P.O Tilak Nagar Major Bhupender Singh Nagar, Delhi-18
11-Chander Vihar	Sh. Sanjay Kumar Arora, Dy. Director	9810636534	11- Chander Vihar 30- Vikas Puri	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Uday Vihar, Plot No. B — 7 & 8, Sunday Bazar Road, Kikar Wala Chowk, Chander Vihar, Nilothi Extn., New Delhi-110041. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, C Block, Vikas Puri New Delhi-110018
12- Krishna park	Sh. Sunder Bora Admn. Officer	9810188786	29- Krishna Park 31- Uttam Nagar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gali No.08, Krishna Park, Delhi-18. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Pankha Road, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-59
13- Janak Puri	Sh. Sanjay Sharma, Dy. Director	9810416404	32- Janak Puri 33- Shiv Nagar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, C Block (C-4), Janak Puri, Delhi-58. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Prem Nagar, Chhoti Sabji Mandi, Janak Puri, Delhi-58.
14- Hari Nagar	Sh. Tanuj Bhanot, Asst. Commissioner (F&S)/ Registrar (FCS)	9810578938	19- Hari Nagar 20- Fateh Nagar	Gurdwara Kalgidhar, Kalgidhari Khalsa Sewak Sabha, Beri Wala Bagh, Subhas Nagar, Delhi-64. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, No 2, Tihar Colony, Ashok Nagar, New Delhi-18
15- Rajouri Garden	Sh. Som Dutt Sharma, Asstt. Labour Commissioner	9891693433	18- Rajouri Garden 15- Ramesh Nagar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Nehru Market, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-27. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, C-175A, Mansarovar Garden, Delhi-15.
16- Rajender Nagar	Sh. Chetan Bhatia, SREO	9711192363	13- Rajender Nagar 12- Dev Nagar	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha New Ranjeet nagar, (Near Satyam Cinema), Delhi Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, (Yadgar Bhai Joga Singh) East Patel Nagar, New Delhi-08.
17- Connaught Place	Sh. Ashfaq Ahmad Arfi, Executive Officer	9910718476 8595735380	14- Connaught Place 40- Jang Pura	Gurdwara Sri Mata Sundri Ji, Minilo Road, New Delhi -02 Gurdwara Dandama Sahab, Humany's Road Nizamuddin, East Delhi
18- Lajpat Nagar	Sh. Dheeraj Sharma, Asstt. Director	9868871068	35- Lajpat Nagar 36- Safdarjung Enclave	Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha, Gurudwara Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar-IV, Delhi-24. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Oppo. XY. I Block Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi.
19- Sarita Vihar	Sh. Mansoor Usmani, Admn. Officer	9810912223	34- Sarita Vihar 39- Kalkaji	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Mathura Road, Badar pur, Delhi-44 Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, B Block, Kalka Ji, New Delhi
20- Malviya Nagar	Sh. Yuvraj Singh Saini, Admn. Officer	9953096429	37- Malviya Nagar 38- Greater Kailash	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Malviya Nagar, Delhi-17 Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Greater Kailash, New Delhi
21- Preet Vihar	Sh. Lokesh Prasad Sinha, Dy. Commissioner	9868572321	46- Preet Vihar 45- Khureji Khas	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Pandav Nagar, Ganesh Nagar, Patpar Ganj Road, Delhi-92 Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Jitar Nagar, Delhi-51
22- Vivek Vihar	Sh. Vijay Kumar Jain, SREO	9811218628	43- Vivek Vihar 44- Geeta Colony	Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, F Block, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-51 Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Block 13/24 Geeta Colony, New Delhi.
23- Navin Shahdra	Sh. Jitender Singh Rathi, Admn. Officer	9911305503	41- Navin Shadara 42- Dishad Garden	Gurdwara Gobindgarh, Double Storey Quarter, Kabool Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-32. Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Ram Nagar, Delhi-32

All Sikh citizens of Delhi are requested to co-operate and fill up form No. 4, 5, or 6, as the case may be which are available at all the Zonal offices or online through website i.e. "www.gurdwara.delhigovt.nic.in". All Sikh Residents concerned are further requested to provide due information and render full co-operation to the Enumerators visiting their residence for verification of Form No. 4, 5 and 6.

The Presidents/ Secretaries of all Registered Gurdwara Singh Sabha's of Delhi are also requested to provide necessary assistance to the Enumerators about the location of the area where Sikh Citizens are residing and repeated message about revision of Photo Electoral Rolls may also be displayed on their Gurdwara's Notice Board in the Public Interest, so as to enable this Directorate to final publication of Electoral Rolls in respect of all the 46 Gurdwara Wards for upcoming election of members to the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.

The Zonal offices shall remain open between 09.00 AM TO 05.00 P.M and shall be closed on every Wednesday, being weekly off. The last date for receipt of forms is 20.11.2020 (Friday)

Above information is also available on the Directorate's website i.e. www.gurdwara.delhigovt.nic.in In case of any clarification/ difficulty, Sikh Citizens may please contact at following address/phone Nos. during office hours:

DIRECTORATE OF GURUDWARA ELECTION, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, ROOM NO. 201-205, F-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002 (PHONE NO. 23378681/23370225/2337071).

Sd/- (NARINDER SINGH) DIRECTOR (GURUDWARA ELECTIONS) DIP/SHABDARTH/ 0377/20-21

AMC FOR EOT CRANE
E-Tender Notice No. : Mech-LMG-ET-10-2020-21. Dated : 19-10-2020
E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Name of Work : "AMC of 03 nos EOT crane 100/3 ton capacity for 03 years at Wagon Maintenance Depot NGC". Tender Value: ₹28,02,130/- Earnest Money: ₹50,000/- Cost of tender document : ₹3,000/-. Date and Time of closing of Tender at 13:00 hrs. of 10-11-2020. Date and Time of Opening of Tender at 10:00 hrs. of 10-11-2020. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 13:00 hrs. on 10-11-2020 in website www.irps.gov.in.

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION ENGINEERING WORKS
E-tender notice No.: 19 of 2020-2021 dated 14.10.2020
(1) E-Tender No.: DRM-ADI-171-2020-21 Name of Work: Kankariya (Goods Shed): Other Rail users amenities-Provision of RCC road between TP 1 & TP2 Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 74,27,988.37/- EMD Cost: ₹ 1,48,600/-
(2) E-Tender No.: DRM-ADI-172-2020-21 Name of Work: Kankariya (Goods Shed): Other Rail users amenities-Provision of cover shed at outdoor platform Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 1,05,67,615.04/- EMD Cost: ₹ 2,02,800/-
(3) E-Tender No.: DRM-ADI-173-2020-21 Name of Work: Maninagar-Chlorination of drinking water at Maninagar area under jurisdiction of Sr. Sectional Engineer (Works) (South) ADI. (For five years) Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 30,02,728.22/- EMD Cost: ₹ 60,100/- Closing date & time of e-tender: 10.11.2020, 15.00 Hrs. Office Address: Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Ahmedabad DRM Office, Near Chumunda Bridge, Opp. New Swadeshi Mill, Naroda Road, Ampudura, Ahmedabad 382345 Website for participating in e-tender: www.irps.gov.in DRM (WA), ADI-124 Western Railway, Ahmedabad follows us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (M.I.D), DIVISION DHARMARI
E-mail: xenmiddharmari@jk.gov.in, xenpdeharmari@jk.gov.in
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E-NIT NO: 24 of 10/2020 Dated: 17.10.2020
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 reputed which should be uploaded on the e-Procurement web portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> upto Last Bidding Date: 31.10.2020 upto 06.00 P.M. for the subject work referred below to be received in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (Mahore Irrigation) Division Dharmari and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed NIT/Tender Documents/PWD Form No: 25 double are acceptable. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement Portal <http://www.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 of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (Mahore Irrigation) Division Dharmari.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost of Work/s in Lacs	Earnest Money in Rs.	Class of Contract	Cost of Document	Period of Completion	MH of Account
1.	Water Supply Scheme Mandi Bagesh under JMM	71.15	142300/-	A	2000/-	06 Months	4215

No: MIDD/2020-21/1946-1995 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir
Dated: 17.10.2020 Executive Engineer, Mahore Irrigation Division, Dharmari
DIPJ-6071

TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD COIMBATORE CIRCLE NOTICE INVITING TENDER
FORM OF CONTRACT : "LUMPSUM" (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
Tender Notice No.SCB/719/DB/2020 Dated: 20.10.2020
For and on behalf of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, one sealed tender consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD to be enclosed in 'A' cover and another for price schedule with name of work duly superimposed to be enclosed in 'B' cover are invited from registered contractors under Class -1 and above in TNSCB/ Government Departments/ Government undertakings/ Public Sector Undertaking, registered as a legal entity in India by the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Selvaipattinam, Shivayya Mahal (opp), Purur North, Coimbatore - 26 upto 3.00 PM on 05.11.2020 and the same will be opened at 3.15 PM on the same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Tender value including GST (Rs. in Lacs)	Period of contract	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Construction of 144 Nos of Slum tenements adopting T.D.No:HFA-26/2017 (G+3 Storeyed) at Kavratpadi scheme, Sabangapalayam TP in Bhavani Taluk of Erode District under Housing For All. CER.No.04/CBE/2020-21. (Ratender)	1182.00	15 Months	6,01,000
2	Construction of 182 Nos of Slum tenements adopting T.D. No. HFA-68A, 68B, 68C/2015 (G+3 Storeyed) at Kamraj Nagar in Peranthazhuvu village of Tiruppur South taluk in Tiruppur district under Housing For All. CER.No.05/CBE/2020-21. (Ratender)	1600.70	15 Months	8,12,000

The cost of tender schedule and EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's cheque/ fixed deposit from Nationalized / Scheduled Bank, payable at Tiruppur in the prescribed form in favour of Executive Engineer, Tiruppur Division, TNSCB, Tiruppur in Sl.No.1 to 2. The tender documents may be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle, TNSCB, Selvaipattinam, Shivayya Mahal (opp), Purur North, Coimbatore - 26 on written requisition along with cost of the tender document to a value of Rs.17,000/- upto 3.00 PM on 04.11.2020.
4. The conditions and other details may be seen in the tender documents and also the same will be made available on all working days in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle TNSCB, Coimbatore- 26.
2. The tender documents are also available at www.tenders.in.gov.in which can be downloaded at free of cost. The tenderer shall keep a watch over the web site till the prescribed date of receipt. Conditions for participating in the tenders may be seen from the website www.tenders.in.gov.in. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
(Sd/-) Superintending Engineer, Purur North, Coimbatore -26.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY ON LINE (E-TENDERING)
The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open Tender for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractor with experience, financial capability including those registered/working with Railway/Irrigation/CPWD/MES or any other public sector undertaking for the following work:-
Tender Notice No. : W-7/E-Tender/10/Open/DNR/2020-21 Sl. No. 1. Name of the Work with its location. Item No. 1. Improvement of Road surface and grade lodge of level crossing under Sr. DEN(3)/Danapur. Sl. No. 2. Approx. Cost of work : 1,78,76,889.24. Sl No. 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : 2,39,400/- Item No. 2. Upgradation of Zonal SRT Training school by the provision of 60 bedded Hostel building at Danapur of E.C.Rly. Sl.No. 2. Approx. Cost of work : 2,25,04,894.57 Sl No. 3. Earnest Money to be deposited : 2,62,500/- Sl No. 4. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender : The tender have to be submitted online on www.irps.gov.in. Upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 11.11.2020 and will be opened on the same day after 12.00 hrs. Sl No. 5. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website : <http://www.irps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen on notice board. Amendments/modifications if any shall not be published in news papers, but the same shall be uploaded in the web-site.
Divinl. Railway Manager (Engg.) E. C. Railway, Danapur PR/0798/DNR/ENGG/7/20-21/64
Stay Protected from Corona
Wear your mask properly
Frequently wash your hands with soap
Maintain safe distance
NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

TRP 'scam': Mumbai Police arrests two more Hansa group ex-staffers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

THE MUMBAI Police on Tuesday arrested two more former employees of Hansa Research Group in connection with the 'TRP scam', taking the total number of arrests to eight.

Republic TV executive editor, its Chief Financial Officer and distribution chief have been summoned for questioning on Wednesday, the police said.

Those arrested on Tuesday are Ramji Verma (44) and Dinesh Vishwakarma (37). Verma was arrested from his residence in Worli while Vishwakarma was nabbed from Mumbai airport.

The police said initially they believed Vishwakarma was hiding in his hometown at Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh and accordingly a team was sent. "But we could not locate him. Later, we learnt that he was coming to Mumbai by flight after which we laid a trap at the airport and caught him," a police officer said.

The police were after the two after the questioning of two other former Hansa employees, Vishal Bhandari and Umesh Mishra, arrested in the case ear-

lier. "Vishwakarma allegedly provided cash to Bhandari while Verma allegedly gave money to Mishra and had asked them to hand it to the owners of panel homes on behalf of a channel," the officer said.

According to the police, from 2013 to 2015, Verma was employed as a relationship manager with Hansa Research Group.

The two will be produced in court on Wednesday. The crime branch on Tuesday also recorded the statement of Ebixcash Managing Director Milhan Ganatra. "Ebixcash is one of the advertisers of Republic TV and we wanted to understand on what basis did they give ads. Accordingly, he was called and his statement was recorded," an officer said.

The Mumbai Police said they would continue to investigate the 'TRP scam' and said the move of the UP government would not impact their investigation. A senior IPS officer, who is overseeing the investigation in the 'TRP scam', said, "As far as I am aware our case is very much with the Mumbai Crime Branch and we will not transfer it until we get any directions from the Supreme Court, High Court or the Maharashtra government."

With southwest monsoon lingering, northeast monsoon delayed: IMD

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, OCTOBER 20

WITH THE southwest monsoon still lingering, the onset of the northeast monsoon, which brings rain over the southern peninsula, will be delayed this year.

India receives rain from two monsoons—the southwest monsoon between June and September followed by the northeast monsoon, which is restricted over the southern peninsula between October and December. Tamil Nadu, parts of Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry receive their annual rain quota from the latter monsoon.

Under normal circumstances, the southwest monsoon would completely withdraw from over most parts of the country by October 15. "Though October 15 is the normal date for completion of withdrawal from the entire country, there is an accepted deviation of seven days. That is, if the withdrawal is completed from the entire country by October 22, it is still considered as normal. But this year, it is unlikely to occur by October 22," said IMD director general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra. "Unless the southwest monsoon withdraws completely, the northeast

monsoon cannot commence."

The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon has remained stagnant since October 6. As on Tuesday, the Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM) continued to pass along Faizabad, Fatehpur, Nowgong, Ratlam and Porbandar.

The delay was mainly due to the formation of two low pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal. One system formed last week and had traversed across the southern peninsula, causing widespread rain and left behind a trail of destruction. Another low pressure system developed on October 19 and continues to remain in the Bay of Bengal.

Between October 1 and 20, the country recorded 8 per cent surplus rain—most of it recorded over the south and eastern states owing to this weather system. However on Tuesday, the IMD said conditions for the withdrawal to resume were likely to develop this week. "The southwest monsoon could further retreat from remaining parts of UP, Bihar, Sikkim, Jharkhand and rest of MP, Gujarat and north Maharashtra within the next two to three days," an official from the Regional Meteorological Centre, Mumbai said.

According to the IMD, the normal date for onset of winter monsoon is October 20.

J&K: Four militants killed in two separate encounters

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 20

FOUR MILITANTS were killed in two separate encounters with security forces in Shopian and Pulwama districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the death toll of the ultras in the two operations to five, the Army said. Security forces had launched a cordon and search operation at Melhura in Zainapora area of Shopian on Monday evening, following information about presence of militants in the area, a police official said. He said the search operation turned into an encounter after militants opened fire at the security forces position. One militant was killed in the initial exchange of firing between the two sides on Monday evening while another was shot dead on Tuesday morning, an Army official said.

He said an AK rifle and a pistol were among the arms and ammunition recovered from the site of the encounter.

The identity and group affiliation of the slain militants was being ascertained.

In another operation in Harkipora area of Pulwama district, three militants were killed by security forces. Three weapons were recovered from the site of the gunbattle, the official said. The identity and group affiliation of the slain militants was being ascertained, the official added.

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

मुख्य संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क-04, ग्रेटर नोएडा सिटी गौतमबुद्ध नगर

सार्वजनिक सूचना

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत M/s Gaursons Hi-Tech Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. के मुख्य संख्या-GH-01, Sector-04, ग्रेटर नोएडा पर दिनांक 21.06.2010 को मानचित्र स्वीकृति प्रदान की गयी थी। तदोपरान्त बिस्व्वर द्वारा (Revised Layout) हेतु दिनांक 05.10.2020 को आवेदन किया गया है, जिसमें पूर्व स्वीकृत भवन मानचित्र के डिजाईन व अन्य कतिपय संशोधन किया जा रहा है। अतः प्रत्येक आवेदियों द्वारा अपनी consent दी गई है या नहीं के सम्बन्ध में अपार्टमेंट ओरनर अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज करवा सकते हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में बिस्व्वर द्वारा प्रस्तुत संशोधित declarations एवं मानचित्र का परीक्षण किसी भी कार्यदिवस में सुबह 9.30 से सायं 6.00 बजे के मध्य नियोजन विभाग के displayed में नगरे में किया जा सकता है। मानचित्रों में उ.प्र. अपार्टमेंट एक्ट-2010 के प्रावधानों के अन्तर्गत उक्त प्रस्तावित संशोधन की घोषणा के सम्बन्ध में अपार्टमेंट स्वामियों/संच को नोटिस जारी करने के साथ 30 दिन के अन्दर आपत्तियां आमंत्रित की जाती है। अतः उपरोक्त के निहितार्थ अपनी आपत्तियां लिखित रूप से अपने आवेदन पत्र, नाम, पता एवं दूरभाष नम्बर के साथ कार्यलय समय व कार्यदिवस में ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण के मुख्य प्रशासनिक कार्यालय, मुख्य संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क-04, ग्रेटर नोएडा में स्थित सार्विक प्रचक्र (वास्तु) विभाग में निर्वाचित अवधि अर्थात् सूचना प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिवसों में प्राप्त करवायी जा सकती है।

विरिच प्रचक्र (वास्तु), ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण

Body of girl who went missing in Barabanki found; post-mortem says she drowned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 20

TWO DAYS after an FIR was registered against a youth for allegedly kidnapping a 17-year-old girl, her body was found in a canal in Barabanki district on Monday.

Police claimed to have found no injury marks on the body, and a post-mortem report confirmed drowning as the cause of death. Police said they had arrested the accused based on a complaint by the girl's father.

The FIR was registered on Saturday under IPC sections 363 (kidnapping) and 366 (kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage, etc), said Additional SP Ram Sewak Gautam, also the interim SP of the district.

In the FIR, the girl's father said she had left her house on October 15 but did not return

In the FIR, the girl's father alleged that she had left her house on October 15 to fill an online form from a Janseva Kendra, but did not return.

Her family accused a 19-year-old youth of kidnapping her.

IG of Ayodhya Range Sanjeev Gupta said the post-mortem report had confirmed ante-mortem drowning as the cause of death, and viscera of the girl had been preserved.

In a separate case, a decomposed body of an unidentified, middle-aged woman was found in the district. Gautam said the body appeared to be around 10-12 days old.

"The body is badly decomposed to its skeleton. We did not find any document or piece of evidence on the body to identify it. We will send the bones for testing, and this may give us some clues," he said.

PM Modi

He pointed out that India had done better in terms of mortality rate and recovery rate compared with countries like the United States and Brazil. "Our recovery rate is among the highest in the world, the fatality rate is low," Modi said.

"Out of every million, we have around 83 deaths. This, compared to other nations, which have seen around 600 deaths per million, is much better... India will soon cross the 10 crore mark in Covid testing. This has been our strength."

The Prime Minister also lauded health workers for their selfless service during the crisis.

But, Modi cautioned, "This is not the time to be careless, this is not the time to think that Corona is gone or that there is no danger from it. These days we see a lot of pictures and videos in which people are seen being careless... This is not at all right. If you are careless, walking out without a mask, then you are putting yourself, your family, children, the elderly at risk."

In Europe, America, and other countries, Modi said, the number of cases have spiked again after falling. "We should continue to be careful and not be callous until the vaccine for the virus is developed."

Modi quoted from Kabir that a farmer could not be overconfident, for until the crop reaches home, his work is not done. "Similarly, our battle will not be over until a vaccine is developed," he said, adding that scientists around the world have been working on it on a war footing.

Indian scientists too, have been working on the vaccine, and there is some good news on that front, the Prime Minister said. The government, he said, is working on ways to reach the vaccine to every Indian once it is developed.

The Prime Minister greeted people on the occasion of festivals such as Navratri, Dussehra, Eid, Deepawali, Chhath Puja and Guru Nanak Jayanti.

Multiple IDs

to receive the vaccine, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at the weekly briefing on Covid-19 that in order to ensure no one was deprived of vaccina-

tion, multiple IDs would be used during the inoculation drive.

On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the country was working on putting in place a well-established vaccine delivery system – and that this network, along with the digital health ID, would be used to ensure the immunisation of citizens.

"The National Digital Health Mission as it exists today does not make digital ID mandatory to receive service under the digital ecosystem that it is creating. Therefore, to say that it would become mandatory for vaccination and those who don't have health IDs would be deprived, is probably not the right interpretation," Bhushan said.

"Health ID would be utilised in those cases where the individual/recipient/beneficiary does not have (another) health ID; there are multiple other IDs which can be utilised as in the case of the present NDHM. It would be almost like the electoral scenario, where multiple IDs are prescribed (for voters) beforehand, so that no one is deprived of the benefits of vaccination," he said.

Dr Bhargava said discussions were under way on WHO's Solidarity Trial that has concluded that four experimental drugs – including the anti-malaria drug HCQ and remdesivir, which are part of India's treatment protocol – have no effect on hospitalised Covid-19 patients.

"India has done the largest trial on plasma therapy. This paper was accepted by the British Medical Journal and we have received the proofs of it. It will appear very soon with more than 10 pages of hardcore science talking about plasma therapy and Covid-19. We had a discussion with the national task force and we are further discussing with the joint monitoring group. This (plasma therapy) may be deleted from the national guidelines," Dr Bhargava said.

"WHO's solidarity trial, of which India has been a participant, has just put up their interim results. These have not yet been peer-reviewed. However, we find that these drugs are not performing as we expected," he said. Meanwhile, the Centre said that 246 independent oxygen

generation plants were being installed in hospitals in 18 states; 67 were at various stages of completion. In the second phase, 150 additional plants would be installed.

Damoh

Asked why he didn't support her sterilisation, Dullah claims she didn't have the "courage" to go through with it.

In the eight months of a high-risk pregnancy, Sukhrani was given two iron dosages on September 12 and September 16. However, a month later, a severely anaemic Sukhrani suddenly went into labour at 3 pm on October 11.

Dullah called for an ambulance, which arrived in an hour. By then, Sukhrani had already delivered a still born. Vishwakarma said Sukhrani had bled profusely after the delivery. "I asked her to change the clothes to get to the hospital, but all she could muster was 'Himmat nahii ho rahi hai'," she said. Sukhrani's death serves as a test case to highlight glaring gaps in health infrastructure here.

The Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme has reached only 2.67 lakh people of Damoh while 9.10 lakh are still waitlisted. Only up to 3,000 people have been treated under the scheme in the district hospital of Damoh while only four in private hospitals. Incidentally, 70 per cent of the hospital's bill is due as per officials.

The Hatta civil hospital is the only one for a population of 1.75 lakh and caters to a few villages of the adjoining Chhatrapur and Panna districts too. It has five MBBS doctors, but no gynaecologist. Of the 3,000 pregnancies in a year, about 40 per cent are referred to the district hospital in Damoh. The remaining are facilitated by the hospital's 15 nurses in the absence of a gynaecologist.

When contacted, Chief Medical Block Officer for Hatta, P D Kargaiyan, said: "We have trained our nurses to carry out these deliveries since the hospital has not had a gynaecologist for about 15 years now. With no gynaecologist, it gets difficult to deal with a pregnant woman who is critically anaemic."

Back at the two-room house in Padajhir, Dullah has set out to

immerse her mortal remains at the Ganga while Sukhrani's eight children sit huddled in the two-room house. Two of her eldest daughters Sangita and Savita who works as migrant labourers have returned to Padajhir. Savitha who has two children almost the same age as that of her youngest brother says, "My brother cried for our mother. If only she had the courage to get herself sterilised" she says. And the support of her husband.

Kaleshwaram

Hyderabad and Secunderabad.

The environmental clearance, granted to the project in Karimnagar district on December 22, 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, was cancelled by the NGT on October 12 – it was uploaded Tuesday – on a petition by a farmer from Siddipet district who said he was directly affected by the project.

The petition, filed on February 16, 2018, stated that while Kaleshwaram was a lift irrigation system, the state government wrongly claimed, until the grant of environmental clearance, that the project was only for drinking water supply.

"The application for EC (environmental clearance) was made in January 2017. EC was

granted in December 2017, but before that substantial work had already been undertaken. Thus, according to the appellant, the impugned EC was ex post facto, in violation of EIA Notification, 2006," the NGT order stated.

The petitioner, in his plea, stated: "The lift irrigation scheme involves submergence of approximately 32,000 hectares (in Telangana and Maharashtra)."

The Tribunal, in its order, stated: "Apart from the allegation of EC being given after substantial work of the project was completed, further challenge by the appellant is on the ground that the EC was granted without application of mind, overlooking the procedural irregularities as well as environmental aspects."

The Tribunal had issued notices to the respondents on February 19, 2018. The Telangana government submitted that the project was conceived by the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh which also involved water supply to Hyderabad City and other places en route Hyderabad. Mission Bhagiratha was a part of the project to remedy drought conditions in the area.

FULL REPORTS ON
www.indianexpress.com

INTRODUCTION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS IN LIEU OF FIVE PAIRS OF SUVIDHA SPECIAL TRAINS

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to cancel following five pairs of Suvidha Special trains w.e.f. 22.10.2020. Further, in order to facilitate the passengers, five pairs of festival special trains will be introduced on the routes of Cancelled Suvidha Special trains as per the following detail:-

CANCELLATION OF SUVIDHA SPECIAL TRAINS FROM 22.10.2020

Train No.	From - To	Category
84406/84405	Anand Vihar (T) - Bhalgalpur - Anand Vihar (T)	Superfast Special Express Train (Suvidha)
84408/84407	New Delhi - Barauni Jn. - New Delhi	Superfast Special Express Train (Suvidha)
84410/84409	New Delhi - Darbhanga Jn. - New Delhi	Superfast Special Express Train (Suvidha)
84414/84413	New Delhi - Patna Jn. - New Delhi	Superfast Special Express (Suvidha)
84412/84411	Delhi Jn. - Saharsa Jn - Delhi Jn.	Superfast Special Express (Suvidha)

04404/04403	Anand Vihar (T) - Bhalgalpur - Anand Vihar (T) Superfast Special Train (Bi-Weekly)	24	Trips
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TRAIN NO. 04404	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04403
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 15:00 ---	Anand Vihar (T) Bhalgalpur	15:25 ---
--- 18:35 ---	Anand Vihar (T)	18:45 ---

Days of Run : 04404 from Anand Vihar (T) on every Friday & Monday from 23.10.20 to 30.11.20 and 04403 from Bhalgalpur on every Saturday & Tuesday from 24.10.2020 to 01.12.2020

Accommodation: AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).
Stoppages : Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Patna, Mokama Jn., Kiul, Jamalpur and Sultan ganj stations.

04406/04405	New Delhi - Barauni Jn. - New Delhi Superfast Special Train (Bi-Weekly)	22	Trips
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TRAIN NO. 04406	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04405
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 15:00 ---	New Delhi	15:25 ---
--- 19:25 ---	New Delhi	14:50 ---

Days of Run : 04406 from New Delhi on every Tuesday & Friday from 23.10.20 to 27.11.20 and 04405 from Barauni on every Wednesday & Saturday from 24.10.2020 to 28.11.2020

Accommodation: AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).
Stoppages : Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra and Hajipur stations.

04408/04407	New Delhi - Darbhanga - New Delhi Superfast Special Train (Bi-Weekly)	22	Trips
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TRAIN NO. 04408	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04407
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 19:25 ---	New Delhi	17:30 ---

Days of Run : 04408 from New Delhi on every Monday & Thursday from 22.10.20 to 26.11.20 and 04407 from Darbhanga on every Tuesday & Friday from 23.10.2020 to 27.11.2020

Accommodation: AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).
Stoppages : Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur stations.

04410/04409	New Delhi - Patna Jn. - New Delhi Superfast Special Train (Tri-Weekly)	34	Trips
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TRAIN NO. 04410	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04409
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 14:55 ---	New Delhi	05:00 ---

Days of Run : 04410 from New Delhi on every Friday, Sunday & Tuesday from 23.10.20 to 29.11.20 and 04409 from Patna Jn. on every Saturday, Monday & Wednesday from 24.10.20 to 30.11.20

Accommodation: AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).
Stoppages : Kanpur Central, Allahabad, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara and Danapur stations.

04412/04411	Delhi Jn. - Saharsa Jn. - Delhi Jn. Superfast Special Train (Bi-Weekly)	22	Trips
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TRAIN NO. 04412	STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04411
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
--- 19:45 ---	Delhi Jn. Saharsa	19:20 ---
--- 23:00 ---	Delhi Jn.	22:15 ---

Days of Run : 04412 from Delhi Jn. on every Wednesday & Sunday from 25.10.20 to 29.11.20 and 04411 from Saharsa on every Thursday & Monday from 26.10.20 to 30.11.20

Accommodation: AC2 Tier, AC3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).
Stoppages : Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Gorakhpur, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni and Khagaria stations.

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

Beware of Touts Always buy your tickets from an authorised railway counter or authorised rail travel agent only.

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

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

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इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Stressed Asset Management Branch, Near Kotwali Police Station, Budh Marg, Patna, Bihar-800001

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (Er. Allahabad Bank) Stressed Asset Management (SAM) branch, Patna, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 25.11.2020, for recovery of bank's dues from the following borrower and guarantors.

Sl. No. & Branch	Name of the Account	Description of the Charged/Mortgage Property	Name of the Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Amount of Secured Debt	Reserve Price (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit
1. SAMB Patna	M/s Vijay Tractor, Prop.: Sri Vijay Singh Simli, NH-Didarganj, Patna City, Patna-800008	Equitable Mortgage-A) All that part and parcel of the property of Sale Deed No.493 dated 11.01.2010, Flat No.-101, area of super built up 1195 sqft. situated in Prince Residency Apartment, Vivekanand Park, New Patliputra Colony, Patna, Mauza-Mainpura commonly known as New Patliputra Colony, PS Digha Now P.S-Patliputra, Dist.-Patna within the Jurisdiction of Sub and Sadar Registry Office, Patna under Phulwari revenue Thana No.2, Tauzi No.5506, Khata No.671 & 648, Circle No.-247A, Ward No.-14/New Ward No.-23, Holding No.-101/103, Zone No.-03, Govt. Valuation List Serial No.-225, Jamabandi No.-2080, Computer Code-571. Boundary details of property: North-Front Offset of the building, South-Corridor, Lift & Stair case and flat No.-103, East-Side Set back of the building, West-Side Set Back of the building.	Sri Vijay Singh (Mortgagor) Mrs. Sunita Singh (Guarantor)	₹1,51,71,589/- (Rupees One crore fifty one lakhs seventy one thousand five hundred eighty nine only) as on 30.03.2020 less recovery if any, with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹49,82,000/- (Rupees Forty nine lakhs eighty two thousand only)	₹4,98,200/- (Rupees Four lakh ninety eight thousand two hundred only)
	1. Sri Vijay Singh, Flat No.-101, Prince Residency Apartment Vivekanand Park, Boring Patliputra Road, Near Alpana Market, Patna-800013	B) All that part and parcel of the property of Sale Deed No.494 dated 11.01.2010, Flat No.-103, area of super built up 595 sqft. situated in Prince Residency Apartment, Vivekanand Park, New Patliputra Colony, Patna, Mauza-Mainpura commonly known as New Patliputra Colony, PS Digha Now P.S-Patliputra, Dist.-Patna within the Jurisdiction of Sub and Sadar Registry Office, Patna under Phulwari revenue Thana No.2, Tauzi No.5506, Khata No.671 & 648, Circle No.-247A, Ward No.-14/New Ward No.-23, Holding No.-101/103, Zone No.-03, Govt. Valuation List Serial No.-225, Jamabandi No.-2080, Computer Code-571. Boundary details of property: North-Front Offset of the building, South-Corridor, Lift & Staircase.	Ms. Jhalo Devi W/o Dwarika Nath Prasad	₹2,11,13,755/- (Rupees Two crore eleven lacs thirteen thousand seven hundred fifty five only) as on 23.09.2019 less recovery if any, with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹25,71,000/- (Rupees Twenty five lakhs seventy one thousand only)	₹2,57,100/- (Rupees Two lakhs fifty seven thousand one hundred only)
2. SAMB Patna	M/s Maa Durga Enterprises, Flat No.102, Ram Prem Enclave, West Anandpuri, Near Jal Parishad, Rajapal, Patna-800001, Bihar	Equitable Mortgage-All that part and parcel of the property along with present and future construction there on: Property situated at Mauza-Amhara, Thana-Bihta, Pargana-Manner, P.S Bihta, District-Patna, Plot No.-4105, Area-51 Decimal, Plot No.4105,4106, Area-9.02 Decimal Total Area-60.02 Decimal. Computer Code 37, Khata No.135, 1216, Tauzi No.-16899, Thana No.-44, within the jurisdiction of sub register office, Bikram and District Registry Office Patna in the name of Ms. Jhalo Devi W/o Dwarika Nath Prasad and bounded as follows: North-Sri Devendra Singh & Angera Sharma, South-Sri Bhubaneshwar Mah				

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, Geetika Mehta, W/o Amit Mehta, R/o C-124-125 J.J. Colony, Raghunagar, Delhi-110027, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mansi Mehta in School-Record of my minor daughter Bani Mehta (Aged-14 Years) School-Record. The actual-name of mine is Geetika Mehta which may be amended accordingly

I, Bhawna D/o, Bhani Sahay Alias Bhani Sahai Sharma, R/o, 293, Pocket-E-21, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Bhawna Sharma. 0040552027-4

I, Bhani Sahay Alias Bhani Sahai, S/o, Chiranjali Lal R/o, 293, Pocket-E-21, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Bhani Sahai Sharma. 0040552027-3

I, Aryan Singh S/o Raj Kumar R/o-51/1 Gali No.13, East Azad Nagar, Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Aryan Singh, for all purposes. 0040552044-2

I, Anshu Yadav D/o Anil Kumar Yadav R/o-5/14, Bansilra Line, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi-110010, inform that in my some records my name has been wrongly written as Anshu instead of Anshu Yadav. 0040552044-6

I, AMANDIP Kaur, W/o-Gurdeep Singh, R/o-G-1st-30th, F.floor, madangir phase-I, Dr. ambedkar-nagar, Delhi-62, inform that name of my has been wrongly-mentioned as Amandeep kaur. my minor Son Harman singh Gill & daughter Jaesleen kar in his/her school-record. The Actual-name my is Amandip kaur, for all, future purposes. 0040552044-8

I, Teesha Choudhary, D/o Shri. Brijesh Choudhary, R/o-24-A, Jagat-Ram-Park, Laxmi-Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name, from Rinki o/ Teesha Choudhary, for all, future purposes. 0040552041-5

I, Suresh Kumar, S/o Daulat Ram Sharma, Resident of C-36, Anand Vihar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Suresh Kumar Sharma, permanently. 0040552001-3

I, Somalya Bano W/o-MD. Tauqueer Usman R/o Home.No-D-19/A-1, First-Floor, Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-II, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name from Somalya Bano to Somaiya Tauqueer for all, future purposes. 0040552001-6

I, Sher Singh Gaira, S/o Laxman Singh R/o D-51A, Partap-Vihar Part-3, Kirari Suleyman-Nagar Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Sher Singh. 0040552001-2

I, Rohan s/o Divya Sabharwal R/o 161-162, 1st-floor, Pocket B-6, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rohan Sabharwal. 0040552044-5

I, Ram Sewak, S/O Late. Bhimma R/o-070 Kavay-Tower ground-floor, Mahagunpuram, phase-2, NH-24 Gazitabad U.P.-201002, inform that Ram Sewak, Ram Sewak Azad and R.S. Azad are the one and same person. 0040552044-1

I, Paramjeet kaur, w/o Harnet Singh, R/o- M -2/19, Model-town-III, Delhi-110009, declare that in passport of my husband my name has been mentioned as Parmjeet kaur whereas my correct-name as per all documents is Paramjeet Kaur. That in future, I will know as Paramjeet kaur, w/o Harnet Singh only. 0040552044-9

I, Dharam Vir Singh S/o-Trika Singh R/o-380-H, Asha-Ram, Gali.No.3, Mandawali, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Dharamvir Singh. 0040552041-1

I, Manoj Kumar, S/o Jagdish Prasad Jain R/o-B-33/10, Street No.1, Arjun Mohalla, Maujpur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Manoj Jain, for all purposes. 0040552044-4

I, JC-385815P Sub-Moti Chand Yadava, S/o Shri Surya Bali Yadav, R/o VIII-Tesupar, Post-Muhammadpur Hasanpur, Teh-Ghosi, Distt-Mau, U.P., inform that in my service record my wife's name-Rambha Devi and her DOB-06.01.1978 wrongly written instead of Rambha Yadav and DOB-11.07.1974, for all future purpose. 0040552001-4

I, JC-341761Y NB/SUB Kuldip Singh, S/O Balbir Singh, Will-Khuniabhar, PO-Nimbu Chaur (kottdwara), Distt-Pauri Garhwal, (U.K)-246149, inform that in my service record my wife's Asha Rawat DOB wrongly written as 04.06.1977 instead of 28.08.1976, for all future purpose. 0040552001-5

I, JATIN S/O KRISHNA KUMAR DD-147/3, VIJAY-ENCLAVE PALAM VINOD-PURI DABRI PALAM-VILLAGESOUTH/WEST, DELHI-110045, changed my name to JATIN KUMAR, permanently. 0040552027-2

I, Gulshan Thakral, S/o Roshan Lal R/o-A-156 1st-Floor, Nehru Vihar, New Delhi-110054, have changed my name to Gulshan Kumar. 0040552001-1

I, Bishnu Priya Nanda, w/o-Umesh Nanda, R/o-123, Gupta Enclave, Vikas-Nagar, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, inform that Bishnu Priya Nanda and Bishnu Priya Mishra are one and same person. 0040552041-4

I, Jank Dulari W/o Bishwambhar Mishra (Service No. 2872221) MIAF, R/o, C-329, Sector-P-3, Greater Noida, U.P., have changed my name, from Jank Dulari & Janak Dulari Mishra to Janak Dulari, for all future purposes. (Affidavit-Dated-20/09/2020) 0040552019-2

I, JASVINDER KAUR W/O SH. BHUPENDER SINGH R/O H/9/2 LG FLOOR, MALVIYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110017, DECLARES THAT JASVINDER KAUR AND JASVINDER KAUR IS ONE AND SAME PERSON'S NAME. 0040552046-1

I, JAATINN SINGHAL R/O-A-86 LOK-VIHAR, PITAMPURA DELHI-110034, changed my Minor child name CHERYLL J.S SINGHAL TO CHERYLL SINGHAL. 0040552056-2

I, Fazlur Rahaman S/o Habibar Rahaman R/o-H.N-879/1, Harkesh-Nagar, Near-H.K.Public School, Tilpat, Faridabad, My & My wife name Wrongly-Written in my daughter School-record. Fazlur Rehama & Shahanara Bibi, the actual my name Fazlur Rahaman & wife-sahanara Bibi. 0040551983-2

I, Dharma Ram S/o Bhaira Ram R/o 333, Khema Baha Colony, Baytoo, Chhopi, Barmer, Rajasthan-344034, have changed my name to Dharm Ranendra Jangid 0070717596-1

I, Banshi Lal Talwar S/o Nand Kishore talwar R/o-RZF-1/181, F-1-Block Flat, No-5, Gali, No-1 Mahavir-Enclave-1, Palam-Village South-West Delhi-110045, have changed my Name to Bansil Lal Talwar for all purposes. 0040551983-1

I, BUSHRA KHAN W/O IMRAN KHAN R/O-E-12/91,G/F, Haurzani, Delhi-17, have changed my name after marriage from BUSHRA KHANAM TO BUSHRA KHAN 0040552019-1

I, BHUPENDER SINGH S/O SH HARNAM SINGH R/O H/9/2 LG FLOOR, MALVIYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110017, DECLARES THAT BHUPENDER SINGH AND BHUPINDER SINGH IS ONE AND SAME PERSON'S NAME. 0040552046-2

I, Anil Kumar F/o Rohit Kumar R/o Village Birohar 145 Teh Matanahil Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana-124106, have change my minor son name from Rohit Kumar to Rohit. 0040551988-1

I, Amanur Rehman S/o Habibar Rahaman, R/o H.N-879/1, Harkesh-Nagar, Near-H.K.Public School, Tilpat, Faridabad My & My minor son's name is wrongly-Written in my son school-record Amanur Rahaman & Ashenur Rahaman the correct-name is my Amanur Rehman & son Ashenur Rehman. Also have changed Mother name Mayanur Begem to Mayanur Begum. 0040551983-3

I, Shivam Mittal S/o Sh. Anil Kumar Mittal R/o Ashok Nagar, Petrol Pump Ke Samne, Agra Road, Hathras, Uttar Pradesh-204101 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Ishi Mittal alias Princy Mittal to Princy Mittal for all purposes. 0040552021-2

I, Rahul Sharma S/o Sh. Shekhar R/o H.No.363, 4th Floor, BLK-A, JJ Colony, Inderpuri, Central Delhi, Delhi-110012 have changed my name to Rahul for all purposes. 0040552021-3

I, Payal Maheshwari W/o Sh. Devender Nahar, D/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar R/o A-353, GF, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024 have changed the name of my minor daughter Diya Maheshwari to Diya Maheshwari Nahar for all purposes. 0040551966-1

I, Nilu Sabharwal W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Sabharwal R/O 47, Shradh Vihar, Bhagwan Mahavir Road, Delhi-110092 is also known as Neelu Sabharwal. Both names are of one and the same person. 0040552021-1

I, Nilam Devi W/O, Chand Kiran R/O C-139 Street No 12 Mata Wali Gali Johipur Gokalpuri Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Ilam Kaur for all purposes. 0040551963-1

I, Geeta W/o Amit Joshi R/o-Flat No I-1803 Tower-1, Ajnara Homes GH-3, Sector-16B Greater Noida West U.P.-201308 have changed my name to Geeta Joshi. 0040551976-1

I, Aruna Pandey D/O, Arjun Bahadur R/O 447 Dda Sfs Flats Sector 19 Pocket 2 Dwarka New Delhi-110075 have changed my name to Aruna Basnet for all purposes. 0040552018-1

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

LOST & FOUND
I, RAJNI D/o BALBIR Singh R/o-B3/7 J.J. ram hospital Delhi-33, have lost my original-certificate class-10th year-2011 Rollno-8676131 CBSE-DELHI. 0040552044-10

Lost original Sale Deed, Lease papers, Relinquishment Deed, Mutation papers and other relevant documents of DDA property, No.53/83 Ramjas-Road, Karol-Bagh, New Delhi-110005. Find contact Charanjit Singh, s/o Jaswant Singh, R/o-8/5, Jaidev Park, East-Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, Mob#9810444935. 0040552027-8

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public notice is given to the general public that my client's name Smt. Mehruan Kaur, R/o Late Mohd. Yousaf R/o H. No. 2063/64 Gali Kucha Nahar Khan, Kucha Chalan Darya Gani New Delhi-9, has severed her all relations with her son namely Mohd Rafeel S/o Late Mohd. Yousaf and his wife namely Salma W/o Mohd Rafeel D/o. Jamuddin she has discovered them from all her movable and immovable properties and my client's shall not be held responsible for any act of them or they shall be allowed to enter property No. 2063/64 Gali Kucha Nahar Khan, Kucha Chalan Darya Gani New Delhi-9. If they do so the necessary police action shall be taken against them. M.M. Khan advocate Ch. No. 618 W, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-52

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public notice is given to the general public that my client's name Smt. Mehruan Kaur, R/o Late Mohd. Yousaf R/o H. No. 2063/64 Gali Kucha Nahar Khan, Kucha Chalan Darya Gani New Delhi-9, has severed her all relations with her son namely Mohd Rafeel S/o Late Mohd. Yousaf and his wife namely Salma W/o Mohd Rafeel D/o. Jamuddin she has discovered them from all her movable and immovable properties and my client's shall not be held responsible for any act of them or they shall be allowed to enter property No. 2063/64 Gali Kucha Nahar Khan, Kucha Chalan Darya Gani New Delhi-9. If they do so the necessary police action shall be taken against them. M.M. Khan advocate Ch. No. 618 W, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-52

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mukesh Kumar Pahwa S/O Banwari Lal Pahwa, 1/11002, Subhash Park Naveen Shadra Delhi have lost original property documents of Shop No.-22, CSCNirman Vihar, Delhi. Agreement to Sell, Receipt and Will Executed by Sh. Sudhir Kumar Chhabra in Favour of Sh. Gurcharan Lal in the year 1989 Regarding Shop No.-22, CSC Nirman Vihar, Delhi and Further Document I.E. Will and Receipt Executed by Smt. Neelam in Favour of Sh. Mukesh Kumar Pahwa in January 1990 Regarding Shop No.-22, CSC Nirman Vihar, Delhi. If found please contact on: 9910449611

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. KRISHNA W/O, KARNAL SINGH R/O C-1, RAM DUTT ENCLAVE, C-BLOCK, CHITRA NAGAR, WEST DELHI-110059 hereby sever all her relations from her daughter namely Isha Chohan W/O Sh. Gauri Devi. I, her father by her disobeying, misbehavior and hereby disowned and debarred her from all her movable and immovable properties forever. Any person dealing with her shall be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibility. My client will not be responsible for their any act and deeds. Sd/- PARDEEP KUMAR (Advocate) Lawyer's Block, SRIH, Service Industry Building, District Centre, Janak Park, New Delhi-110058

Public Notice
It is for General Declaration that I, Aman Yadav S/o Late Rajinder Yadav @ Rajender Yadav, R/O H/9/2 LG Floor, Railway Road, Samaypur, Delhi-42, Previously my name was mentioned as Sushant & Aman Deep in some record as nick name in my childhood but my actual name is Aman Yadav as per A d h a - C - 1 - 2 - 1 - 2 - 28458395150. and my actual name be treated as Aman Yadav.

Public Notice
It is for General Declaration that I, Vimla W/o late Satbir Singh S/o Sh. HariKishan R/o H.O-A-120, Vijay Park, Naya Bazar, Najafgarh, New Delhi- 43. The name of husband has been wrongly spelled as Satveer Singh, Satbir Singh but actual name is Satbir Singh Gulia as per Aadhar Card No 259789635386 and the same is one person known by these names.

Public Notice
My Client V K Aggarwal Acquired 25% Undivided Share in Land & Entire Ground Floor of, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052. vide Exchange Deed No. 8204 DT. 19.09.2020. Anyone Dealing with his share without his NOC shall be at his own Risk.

Public Notice
It is certified that my client ANWAR ALAM son of AFTAB ALAM resident of FLAT No. 194, ROCKETER, NEW MIG FLATS, MAYUR VIHAR, PHASE-3, DELHI-110096, has severed all relations with his daughter, namely Ms. AMBAREEN ANWAR, she being out of control of my client my client ANWAR ALAM disowned her daughter namely Ms. AMBAREEN ANWAR from all his movable and immovable properties and other assets. Anybody dealing with her shall be doing so at his/her own risks and responsibility and my client ANWAR ALAM shall not be responsible for her acts/deeds/things AMBAREEN ANWAR with immediate effect whatsoever. Sd/- MAHESH PRASAD (Adv) CHAMBER- 813-814, PATIALA HOUSE COURT, NEW DELHI-110001

Public Notice
Original agreement dated 20-11-1992 Executed between Ansal Properties & Industries (P) Ltd., & Sri Gagan Raj Kapoor, endorsed in favour of Sh. Vishal Batra & then in favour of Sh. Akhi Bansal & Neeraj Bansal regarding House No 2609A, Block-F, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon has been, misplaced and is not traceable. The said property is to be Mortgaged with Central Bank of India, Gurgaon. Any person/institution having any claim in respect thereof by way of Sales, Mortgage, or otherwise are requested to inform the same to the undersigned within 7 Days failing which the claim(s) if any of such person(s)/institution will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and the mortgage will be completed. Sd/- A.K.MUNJAL, ADVOCATE, M-8/4, DLF-2, Gurgaon, Ph - 950492323

Public Notice
I, Smt. Ishwar Singh Advocate (D/2927/14) 306, BLOCK-HI, LAWYERS CHAMBERS, DELHI HIGH COURT

Public Notice
SON (ISHU KHURANA) OF MY CLIENTS AJAY KHURANA & KIRAN KHURANA R/O B-33, SUNDER APARTMENT, SECTOR-14, ROHINI, DELHI HAS EXPIRED ON 06.12.2019. MY CLIENTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACTS/DEEDS OF SON ISHU KHURANA OF MY CLIENTS.

Public Notice
Sd/- SANDEEP KUMAR LL.M. (ADVOCATE) En. No. D/254/198 Office: Ch. No.1505, Lawyers Chamber Block, Rohini Courts, Delhi-110085 M: 9953439009

Public Notice
BE IT KNOWN TO ALL PUBLIC THAT MY CLIENT RAJ KARAN S/O SHYAM LAL R/O KNOWE NO.-1121, MAHIPAL PUR, NEW DELHI-110037 has debarred and disowned his son MR. JOGINDER and his daughter-in-law MRS. ANURADHA WIFE OF JOGINDER with effect from 21-10-2020 from inheriting his all movable and immovable property and severed all his relationship with her and is dealing with them shall do so at his own risk and consequences. SANDEEP SHARMA (Advocate) Ch. No. 505, Patiala House Court, N.D.

Public Notice
BE IT KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MY CLIENT SH. LAXMAN DASS S/O Late Sh. Molder Ram aged about 63 years and his wife, Smt. Parmeshwari Devi aged about 61 years R/O K-169, N.D. Colony, Wazirpur Delhi-110052, have severed their relationship with their son namely Manish Kumar and his wife, Smt. Shweta as a result of sufferings and harassment due to unsocial, aggressive, and inhumane act & behavior of their above-mentioned son and his wife. If anybody keeps any relation or deals with them in any manner whatsoever, he/she would be doing solely at his/her own risk and consequences and my clients shall not be responsible for the act of Manish Kumar and his wife, Smt. Shweta. Ashok Thagal (Advocate) Chamber No.47, C-13, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi M-9818924335

Public Notice
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PUBLIC NOTICE
This is informed to the General Public that my client Smt. NEELAM Kaur, R/o Late Mohd. Yousaf R/o H. No. 2063/64 Gali Kucha Nahar Khan, Kucha Chalan Darya Gani New Delhi-9, has severed her all relations with her son namely Mohd Rafeel S/o Late Mohd. Yousaf and his wife namely Salma W/o Mohd Rafeel D/o. Jamuddin she has discovered them from all her movable and immovable properties because the above said DAUGHTER my client is very disturbed, create nuisance in the family involved in anti-family properties and involved in unethical activities. Therefore, my client shall not be responsible for any act and deed in personal or public life of my person dealing with her shall do so at his/her own risk and my client shall not be held responsible for their. Copy kept for record.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Know all men by or large that my clients, (1) SH. ANGANA RAM S/O LATE SH. DATA RAM (2) SMT. MISHRA W/O SH. ANSANA RAM R/O B-28, BALI EXTN., BADLI, DELHI-110042 have disowned and severed all relations with their son MAHENDER KUMAR and his wife SUNITA DEVI & their son KAMAL and debarred them from all their movable and immovable properties and their personal life absolutely and forever due to their wrong acts and behaviour. Any body dealing with them in civil and criminal matter shall be doing at his/her own risk, cost and expenses & my clients and other family member will not be responsible for the same at any circumstances. With immediate effect. S.K. Tank (Shree) (Advocate) En. No. D/363/04

PUBLIC NOTICE
Know all men by or large that my clients, (1) SH. ANGANA RAM S/O LATE SH. DATA RAM (2) SMT. MISHRA W/O SH. ANSANA RAM R/O B-28, BALI EXTN., BADLI, DELHI-110042 have disowned and severed all relations with their son MAHENDER KUMAR and his wife SUNITA DEVI & their son KAMAL and debarred them from all their movable and immovable properties and their personal life absolutely and forever due to their wrong acts and behaviour. Any body dealing with them in civil and criminal matter shall be doing at his/her own risk, cost and expenses & my clients and other family member will not be responsible for the same at any circumstances. With immediate effect. S.K. Tank (Shree) (Advocate) En. No. D/363/04

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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

For first time since end-July, fewer than 50k cases in a day

FOR THE first time since July-end, India has recorded less than 50,000 new infections with novel coronavirus — 47,000 cases detected on Monday.

Sharp drops in daily numbers on Mondays are a familiar pattern now, because of low testing on Sunday. But even then, the fall in the detection of new cases this week is much larger than expected. This Sunday, 8.59 lakh tests were conducted, against the normal range of 10 to 11 lakh tests every day. When between eight and nine lakh tests per day was the norm, India was detecting well over 60,000 cases.

The continuous decline in the number of new cases has meant that, after two-and-a-half months, India has stopped reporting the highest number

of cases in the world. For the last three days, the US has reported more new infections than India. There is resurgence in several countries of Europe too.

A government-appointed committee of scientists had said on Sunday the epidemic in India might have reached a peak, and the decline begun. It said if everything went well from here, the epidemic might be under control by February.

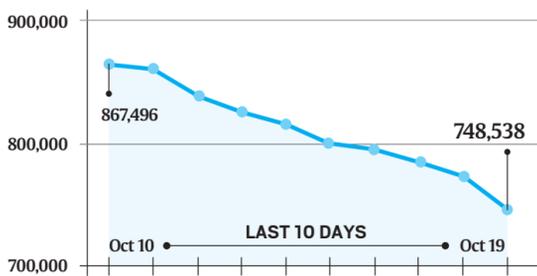
Prof Manindra Agrawal of IIT Kanpur, part of the committee, told *The Indian Express* it was not necessary that India would also undergo a second wave of infections as is currently happening in the US and Europe. But it was important for people to follow safety instructions.

AMITABH SINHA



INDIA ACTIVE CASES

748,538



Note: The Oct 19 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Oct 20

INDIA TOTAL CASES
7,597,063WORLD TOTAL CASES
40,549,643

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Oct 20

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Oct 20

In genetic code of coronavirus, a number of 'silent' mutations

BEFORE THE Covid-19 pandemic, the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 lived harmlessly in bats and other animals. Now, researchers at Duke University have identified a number of "silent" mutations in the virus's genetic code that helped it thrive after it crossed over to humans. The study is published in *PeerJ*.

The researchers developed statistical methods to identify adaptive changes that arose in the SARS-CoV-2 genome in humans, but not in closely related coronaviruses found in bats and pangolins. The study flagged mutations that altered the spike proteins,



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

suggesting that viral strains carrying these mutations were more likely to thrive. It also identified additional culprits in two other regions of the SARS-CoV-2 genome, dubbed Nsp4 and Nsp16. These appear to have given the virus a biological edge over previous strains without altering the proteins they encode. Instead of affecting proteins, the researchers said, the changes likely affected how the virus's genetic material folds up into 3-D shapes and functions inside human cells.

Source: Duke University

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER
What's in India-US defence deals

At 2+2 meeting next week, the two countries will look to push intelligence sharing pact BECA. With key deals LEMOA and COMCASA already signed, what does it mean for defence, particularly in light of LAC standoff?

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

INDIA AND THE US are preparing for the third 2+2 ministerial meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark T Esper in New Delhi on October 26-27. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E Biegun visited India last week to lay the groundwork for the high-level visits.

One of the items on the agenda will be the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) — a pact with deep military implications. In the last two meetings, agreements known as LEMOA and COMCASA were signed; now, with BECA, these have been dubbed the trika of foundational pacts — essentially laying the foundation for deeper military cooperation.

What is BECA?

The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement largely pertains to geospatial intelligence, and sharing information on maps and satellite images for defence. According to officials, anyone who sails a ship, flies an aircraft, fights wars, locates targets, responds to natural disasters, or even navigates with a cellphone relies on geospatial intelligence.

Signing BECA will allow India to use the US's advanced geospatial intelligence and enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones. It will give access to topographical and aeronautical data and products that will aid navigation and targeting.

To use an everyday example, just like an Uber cab needs a good GPS to reach its destination quickly and efficiently, BECA will provide Indian military systems with a high-quality GPS to navigate and missiles with real-time intelligence to precisely target the adversary.

This could be key for Air Force-to-Air Force cooperation. India and the US have stepped up efforts to sign the pact during the upcoming 2+2. This flows from the commitment in the joint statement during US President Donald Trump's visit in February this year, when the two sides had said they looked forward to an "early conclusion" of BECA.

What are the other two agreements about?

LEMOA: The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement was signed between India and the US in August 2016. It allows the military of each country to replenish from the other's bases: access supplies, spare parts and services from the other country's land facilities, air bases, and ports, which can then be reimbursed. This is extremely useful for Navy-to-Navy cooperation, since the US and India are cooperating closely in the Indo-Pacific.

Again, to put this simply, it is like going to a friend's garage and workshop to refuel one's car and getting repairs done. But, by doing this, one is also exposing one's car and technology to the friend, and that requires trust. In military terms, one's Naval ships are strategic assets and use of another country's base would expose one's military asset to the host.

If signing LEMOA needed trust, its application enhances the trust. It took almost a decade to negotiate LEMOA. This, in a sense, has bridged the trust deficit and paved the way for the remaining "foundational pacts".

Former diplomats say that while India had provided logistics support ad hoc in the past — refuelling of American aircraft in Bombay during the first Gulf War in 1991, visits by US ships to Indian ports during the war against terrorism after 9/11 — the signing of LEMOA has made it a smoother process.

COMCASA: The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement was signed in September 2018, after the first 2+2 dialogue in which then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met visiting US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and then Secretary of Defence James Mattis. It allows the US to provide India with its encrypted



At the first 2+2 in 2018, then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (far right) with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and then Defense Secretary James Mattis (far left). Express Archive

communications equipment and systems so that Indian and US military commanders, aircraft and ships can communicate through secure networks in peace and war.

To explain in lay terms again, it is like WhatsApp or Telegram for the two militaries, which is safe and real-time communication is possible hassle-free.

COMCASA paved the way for transfer of communication security equipment from the US to India to facilitate "interoperability" between their forces — and potentially with other militaries that use US-origin systems for secure data links.

So, what do these three pacts put together mean?

While LEMOA means one partner trusts the other enough to expose its valuable assets, COMCASA means one is confident that it can rely on encrypted systems to connect the two militaries, and BECA means it can share highly classified information in real time without fear of being compromised. All this signals the level of trust that has developed between the two countries and their militaries, faced with an increasingly aggressive China.

So, what does this mean in the context of the ongoing border standoff?

Amid the longest stand-off on the India-China border in three decades, India and the US have intensified under-the-radar intelligence and military cooperation at an unprecedented level, especially since June.

After Pompeo called up Jaishankar in the

third week of June, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has been in touch with the US NSA, Robert O'Brien, while Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Mark A Milley has been in touch with Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat. Also, Esper called up Rajnath Singh in July second week.

These conversations have facilitated information-sharing between security, military and intelligence branches of the two countries — almost reminiscent of the Indo-US cooperation of the 1960s, especially after the 1962 war. The cooperation includes sharing of high-end satellite images, telephone intercepts, and data sharing of Chinese troops and weapons deployment along the 3,488 km Line of Actual Control (LAC). Sources said New Delhi is watching the Chinese movements in "all sectors" of the LAC.

The Indian defence establishment also has enhanced capability with some American equipment. The armed forces have used at least five American platforms at the LAC — C-17 Globemaster III for military transport, Boeing's Chinook CH-47 as heavy-lift helicopters, Boeing's Apache as tank-killers, P-81 Poseidon for overland reconnaissance, and Lockheed Martin's C-130J for airlifting troops.

Now, with these key defence pacts in place, cooperation can happen in a more structured and efficient way, rather than episodic.

Is there a catch in all this?

The US wants India to move away from Russian equipment and platforms, as it feels this may expose its technology and information to Moscow. So far, India is going ahead with the purchase of the S-400 air defence missile system from Russia, and this has been a sticking point for American interlocutors. For its part, India is wary of Pakistan's deep-rooted ties with Pentagon, and Washington's dependence on Rawalpindi for access to Afghanistan as well as its exit strategy.

But, because of Chinese belligerence being the clear and present danger, New Delhi's strategic embrace of Washington is the obvious outcome.

It is important to note that while LEMOA was signed during the Barack Obama regime (August 2016), COMCASA was signed in the middle of Trump administration (September 2018) and efforts are under way to sign or conclude BECA before the US goes to polls on November 3.

As Biegun said on Tuesday, every administration in the last 20 years have left the Indo-US relationship in a better shape than how they inherited it.

How to grow heeng in Indian Himalayas

ANJALI MARAR

PUNE, OCTOBER 20

LAST WEEK, scientists planted India's first sapling of the spice asafoetida, or *heeng*, in Himachal Pradesh's Kwarling village in Lahaul valley. It is part of an effort by scientists from the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource, Palampur (IHBT) to cultivate *heeng* in the Indian Himalayas. Although *heeng* is common in many Indian kitchens, it is not grown in India.

Where does heeng come from?

Ferula asafoetida is a herbaceous plant, endemic to Iran and Afghanistan, the main global suppliers. Government data shows that India imports about 1,200 tonnes of raw *heeng* worth Rs 600 crore from Iran, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

Some European countries, too, use *heeng* for its medicinal properties. Published studies describe how *heeng* provides relief for diges-

ive, spasmodic and stomach disorders, asthma and bronchitis. The herb is commonly used to relieve menstrual pain, prevent excessive bleeding and premature labour, and as an anti-flatulent in new mothers.

The plant stores most of its nutrients inside its deep fleshy roots. It is a perennial plant whose oleo gum resin is extracted from its roots and rhizome.

How did India's cultivation plan take off?

Between 1963 and 1989, India once attempted to procure asafoetida seeds, according to Indian Council of Agriculture Research — National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR). However, there are no published results.

In 2017, IHBT approached ICAR-NBPGR with an experimental project idea. Seeds were imported from Iran and subjected to a number of tests, while being quarantined against infection at NBPGR.

After acquiring all regulatory approvals from ICAR, IHBT introduced six accessions of

heeng, and has carried out further R&D since 2018. At the Palampur institute, the seeds were tested to see if they would germinate under a controlled laboratory set-up.

"Each of the six accessions imported showcased varying degrees of germination," said Ashok Kumar, senior scientist at IHBT and Principal Investigator of this project. The seeds were then given special chemical treatments. "After about 20 days, the seeds — all six accessions gathered from various regions of Iran — germinated under controlled laboratory conditions," Kumar said.

In June this year, IHBT signed a five-year MoU with the Agriculture Department of Himachal Pradesh.

Why Himachal Pradesh?

Asafoetida grows best in dry and cold conditions. Regions with sandy soil, very little moisture and annual rainfall of not more than 200mm are considered conducive. Beyond Himachal, the researchers plan to expand their experiments to Ladakh and Uttarakhand.

"We believe the geo-climatic conditions required for cultivation of certain *heeng* varieties are available in India. On a pilot basis, we have started cultivation in Lahaul-Spiti valley last week," said Shekhar Mande, Director General, CSIR.

Four locations in the valley have been identified and *heeng* seeds have been distributed among seven farmers.

"The plant can withstand a maximum temperature between 35°C and 40°C, whereas during winters, it can survive in temperatures up to -4°C. During extreme weather, the plant can get dormant," said Kumar.

How promising is the project?

Experts say it is too early to comment as the plant takes about five years to produce the extractable oleo gum resin.

Scientists will monitor the plants over the next five years. The target is to cover 1 hectare with *heeng* cultivation by the end of this year, and take it to 300 hectares during the next five years.

Thailand anti-govt protests: the issues, and what's different this time

MEHRGILL

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

FOR THE last several months, Thailand has been witnessing pro-democracy demonstrations with protesters demanding that the monarchy be reformed and that Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha resign. The current wave of protests is among the biggest seen in recent times.

What kind of political system exists in Thailand?

A Buddhist-majority country of about 70 million, Thailand converted from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy in 1932. Following a coup in 1947, Thailand has been ruled by the military for the most part. Since around 2001, the country's politics has been marked by a divide between supporters and detractors of populist leader Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted as Prime Minister by the military in 2006 and has been in exile since.

Over the decades, the military has cracked down on dissidents many times. On October 6, 1976, a student-led democracy protest was crushed at Bangkok's Thammasat University when security forces killed 46 protesters and arrested nearly 3,000 people. In 2010, over 2,000 were arrested and 90 killed in clashes between security forces and anti-government protesters.

The current ruler, Maha Vajiralongkorn, became king in December 2016. Prime Minister Chan-ocha came to power through a coup in 2014, when he seized power from Shinawatra's sister, Chan-ocha, endorsed by the king, is alleged to have meddled with electoral laws during the 2019 elections, which has enabled him to remain in power.

What are current protests about?

Demonstrations started late last year following the disqualification of opposition politician Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit as a Member of Parliament and a ban on his party Future Forward. Pandemic restric-



In Bangkok on Tuesday, the three-finger salute has emerged as one of the symbols of protest. AP

tions led to a pause in protests, which resumed in mid-July when the Free Youth Group led 2,500 demonstrators in Bangkok.

There have been three demands: dissolution of Parliament and the PM's resignation, changes to the Constitution, and an end to harassment of critics. On August 3, human rights lawyer Arnon Nampa made a speech

about reforming the monarchy. Nampa and another movement leader, Panupong Jadnok (also known as Mike Rayong), were arrested last week.

Other groups have joined the protests, with broader demands: expanding LGBT and women's rights, reforms in education and the military, and improvements in the economy.

At a demonstration at Thammasat University on August 10, a declaration listed ten demands. These included the king not endorsing further coups, abolition of the Royal Offices, a reduction in the national budget allocated to the king, and amnesty to those prosecuted for criticising the monarchy.

How are these demonstrations different from previous ones?

Traditionally, Thailand's political divide has been between the "red shirts" (populists and supporters of Shinawatra) and the "yellow shirts" (loyalists of the royalty). This time, the protesters are not using these traditional colour codes but have come up with their own symbols to express their ideas and dissent. These include the "anti-coup" three-finger salute from *The Hunger Games* series, and gestures such as the hands crossed over the chest, and hands pointing above the head. Some of these gestures are the same as those used by pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong.

By criticising the monarchy, which is for-

bidden under law, the protesters have opened new ground. Under Section 112 of the Criminal Code, whoever "defames, insults or threatens the King, the Queen, the Heir-apparent or the Regent, shall be punished with imprisonment of three to fifteen years".

How has the government responded?

The government has attempted to crack down on what have been peaceful protests so far. On Friday, water cannons were used to disperse protesters. On Thursday the authorities imposed a "severe" state of emergency, banning gatherings of five or more people in Bangkok, and also banning the publication of information that could be a threat to national security. The protesters have so far defied the ban and continue to protest in the capital.

Last week, the government blocked access to the website change.org following an online petition calling for the king to be declared persona non grata, the BBC reported. The government also arrested several rally and student leaders and some demonstrators.



USA ACTOR JEFF BRIDGES SAYS HE HAS LYMPHOMA

Jeff Bridges, the actor known for his roles as Bad Blake in "Crazy Heart" and The Dude in "The Big Lebowski," announced on Monday that he has lymphoma. "Although it is a serious disease, I feel fortunate that I have a great team of doctors and the prognosis is good," Bridges tweeted. "I'm starting treatment and will keep you posted on my recovery."

TOPOF THE WORLD



Madsen surrounded by police in Albertslund, Denmark. Reuters

DENMARK Danish submarine killer caught after prison escape

PETER MADSEN, who was convicted of killing Swedish journalist Kim Wall in a self-built submarine in 2017, was caught by Danish authorities on Tuesday after he briefly escaped from prison, police told Reuters. Footage released by tabloid *Ekstra Bladet* showed a man resembling Peter Madsen sitting up against a fence surrounded by police forces at a distance. Madsen was sentenced to life in prison in 2018 for murdering, sexually mutilating and dismembering Wall aboard the submarine in Copenhagen harbour. Police later said the operation took place just a km from prison. **REUTERS**

US Justice Dept files landmark anti-trust lawsuit against Google

Internet giant accused of using its dominance in online search and advertising to stifle competition

MICHAEL BALSAMO & MARCY GORDON
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 20

THE US Justice Department on Tuesday sued Google for antitrust violations, alleging that it abused its dominance in online search and advertising to stifle competition and harm consumers. The lawsuit marks the government's most significant attempt to protect competition since its groundbreaking case against Microsoft more than 20 years ago. It could be an opening salvo ahead of other major government antitrust actions, given ongoing investigations of major tech companies including Apple, Amazon and Facebook at both the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

"Google is the gateway to the internet and a search advertising behemoth," US Deputy Attorney General Jeff Rosen told reporters. "It has maintained its monopoly power through exclusionary practices that are harmful to competition."

Antitrust cases in the technology industry have to move quickly, he said. Otherwise "we could lose the next wave of innovation."



The US federal government was joined by 11 states in its lawsuit against Google. NYT

Lawmakers and consumer advocates have long accused Google, whose corporate parent Alphabet Inc has a market value just over \$1 trillion, of abusing its dominance in online search and advertising to stifle competition and boost its profits. Critics contend that multi-billion-dollar fines and mandated changes in Google's practices imposed by European regulators in recent years weren't severe enough and that structural changes are needed for Google to change its conduct.

The Justice Department isn't seeking specific changes in

Google's structure or other remedies at this point, but isn't ruling out seeking additional relief, officials said.

Google responded immediately via tweet: "Today's lawsuit by the Department of Justice is deeply flawed. People use Google because they choose to — not because they're forced to or because they can't find alternatives."

The case was filed in federal court in Washington, DC. It alleges that Google uses billions of dollars collected from advertisers to pay phone manufacturers to ensure Google is the default search

The allegations and the defence

THE LAWSUIT

The government's main allegation is that Google illegally maintains its monopoly over internet searches by having contracts with companies like Apple and other smartphone-makers to make Google the default search engine in their phones.

GOOGLE'S DEFENCE

Google has defended its prac-

Explained. The government's main allegation is that Google illegally maintains its monopoly over internet searches by having contracts with companies like Apple and other smartphone-makers to make Google the default search engine in their phones. Google has defended its practices at congressional hearings and other forums. It says it does not have a monopoly on search, pointing out that around 50% of shopping searches happen on Amazon. It also argues that its deals with phone manufacturers are not illegal because they do not actually prevent users from accessing other search engines if they wanted to.

engine on browsers. Eleven states, all with Republican attorneys general, joined the federal government in the lawsuit.

But several other states demurred. The attorneys general of New York, Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, Tennessee and Utah released a statement Monday saying they have not concluded their investigation into Google and would want to consolidate their case with the DOJ's if they decided to file.

President Donald Trump's administration has long had Google

in its sights. One of Trump's top economic advisers said two years ago that the White House was considering whether Google searches should be subject to government regulation. Trump has often criticised Google, recycling unfounded claims by that the search giant is biased against conservatives and suppresses their viewpoints, interferes with US elections and prefers working with the Chinese military over the Pentagon. But Rosen told reporters that allegations of anti-conservative bias are "a totally separate set of concerns" from the issue of competition. **AP**



Residents line up outside the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Voter Services office, on Monday. AP

GOP sees bright spot in voter registration push as Trump tries to rekindle '16 late surge

REUTERS & AP
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 20

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump heads to the battleground state of Pennsylvania on Tuesday with hopes of rekindling the 11th-hour surge of support that powered his surprise 2016 victory.

Trump's Republican Party has cut into Democrats' advantage in voter registration tallies across some critical presidential battleground states, a fact they point to as evidence of steady — and overlooked — enthusiasm for Trump's re-election.

Even though Trump trails in national polls and struggles with fundraising with just weeks before Election Day, Republicans see their progress signing up voters in Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona and other states as a rare bright spot. Democrats appear to have been set back by their decision to curb in-person voter registration drives during much of the pandemic. And in something of a reversal, Republicans are crowing about their success bringing in new voters who could ramp up turnout and deliver the White House to their candidate.

"The best thing for voter registration is enthusiasm for a candidate and the infrastructure," said Nick Trainor, a strategist for Trump's re-election campaign.

In Florida, Republicans netted 146,644 voters over Democrats since March, leaving Democrats with their smallest overall ever lead in party registrations. In



Final debate to have mute button

Washington: The final debate between President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden will feature a mute button to allow each candidate to speak uninterrupted, organisers said on Monday, looking to avoid the disruptions that marred the first matchup. The Trump campaign voiced objections to the change — made after he repeatedly talked over Biden at last month's debate in violation of agreed-upon rules — but said the President would still take part in the Thursday night event. **REUTERS**

Pennsylvania, which Trump won with 44,000 votes in 2016, the GOP added 103,171 more voters since Nov than Democrats did. Even in Arizona, where Democrats have steadily been chipping away at the GOP's advantage, Republicans added 30,000 more voters than Democrats since mid-August.

AFRICA Armed men free 900 prisoners from Congo jail

ARMED MEN freed at least 900 prisoners from a jail in Beni, east Democratic Republic of Congo, in a co-ordinated attack in the early hours of Tuesday, the town's mayor said, blaming an Islamist militant group operating in the area. Only 100 out of more than 1,000 inmates remained following the simultaneous assault on the Kangbayi prison and on the military camp defending it, said Modeste Bakwanamaha. "Unfortunately, the attackers, who came in large numbers, managed to break the door with electrical equipment," Bakwanamaha said. "We believe that it was the ADF who did this." **REUTERS**

USA Ghislaine Maxwell loses bid to keep testimony secret

A US appeals court on Monday dealt Ghislaine Maxwell a blow by refusing to block the release of a deposition she gave concerning her relationship with the late financier and registered sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan said there was a presumption the public had a right to see Maxwell's 418-page deposition, which was taken in April 2016 for a now-settled civil defamation lawsuit against her. **REUTERS**



Maryam Nawaz in Karachi on Monday. AP

Maryam Nawaz booked for holding anti-govt rally in Pakistan

M ZULQARNAIN
LAHORE, OCTOBER 20

FORMER PRIME minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter and Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's vice-president Maryam Nawaz was on Tuesday booked along with over 2,000 party members for holding an anti-government rally in Lahore where she called Prime Minister Imran Khan a "coward, selected and puppet" who hides behind the Army. The rally by the 11-member opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was held here on October 16 before the Gujranwala public meeting.

Maryam had openly called Prime Minister Khan a "coward, selected and puppet" in the rally, saying he hid behind the Army to cover up his "Nalaaiki" (bad governance).

She dared the "selected" Prime Minister to arrest her as she is not afraid of going to jail.

The Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy. **PTI**

Khashoggi's fiancée sues MBS in US court

ASHRAF KHALIL
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 20

THE FAMILY of slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi has filed a federal lawsuit accusing Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of personally ordering Khashoggi's brutal execution in order to silence the high-profile government critic.

The lawsuit was filed Tuesday in Washington, DC, on behalf of Khashoggi's fiancée



Mohammed bin Salman (left) has been accused of ordering Khashoggi's killing

Hatice Cengiz and Democracy for the Arab World Now or DAWN, the human rights organ-

isation that Khashoggi founded shortly before his death. It names Prince Mohammed and a host of Saudi Ministry of Interior officials, accusing them of a "brutal and brazen crime" that was the result of "weeks of planning" and premeditation.

"Jamal believed anything was possible in America and I place my trust in the American civil justice system to obtain a measure of justice and accountability," Cengiz said in a statement Tuesday. Khashoggi disappeared on

Oct. 2, 2018 after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, seeking documents that would allow him to marry Cengiz, a Turkish national who was waiting outside the building. He never emerged.

Turkish officials allege Khashoggi was killed and then dismembered with a bone saw inside the consulate. His body has not been found. Turkey apparently had the consulate bugged and shared audio of the killing with the CIA, among others. **AP**

UK set to infect healthy volunteers to speed up vaccine development

DANICA KIRKA
LONDON, OCTOBER 20

UK RESEARCHERS are preparing to infect healthy young volunteers with the virus that causes Covid-19, becoming the first to announce plans to use the controversial technique to study the disease and potentially speed up development of a vaccine that could help end the pandemic.

This type of research, known as a human challenge study, is used infrequently because some consider the risk involved in infecting otherwise healthy individuals to be unethical. But researchers racing to combat Covid-19 say that risk is warranted because such studies have the potential to quickly identify the most effective vaccines and help control a disease that has killed more than 1.1 million people worldwide.

"Deliberately infecting volunteers with a known human pathogen is never undertaken lightly," said Professor Peter Openshaw, co-investigator on the study. "However, such stud-



Social distancing instructions on a road in Cardiff, Wales. Several parts of the UK, including Wales, has brought in new strict restrictions after a surge in Covid-19 cases.

ies are enormously informative about a disease, even one so well studied as Covid-19."

Human challenge studies have been previously used to develop vaccines for diseases including typhoid, cholera and malaria. Imperial College London said Tuesday that the study, involving volunteers aged 18 to 30, would be conducted in partnership with the government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and hVIVO,

a company that has experience conducting challenge studies. The government plans to invest 33.6 million pounds (\$43.4 million) in the research.

Governments around the world are funding efforts to develop a vaccine in hopes of ending the pandemic that has pummelled the international economy, shutting businesses and putting millions of people out of work. Forty-six potential vaccines are already in human testing, with 11 of them in late-stage trials. **AP**

Heathrow Airport begins rapid Covid tests for those flying out of UK

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, OCTOBER 20

HEATHROW AIRPORT in London, one of the world's largest aviation hubs, on Tuesday launched new pre-departure rapid Covid-19 testing facilities for travellers flying out of the UK.

The private test costs 80 pounds and aims to provide departing passengers with their results in around 60 minutes.

The airport said its new test-on-departure process is aimed at helping passengers leaving the UK to meet requirements of governments worldwide alongside reassuring travellers that everyone who has boarded their plane will have only been allowed to do so by showing a negative test result.

"Many countries are already using testing to keep borders safe while restarting trade and travel. These facilities will make it easier for passengers going to those countries to get a test and have the potential to provide a service for arriving passengers," said airport CEO John Holland-Kaye. **PTI**

China tells US to stop meddling after exiled Tibetan leader's visit

REUTERS
BEIJING, OCTOBER 20

CHINA'S FOREIGN ministry said the United States should immediately stop interfering in its internal affairs, after the leader of the head of the Tibetan government-in-exile met a US State Department official in Washington.

Lobsang Sangay, the president of the Tibetan Central Administration (CTA), met the new US special coordinator on Tibet last week. Sangay said it was the first time that the head of the CTA had been received at the State Department.

"China will take all necessary measures to protect its interests," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said during a daily news conference in Beijing on Tuesday.

China's irritation with the United States over Tibet comes at a time when relations between the two world powers



Lobsang Sangay, Prime Minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile. Reuters

are at their lowest point in decades over a range of issues, including trade, Taiwan, human rights, the South China Sea and the coronavirus.

Describing Sangay as an anti-China separatist, Zhao said the United States should cease any official contact with him. The meeting "sent a seriously wrong signal to Tibetan independence forces," he said. "The US should immediately stop using the Tibet issue to interfere in China's internal affairs."

THE EPISODES, AFFECTING US DIPLOMATS & SPIES IN CHINA, CUBA AND RUSSIA, ARE RAISING SPECULATION OF A FOREIGN ATTACK

Odd noises, strange illnesses and two very different US responses

ANA SWANSON, EDWARD WONG & JULIAN E BARNES
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 20

THE STRANGE sound came at night: a crack like a marble striking the floor of the apartment above them.

Mark Lenzi and his wife had lightheadedness, sleep issues and headaches, and their children were waking up with bloody noses — symptoms they thought might be from the smog in Guangzhou, China, where Lenzi worked for the State Department. But air pollution could not explain his sudden memory loss, including forget-

ting names of work tools.

What began as strange sounds and symptoms among more than a dozen US officials and their family members in China in 2018 has turned into a diplomatic mystery spanning multiple countries and involving speculation about secret high-tech weapons and foreign attacks.

One of the biggest questions centers on whether Trump administration officials believe that Lenzi and other diplomats in China experienced the same mysterious affliction as dozens of diplomats and spies at the US Embassy in Cuba in 2016 and 2017, which came to be known as Havana Syndrome. American em-

ployees in the two countries reported hearing strange sounds, followed by headaches, dizziness, blurred vision and memory loss.

But the government's treatment of the episodes has been radically different. The State Department, which oversaw the cases, has produced inconsistent assessments of patients and events, ignored outside medical diagnoses and withheld basic information from Congress, a *New York Times* investigation found.

In Cuba, the Trump administration withdrew most of its staff members from the embassy and issued a travel warning, saying US diplomats had experienced "targeted attacks." President



The US withdrew most staff from its Havana embassy. Reuters

Donald Trump expelled 15 Cuban diplomats from Washington and started an independent review, though Cuba

denied any involvement.

The administration took a softer approach with China. In May 2018, Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo, who was the CIA director during the Cuba events, told lawmakers that the medical details of one US official who had fallen ill in China were "very similar and entirely consistent" with the syndrome in Cuba. The administration evacuated more than a dozen federal employees and a dozen of their family members.

The State Department soon retreated, labelling what happened in China as "health incidents." While the officers in Cuba were placed on administrative leave for rehabilitation, those in China initially had to use sick days and unpaid leave, some officers and their lawyers say. And the State Department did

not open an investigation into what happened in China.

The administration has said little about the events in China and played down the idea that a hostile power could be responsible. But similar episodes have been reported by senior CIA officers who visited the agency's stations overseas, according to three current and former officials and others familiar with the events.

That includes Moscow, where Marc Polymeropoulos, a CIA officer who helped run clandestine operations in Russia and Europe, experienced what he believes was an attack in December 2017. Polymeropoulos, who was

48 at the time, suffered severe vertigo in his hotel room in Moscow and later developed debilitating migraine headaches that forced him to retire.

The cases involving CIA officers, none of which have been publicly reported, are adding to suspicions that Russia carried out the attacks worldwide. Some senior Russia analysts in the CIA, officials at the State Department and outside scientists, as well as several of the victims, see Russia as the most likely culprit given its history with weapons that cause brain injuries and its interest in fracturing Washington's relations with Beijing and Havana. **NYT**

COMPENSATION DEFICIT UNDER GST REGIME

Some states seek no-strings attached borrowing, scrapping payout conditions

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE CENTRE'S conciliatory measure to borrow to meet the compensation deficit under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime has still not found complete favour with states, with a new front getting opened up where they are insisting on further clarifications and a no-strings attached borrowing mechanism.

States such as Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Kerala have asked for delinking of their compensation share with the conditions such as payment of interest and principal before clearing the arrears along with asking to include the balance compensation deficit amount beyond the proposed borrowing of Rs 1.10 lakh crore also under the ambit of the back-to-back loan mechanism.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is learnt to have written a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stating that there is no clarity on the ratio in which compensation

GST portal develops glitches

Mumbai: The GST portal developed technical glitches on Tuesday, the last day for filing GSTR-3B summary returns for September. This also comes ahead of the October 31 deadline for the annual GST return for 2018-19.

Many taxpayers took to Twitter to complain about borrowing mechanism.

States after June 2022 will be defrayed between repayment of principal borrowed by Centre (and passed over to states) and the arrears for which borrowings have to be made by states.

"Ideally, cess should be first used to pay arrears and then interest and last of all principal," the letter stated.

Singh said the suggestions of states such as payment of full compensation and dispute resolution mechanism were ignored and the manner of implementing the eventual solution has "left an impression that going forward

the glitches, following which GSTN's official handle, Infosys_GSTN, responded by stating that they have received intermittent complaints of slowness and time-out of services and that Infosys team was constantly working to ensure "better return filing experience". **ENS**

states be left to beg for compensation and unable to seek legal remedy".

He also asked for delinking of the additional 0.5 per cent borrowing space (provided to those states which opt for Option 1) to allow it to all states irrespective of them choosing either option.

Chhattisgarh is also planning to respond to the letter sent by the Centre last week, proposing inclusion of the balance compensation deficit amount under the same back-to-back loan arrangement. Chhattisgarh Commercial Taxes Minister TS Singh Deo said if states

are asked to borrow the rest of the compensation deficit beyond Rs 1.1 lakh crore, then the interest liability would fall on states, instead it should get included within the proposed borrowing mechanism.

"Rest of the compensation deficit amount beyond Rs 1.10 lakh crore will get paid eventually from the compensation cess pool. If they say the Centre will be taking the loan and it will be so adjusted, then we have no problem at all. But if they say the states will be given permission to take the loan, but the states will then have to pay interest. Back-to-back loan is the correct procedure, it provides for payment of principal and interest from the cess account. Balance amount should also be brought under this mechanism," he said, adding that estimates for the compensation deficit for this fiscal should now be made on actual revenues rather than ad-hoc estimates.

Kerala had last week stated that the whole compensation deficit should be borrowed this year and no amount should be deferred, while Jharkhand had re-

jected the Centre's proposal.

In a sharp retraction of its earlier position, the Finance Ministry had on Thursday said the Centre would borrow from the market and then act as an intermediary to arrange back-to-back loans to pay the GST compensation shortfall of Rs 1.1 lakh crore to state governments. This arrangement will not reflect in the fiscal deficit of the Centre and will appear as capital receipts for state governments.

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

In August, the Centre gave two options to the states — either borrow Rs 97,000 crore from a special window facilitated by the RBI or borrow Rs 2.35 lakh crore from the market.

Covid shadow: Sharp dip in banks' share in equity funds, tech & pharma surge

CHANGE IN MF EQUITY ALLOCATION ACROSS SECTORS DURING PANDEMIC

	FEBRUARY		SEPTEMBER		CHANGE IN % ALLOCATION
	AUM (₹ CRORE)	% OF TOTAL EQUITY AUM	AUM (₹ CRORE)	% OF TOTAL EQUITY AUM	
TOP LOSERS					
Banks	2,87,876.24	24.38	2,09,069.43	17.91	-6.47
Finance	1,21,553.98	10.29	1,06,760.26	9.15	-1.14
Construction	38,945.92	3.30	25,574.54	2.19	-1.11
TOP GAINERS					
Software	90,528.19	7.67	1,37,205.07	11.76	4.09
Pharmaceuticals	62,055.12	5.25	93,318.35	8.00	2.75
Petroleum Products	60,714.69	5.14	89,596.07	7.68	2.54
Total	11,81,011.65	100	11,67,036.33	100	0

Source: Sebi

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

WITH RISING concerns over the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on asset quality of banks following the end of the moratorium period, the banking sector has seen a sharp reduction in asset allocation by mutual funds over the last seven months.

While the banking sector's share in equity Assets Under Management (AUM) of MFs declined from 24.4 per cent in February to 17.9 per cent in September, sectors such as IT, pharmaceuticals and petroleum have seen an increase in their share.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) data shows that the equity AUM of mutual funds in September reached Rs 11.67 lakh crore, marginally down from 11.81 lakh crore seen in February 2020.

However, equity fund allocation in banks in September stood at its lowest over the last seven months at 17.91 per cent or Rs 2,09,069 crore. The value of allocation in banks in February stood at Rs 2,87,876 crore.

Besides the banking sector, even the finance segment saw its share of MF equity allocation decline from 10.29 per cent to 9.15 per cent in the same period.

By contrast, in the same period, the share of equity allocation from the IT sector jumped from 7.67 per cent in February to 11.76 per cent. Pharma, too, has been

EXPLAINED
Concerns and opportunity

FEARS OVER rising NPAs at the end of the moratorium forced fund managers to gloss over bank stocks over the last five months. But with the banking index trailing in the recovery phase, experts see fresh opportunity for investors.

main concern during the pandemic, pharmaceuticals, as a sector, has done well.

The dip in share of banks is also because of the relatively weaker recovery of banking stocks over the last five months.

While the benchmark SENSEX at BSE was down only 0.6 per cent in September over its February closing of 38,297, the banking index at BSE was trailing its February closing by 27 per cent in September.

By comparison, while the IT index at BSE was up 33 per cent at the end of September over February closing, the healthcare index was up by 47 per cent. Even Auto and FMCG indices were up 14.8 per cent and 0.8 per cent in September over their February closing.

Given that banking sector is a market laggard, some experts see an opportunity.

The CEO of a large fund house said that while there are concerns around rise in non-performing assets over the next few months, smart investors are now taking a position in banking stocks. "If you pick a good bank which has good quality assets, it will generate strong return over the next two to three years," he said.

On Monday, bank stocks witnessed a sharp jump with the banking index rising by 3.3 per cent. While ICI Bank jumped 5.3 per cent, SBI and Axis Bank rose 4.2 per cent and 4.4 per cent.

'InvITs to acquire infra assets of over ₹4 lakh cr in 5 years'

Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) are likely to acquire infrastructure assets worth over ₹4 lakh crore in the next five years as the market matures, rating agency Icrs said



₹1.5 lakh crore: Amount that could come from the unit capital raised from investors, from within the Rs 4 lakh crore likely to be raised over next five years
Source: Icrs/PTI

What is an InvIT: An investment vehicle like a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of small amounts of money from individual or institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a portion of the income as return

₹27,600 crore: Amount raised by six InvITs from investors so far, with a seventh entity in advanced stage of raising ₹25,200 crore

Why is it important: For long-term investors with investments in Indian infrastructure assets or plans of the same, the InvIT would form a preferred route, Icrs said, adding that stable regulations and a taxation regime, and a conducive macro environment will be required to support investors' appetite

Jio conducts 5G trial on virtual radio network with Qualcomm

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

TAKING A step forward in its plans to build indigenous 5G network equipment, Reliance Jio announced the results of a trial conducted on a virtual radio access network that the company developed with US-based chipmaker Qualcomm Technologies.

"Qualcomm Technologies and Jio also announced that they achieved over a 1 Gbps milestone on the Jio 5G NR solution, leveraging the Qualcomm 5G RAN Platforms. This achievement not only supports Jio's 5G credentials but also signifies the entry of Jio and India into the Gigabit 5G NR product portfolio," both the companies said in a press statement.

The companies have devel-

COMPATIBLE WITH SNAPDRAGON

■ Reliance Jio and Qualcomm have developed an open and interoperable interface compliant architecture that can be deployed and launched in a year once spectrum is made available

■ Qualcomm has said that this network will be compatible with its Snapdragon series of mobile processors

oped an open and interoperable interface compliant architecture that can be deployed and

launched in a year once spectrum is made available.

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Jio Platforms, the digital services unit of Reliance Industries (RIL), has designed and developed a complete 5G solution from scratch and given the all-IP nature of the network, Jio can upgrade its 4G network to 5G.

This was also announced at RIL's annual general meeting earlier this year.

Qualcomm's investment arm had acquired a 0.15 per cent holding in Jio Platforms for Rs 730 crore.

Currently, India's 5G journey is pending auction of airwaves on which telecom companies will deploy the latest mobile telephony technology.

BRIEFLY

WTO members to weigh IP plan

New Delhi: Nearly 40 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have discussed a proposal submitted by India and South Africa for relaxing certain provisions in intellectual property (IP) agreement, with a view to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

UIDAI ADG held for taking bribe

Jaipur/New Delhi: An assistant director general (ADG) of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was arrested Tuesday for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 1 lakh in his office in Delhi, an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) official said, based on a complaint filed with the ACB in Kota. The UIDAI said it has suspended the accused, Pankaj Goyal, with immediate effect, pending inquiry.

FDI up 16% in April-August

New Delhi: Foreign direct investment (FDI) has risen by 16 per cent year-on-year to \$27.1 billion in April-August this year, against \$23.35 billion in the year-ago period, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said Tuesday. **PTI**

Microsoft ties up with SpaceX

Bengaluru: Microsoft Corp said Tuesday it is partnering with Elon Musk-led SpaceX and others as it expands its cloud-computing platform into space. **REUTERS**

NEW NORMS FOR NETWORK TESTING BEFORE COMMERCIAL LAUNCH

DoT extends maximum testing period to 180 days

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) has modified its norms for network testing before commercial launch of services and extended the maximum available time to 180 days from 90 days currently. The total number of test subscribers of any telco shall not exceed 5 per cent of the installed capacity of the company, the DoT said in its modified norms.

Though the maximum time period for network testing has been extended to 180 days, telcos shall strive to ensure that their testing before commercial launch of services is completed within 90 days. If the testing is unlikely to be completed within the 90 day period, they must make a representation to the DoT and seek extension of time, the new norms said. The extension beyond 90 days,

The extension beyond 90 days, however, will be provided only if the telcos are able to prove that they are testing a new technology which requires more time to conclude, and that the quality of service norms, as prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has not been achieved.

The telcos shall, while making the request for extension of the time period beyond 90 days, submit a copy of customer feedback and "a detailed write up on how the extended period of testing will be utilised for improving the network performance and customer experience", said DoT, adding it will be applicable to wireless and wire-line service providers.

however, will be provided only if the telcos are able to prove that they are testing a new technology which requires more time to conclude, and that the quality of service norms, as prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has not been achieved.

'Initial days of Covid saw 121% rise in online frauds'

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

TRANSUNION CIBIL on Tuesday said suspected online fraud from India against businesses increased 121 per cent from right before the pandemic (January 1 to March 10) to the beginning of the pandemic (March 11 to May 18). While logistics sector reported 81 per cent rise in frauds, financial services accounted for 72 per cent.

However, as businesses began reopening (May 19 to July 25), TransUnion's findings revealed a 29 per cent decrease in suspected digital fraud attempts from India against businesses when compared to phase one.

HUL Q2 net profit rises 9%; operations, services back to pre-Covid levels

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

FMCG MAJOR Hindustan Unilever on Tuesday posted a nine per cent increase in its net profit at Rs 2,009 crore for the quarter ended September (Q2) of 2020 as against a net profit of Rs 1,848 crore in the same period of last year. The company indicated that "the worst is behind us and we are cautiously optimistic on demand recovery".

HUL chairman and MD Sanjiv Mehta said operations and service levels are now back to pre-Covid levels. Total income increased 15.56 per cent to Rs 11,593 crore as against Rs 10,032 crore a year ago. The board of the company has declared an interim div-

idend of Rs 14 per share.

"In the context of a challenging economic environment, our growth has been competitive and profitable. We continue to demonstrate execution prowess, agility, adaptability, resilience, and passion of our people. We have expanded our portfolio with consumer relevant innovations and have invested strongly behind our brands. Our operations and service levels are now back to pre-COVID levels and we have accelerated the pace of digitizing our operations under the 'Re-imagine HUL' agenda," Mehta said.

"The economic outlook has improved given the various initiatives taken by the government and Reserve Bank of India," he added.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT) PHED BHARATPUR

E-mail: aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
Notice inviting BID NO 01/20-21
Bid for "O&M of Transmission system providing additional water to KNP at Bharatpur from Goderhan Drain for 5 years" are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00 PM date 11.11.2020. Other particular of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state and PHED department website.

UBN - PHE 2021WSOB 06392 Addl. Chief Engineer (Project) PHED, Bharatpur
DIPR/C/8278/2020

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH APEWIDC, VIJAYAWADA

Door No: 9-76, Sai Fortune Heights, Block-A, Vaddeswararam, Guntur (DT) - 522 502
National Competitive Bidding
e-procurement Notice Inviting Tender

e-mail:apewidc.mpeshi@gmail.com, Phone No: 9704701236 & 08645295758
NIT No:77/MJ/APEWIDC/VJA/2020-21 Dated: 20.10.2020
Tenders are invited on e-procurement from Original Equipment / Product manufacturers of Green Chalk Boards @ an ECV of Rs.56.64 Crores to the Government Schools (Educational Institutions) in Andhra Pradesh.

Submission of Tender through Online: From 20-10-2020 to 04-11-2020 up to 16.00 Hrs and opening on : 04-11-2020 at 16.30 Hrs. and Display & finalization of Samples on or before 03.11.2020 @ 5.00 PM (no Relaxation of time unless specifically notified) at HO APEWIDC. For all details, visit e-procurement Platform @ www.appeprocurement.gov.in.

Note: Changes / Modifications if any will be communicated through the above e-Procurement platform only.

Sd/- Managing Director, APEWIDC, Vijayawada

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

Head Office : "Udyog Sarathi" Marol Indl. Area, Mahakali Caves Rd, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 93. Tel.: (022) 26870078

NOTICE

Selection of Implementation Agency for MahaJobs Portal

MIDC invites E- tenders from agencies to carry out the work of MahaJobs portal as specified by MIDC.

The agency must offer competent and professional services. Interested agencies may download the tender from MIDC's website: www.midcindia.org and submit the same between 21st Oct. 2020 (12 pm onwards) to 4th Nov. 2020 (till 11.59 pm.)

• Terms and conditions are available on our website.
• The tender will (probably) be opened on the 5th Nov. 2020 at 11 am.
• MIDC reserves the right to accept or reject one or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Note: After the end of above mentioned 15 days period, if the bids received are less than 3, the period will be automatically extended for the next 7 days. The schedule for the same (with changes, if any) will be displayed on our website.

General Manager (PR)
MIDC, Andheri, Mumbai - 93.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

EOI No.: PGI/Engg./Bio/2020/01 Dated: 20.10.2020
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh is an Institute of National Importance (INI) established by the Act of Parliament. Institute envisages a in-house facility for treatment of 'Solid Waste with technologies complying with all applicable laws and regulations and as per latest guidelines issued by Chandigarh Administration' at PGIMER, Chandigarh Hospital Engineer (Biomedical), PGIMER, Chandigarh on behalf of Director, PGIMER, invites (EOI) from the Specialized Agencies/Organizations/NGOs dealing in similar works.
Those interested may apply as per details available on Institute Website www.pgimer.edu.in. EOI to be sent in a sealed envelope super scribed "Expression of Interest for Management of Solid Waste", so as to reach the Hospital Engineer (Biomedical), PGIMER, Chandigarh on or before 05.11.2020. HOSPITAL ENGINEER (BIOMEDICAL) 694/PGI

Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd.

Shankarsheth Road, PMT Building Swargate, Pune - 411037, Phone No: 020 - 24440417

TENDER NOTICE NO. 1-CE-2020 (Re-TENDER)

PMPML invites eligible Bidders to Selection of bus operator for supply, operation & maintenance of 150 nos. of 12M AC BRT complaint electric buses & development of allied infrastructure on Gross Contract Basis under Fame II scheme as per the Bidding Documents. Bidding schedule is provided below.

Date Of Sale : 21/10/2020 TO 29/10/2020 till 02.30 pm
Date Of Submission : 21/10/2020 TO 29/10/2020 till 02.30 pm
Technical Bid opening date : 03/11/2020 at 03.00 pm

All relevant details of the procurement are available in the Bidding Documents. The Bidding Documents are available and can be purchased online on www.mahatenders.gov.in (e-tendering Portal)

Advt No.: CE/08
Date: 19/10/2020
Sd/-
Dr. Chetana Kerum
Joint Managing Director
Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd.

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA / भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण

TRAINING CENTRE / प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र
LB STADIUM, KOLLAM / एल बी स्टेडियम, कोल्लम
Email: saikollam@yahoo.com, Phone: 0474-2741659

No.SAI/STC/KO/7/2020-21 Dated: 19.10.2020

Tender Notice (Bid Reference No.SAI/STCKLM/7/01/2020-21)

Sports Authority of India, on behalf of Centre In Charge, SAI Training Centre, Kollam Invites E-Tender (online bids only) in two bid system for the procurement of mess services for the hostel of SAI Training Centre, LB Stadium, Kollam, Kerala. The tenders will be available in CPP Portal website www.eprocure.gov.in and SAI website www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in, www.sainicpe.gov.in. The last date for submission of Tender is 09.11.2020 at 04.00 Pm. For more information contact 0474-2741659/946634829

Sd/
RAJEEV THOMAS / राजीव थोमस
CENTRE IN CHARGE / केंद्र प्रभारी

BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED (A Government of India Enterprise)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GACHBOWLI, HYDERABAD-500 032.

Ref : BDL/CC/OT/GT/009/2020-21 Dt : 21.10.2020

e-PROCUREMENT ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE

Inviting Indigenous Competitive Bidding

Sl.No.	Tender ID	Description
1	62364	Supply, Installation, commissioning of Electro Dynamic Vibration System - 4000kgf
2	62617	Establishment of Clean Room Facility
3	62566	Supply, Installation, commissioning of CLIMATIC CHAMBER

Please visit website <https://bdltenders.abccprocure.com> for further details. Bids should be submitted online only.
"Corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers".
Addl. General Manager (Corp. Comml.)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



GDSM RB MANTYAR, VrC
05 OCT 61 - 21 OCT 87

We pay homage to our noble martyr, who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the enemy in OP PAWAN - 1987 (SRILANKA). His dauntless courage and sacrifice will forever inspire the organization.

CO AND ALL RANKS 6th Battalion
Brigade of the Guards

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR
(NEAR MAHIPALPUR) DELHI CANTT-10
Tele No - 011-26153559

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI is solicited from the leading vendors for the supply of Computers. Details for the above and technical specification forms are available from the school counter against draft/cash of ₹1000/- each. Forms duly filled to be submitted by 05 Nov 2020. All quotes to be forwarded for branded items and not assembled ones. Bids will be separate for technical specifications and commercial bids.

Chairman

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(POWER WING)

Corrigendum NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Tender Reference : NIT No. 03/2020-21 DATED : 27.08.2020
Tender Authority : Addl. Suppl. Engineer, O&M Division, BBMB, Hisar.

Scope of Tender : Supply, Supervision, Testing and Commissioning for complete overhauling of 12 No. 132 KV CGL Make SF6 Gas Circuit Breakers at 220 KV GSS BBMB Hisar.

Bid Submission End date and time : 19.11.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs.
Bid Opening date and time : 19.11.2020 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards

The detailed N.I.T. may be downloaded from B.B.M.B. website <https://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com> & www.bbmb.gov.in

1236-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Directorate of State Motor Garages J&K
Bemina Bye Pass Road Srinagar / New Plots Jammu
No:- 0191-2546697 (J) 0194-2493309 (S)
Fax: 0191-2565105 (J) 0194-2490473(S)
Website: jksmg.gov.in E-mail: dirmsg@gmail.com

NIT No: 18 DSMG OF 2020
DATED 13.10.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory e-tender are invited from the manufacturer/Authorized Dealers/ Registered Firms & Distributors for supply of "Gas Heater Standard size Two In one-Standard with Gas Pipe and Gas Regulator" as per detail mentioned in Bill of Quantity (BOQ).

01. Last date of submission of bid	09.11.2020 at (17:00 hours)
02. Date for opening of technical bid (Online)	10.11.2020 at (11:00 hours)
03. Date for opening of financial bid (Online)	11.11.2020

The terms and conditions of e-NIT and other documents can be downloaded from this office official website www.jksmg.gov.in and www.jktenders.gov.in. The tenderer shall have to upload scan copy of below mentioned technical documents including CDR/FDR in the portal of jk-tenders. The below mentioned original tender documents shall be obtained only from the bidder who declared as L1 after opening of financial bid of "Gas Heater Standard size Two In one-Standard with Gas Pipe and Gas Regulator"

Technical Documents:
a) CDR/FDR for an amount of Rs. 20000.00 pledged to Accounts Officer, State Motor Garages Department, J&K Government.
b) Tax Clearance Certificate from Income Tax Department for last 8 assessment quarters.
c) An undertaking to the effect that the rates offered if approved by the State Level Purchase Committee shall remain in force for one year from the date of issuance of 1st supply order in Bill of Quantity (BOQ).
d) Copy of certificate if registered as Start-up (SSI unit holders) & CDR/FDR as required under rules.
e) GST Certificate & TIN number.
f) Pan Card

Financial Bid:
The "Financial Bid" is required to be uploaded on line as per the Bill of Quantities (BOQ) of e-NIT.

Other Terms & Conditions of Tender:
1) In case of any breach of the agreement at any time on the part of the tenderer, the agreement shall be terminated summarily by the Department and a penalty of 2% of the total cost of ordered item (s) shall be imposed on the supplier and CDR/FDR shall be forfeited.
2) Disputes if any, shall be settled by the Courts within the jurisdiction of J&K Union Territory (Srinagar/Jammu).
3) No tender will be considered unless until all the documents are properly signed.
4) During the period of contract if the price of the ordered item decreases during the period of delivery the decreased price shall be considered as final.
5) Delivery of item (s) is further subject to the inspection by the inspecting authority nominated by the Director, State Motor Garages Department, J&K Government whose decision regarding the delivery shall be final and binding to consignees/indenting authority.
6) Financial bid of only those tenderers shall be opened who will qualify the technical bid.
7) The Department shall procure the item (s) in minimum quantity as per requirement on daily basis or as and when needs arises. The successful supplier should keep stock available and make supplies at the time of receipt of supply order without delay failing which the Department shall procure the item from L-2 bidder on the risk and responsibility of the successful bidder and the difference of amount whatsoever shall be deducted from the pending bills of the successful bidder.
8) Guarantee/Warranty period of item (s) wherever applicable be specified and for such item, in case of detection of any defect during the said period the items shall have to be replaced free of cost by the successful tenderer.
9) Rates shall be quoted FOR destination i.e. Jammu/Srinagar and should be inclusive of all taxes.
10) No interest shall be paid on CDR/FDR and the FDR/CDR of the successful tenderer shall be converted into security deposit and those of unsuccessful tenderer the same shall be returned immediately after completion of the tendering process.
11) Any postal delay shall not be responsibility of the department.
12) No terms and conditions of the tenderer shall be entertained by the Department.
13) The Chairman State Level Purchase Committee can stop the process at any time and can exercise options whatsoever, in the interest of the administration of the State Motor Garages Department.
14) Chairman, State Level Purchase Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender at any time without assigning any reason therefor.
15) The successful tenderer has to sign the contract on terms and conditions of this notice.
16) Successful Supplier should have available stocks both at Jammu and Kashmir Divisions to meet out the requirement of "Hard coke iron stove with Iron Pipes and Hard coke/Rejection wood" at the time of emergency.
17) Payments shall be made after receipt of verified bills of the ordered items from the consignee.
18) In case of any dispute, decision of Administrative Department (TP) shall be final.
19) Disputes if any, shall be settled by the Courts within the jurisdiction of J&K UT (Srinagar/Jammu).

Sd/- (Z.H. Choudhary),
Director,
State Motor Garages Department,
J&K, Srinagar.

No. POS-29/DSMG/
Dated: 13.10.2020 DIPP-7670

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Directorate of State Motor Garages J&K
Bemina Bye Pass Road Srinagar / New Plots Jammu
No:- 0191-2546697 (J) 0194-2493309 (S)
Fax: 0191-2565105 (J) 0194-2490473(S)
Website: jksmg.gov.in E-mail: dirmsg@gmail.com

NIT No: 17 DSMG OF 2020
DATED 13.10.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory e-tender are invited from the manufacturer/Authorized Dealers/ Registered Firms & Distributors for supply of "Gas Heater Standard size Two In one-Standard with Gas Pipe and Gas Regulator" as per detail mentioned in Bill of Quantity (BOQ).

01. Last date of submission of bid	09.11.2020 at (17:00 hours)
02. Date for opening of technical bid (Online)	10.11.2020 at (11:00 hours)
03. Date for opening of financial bid (Online)	11.11.2020

The terms and conditions of e-NIT and other documents can be downloaded from this office official website www.jksmg.gov.in and www.jktenders.gov.in. The tenderer shall have to upload scan copy of below mentioned technical documents including CDR/FDR in the portal of jk-tenders. The below mentioned original tender documents shall be obtained only from the bidder who declared as L1 after opening of financial bid of "Gas Heater Standard size Two In one-Standard with Gas Pipe and Gas Regulator"

Technical Documents:
a) CDR/FDR for an amount of Rs. 20000.00 pledged to Accounts Officer, State Motor Garages Department, J&K Government.
b) Tax Clearance Certificate from Income Tax Department for last 8 assessment quarters.
c) An undertaking to the effect that the rates offered if approved by the State Level Purchase Committee shall remain in force for one year from the date of issuance of 1st supply order in Bill of Quantity (BOQ).
d) Copy of certificate if registered as Start-up (SSI unit holders) & CDR/FDR as required under rules.
e) GST Certificate & TIN number.
f) Pan Card

Financial Bid:
The "Financial Bid" is required to be uploaded on line as per the Bill of Quantities (BOQ) of e-NIT.

Other Terms & Conditions of Tender:
1) In case of any breach of the agreement at any time on the part of the tenderer, the agreement shall be terminated summarily by the Department and a penalty of 2% of the total cost of ordered item (s) shall be imposed on the supplier and CDR/FDR shall be forfeited.
2) Disputes if any, shall be settled by the Courts within the jurisdiction of J&K Union Territory (Srinagar/Jammu).
3) No tender will be considered unless until all the documents are properly signed.
4) During the period of contract if the price of the ordered item decreases during the period of delivery the decreased price shall be considered as final.
5) Delivery of item (s) is further subject to the inspection by the inspecting authority nominated by the Director, State Motor Garages Department, J&K Government whose decision regarding the delivery shall be final and binding to consignees/indenting authority.
6) Financial bid of only those tenderers shall be opened who will qualify the technical bid.
7) The Department shall procure the item (s) in minimum quantity as per requirement on daily basis or as and when needs arises. The successful supplier should keep stock available and make supplies at the time of receipt of supply order without delay failing which the Department shall procure the item from L-2 bidder on the risk and responsibility of the successful bidder and the difference of amount whatsoever shall be deducted from the pending bills of the successful bidder.
8) Guarantee/Warranty period of item (s) wherever applicable be specified and for such item, in case of detection of any defect during the said period the items shall have to be replaced free of cost by the successful tenderer.
9) Rates shall be quoted FOR destination i.e. Jammu/Srinagar and should be inclusive of all taxes.
10) No interest shall be paid on CDR/FDR and the FDR/CDR of the successful tenderer shall be converted into security deposit and those of unsuccessful tenderer the same shall be returned immediately after completion of the tendering process.
11) Any postal delay shall not be responsibility of the department.
12) No terms and conditions of the tenderer shall be entertained by the Department.
13) The Chairman State Level Purchase Committee can stop the process at any time and can exercise options whatsoever, in the interest of the administration of the State Motor Garages Department.
14) Chairman, State Level Purchase Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender at any time without assigning any reason therefor.
15) The successful tenderer has to sign the contract on terms and conditions of this notice.
16) Successful Supplier should have available stocks both at Jammu and Kashmir Divisions to meet out the requirement of "Gas Heater/Bukhari Standard size Two In one-Standard with Gas Pipe and Gas Regulator" at the time of emergency.
17) Payments shall be made after receipt of verified bills of the ordered items from the consignee.
18) In case of any dispute, decision of Administrative Department (TP) shall be final.
19) Disputes if any, shall be settled by the Courts within the jurisdiction of J&K UT (Srinagar/Jammu).

Sd/- (Z.H. Choudhary),
Director,
State Motor Garages Department,
J&K, Srinagar.

No. POS-29/DSMG/
Dated: 13.10.2020 DIPP-7670

ODISHA STATE HOUSING BOARD
SACHIVALAYA MARG, BHUBANESWAR - 751001
Phone EPABX : (0674) 2393524, 2390141, 2391542, 2393277, FAX: (0674) 2393952
Visit us at: <http://www.oshb.org>

No- /OSHB
File-CE-09/70(1)/2020

BID IDENTIFICATION NO - 01/CE/OSHB/2020-21

E-procurement notice for online bidding
Chief Engineer, OSHB invites online bids as per the following schedule

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Value of the Work Approx. (Rs. lakhs)	Concerned T.I.A	Security Amount (Rs.) (Online)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.) (Online)	Class of Bidder	Period of completion
1	Construction of B+G+4 storeyed (Composite Group Housing Scheme) Residential Apartments at Phase III, Dumduma, Bhubaneswar	4196.00	Chief Engineer, OSHB	4196000/-	11,800/- (inclusive of GST)	Super & Equivalent	30 (Thirty) calendar months

1. Other details.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of Bids for online bidding
Chief Engineer, OSHB, Bhubaneswar	01/CE/OSHB/2020-21	From Dt.27/10/2020 at 1.00 P.M To Dt.17/11/2020 up to 3.00 P.M

2. Place and date of opening of the bids - Office of the Chief Engineer, OSHB, Bhubaneswar at 12.30 PM on Dt.18/11/2020.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Any Corrigendum / addendum shall be published in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only

Sd/-
Chief Engineer

Sd/- (Z.H. Choudhary),
Director,
State Motor Garages Department,
J&K, Srinagar.

No. POS-29/DSMG/
Dated: 13.10.2020 DIPP-7670

ODISHA STATE HOUSING BOARD
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Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Any Corrigendum / addendum shall be published in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only

Sd/-
Chief Engineer

TAMIL NADU ARASU CABLE TV CORPORATION LIMITED (TACTV)
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
Registered Office: Dugar Towers, 6th Floor, 34(123), Marshalls Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. Phone No: 044-28432911, Fax: 044-28432913, E-Mail: tactv@tactv.in CIN: U64204TN20075G064958

TENDER NOTICE
No: 001/TACTV/Set Top Box/2020
Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. (TACTV) invites sealed tenders in "Two cover system" from single applicant/consortium for supply of Set Top Boxes. The details of the tender are given hereunder:

1. Tender Inviting Authority	Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd., 34/123, Marshalls Road, Dugar Towers, 6 th Floor, Egmore, Chennai 600 008. Ph: 044-28432911, Fax: 044-28432913. E-mail: tactv@tactv.in . CIN: U64204TN20075G064958
2. Name of the Work	Supply of Standard Definition (SD) and High Definition (HD) Set Top Boxes on Rate Contract basis.
3. Tender documents	Tender documents can be purchased on all working days from 21.10.2020 to 20.11.2020 between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM from the address mentioned in S.I.No.(1) above on payment of Rs.1000/- by way of Demand Draft drawn on any Indian Nationalised/Scheduled Commercial Bank in favour of "Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd." payable at Chennai. Alternatively, the Tender documents can be downloaded at free of cost from 21.10.2020 from the websites www.tactv.in and www.tenders.in .
4. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen lakhs only) in the form of a Irrevocable Bank Guarantee in favour of "Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd" with a validity period of 12 months.
5. Date, Time and place of Pre-Bid meeting	2.11.2020 at 3.30 P.M. at the address mentioned in S.I.No.(1) above.
6. Due Date, Time and place of submission of the above Tender	20.11.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. at the address mentioned in S.I.No.(1) above.
7. Date, time and place of Tender opening	20.11.2020 at 3.30 P.M. at the address mentioned in S.I.No.(1) above.

DIPR/3919/Tender/2020 Managing Director

Sd/- (Z.H. Choudhary),
Director,
State Motor Garages Department,
J&K, Srinagar.

No. POS-29/DSMG/
Dated: 13.10.2020 DIPP-7670

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)

Corrigendum No. 01 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
It is hereby intimated to all concerned that the opening date of E-NIT No. 02/2020-21/O&M DKT Dated 05.10.2020 for Procurement of SF-6 Gas technical Grade Sulphur Hexa Fluoride Gas Confirming to IEC-60376-2005 having minimum purity of 99.90% is hereby extended as under:

Document download start date & time	1700 Hrs. onward on 26.20.2020
Download end date & time	29.10.2020 at 1700 Hrs.
Last date & time of online Bid submission	30.10.2020 at 1300 Hrs.
Date & time of online Bid Opening	30.10.2020 at 1500 Hrs.

For detailed E-NIT terms & conditions etc, please visit/download from BBMB website www.bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com and www.bbmb.gov.in
Sr. Executive Engineer, O&M Division, BBMB, Dhulkote

1235-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

Mysore District Co-Operative Milk Producers Societies Union Ltd.,
Banner Road, Alanahalli Post, Mysuru-570028.
Phone No: 0821-2474475, Fax No. : 0821-2474476
mail id: purmymul@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal only)
Mysore Dist. Co-operative Milk Union Ltd., Mysore invites tender from eligible Tenderers for the Supply of the following materials / services through e-procurement portal. For the tender document please visit e-procurement platform at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sl. No	Tender Notification No	Items (Details)	Last Date for Submission of Tenders
1	KMF/2020-21/IND8575	Supply of Agro based Briquette on annual rate contract basis.	02.11.2020 Before 5:00PM
2	KMF/2020-21/IND8574	Supply of Delars Board and A Sign Board on annual rate contract basis.	02.11.2020 Before 5:00PM
3	KMF/2020-21/IND8578	Supply, installation & commissioning VLT HVAC Drive	19.11.2020 Before 5:00PM
4	IFT No. 100-279/mymul/Pur/e-proc/2020	Tender for Insuring cattle (without PTD coverage) from "Wholly Owned by Government of India Public Sector General Insurance companies for 3 years.	19.11.2020 Before 5:00PM
5	KMF/2020-21/IND8581	Supply of cashews on half yearly rate contract basis.	29.11.2020 Before 5:00PM

For further information please contact Manager (Purchase) during working hours. (Mobile No: 7760968472).

Managing Director

TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture
Regd. Office: NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi - 110 009
Tel: 66112222, Fax: 27480042, Email: TPDDL@tatapower-dli.com
CIN No. : U40190DL2001PLC111526, Website: www.tatapower-dli.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS October 21, 2020
TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Sale of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001248/20-21, Rfx No. 5000001904 Rate Contract for Supply of Polycarbonate Bus Bar Boxes	Rs. 96 Lac	21.10.2020	11.11.2020; 1600 Hrs. 11.11.2020; 1700 Hrs.
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001250/20-21, Rfx No. 5000001907 Rate Contract for Supply of AC Distribution Box	Rs. 4.27 Cr.	22.10.2020	12.11.2020; 1600 Hrs/ 12.11.2020; 1700 Hrs
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001249/20-21, Rfx No. 5000001906 Design, Supply, Testing and Commissioning of RTUs and IEDs in Tata Power DDL	3.64 Cr. 7.20 Lac	22.10.2020	12.11.2020; 1600 Hrs 12.11.2020; 1630 Hrs

CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENTION

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001243/20-21, Rfx No. 5000001881 3 Years RC for AMC of Grid Sub Station and Lines for Tata Power DDL	30.09.2020	29.10.2020; 1600 Hrs 29.10.2020; 1630 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-dli.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents
Contracts - 011-66112222

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, R.W.S.&S. DIVISION, JAJPUR
AT: CHANDIKHOL.
Po- Dhanmandal, Dist- Jajpur PIN - 754024
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No. rwsjjajpur 17/2020-21 dt. 13.10.2020

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Jajpur at Chandikhola on behalf of Government of Odisha, invites bids through e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement system in on-line mode from eligible contractors.

1. Nature of work:	Supplying all construction materials, HDPE / GI pipes, valves, specials etc. and laying the pipeline, Constructing the pump house with compound wall, fitting and fixing of suitable motor and pump set in the production well, supplying, fitting and fixing of chlorine dosing system of approved make and specification, constructing RCC Elevated Storage Reservoirs of specified capacity, providing household connections etc. along with five years maintenance after one year of defect liability period etc. complete for the following PWS Schemes of Jajpur district.
2. No. of works:	11 (eleven)
3. Estimated Cost:	Rs 31.00 lakhs to Rs. 128.00 lakhs
4. Time for completion:	9 (nine) month
5. Cost of bidding document:	Rs. 6000/- & Rs. 10000/-
6. Class of Contractors eligible:	'C' & 'B' and 'B' & 'A'
7. Availability of bids on-line:	11:00 hour of 27.10.2020 to 17:00 hours of 09.11.2020
8. Last date and time for seeking clarification:	up to 17:00 hours of 07.11.2020
9. Date & time of opening of Technical Bid online:	10.11.2020 at 11:00 hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, R.W.S & S Division, Jajpur at Chandikhola.
10. Date & time of opening of Financial Bid:	To be announced later

Further details can be seen in the website <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd/- 13.10.2020
Executive Engineer
R.W.S & S Division, Jajpur
(at: Chandikhola)
OIPR-25027/11/0009/2021

DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR-XIV
SPS NAJAFGARH : NEW DELHI-110043.
Email: eeccdrxiv@gmail.com

"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

PRESS NIT No. 01/EE(C) Dr-XIV/(2020-2021)

S. No.	Description	Amount put to tender	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time for tender download through e-procurement solution
1	Construction of 5.5 MGD Lift station at Ranhola Village on DBO basis with 10 years O&M.	DBO Basis	19.10.2020	10.11.2020 up to 03:00 PM.

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 193/2020-21

Sd/-
Ex. Eng. (C) Dr XIV

राज्य बाल संरक्षण समिति, छत्तीसगढ़
संचालनालय महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग छत्तीसगढ़
इन्द्रावती भवन, ब्लॉक 01, द्वितीय तल, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)
दूरभाष क्रमांक 0771-2234192, 2234188 (Fax) email: dirwcd@nic.in
क्रमांक/5304/मबावि/आईसीपीएस/20-21 रायपुर, दिनांक 14.10.2020

सूचना

किशोर न्याय (बालको को देखरेख एवं संरक्षण) अधिनियम 2015 तथा नियम 2016 के प्रावधानों के अनुसार किशोर न्याय बोर्ड में सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं तथा बालक कल्याण समिति में शक्ति प्राप्त सदस्यों का चयन कर क्रमशः बोर्ड एवं समिति का गठन/पुनर्गठन किया जाना है। इस हेतु निर्धारित अर्हता/अर्हताओं के प्रकार में पात्र आवेदकों से दिनांक 30/09/2020 तक समाचार पत्रों तथा वेबसाइट www.cgstc.gov.in एवं www.cgwcd.gov.in के माध्यम से आवेदन आमंत्रित किये गये है।

नोवेल कोरोना वाइरस से संक्रमण को रोकथाम एवं निवृत्त हेतु लागू लॉकडाउन के फलस्वरूप उक्त विज्ञापन में उल्लिखित आवेदन प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि 31/10/2020 की जाती है। शेष नियम च शर्त यथावत रहेंगे।

स्वा-
(दिव्या उमेश मिश्रा)
संचालक
महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग एवं
सचिव राज्य बाल संरक्षण समिति
अटल नगर, नवा रायपुर (छ.ग.)

Sd/- (Z.H. Choudhary),
Director,
State Motor Garages Department,
J&K, Srinagar.

No. POS-29/DSMG/
Dated: 13.10.2020 DIPP-7670

CSIR - CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(केंद्रीय त्वचा शोध संस्थान) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
अद्वार, चैन्नई, तमिलनाडु Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, Tamil Nadu
दूरभाष Telephone : 91 - 44 - 24437162, 24437183, 24437420, ई-मेल Email : spo@clri.res.in

No. 2(312)/2013/Pur NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER 19th October, 2020
CSIR-CLRI has advertised for Rate Contract of RNA EXTRACTION KIT compatible with Helini Magpure automated RNA extraction system (32 samples extractor) - 25000 Reactions, RT-PCR BASED SARS-COV-2 DETECTION KIT compatible with BioRad CFX96 Real-Time PCR system - 25000 Reactions, Sample collection medium -25000 Tubes along with swabs on CPP portal.
Please visit www.etenders.gov.in for further details. Details are also available on www.clri.org. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 11.00 a.m. on 22nd October, 2020 at Heritage Hall, CLRI Chennai.

Stores & Purchase Officer
For & on behalf of COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

1 Name of work and its location	Removal of existing through of Br No. 242 DN (1x24.12m) span at Km. 197/23-25 and providing top bracing & new galvanized steel channel sleepers on SRE-UMB section in the jurisdiction of AXEN/BL/UMB.
2 Approx Cost of Work	Rs. 2235503.80
3 Earnest Money	Rs. 447000
4 Completion period of work	(04/04) Four Months
5 Cost of Tender form	Rs. 3000/- Note:- Cost of EMD & Tender Form should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. FDR will not be accepted as cost of tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016
6 Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 10.11.2020, Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day
7 Website particulars notice board location	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 32-W-BR-242-SRE-UMB Date: 20.10.2020 2302/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH

BRIEFLY

Zimbabwe coach Lalchand Rajput skips Pakistan tour

Karachi: Zimbabwe cricket coach Lalchand Rajput has not travelled with the team for a tour of Pakistan after the Indian embassy in Harare requested his exemption from the limited-overs series. A statement from Zimbabwe Cricket said that Rajput won't be a part of the tour following the request from the Indian embassy. In his absence, bowling coach Douglas Hondo would take charge of the team during the tour. "@Lalchandrajput7 will miss the @TheRealPCB tour after the Embassy of India in Harare wrote to @ZimCricketv asking that he be exempted from visiting Pakistan. The Embassy of Pakistan in Harare had issued a visa to Rajput," the ZC tweeted.

Srikanth slams Dhoni, asks what 'spark' did he see in Kedar

Chennai: Kris Srikanth, the former India captain and selection committee chief, has slammed Mahendra Singh Dhoni's "ridiculous" calls for Chennai Super Kings in the ongoing IPL and asked what "spark" did he see in the under-performing Kedar Jadhav. Srikanth was referring to Dhoni's remark that the youngsters in the Chennai Super Kings squad did not show the spark needed to challenge the seniors and break into the playing XI. "I will never accept what Dhoni is saying about this process," Srikanth told Star Sports Tamil.

Delhi HC allows Anwar Ali to play until AIFF's final decision

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday allowed India U-17 World Cup footballer Anwar Ali, who has a congenital heart condition, to carry on playing until the national federation arrives at a final decision. The court overruled the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Medical Committee's recommendation to bar him from playing competitive football. Ali's counsel Amitabh Tewari told PTI that HC ruled in favour of the footballer who had challenged the AIFF's directive to Mohammedan Sporting not to allow him train with the club. **AGENCIES**

Kings continue late resurgence

Third straight win – this one against Capitals – revives Punjab's playoff hopes

SYNOPSIS
Majestic Pooran out-dares daring Dhawan.

SANDIP G
OCTOBER 20

STITCHING THEIR third victory on the bounce – beating table-toppers Delhi Capitals by five wickets – Kings XI Punjab continued their resurgence in the IPL. From rock bottom a fortnight ago, they leapt to the fifth spot. Nicholas Pooran's 28-ball 53 was a treatise on counter-attack and a glimpse of his sparkling future.

Majestic Pooran

Pooran hung his head apologetically after a mix-up with Mayank Agarwal ended in the latter's run-out. But by the end of the night, he was flashing a wide smile. He had just delivered a fabulous victory for Kings XI Punjab, and brightened their knockout prospects.

Agarwal's departure had withered their hopes, having already lost KL Rahul and Chris Gayle for 56 runs. But rather than getting cowed down, Pooran channelled the frustration into a brutal innings that announced the emergence of a genuine batting hero.

There is a striking simplicity about his batting, a minimalism of technique stamped with Caribbean flamboyance. Graceful on the off-side and powerful on the leg, the balance of his slender frame is impeccable. As is his ruthlessness.

He has twinkling feet too, as he glides deep into the crease when pulling the ball, and strides out to drive off-spinners through cover. And the masterly Ravichandran Ashwin of all. He had just seen Ashwin burst through Gayle's defence, but that did not deter him from cover-driving the first ball he faced.

Then to showcase his leg-side, short-ball mastery, Pooran struck three massive sixes, one each of Tushar Deshpande, Marcus Stoinis and Axar Patel.

He rode luck – Pant fluffed a run-out and an inside edge, while several edges fell short or eluded the fielders – but in between the left-hander played some splendid strokes. None better than the six off



Nicholas Pooran's 28-ball 53 was the cornerstone of Punjab's chase. **BCCI**

Team	Matches	Won	Lost	NR	Points
DC	10	7	3	0	14
MI	9	6	3	0	12
RCB	9	6	3	0	12
KKR	9	5	4	0	10
KXIP	10	4	6	0	8
RR	10	4	6	0	8
SRH	9	3	6	0	6
CSK	10	3	7	0	6

Patel over midwicket, wherein he made a casual backward stride and just bludgeoned him over the ropes. The end was anti-climactic, edging when leaving a lifter from Kagiso Rabada, but by then he had decided the destiny of the match.

Daring Dhawan

In his first 167 IPL games, Shikhar Dhawan had never scored a hundred. Not that it ever weighed on his mind, but in the next two, he has shot down the landmark twice. The latest – the first architected a

daunting chase against CSK – furnished Delhi Capitals a competitive total to defend. The next highest individual score was 14.

The sweep and slog-sweep were his staple strokes. All three of his sixes were slog-swept while the conventional sweep fetched him as many boundaries. Anything fractionally full, he would go down on one knee to find cow corner. The left-hander would stand outside leg-stump so he could swing his bat and shoulders freely. The bowlers would pull the length back, and Dhawan would feed on his cut shot. So raffish was he that he employed a cute paddle when Glenn Maxwell strayed on the leg-side.

Remarkable was Dhawan's assault on spinners – against the trio of Ravi Bishnoi, Murugan Ashwin and Maxwell, he smacked 61 off 32 deliveries. But his effort was still inadequate

BRIEF SCORES: Kings XI Punjab 167/5 (Nicholas Pooran 53, Glenn Maxwell 32; Kagiso Rabada 2/27) beat Delhi Capitals 164/5 (Shikhar Dhawan 106*, Shreyas Iyer 14; Mohammed Shami 2/28) by 5 wickets.

Kohli to travel with jumbo squad to Australia as selectors play safe during pandemic

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 20

THIRTY-TWO cricketers, including India 'A' players, will fly to Australia from Dubai after the IPL when Virat Kohli leads the team for its first international assignment during the pandemic.

The selectors are being practical by picking the largest-ever contingent as it would be risky to fly in injury replacements in the middle of the tour as players will be in a bio-bubble after the first fortnight of quarantine. The two-month tour will comprise three T20 Internationals, three ODIs and four Test matches and the teams for the three formats will be picked at one go.

Travelling with a big squad will also ensure enough players on tour for practice games between Indian players before the Test matches, which are scheduled for mid-December.

The total number is set to cross 50 as the support staff and selectors will also travel.

However, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) won't be allowing families to travel for the tour. For the IPL, the BCCI left it to the teams to take a decision on wives being allowed to travel to the UAE.

The tour is scheduled to begin with the T20 Internationals in the third week of November, but Cricket Australia has not yet finalised the itinerary. The IPL final will be held in Dubai on November 10. The senior selection committee, which could meet in coming days, has been informally informed by the BCCI to pick a large squad for the entire Australia tour.

"They (selection committee) have been told to pick as large a squad as they want. We want back-up players ready and in Australia right through the tour. If a player gets injured, there shouldn't be a situation where we have to call for a player from India. In normal times we could send a player from India as a replacement but during these times, with quarantine rules in place, we don't want to be in a situation where we are short of players," a BCCI official stated.

It is learnt that players who are not likely to play the Test series will be sent home after white-ball cricket is over, once



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BCCI OFFICIAL

selectors retain enough reserves, who will stay back in Australia.

The BCCI is expecting CA to release the dates of the matches later this week.

What Cricket Australia has confirmed is that the first Test match will be a day-night affair in Adelaide.

"Cricket Australia has sent us an itinerary. We will play three T20Is, three ODIs and four Tests there. The first Test will be a day-night game in Adelaide. The dates haven't been finalised yet," BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had told *The Indian Express* earlier this week after the BCCI's Apex Council meeting on Saturday. The BCCI has also asked Cricket Australia for changes in the 14-day quarantine policy for Indian players. The BCCI wants Indian players to undergo quarantine for seven days, after which they be allowed to use training facilities, while being in a bio-secure bubble facility.

The board is also planning to arrange a few practice games for Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari in Dubai, two Test match specialists who are not part of the IPL.

A BCCI official also said that chances are that the Indian team will have a short camp in Dubai before flying to Australia.

MARUTI SUZUKI

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