



The lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted supply chains. One crucial chain is delivery of information and insight — news and analysis that is fair and accurate and reliably reported from across a nation in quarantine.

A voice you can trust amid the clanging of alarm bells.

Vajiram & Ravi and *The Indian Express* are proud to deliver the electronic version of this morning's edition of *The Indian Express* to your Inbox. You may follow *The Indian Express's* news and analysis through the day on **indianexpress.com**



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The Tamil Nadu man lost more than Rs 30 lakh in a rummy game

In this episode of tech podcast 'Our Own Devices', we discuss what premium phones offer, whether they are more about flash than functionality, and why aspiration is necessary for the smartphone ecosystem.

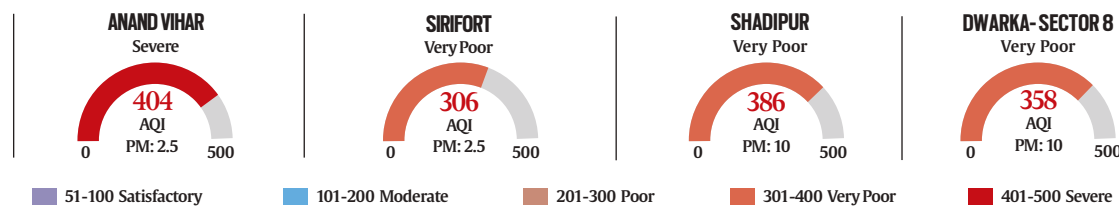
As per government guidelines, banks will be crediting this amount into the accounts of borrowers and seek disbursement from the government latest by December 15, 2020. A dedicated cell within the State Bank of India will be created which will work in consultation with the Finance Ministry.

The Sheohar Assembly segment is witnessing a keen contest between sitting JD(U) MLA Sharfuddin and RJD candidate Chetan Anand Singh, son of jailed former MP Anand Mohan.

3 THE CITY



0-50 Good



‘FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LAPSES’

Education min moves proposal for inquiry against DU V-C

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE MINISTRY of Education (MoE) on Saturday moved a proposal to initiate inquiry against Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi for administrative lapses, days after an ugly power tussle between him and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor played out publicly. If President Ram Nath Kovind, who is DU's Visitor, approves the ministry's proposal, it is likely that Tyagi will be sent on leave by the ministry.

Tyagi has been on leave since he was admitted to AIIMS on July 2 under "emergency medical condition". The government had given Pro V-C P C Joshi the charge of V-C on July 17, until Tyagi resumed office.

The Ministry also took note of P C Jha's defiance of the government order invalidating his appointment as the DU Registrar



DU V-C
Yogesh
Tyagi has
been on
leave since
July

and asked the university administration to take strict action against him.

Tyagi Wednesday had gone head to head with Joshi over appointing a new Registrar. A day later, the government issued a strongly-worded directive, snubbing Tyagi and declaring his contentious appointments to the Registrar's post (including Jha's) invalid since it was done during his leave of absence. Jha, however, wrote to the ministry Friday insisting his appointment complied with the rules.

"This Ministry is in receipt of a letter dated 23.10.2020 (copy en-

closed) received from one Shri P C Jha claiming to be the Registrar of Delhi University. It is requested to ascertain who is this person; if he turns out to be an employee of Delhi University, then strict action as per Delhi University Act, 1922, and Statutes and Ordinances made thereunder may be taken," states the government's letter addressed to Vikas Gupta. He was appointed Registrar by Pro-V-C Joshi, whose propriety the government has backed.

The Indian Express had reported Friday that the government is keen on the V-C's ouster and is considering several options — from a forced leave to seeking his resignation (informally) and, in the worst-case scenario, even invoking the General Clauses Act to fire him. The ministry's case for the inquiry against Tyagi cites inaction on faculty recruitment, delayed appointment to statutory positions and unauthorised absence from office. Tyagi and Jha

did not respond to calls and message left by *The Indian Express*.

Meanwhile, Registrar Vikas Gupta, backed by the Education Ministry, Saturday issued a press release in which he said an online meeting was held with Acting V-C P C Joshi, Dean of Colleges Balaram Pani and Director South Campus Suman Kundu.

He said the team "reiterated that all academic and administrative work, including recruitment, promotions, admissions, examinations and teaching were progressing well and as per stipulated timelines", and "highlighted that all interviews which had been scheduled for recruitment of teaching staff and promotions shall progress as per plan".

The RSS-backed National Democratic Teachers' Front, of which those who support and those who oppose the V-C are members, distanced itself from those supporting Tyagi and said action would be taken against them.



FACES PLACES

Effigies of Ravana being sold at Subhash Nagar ahead of Dussehra, Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

AT HINDU RAO HOSPITAL

4 CMOs transferred amid salary strike, North MCD says 'routine'

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

FOUR CHIEF medical officers of North MCD-run Hindu Rao Hospital were transferred to Rajan Babu Institute of Pulmonary Medicine and Tuberculosis (RBIPMT) Saturday. As per the official order, the medical officers were transferred "in view of the exigency of services due to the strike of senior resident and junior residents" till further orders.

Dr R R Gautam, president of the Municipal Corporation Doctors' Association, which represents 1,200 doctors, claimed: "This is a clear case of intimidating doctors so they don't protest."

However, a North MCD spokesperson said, "The doctors were transferred to balance the requirements of staff. As Hindu Rao is not functioning currently due to the strike by resident doctors, staff is required at RBIPMT."

Since Friday, five doctors of Hindu Rao Hospital have been on hunger strike, demanding they be paid and a guarantee that salaries would be regular in future. Doctors and other staff haven't been paid for three months now. Gautam added that doctors working at hospitals and health centres under the civic body will be on mass casual leave Monday in support of resident doctors who have been protesting for the last 20 days over non-payment of salaries.

Dr Anurag Anand, who used to be CMO Ophthalmology at Hindu Rao Hospital and was among those transferred to RBIPMT, told *The Indian Express*, "I have been at the hospital for around 18 years. We were all supporting the protest and took part in it as we have not been paid for months."

Hitting out at North MCD, senior AAP leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said

Saturday at a press conference: "A budget of Rs 18,000 crore has been allocated to the MCD. If it efficiently uses even 10% of the funds, it will comfortably be able to provide salaries to workers."

The BJP, which runs all three MCDs, has been claiming the AAP-led government hasn't released funds.

BRIEFLY

Gym owner held for cheating

New Delhi: A 46-year-old gym owner was arrested for allegedly cheating a businessman of over Rs 1.15 crore on the pretext of selling him luxury cars, said police Saturday.

Body found on bank roof

New Delhi: The decomposing body of a 23-year-old man was found inside a room on the roof of a bank in Southeast Delhi's Badarpur Wednesday.

Doctor fakes documents, arrested

Gurgaon: A doctor with a private hospital in Faridabad was arrested for allegedly writing a false certificate and payment receipt to show that the main accused in a case of violence was admitted at the hospital after he was injured in the incident. **ENS**

DU 3rd list: Admissions closed in most courses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

MOST COURSES closed for admissions in DU's third cut-off list announced Saturday. Overall, over 80% seats have already been filled after the second round of admission. Courses which remain open have not seen major drops in percentage.

Lady Shri Ram College for Women, however, which had announced skyrocketing cut-offs, including 100% in three subjects, is still open for admission in most of its courses. Cut-offs for Economics, Political Science and

Psychology, which were 100% in the first list, have now come down to 98.25%, 99.25% and 99.5% respectively. The only courses it has closed are Maths, Hindi, Sanskrit and some BA Programme combinations.

Ramjas College too, considered to be among the top, has only closed admissions in Botany. All other courses are still open for admissions. Cut-offs for Economics (98%), English (97%), History (97.25%) and Political Science (98.5%) have also come down by 0.25 percentage points.

In contrast, at Hansraj College only 8 of 24 courses are open. These include Economics,

Philosophy, Chemistry, Electronics, Geology, Zoology, Physical Science (Chem) and one BA Programme combination. Cut-off for courses such as Economics (97.75%), Philosophy (96.25%) and Chemistry (96%) in the college has dipped by 0.75, 1.25 and 0.67 percentage points respectively.

Hindu College, which was among the few too have closed several courses after the first cut-off itself, has only a few courses open including Economics, Sociology and B Com (Hons), all of which demand a 98% cut-off now. This is a dip of 0.75, 0.5 and 0.25 percentage points respec-

tively from the second list.

Other top North Campus colleges like Miranda House and Kirori Mal College have also closed a majority of their courses. Some popular courses, however, are still open like English (98%), Economics (98%) and History (98.25%) in Miranda House. Similarly, Economics (97.5%), Political Science (98%) and B Com (Hons) (97.75%) are still open in KMC.

Political Science, one of the most popular subjects which had closed in maximum colleges after the first list, is still open in LSR, KMC, Ramjas, Indraprastha College for Women and Gargi.



ANISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015, 45001:2018 CERTIFIED COMPANY

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, tcepharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	SignatureGlobal (India) Private Limited
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 89 of 2019 dated 02.08.2019, Building Plan Approved on 22.11.2019 Memo No. ZP-1351/AD(RA)/2019/28677, Haryana RERA Registered No: 77 of 2019 dated 31.12.2019
3. Location	Sector 89, Gurugram, Haryana
4. Provisions Project Area	142 no. of apartments available out of total 720 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 5 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% on allotment 20%
2BHK TYPE -01	29	581.396	83.873	23,67,520	1,18,376 4,73,504
2BHK TYPE -02	58	588.586	85.176	23,96,933	1,19,847 4,79,387
2BHK TYPE -03	14	598.220	86.801	24,36,281	1,21,814 4,87,256
2BHK TYPE -04	5	590.169	84.906	24,03,128	1,20,156 4,80,626
2BHK TYPE -05 (MQ)	2	588.263	89.653	23,97,880	1,19,894 4,79,576
2BHK+STORE (MQ)	34	645.345	123.560	26,31,379	1,31,569 5,26,276

(ii) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Bond Distemper Above. Kitchen Counter Top Green Marble / Granite Walk: 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	<p>(i) Applications can be procured & submitted at: SignatureGlobal (India) 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 25.10.2020. For more information, call 7053-121-121 (ii) Last Date of submission of Applications is 10.11.2020.</p> <p>(iii) The list of Distribution and Collection centers is available on www.signatureglobal.in</p> <p>(iv) Application Forms & Facility of applying Online is also available at www.signatureglobal.in.</p>

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 licensed colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of 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., tcepharyana.gov.in).



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HOME LOAN PARTNER: **HDFC HOME LOANS** **Axis Housing** **ICICI Bank** **ICICI Home Finance**

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, requested 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://haryanareg.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. T & C Apply. | Sq. mtr. 10.7639 sq. ft. **The subsidy differs 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

Attention!

Hon'ble Supreme Court Guidelines FOR SALE & USE OF FIRECRACKERS

- » **No item(s) other than the Reduced Emission firecrackers (Improved crackers) and Reduced Emission firecrackers Green crackers: Safe Water and Air Sprinklers (SWAS) as prescribed and approved by the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO) shall be sold in the premises.**
- » **Categories of firecrackers banned/not permitted**
 - Joined Firecrackers (series crackers or laris)
 - Fireworks containing barium salts/lithium/arsenic/antimony/lead/ mercury
 - Firecrackers manufactured earlier but non-permissible as per above Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement.
 - Possession and sale of fireworks of foreign origin.
 - » Incidence of possession and sale of above fireworks may be reported to nearest police station.
- » **Only those crackers permitted to be sold whose decibel (sound) level are within the permissible limits (125 dB(AI) or 145 dB(C)pk at 4 meters from the point of bursting)**
- » **Bursting of fireworks not allowed in silence zones : Silence Zone is an area comprising not less than 100 meters around hospitals, educational institutions, courts, religious places or any other area which is declared as such by the competent authority.**
- » **Timings of Firecracking as per directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court:**

From 08.00 PM till 10.00 PM		on Diwali Days
From 04.00 AM till 05.00 AM		on Gurburab
From 09.00 PM till 10.00 PM		on Christmas Eve & New Year Eve.
From 11.55 PM till 12.30 AM		
- » **Community fire cracking to be undertaken at pre-identified areas/fields as far as possible.**

ALL CONCERNED TO PLEASE NOTE & ABIDE.

National directives for COVID-19 management shall be followed during community Fire-Cracking viz. :

1. Wearing of face cover is compulsory in public place.
2. Individuals must maintain minimum distance of 6 feet in public place.
3. Spitting in public places will be punishable with fine.

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 **TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090**

4 THE CITY



TOTAL CASES	HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
	VENTILATORS		1,245	478
Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Oct 23	4,086	3,296	26	58,568
Oct 24	4,116	3,614	36	55,461
Total	26,467*	3,19,828	6,225	43,15,339

*Total active cases

No more financial aid to cops with Covid-19

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

DELHI POLICE has decided to discontinue financial aid to police personnel who contract Covid-19 (Rs 10,000) and to those who succumb to the virus (Rs 10 lakh).

An order issued on October 22 by DCP (operations and communication) stated, "Benefits are currently being provided to Delhi Police personnel from Delhi Police Welfare Society (DPWS) who are found Covid-19 positive while discharging official/government duties... Now police headquarter vide TP message has intimated that all benefits have been discontinued from the midnight of October 21. It must be brought to notice of all police personnel working under your kind control."

The Delhi Police spokesperson refused to comment on the order.

Initially, Rs 1 lakh each was sanctioned by Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava to personnel who test positive for Covid while on duty. But when the cases among personnel increased, it was decided that the amount be cut by 90%. Delhi Police had also increased the amount given to families of personnel who die of Covid-19 from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

So far, around 2,500 police personnel have contracted the disease.

4 arrested for Rs 20 crore loan fraud

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE ECONOMIC Offences Wing of Delhi Police has arrested four persons for allegedly cheating five banks of over Rs 20 crore by forging documents and fraudulently taking loans by mortgaging same properties multiple times.

Police said that in one such incident the accused had taken loan on a property which was already acquired by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

Siblings Ashwani Arora and Vijay Arora were arrested with their wives from Ghaziabad and Delhi. They were absconding for four years in the bank fraud case.

In 2016, Zonal Manager of Punjab and Sind Bank in Naraina had filed a complaint. The complainant alleged a company named Riya Enterprises had availed an Overdraft against Property (ODP) of up to Rs 70 lakh. The bank had released the amount against mortgage of a property in Shahdara registered in the name of Ashwani Kumar, who was also the guarantor in the loan. The bank alleged the accused had taken several such ODPs since 2011 by mortgaging properties that were already mortgaged with other banks.

OP Mishra, JCP (EOW) said, "We found that the accused had built a chain of forged documents. They used these documents to get properties registered at the Registrar office in their name. They then took loans multiple times on the same property from many banks."

Meet the interfaith couple who moved HC to do away with clause in Special Marriage Act: 'Discourages those like us'

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

NIDA Rahman and Mohan Lal met in 2011 in a Delhi college and fell in love. Their religious identities never crossed their mind, but years later, it has become a central question in their lives.

Having decided to get married after a relationship of nearly nine years, the couple earlier this month approached the Delhi High Court with a petition seeking to do away with a legal procedure which many interfaith couples see as hindrance in getting their marriages registered.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954, is a law which allows registration of such marriages

KEJRIWAL INAUGURATES SHASTRI PARK, SEELAMPUR FLYOVERS

With two new flyovers, East Delhi residents to have easier commute

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

AFTER A five-month setback owing to pollution control measures in the winter of 2019 and this year's Covid lockdown, the Shastri Park and Seelampur flyovers were inaugurated by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday afternoon.

The CM said the flyovers will provide relief to those living beyond the Yamuna: "No previous government or CM paid heed to the issues of the people of East Delhi. They were always alienated. Because I used to live there before becoming CM, I am well aware of the problems faced including hours of traffic jams."

Kejriwal also hailed the Public Works Department (PWD) for constructing the flyovers on time while staying well within the budget. The project was initially sanctioned for Rs 303 crore, and was eventually finished in Rs 250 crore. "The money saved was earlier used by ministers to fill their own pockets; we use this money to provide free amenities, healthcare, medicines, quality education to our citizens," said the CM.

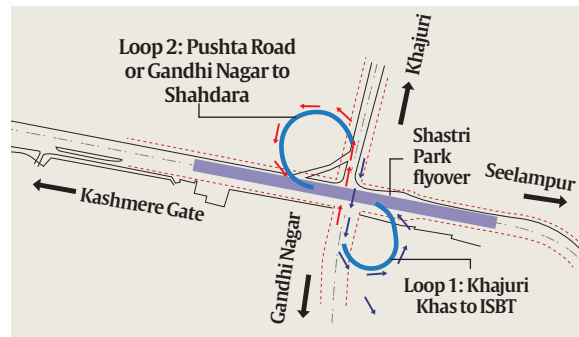
Work began in February 2019 and 70% of it was completed by the end of the year. But owing to setbacks, full-fledged work only started post lockdown.

Among those at the inauguration were PWD Minister Satyendar Jain, PWD engineer-in-chief Shashi Kant and Seelampur MLA Abdul Rehman. The CM cut the ribbon at the Shastri Park flyover at 12 pm. After delivering his address, he headed to Seelampur to inaugurate the second flyover.

INFRA BOOST

The project was initially sanctioned for Rs 303 crore, and was eventually finished in Rs 250 crore

700-M SHASTRI PARK FLYOVER



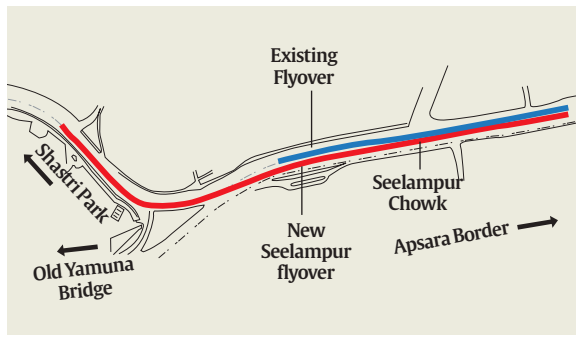
(Above) An overview of the Shastri Park flyover; (right) CM at the inauguration.

The 700-metre Shastri Park flyover, built along GT Road, has six lanes and two loops — one designed to ease traffic going from Khajuri Khas to ISBT and the other for traffic going from Pushta Road or Gandhi Nagar to Shahdara.

A PWD official said: "There used to be a lot of traffic at the

Shastri Park junction. Previously, the road would be choked by buses using GT Road to go towards UP. Further, Pushta Road, which is a feeder road, had a lot of traffic as vehicles going from Akshardham to Bhajanpura would use this road." The flyover will now cut travel time significantly.

1,200-M SEELAMPUR FLYOVER



Amit Mehra

Similarly,

the old Seelampur flyover going towards Shahdara from Kashmere Gate was one-way. "Hence, going towards Shahdara was okay. But for people who stay in Seelampur, going towards ISBT or Gandhi Nagar was very difficult. The second 1,200-metre-long two-lane Seelampur flyover will ease that," explained the official. The flyover, however, is one way.

PWD Minister Jain said, "The CM has also envisioned a children's park under the flyover,

and very soon that vision too will be transformed into reality."

Imran (26), who travels from Maujpur to Tank Road for work every day, said, "The flyovers will reduce travel time by at least 15 minutes every day. Earlier, it used to take 55 minutes on scooter."

An official of the contract company, Gawar Construction Ltd, said, "Work stopped thrice: first in winter 2019 because of pollution, after the Northeast Delhi riots and when the lockdown was imposed. It restarted on May 4."

Capital's Covid cases on rise again, positivity rate up as well

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

AFTER A brief lull of two weeks, Covid-19 cases in the city have begun to increase again, with 4,116 cases being recorded on Saturday, taking the tally to 3,52,520.

A week ago, the positivity rate — percentage of people who test positive for the disease versus those who were tested — had dipped to 5.6% for the week. With a sudden increase in cases, it increased to 6.8% on Friday and 7.4% on Saturday.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, meanwhile, said the Covid-19 vaccine should be made available throughout the country for free, when available. His comments came after the BJP promised free vaccination in its manifesto for Bihar polls. "The whole country should get the Covid-19 vaccine for free. It is the right of all citizens. Everyone is troubled because of the virus," he told reporters after inaugurating two flyovers in Northeast Delhi.

So far, in Delhi, 6,225 people have died of Covid-19, 36 of them on Saturday.

Experts have been warning of a sudden spike as the festive season starts. "Several meetings have been held with the CM as well as



A health worker takes swab samples of a police officer.

Praveen Khanna

the L-G, where the need to be a little strict during the festive season has been discussed. People are getting tired of staying at home. Many have not met family members for a long time and the wedding season is also about to start. As soon as Navratri started around a week ago, crowds in markets increased, and now cases have followed. If social distancing norms are not followed and if people don't wear masks, over the next month cases are expected to rise till Diwali," said a senior Delhi government official.

There has been a slight increase in the cumulative seven-

day growth in the number of cases. While it stood at 0.96% in the week ending October 17, it rose slightly to 1.05% by Saturday. "This is a small increase but the coming week is crucial. People usually start contracting the disease and displaying symptoms after the fifth day of exposure. We have been asked to make sure there is no shortage of beds, as pollution is expected to lead to more severe symptoms," the official said.

Delhi is conducting an average of about 54,000 tests daily, among the highest in the country.

AQI in Delhi-NCR 'very poor', may improve by Monday



Smog seen over Signature Bridge, Saturday. Praveen Khanna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

DELHI'S AIR quality remained 'very poor' on Saturday, but on a lower level than a day earlier and is forecast to further improve by Monday, as per government agencies. The 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of the city on Saturday was 345, lower than 366 recorded on Friday, as per data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

AQI of neighbouring NCR towns of Noida and Gurgaon also remained in the 'very poor' range, but on lower levels than Friday.

At Ghaziabad, it worsened to 356 from 344 a day earlier while at Faridabad, it increased to 367 from 360 on Friday.

Clear skies during day time is helping increase solar radiation over Delhi-NCR, which slightly improved the atmospheric mixing depth on Saturday and could improve it further by Monday, as per the daily bulletin of the Ministry of Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System (EWS) for Delhi. Mixing depth is the height available in the atmosphere for pollutants to disperse. On colder days with low sunlight and wind speed, this height reduces, which increases concentration of pollutants closer to surface. The mixing depth was predicted to be around 2,400 metres on Saturday, and is expected to increase to around 3,000 metres on Sunday and to 3,900 metres on Monday.

The EWS has forecast that AQI over Delhi-NCR will remain in the 'very poor' category on Sunday and could fluctuate between 'very poor' and 'poor' on Monday.

There has also been a drop in the share of pollutants from stubble burning, transported to Delhi through wind from Punjab and Haryana. The share dropped to around 9% on Saturday from an estimated 17% on Friday, as per the Central government's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). The reduction was due to low wind speed and a change in the direction of wind, as per a report from SAFAR. As of 5 pm, two out of 34 air quality monitoring stations in Delhi were in the 'severe' category — AQI higher than 400 — including East Delhi's Anand Vihar and West Delhi's Mundka. The remaining were in the 'very poor' range, except Sri Aurobindo Marg and Lodhi Road, which were in 'poor' category.

Concentration of PM 10 and PM 2.5 — fine particles suspended in the air — were lower than Friday's levels in Delhi-NCR, as per CPCB data. As of 6 pm, PM 10 levels were 350 µg/m3 and PM 2.5 levels were 175 µg/m3, against their 24-hour exposure limit of 100 and 60 µg/m3. The concentration of PM 10 and PM 2.5 on Friday had peaked at 380 and 200 µg/m3 around 11 am.

Poor air or Covid? Rise in respiratory cases worry doctors

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE DETERIORATING air quality over the last few days has led to a sudden increase in the number of patients presenting with respiratory troubles.

For almost 10 days now, city doctors have been observing a rise in the number of patients complaining of sore throat, breathlessness and cough. Due to overlapping symptoms with Covid-19, all these patients are tested for the viral infection as well.

Cases of respiratory illness, asthma, breathlessness increase as air pollution starts to go up. Patients with a history of asthma and respiratory tract infection need to stay extra cautious, medical experts say.

"Almost 30% of patients who come to us with these complaints are tested and turn out to be positive for Covid-19. Normal bronchitis, which we used to see as an impact of dust and smog, might be Covid-19 this time. In fact, over the last few months, so many more symptoms have been added to the list but respiratory symptoms are still significant. In a pandemic situation, we can't avoid thinking of the virus," said Dr S Chatterjee, senior consultant, department of internal medicine at Indraprastha Apollo hospitals.

The most common symptoms of Covid-19 are fever, cough, shortness of breath, breathing trouble, fatigue, loss of smell/taste, sore throat, etc.

Dr SP Byotra, chairman, department of internal medicine at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said "Overlapping symptoms in both diseases increase the magnitude of the problem. In Covid-19, there is a drop in oxygen saturation levels, which is also observed in patients with respiratory illnesses. Patients who are getting admitted these days are having more trouble. Even Covid-19 patients are coming with a severe drop in oxygen levels and staggered recovery rate. Those who have recovered are returning with breathlessness. This is a complex problem. Any patient coming with respiratory issues to the OPD is being tested for Covid-19."

At the city's first post Covid-clinic in Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, those who have recovered from Covid are also facing issues. "We are advising them decongestants, bronchodilators so as to make breathing easier by relaxing the muscles in the lungs and widening the airways (bronchi). Breathing issues worsen during this time of the year; this time, it is a bigger issue for those recovering," said Dr Ajeet Jain, nodal officer of the hospital's post-Covid clinic.



New Delhi





Empowering Tribals Through the Innovative 'Tribes India E-Marketplace'

With an objective to bring around 5 lakh tribal artisans online, the Government of India has recently launched an exclusive e-commerce portal, called Tribes India E-Marketplace, to connect the tribal artisans to a larger national and international market. Around 5 lakh tribal items across 20,000 categories, including textiles, paintings, home decor items, jewellery, and metal crafts, will be available on the website. This new ideation of TRIFED will definitely herald a new era of development and economic prosperity for our tribal brethren.

Arjun Munda, Union Cabinet Minister, Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

Please tell us about the newly launched “Tribes India E-Marketplace”.

Keeping in line with the vision of PM Modi's Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Tribes India E-Marketplace is an ingenious initiative of TRIFED to showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from all across the country.

Touted as India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace, the Tribes India E-Marketplace is yet another pathbreaking platform to transform tribal lives and livelihoods. I am happy that despite the pandemic, the team of TRIFED Warriors have made sure that the main objective of socio-economic development of tribal people by way of marketing has been tailored to suit our 'New Normal' life.

This pioneering e-commerce portal will showcase the produce and handicrafts of tribal enterprises from all across the country and help them market their produce/products directly. No wonder this is a major leap towards the digitisation of tribal commerce.

The Tribes India E-Marketplace is an ambitious initiative through which TRIFED aims to onboard 5 lakh tribal producers for sourcing of various handicraft, handloom, natural food products across the country and bring the best of tribal produce. The suppliers comprise individual tribal

artisans, tribal SHGs, Organisations/ Agencies/ NGOs working with tribals. The state-of-the art e-commerce platform provides the tribal suppliers with an Omnichannel facility to sell their goods through their own retailers and distributors, TRIFed's network of Outlets and e-commerce partners as well as their own account in E-Marketplace. The platform will also facilitate B2B trade, connecting tribals dependent on Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) and Medicinal plants to large buyers and manufacturers.

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What are the other new initiatives that TRIFED has started recently?

On the occasion of the launch of the Tribes India E-Marketplace, several other

TRIFED initiatives were also flagged off to support our tribal brethren. First, TRIFED inaugurated Tribes India's 123rd and 124th outlets in Rishikesh and Kolkata; included new tribal product ranges from the states of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh; and partnered



Arjun Munda

Union Cabinet Minister, Tribal Affairs
Government of India

with Amazon in their SellerFlex programme. Taking the Prime Minister's message of "Vocal for Local" forward and to promote the livelihood of the tribal artisans through marketing, TRIFED is continuing to expand its retail footprints across the country. It was in this regard that the Tribes India flagged off its two new outlets in Rishikesh and Kolkata, respectively. I strongly believe that these new initiatives and partnerships will go a long way in furthering the inclusive growth and artisans and suppliers.

Please tell us about the newly added products from Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh?

Two new tribal product ranges from the states of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh were recently included in the Tribes India product line-up. TRIFED and Tribes India presents its own Multi Floral Honey, Forest Fresh, gathered by Santhal and Pahadia Tribals from Pakur, Jharkhand.

The tribal Santhal communities of the Pakur District have set an example by exploring the potential of beekeeping commercially. Collection of honey in Pakur is carried out in an eco-friendly manner on a sustainable basis by the local youth, which is then processed and packaged and now marketed by TRIFED. She was hopeful that these activities will provide assured market to the local tribal people and help them better livelihood opportunities



Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta

Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Government of India

Why Tribes India E Market Place is for only for Tribal Entrepreneurs:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Products of Tribals from all over India in one E Market Place | 5 Lakhs Tribal Artisans engaged in value addition of MFPs |
| Local logistics partnerships for pick up, packaging & forwarding/ fulfilment | BI & AI tools enabled technology platform with multiple integrations |
| E-Cataloguing support ensuring highest value to tribals. | Quality certification and training (FoSTaC), in partnership with MoFPI |
| Aggregation of VanDhan Products and value additions to MFPs | Best in Industry standard Brand Strategy for Tribal Artisans |
| Training Program in E Commerce Business for all Tribals under Entrepreneurship Development Program | Enablement through Digital payments with sales directly into Bank accounts Tribals |



6 GOVT & POLITICS



Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani on board a cable car after the inauguration of Girnar ropeway project in Junagadh. *Express*

PM LAUNCHES 3 PROJECTS IN GUJARAT

PM: Kisan Suryodaya Yojana will be a milestone for farmers in Gujarat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD/JUNAGADH,
OCTOBER 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi launched the Girnar ropeway project in Junagadh, the expanded UN Mehta Cardiology and Research Centre and the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana worth Rs 4,100 crore in Gujarat on Saturday via video conference from New Delhi.

Launching the Kisan Suryodaya Yojana, where Rs 3,500 crore will be spent over the next three years for providing solar power to farmers for irrigation during daytime, he said, "After Sujalam Sufalam and SAUNI yojana (both irrigation projects), now Kisan Suryodaya Yojana will be a milestone for the farmers of Gujarat."

Warning against wasting water, Modi urged farmers to follow the mantra of 'per drop more crop'. "When farmers get electricity during daytime, we will also have to make efforts to conserve water. If people start thinking that they are getting electricity, and water can flow and they can sit back, Gujarat will be ruined. Water sources will run dry and life will become very difficult," Modi said, adding the daytime electricity would help expansion of micro-irrigation coverage in the state.

Talking to the media after the event, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said the daytime power supply will lead to saving of water. "When farmers are getting electricity at night, they would switch on their motor pumps and go to bed even as water would flow out... But now with farmers getting power during the daytime, this would stop and a lot of water will be saved," said the CM. He said a new transmission network capacity was being created under which 3,500 circuit km of new transmission lines will be laid in the next 2-3 years,



PM Modi during the virtual address on Saturday. *PTI*

including setting up of nine 220 KV substations and 234 new transmission lines of 66 KV. In the coming days, farmers in 1,055 villages in Junagadh, Gir Somnath and Dahod districts will be given solar power and this scheme will be extended to farmers across the state in next three years, he said. "Gujarat was the first state in the country to have made a detailed policy for solar power, a decade ago. In 2010, when solar power park was inaugurated at Patan, nobody had imagined that one day, India will show the way to the world about one sun, one world and one grid," he added.

Launching the paediatric heart unit of UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre in Ahmedabad, Modi said, the hospital was the "the country's biggest cardiac hospital. It is among the select few hospitals in the country, which has world class infrastructure and modern health facilities." The existing 450 beds at this hospital have been increased to 1,251.

While launching the "world's longest temple ropeway project" at Girnar in Junagadh district, Modi said, "The ropeway... is Gujarat's fourth ropeway project... If hurdles were not created for the Girnar ropeway, then it would not have remained pending for so many years." Under the UPA government, the project had trouble getting environmental clearance.

Kerala considers withdrawing general consent to CBI probe

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 24

THE KERALA government is considering withdrawing general consent given to the CBI to investigate cases in the state.

This has gained ground after leading constituents of the ruling LDF, CPI(M) and CPI, wanted the government to take steps to curb CBI taking up probes, like some other states have done.

Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala, however, said the move to curb CBI in the state is suicidal and part of an attempt to cover up corruption in the Life Mission scheme.

State Law Minister and senior CPI(M) leader A K Balan said, "Many states have already withdrawn the general consent given to CBI to investigate cases. Kerala is also thinking on those lines after CPI(M) and CPI have put forward the demand. States had given general consent to CBI during the days when the agency had credibility. Now, CBI is interfering in issues in which they don't have any jurisdiction," he said.

Earlier, the CBI had registered an FIR in a case of alleged Foreign Currency Regulations Act (FCRA) violation by Life Mission, a state government entity, based on a complaint from Congress legislator Anil Akkara. Life Mission, un-

EXPLAINED Immediate provocation

THE IMMEDIATE provocation for Kerala to considering withdrawing consent to CBI for probe in the state may have been the agency's decision to register a case against Life Mission for alleged FCRA violations. The issue emerged in one of Life Mission's real estate projects in Thrissur, which was funded by Emirates Red Crescent, the charitable arm of UAE Emirates. The MoU was between UAE Consulate and a builder. The issue emerged as an offshoot of the gold smuggling case after key accused, Swapna Suresh, revealed that she had pocketed Rs 4.25 crore as kickback in the Rs 20-crore apartment project.

der the local self-government department, challenged the FIR in High Court, which earlier this month stayed the CBI probe.

The HC observed that Life Mission does not fall within the ambit of FCRA Section 3, which deals with prohibition from accepting foreign contributions.

Balan said in the Life Mission case, CBI stepped into an area where it does not have jurisdiction.

RAPE-MURDER IN PUNJAB AFTER HATHRAS CASE IN UP

BJP-Cong war of words over Hoshiarpur rape

Sitharaman: No tweet, no outrage now?

Amarinder: No comparison in two cases

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

IN A scathing attack on Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday questioned their silence on the Hoshiarpur rape case and said that "it doesn't shake the conscience of the brother and sister pair who rushed to every other chosen site, which they think can help them politically".

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, Sitharaman said, "I have come to speak on something which disturbs all our minds — the rape in Hoshiarpur and the complete silence of the Congress in this matter."

"A six-year-old child of a migrant labourer from Bihar — a Dalit — is raped, is killed, body half burnt; and it doesn't shake the conscience of the brother and sister pair who rushed to every other chosen site, which they think can help them politically," Sitharaman said, in reference to Rahul and Priyanka's visit to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, where a 19-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly raped and murdered by upper caste men.

She said, "The enthusiasm



Nirmala Sitharaman at the BJP office in Delhi. *Praveen Khanna*

with which almost as though they were going for a picnic, the brother and sister pair which ran towards an unfortunate site where something had happened... Of course, you're well within your right to go and raise the issue, and demand justice for the family. But why not in Hoshiarpur? Why not if it (the crime takes place) is Rajasthan? "The selective outrage that the Congress party wants to show when it is elsewhere but not in their respective governed states, is completely exposed."

Stating that rape cases should not be politicised, she slammed the former Congress chief: "The pretentious Congress is nowhere. Not a word from tweet-friendly leader Shri Rahul Gandhi. No tweet on this, no outrage on this,

and no picnic on this.... A woman heads their party. Does this kind of selective outrage suit the stature of their party?"

Questioning the silence of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, Sitharaman said, "Didn't you check it out when you had a joint campaign with the Congress leader in Bihar? Are you not answerable to that family in Bihar.?"

Sitharaman said BJP leader Vijay Sampla had gone to meet the victim's family in Hoshiarpur.

On a question about the free-vaccine promise in BJP's manifesto, Sitharaman said, "There's no scrutiny on it. It is a manifesto announcement... Health is a state subject and it can obviously pick up on things which it wants to do. So it's perfectly in order, I would think."

Nadda counters Oppn's jobs pitch with employment to 19 lakh promise

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

A DAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi contrasted the NDA rule in Bihar with the Opposition's "misrule" during the 1990s, BJP President JP Nadda on Saturday tried to counter the rival parties' focus on jobs for youths with a promise that the NDA government, when it returns to power, will "work to provide employment to 19 lakh people" in the state.

"There will be a self-sufficient Bihar through a self-sufficient India. It is the responsibility of the government to create job opportunities in Bihar and NDA's Nitish Kumar government will work to provide employment to 19 lakh people," Nadda said while addressing an election rally in Nalanda.

Nadda's promise comes in the backdrop of promises of jobs by the RJD and IJP, which political observers see as getting traction among the voters or at least mobilising crowds in their rallies, especially for RJD's Tejashwi Yadav.

Accusing the RJD of turning robbery into an industry, Nadda said, "The one who ran robbery



BJP chief JP Nadda at a rally in Bihar Sharif in Nalanda. *PTI*

and kidnapping as an industry is talking about providing employment. Voters in Bihar will have to give an apt response to it."

The BJP president, who has been intensely campaigning in the state, justified his ally Nitish Kumar parting ways with the RJD after winning the election and forming a government in Bihar. "Why did Nitish Kumar walk out of the coalition with which he formed the government? Because Nitish Kumar knew there couldn't be good governance with them. He realised good governance is possible only with BJP.

That is the reason he had walked out of the earlier combination."

Reiterating his attack on the "misrule" of previous RJD governments, Nadda said leaders with criminal backgrounds could be put in jail only after Nitish came into power. "There is anarchy in RJD's nature. Did the RJD leaders seek an apology from the people of Bihar? Did they say that we made a mistake? No. It shows their motive is the same even now."

In Lakhisarai, Nadda said, "There is no seva bhav, nor is there any change in them. It is the same, kidnapping and robbery. And now

Smriti Irani invokes Laxmi

Munger/Gopalganj: In a stinging attack on the RJD in Bihar, Union minister Smriti Irani on Saturday asserted that "riches acquired through the fodder scam" will find no takers among the self-respecting people of the state. The BJP leader, who addressed her first couple of rallies in the state, also invoked the imagery of Laxmi, the "goddess of wealth", and remarked that people knew "she comes carrying the lotus and not the lantern", an allusion to the poll symbols of BJP and the RJD, respectively. **PTI**

RJD has joined hands with CPI-ML which is a part of tukde-tukde gang." He reiterated his criticism against the Congress for "talking in the language of Pakistan".

Nadda said while the country is secure under Narendra Modi, Bihar will develop under Nitish.

Facing pro-Lalu slogans, upset Nitish asks: 'Ask parents, were there any schools then?'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, OCTOBER 24

BIHAR CHIEF Minister Nitish Kumar was riled up again on Saturday by pro-Lalu Prasad chants at a rally he was addressing in Begusarai.

A visibly upset Nitish told the section of the crowd raising the slogans: "When a certain person (Lalu Prasad) got a chance to rule Bihar, what did he do? Did he construct a single school? Go and ask



Nitish Kumar at a rally in Khagaria district. *PTI*

your father and mother if there was any school where you could study in. Was any school being constructed? When he (Lalu) got a chance to rule, he got busy in self-aggrandisement, and when he was sent to jail, he installed his wife (Rabri Devi) on the CM's chair."

Nitish's latest outburst came just a few days after he lost his cool at a public meeting in Saran— which, too, saw "Lalu Yadav zindabaad" chants by a part of the crowd.

On Saturday, the Bihar Chief Minister said that no wrong-doer would be spared under his rule. He listed his development work and how the state government had reacted promptly to the Covid-19 crisis.

Last week, the CM had told a section of the Saran crowd that if they "did not want to vote, they could leave". Later, JD (U) candidate and estranged father-in-law of Tej Pratap Yadav, Chandrika Rai, had accused RJD of fomenting trouble at Nitish's meetings.

SUSHANT DEATH CASE

Share exact words of apology: NBSA to Zee, Aaj Tak, others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

FOLLOWING UP on its order issued on October 6, the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) wrote to Aaj Tak, India TV, Zee News and News 24 Friday, sharing the exact wording of the apology that the news channels should air for violating its guidelines while covering late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death by suicide.

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

broadcasts and holding its members accountable. Retired Supreme Court judge Justice A K Sikri is its current chairperson.

In its order dated October 6, the body had pulled up Aaj Tak, Zee News and News24 for airing offensive headlines while reporting Rajput's death, which the order noted affected the "dignity of the deceased". IndiaTV was also asked to apologise for showing visuals of Rajput's body to its viewers.

While Aaj Tak ran the tagline "Aise kaise hit-wicket ho gaye Sushant?", a Zee News telecast carried the headline "Patna ka Sushant, Mumbai me fail kyu?". News 24 used the headline "Hey,

why didn't you watch your own film Sushant?" — a reference to Rajput's film *Chhichhore* which dealt with mental health.

In its communication sent to the news channels on Friday, NBSA has asked Aaj Tak to apologise three times for three violations on October 28, 29 and 30. News 24 has been ordered to apologise to its viewers on October 29, Zee News on October 27 and India TV on October 27.

Zee News Editor-in-Chief Sudhir Chaudhary did not respond to a message by *The Sunday Express* asking whether the channel will air the apology.

The India Today Group that

runs Aaj Tak told *The Sunday Express*, "We are proud members of the NBA and strictly adhere to the guidelines laid down by the NBSA and the code prescribed... We have immense regard for the NBSA and if they have found something objectionable in our news coverage then we respect their decision. We are committed to the rules of self regulation and firmly believe that it only makes the network of broadcasters better and our industry stronger."

IndiaTV Chairman and Editor-in-Chief Rajat Sharma said, "We have utmost regard for NBSA. If they have found something objectionable we respect their decision."



Rahul Gandhi, Punjab CM Amarinder Singh



Vadra's "silence" on the Hoshiarpur case and asked about the "selective cry of outrage that the Congress wants to show when it is elsewhere but not in states governed by it".

In a statement, Amarinder said the Hathras and Hoshiarpur cases have no comparison. "In Hathras case, the UP government and police did not only fail to initiate stern action but in fact was seemingly trying to cover up the matter to benefit the upper-caste accused. This was in sharp contrast to the prompt action taken by Punjab Police, who immediately arrested the accused and were now preparing to file the challan within a week."

He stated: "The 'selective politics and selective outrage'

charge, which Nirmala Sitharaman made against Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, was, in fact, completely apt for the BJP. No BJP leader had uttered a word in protest against the acts of omission and commission of the UP government and police in the Hathras case, when the entire nation was in angry uproar."

Congress women's wing chief Sushmita Dev said in New Delhi: "There is a reason why many opposition leaders felt that they should visit Hathras because the UP Police refused to file an FIR with the section of rape in Hathras. And in Punjab, the state government not only immediately filed an FIR with POCSO and IPC sections within 36 hours, the accused were arrested and the Chief Minister and the DGP are personally looking into the case."

Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar said: "Rahul went to (Hathras to) extend solidarity along with Priyanka. It was the UP government that tried to stop them. Here (in Punjab), we are not stopping anyone to go and meet the victim's family. We are on the victim's side. We are not unleashing atrocities on them, unlike the UP government."



RJD leaders release the party manifesto on Saturday. *PTI*

RJD manifesto doubles down on 10 lakh jobs promise

DIPANKAR GHOSE
PATNA, OCTOBER 24

THE RASHTRIYA Janata Dal Saturday released its own manifesto for Bihar elections, mirroring the promise of 10 lakh government jobs that was made in the overall Grand Alliance vision document released earlier.

The RJD manifesto's key focus areas are on agriculture, education and industry.

Its promises include spending 22 per cent of the state's budget on education, and giving 85 per cent of government jobs to local residents.

Bearing the title "Pran Humaara, Sankalp Badlaav Ka", the document also carries messages from former CMs Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi, as well as one from CM candidate Tejashwi Yadav.

The very first substantive point of the manifesto drives home the 10 lakh jobs promise — one that has drawn huge cheers at every Tejashwi rally.

At the release, Yadav said that the 10 lakh figure was "not a number conjured from thin air". "...4.5 lakh of these jobs will be provided

immediately which come from vacant positions, and the rest will come from medicine, education and the police," Yadav said.

For the agriculture sector, RJD manifesto has vowed that "70 per cent of paddy, wheat, maize, makhana, pulses will be bought by our government at MSP and bonus. For this our government is committed to giving cash credit at zero percent interest." It also promises to waive farm loans and Kisan Credit Card loans taken before 2020.

Among the other assurances are introducing tax waivers and tax deferments for industry.

"All contractual workers will be made permanent and will be given equal work, equal pay and the privatization of all departments will be stopped," the document says, tapping into a demand that has long been raised by contractual teachers. This assurance, too, was part of the Grand Alliance manifesto.

While promising a new industrial policy and "business commission", the manifesto says: "To set up agro-based industries... businessmen will get a grant of Rs 10 lakh and a loan of Rs 5 lakh without interest."

rial staff. On Friday, Mumbai Police had filed an FIR against the editorial team for broadcasting alleged defamatory news content against the police department.

"We do not approve of the kind of journalism that is being practiced by Republic TV. And even though Republic TV is not a member of NBA and does not subscribe to our Code, we still take strong exception to cases filed against its editorial staff... We appeal to the Mumbai Police to ensure that no journalists are made victims of this crossfire. We also appeal to journalists working with Republic TV not to cross the Lakshman Rekha as clearly observed by the Bombay HC."

7 SUNDAY STORY



NITISH KUMAR *ko gussa kyon aata hai* (why does Nitish Kumar get angry)? Last week, as the Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) chief lost his cool at a jeering crowd during a rally in Saran, that's the question many asked — and, in politically astute Bihar, believed they had the answer to.

At the rally for party candidate Chandrika Rai, the estranged father-in-law of the RJD's Tej Pratap Yadav, as a section of the crowd raised 'Lalu zindabad' slogans, Nitish Kumar snapped: "*Vote nahin dena hai to mat do, lekin yahan se chale jao* (If you do not want to vote for us, it is ok, but leave)."

It was a sign, many deduced, that the ground was shifting beneath the feet of the three-time CM. Yet others saw in his rage the impatience of a man who has towered over the last two Assembly elections as the larger-than-life CM face — first of the NDA in 2010, and later with the Grand Alliance in 2015.

As Nitish bids for a record fourth term as CM, what's clear, though, is that politics has come full circle for the man who had kept then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi out of Bihar during the 2009 Lok Sabha and the 2010 Assembly polls campaigns in Bihar, despite being part of the NDA in both elections.

This election, though, it's a different Nitish. On Friday, as he spoke at a rally in Sasaram on Friday, most cameras captured a telling shot. In the backdrop, framed against a diminutive Nitish, was a colossal poster of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. That Friday's PM rallies at Sasaram, Gaya and Bhagalpur were telecast live in scores of NDA Assembly segments is another sign that past equations have changed, for better or worse.

Days ahead of the first of the three-phase elections starting October 28, *The Sunday Express* looks at what's working on the ground for Nitish, what's not? What are the challenges as he aims for a fourth shot at chief ministership?

Anti-incumbency, sense of fatigue

"In his three terms, Nitish Kumar has given us three basic things — roads, drinking water and electricity. Now he wants another term to give water to every field. Will he need

another 50 years to create jobs and check migration?," sniggers Narendra Pathak of Khairi village that's part of the Dinara Assembly. He had voted JD(U) in the last election but says he is impressed with the LJP candidate this time.

It's this growing impatience among voters with Nitish and his governance that defines this election.

From a state left languishing at the bottom of most charts, during Nitish's 15 years as CM, Bihar grew steadily, clocking above-average growth rates, and increase in spending. Like Pathak, most concede that the Nitish regime has been largely corruption free, with improved law and order and public infrastructure (roads and bridges). Bihar recorded an average growth rate of over 11 per cent during the last 15 years, mainly because of growth in construction, telecommunication and other secondary and tertiary sectors.

Yet, Bihar remains plagued by problems such as minimal industrialisation and poor social indicators. At the end of 2016-17, only about 2,900 of Bihar's estimated 3,531 factories were operational, employing on an average 40 people each, well below the national average of 77 workers.

Though many of these are legacy issues, along with that seemingly intractable problem of lack of jobs, most admit that his government's "mismanagement" of the Covid



Nitish 4.0?

The Bihar election is being seen as a referendum on Nitish Kumar and his slogan of *sushasan* or good governance. With the cracks beginning to show days ahead of the first phase of polling for the Bihar Assembly elections, SANTOSH SINGH & DIPANKAR GHOSE listen to voices on the ground to see what stands between Nitish and a possible fourth term



(Top) Nitish Kumar at an election rally in Jehanabad on October 20; Kumar with LJP's Chirag Paswan and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav. PTI

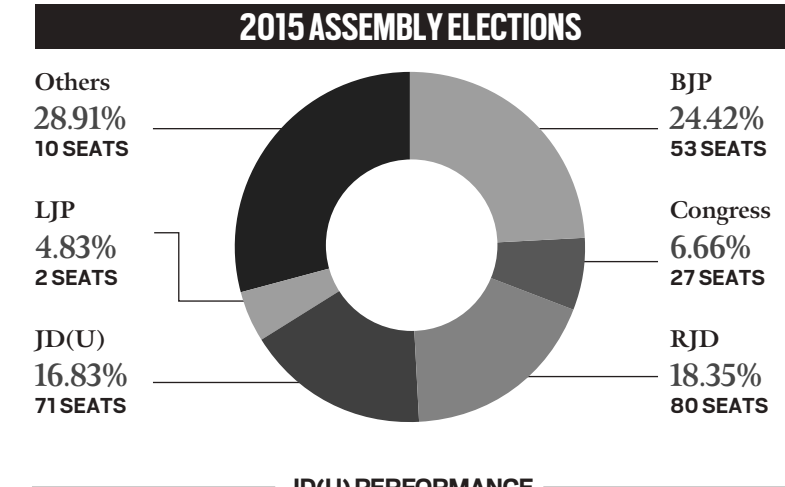
crisis and handling of migrants who returned home have made his report card look worse than it is.

There is now a sense of deep hurt that Nitish looked the other way as many of the migrants walked back home during the lockdown, and did nothing to hold them back once it was lifted.

"Over a hundred people returned to our village during the lockdown; they have all gone back to Gujarat. Under normal circumstances, they should have stayed back to cast their votes. But this time, they were not at all interested. Rather, they were upset with the way Nitish Kumar treated them," says Pathak.

A JD(U) leader concedes that though Nitish Kumar had gone by Covid protocol when he told people from Bihar to stay where they were during the lockdown, UPCM Yogi Adityanath's move to send buses to bring home UP migrants left workers from Bihar upset. "The impression was that their own CM did not want them to return home. That our government did not try to bring back stranded students from Kota also did not go down well. We did help migrants later but the sense of hurt remained somehow," said the JD(U) leader.

Nitish does attempt to arrest the drift when, in his speeches, he comes up with minute details of what his government did for Covid management and migrants' welfare. In fact, he remembers most of the data by heart now — how the government's testing of Covid samples per 10 lakh population is 3,000 more than national average; how Bihar's recovery rate is above 90 per cent; that the government spent Rs 5,300 on each migrant during their stay at quarantine centres; about giving 5-kg rice and 1-kg pulse to every migrant family; how



JD(U) PERFORMANCE			
Assembly Elections	Seat contested	Seats won	Voteshare (%)
2015 (alliance with Mahagathbandhan)	101	71	16.83
2010 (alliance with BJP)	141	115	22.5
2005 (alliance with BJP)	139	88	20.46

Source: Election Commission of India

the government has done skill mapping of 17 lakh migrants; and is trying to give them jobs under central and state government schemes.

Yet, there are questions. "What has he done for employment generation in the last 15 years? Did he try holding back the 40-lakh migrants who returned to Bihar? Some bottling plants and ethanol units had opened but they closed after the government decided to ban liquor," says Umesh Singh, a Rajput voter from Jagdishpur in Bhojpur who says he usually votes for the

EXPLAINED E.

Election wide open

IN A year of deep economic distress compounded by Covid, Nitish Kumar bears the burden of being the incumbent. Yet, his past record of allying both with the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan, along with the LJP factor, mean that this is an election wide open.

NDA candidate.

The problem for Nitish Kumar is that the narrative of economic distress is being heard from segments that were once considered his bastions. For instance, in the reserved Phulwari constituency, in a Dalit *basti* at Parsa Bazaar, Dalit women — who had voted for Kumar in large numbers in 2015 enthused by his promise of prohibition and reservation at the panchayat level — now say the "government has forgotten the poor".

They allege that prohibition exists only in name, with an underground economy en-

suring illegal alcohol is sold at higher prices and worse, delivered at home. Says Mamta Devi, "At least earlier I could lock my husband out if he was drunk. Now he drinks at home."

His critics point to the sense of fatigue in the administration, something RJD leader and the Opposition's CM face Tejashwi Yadav has been quick to capitalise on with his "*thak gaye Nitish Kumar* (he is tired)" taunt.

The LJP factor: Distrust on the ground

Until July, the NDA looked formidable against the Grand Alliance that was caught up in its internal bickering.

However, the first cracks began showing with LJP national president Chirag Paswan intensifying his attack against Nitish Kumar and walking out of the NDA. With that, the rival camp got its first opening.

That the BJP remained largely silent as Chirag junior openly took on Kumar, all the while heaping praise on the BJP and Modi, left the JD(U) suspicious of its ally's intent.

It was only after a caution from the JD(U) that the BJP criticised Chirag, backed Nitish and announced joint rallies of the Prime Minister and Kumar.

Despite their protestations, what is clear is that the JD(U) is up against a new front in the polls: the LJP factor.

The JD(U) realises that as a player that commands a vote share of between five to eight per cent, the LJP has the potential to play spoilsport.

Also, with the LJP facing the BJP only on five of the 143 seats it is fighting from, it is the JD(U) that will have to bear the brunt of the LJP's separation.

LJP spokesperson Ashraf Ansari said, "We can dent the JD(U)'s prospects on at least 20-25 seats as there will be at least 70-odd seats in this election where the victory margin could be less than 5,000. This is where the LJP will be a factor."

At least a dozen BJP 'rebels', including Rajendra Singh (Dinara), Rameshwar Chourasia (Sasaram) and Dr Usha Vidyarthi (Paliganj), have crossed over to the LJP, leading to murmurs — and strong suspicion in the JD(U) camp — that they have been propped up by the BJP.

If Chirag's party ends up cutting into JD(U) votes, as the LJP claims it will, the RJD could end up with more than a fighting chance in a number of seats.

Shashi Singh, a small businessman in Dinara town — where veteran RJP hand Rajendra Singh is now fighting on an LJP ticket — says, "The contest between LJP's Rajendra Singh and JD(U)'s Jay Kumar Singh might end up helping RJD candidate Vijay Kumar Mandal"

On the ground, the emergence of the LJP has led to deep distrust between JD(U) and BJP cadres.

Though Amit Shah and other top BJP leaders have reiterated that Nitish Kumar will be CM even if the BJP wins more seats than the JD(U), the impression of the LJP being a "plant" of the BJP or its "B team" has gone down the JD(U) ranks.

For instance, in Jamui, with Chirag announcing the LJP support to the BJP's Shreyasi, most JD(U) leaders have been staying away from her campaign. There is no trace of JD(U) workers or their flags as Shreyasi's campaign made its way through villages such as Bela, Dharampur, Chihutiya and Kairakado on Thursday.

A BJP worker said: "The JD(U) has become disinterested. They do not oppose us but do not come out in support either. LJP workers have been doing all the work. There is also a chance that JD(U) and LJP workers

may clash so we are trying to avoid any unpleasant situation."

The JD(U), however, believes that the onus is on the BJP to come out strongly and say clearly that they are with Nitish. "They are trying to disown the LJP but have not done it fully. Amit Shah recently said they would take any decision on whether LJP is an ally at Centre or not after polls. There needs to be greater clarity on this."

Until that happens, every speech, every move, will be looked at through the lens of distrust. A senior JD(U) leader, analysing Prime Minister Modi's speech, said, "The Prime Minister seemed to suggest that no work happened without him — that is undercutting Nitish Kumar. Why did he not come out clearly and say something against Chirag Paswan? Will this not embolden Chirag?"

The rise of Tejashwi

So far, the RJD has been emboldened by the huge crowds that have been turning up at Tejashwi Yadav's rallies, with his promise of 10 lakh government jobs drawing the loudest cheers. The party also hopes the LJP factor will see it ending up in a comfortable position post elections.

Under Tejashwi, the RJD has shed the party's old slogan of "secularism and social justice" and worked on a new development theme.

An RJD leader said, "When we found there were 4.5 lakh pending vacancies in the Bihar government and need to create another 5.5 lakh vacancies to match the national average, we came up with the idea of 10 lakh jobs. Now the BJP is trying to copy us. Call it populism or whatever, it has hit a chord with the common man."

So far, the RJD has been trying to beat Nitish at his own 'development' game. In contrast, the JD(U)'s vision document, Saat Nischay-II, has so far failed to catch popular imagination.

Says Satish Kumar of Karahgar Assembly segment, "Nitish has raised the 'Lalu raj' for far too long. The return of Yadav raj is the only thing that's holding back some voters, but Tejashwi has shown promise. This is a 2020 match and will go down to the wire."

Social math may work in Nitish's favour

Despite anti-incumbency and unfavourable voices from the ground, the NDA is pinning its hopes on Bihar's tried and tested social math to take it past the winning line. Over the past 20 years, there have emerged in Bihar three political poles, each broadly holding on to a section of the community.

The BJP has upper castes, Bhumihars, and a section of non-Yadav OBCs; JD(U) has the lower castes, Mahadalits and EBCs; and the RJD has Muslims and Yadavs.

The common consensus has been that when two of the three poles come together, there is very little chance for the third to win. In 2010, it was the JD(U) and BJP, and in 2015, JD(U) and RJD.

JD(U) analysts told *The Indian Express* that there were three factors that leave them confident of a win. "One, that this social mathematics gives us at least a 10-12 percentage lead. That is too big to overcome. Second, despite everything, many will still not see a viable alternative to Nitish Kumar and, despite being angry, may still vote for him. Tejashwi has no experience and people know him as someone who failed Class 9. Third, they know the jungle raj pre 2005. I am not saying there is no anger. I am saying that it is infinitely better than in 2005," the JD(U) leader said.

The game, then, is still wide open.



9 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



The OSIRIS-REx touched the surface of asteroid Bennu on Tuesday, NASA via AP

NASA MISSION

Spacecraft leaking asteroid samples after hearty collection

THE US probe that collected a sample from an asteroid earlier this week retrieved so much material that a rock is wedged the container door, allowing rocks to spill back out into space, NASA officials said on Friday. The robotic arm of the probe, OSIRIS-REx, on Tuesday night collected material from Bennu, a skyscraper-sized asteroid 320 million km from Earth. But images of the spacecraft's collection head revealed it had caught more material than anticipated and was spewing some of it into space. The leakage had the mission team scrambling to stow the collection device to prevent more spillage. **REUTERS**

CAUCASUS

New clashes between Azeris, Armenians after Washington talks

NEW CLASHES broke out between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces over Nagorno-Karabakh a day after talks in Washington to try to end the deadliest fighting in the mountain enclave in more than a quarter of a century. Azerbaijan's defence ministry reported fighting in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, a part of Azerbaijan populated and controlled by ethnic Armenians. Local officials accused Azerbaijan's forces of shelling buildings in Stepanakert, the largest city in the region, which Baku denied. **REUTERS**

USA

California utility may cut power to 1 million people

PACIFIC GAS & Electric may cut power to over 1 million people on Sunday to prevent the chance of sparking wildfires as extreme fire weather returns to the region, the utility announced Friday. The nation's largest utility said it could black out customers in 38 counties — including most of the San Francisco Bay Area — as weather forecasts called for a return of bone-dry, gusty weather that carries the threat of downing or fouling power lines or other equipment that in recent years have been blamed for igniting massive and deadly blazes in central and Northern California. **AP**



US SETS NEW RECORD FOR DAILY COVID CASES

A man kneels in front of an art installation titled 'IN AMERICA How Could This Happen...' by Suzanne Brennan Firstenberg, at the DC Armory Parade Ground in Washington DC. It consisted of 223,059 white flags to commemorate the number of Americans who died from Covid-19 as of Friday. The US broke its daily record for new coronavirus infections on Friday as it reported 84,218 new cases due to outbreaks in virtually every part of the country. The previous record was 77,299 new cases on July 16. **Reuters**

Suicide bombing at Kabul education centre kills 18, IS claims responsibility

ABDUL QADIR SEDIQI & OROOJ HAKIMI
KABUL, OCTOBER 24

A SUICIDE bombing at an education centre in Afghanistan's capital Kabul killed at least 18 people and wounded dozens more on Saturday, officials said.

A Ministry of Interior spokesman, Tariq Arian, cited security guards as identifying a bomber who detonated explosives in the street outside the Kawsar-e Danish educational centre. Eighteen people were killed and 57 were injured in the attack, according to the interior ministry.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the bombing, the group said in a statement on Telegram, without providing evidence.



An Afghan man who lost his brother mourns at a hospital after the suicide bombing in Kabul on Saturday. **Reuters**

A Taliban spokesman on Twitter denied responsibility for the attack, which comes at a sensitive time as teams representing the insurgents and

the government meet in Qatar to seek a peace deal.

The attack took place in an area of west Kabul that is home to many from the country's Shia

community, a religious minority in Afghanistan targeted by groups such as Islamic State in the past.

Dozens of students died in the same area of Kabul in an attack on another education centre in 2018, while in May gunmen attacked a maternity ward, killing 24, including mothers and babies.

The latest attack comes on the back of heavy fighting in multiple provinces in recent weeks, which has displaced thousands of civilians in southern Helmand province.

"How much more can we endure, as individuals and as society? How many times can we rise?" asked Shaharazad Akbar, the chairperson of Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission on Twitter, saying the targeting of civilians was a war crime. **REUTERS**

Malaysia's king to consult with royals after PM seeks emergency

A. ANANTHALAKSHMI & ROZANNA LATIFF
KUALA LUMPUR, OCTOBER 24

MALAYSIA'S KING Al-Sultan Abdullah will consult with other senior royals on proposals by Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, the palace said on Saturday, after sources told Reuters the premier had asked the king to declare a state of emergency.

Muhyiddin met with the king on Friday to present the emergency proposals that include a suspension of parliament, the sources with direct knowledge of the matter said, a move that opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim denounced as an attempt by the premier to retain control amid a power struggle.

The proposal comes as Malaysia faces a resurgence in coronavirus cases, a pandemic-battered economy and doubts over Muhyiddin's ability to command a majority in parliament and pass a budget for 2021.

Govt under pressure in Parliament

MALAYSIAN OPPOSITION leaders say the PM's attempt to impose emergency is a political move to ensure the government's survival. The move comes after opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim had claimed to have the numbers in Parliament to bring down Muhyiddin's government. A vote on the Budget early next

EXPLAINED

month will test that claim, and if Muhyiddin is unable to get the Budget passed in Parliament, his government is likely to fall. But an emergency declaration could mean that the Budget is not put to vote. However, the government says the move to bring an emergency has to do with rising Covid-19 cases.

The palace did not identify the recommendations made by Muhyiddin, but said the king would soon hold the consultation with the heads of other royal households.

Under the constitution, the king can decide if an emergency should be declared based on the threat to security, economy or public order. The Council of Rulers, which groups the heads

of Malaysia's nine royal houses, can deliberate on questions of national policy and has the power to withhold consent from any law.

Opposition politicians say there is no valid reason for the government to impose an emergency and that it was meant to avoid a showdown in parliament over the support Muhyiddin commands. **REUTERS**



Pope Francis at his weekly general audience at the Vatican. **AP**

Christopher Lamb of Britain's *The Tablet* magazine, noted Friday that in some countries, the rights of gays are a life and death matter, and that Francis was merely

positioning the church to defend LGBT Catholics from perhaps deadly discrimination.

"The pope is willing to 'break a few plates' to ensure he commu-

nicates this Gospel-based message of compassion," he tweeted. But the contents of the pope's words were almost lost in the controversy that ensued over their origin.

At first, film director Evgeny Afineevsky claimed Francis made them directly to him. Then one of Francis' media advisers said they came from a 2019 interview with Mexican broadcaster Televisa, and were old news as a result.

Televisa confirmed the origin of the quotes, but said they never aired. A source in Mexico said the Vatican, which used its own cameras to shoot the interview

and provided raw footage to Televisa afterward, had deleted the civil union quote in question. The source spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the press.

The Vatican has refused to comment and imposed something of a media blackout on the matter. None of the Vatican's in-house media has reported on the cut quote, and on Friday the *Il Fatto Quotidiano* daily quoted an email from a staffer in the Vatican's communications ministry to other staff saying there wouldn't be any comment, but that "talks are underway to deal

with the current media crisis". As pope, Francis had never before come out publicly in favour of legal protections for civil unions, and no pontiff before him had, either.

The Rev. James Martin, one of the leading priestly advocates for LGBT Catholics, said the controversy over the pope's comments would in the end be helpful.

"The intrigue over the video's origin, and the explosive reaction to the pope's ongoing support for LGBT people, make the pope's words look more dangerous, and therefore more powerful," he said. **AP**

MEANWHILE

EU: 'VEGGIE BURGERS' CAN KEEP NAME

Restaurants and shops in the European Union should be allowed to label products as "veggie burgers" or "vegan sausages", the European Parliament said on Friday. EU lawmakers voted to reject proposals, backed by farmers, to ban plant-based products from using terms such as steak, sausage or burger.



Biden promises free vaccine for everyone in US if he is elected

Lays out plan to fight virus, says will push for mask mandates



LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 24

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL candidate Joe Biden has pledged that if elected as president in the November 3 election, he will ensure free Covid-19 vaccination for all Americans, laying out his pandemic response plan just days before the US presidential polls.

In a major policy speech on the coronavirus in his home state of Delaware, Biden on Friday said, "Once we have a safe and effective vaccine, it has to be free to everyone, whether or not you're insured." He added he would direct the federal government to "bulk-purchase as many doses as necessary of the Covid-19 vaccine so we can provide it free to those who are uninsured, under-insured or Medicaid-eligible."

Revealing his plan, Biden said he would immediately put in place a national strategy that would position the country to finally get ahead of this virus and get back the lives. He said he would ask the new Congress to put a Bill on his desk by the end of January with all the resources necessary to see how both the public health and economic response can be seen through the end what is needed.

Biden said he would go to every governor and urge them to mandate wearing masks in their states. "And if they refuse, I'll go to the mayors and county executives and get local masking requirements in place," he said. **PTI**



Biden in Wilmington, Delaware, on Friday. **Reuters**

Trump votes in Florida before rallies in three swing states

REUTERS
WEST PALM BEACH, OCT 24

US President Donald Trump voted in his adopted home of Florida before hitting the campaign trail for rallies in three swing states on Saturday, joining more than 54 million Americans who have cast early ballots at a record-setting pace ahead of the November 3 election.

Trump voted at a library in West Palm Beach, near his Mar-a-Lago estate, after switching his permanent residence and voter registration last year from New York to Florida, a must-win battleground for his re-election bid.

"I voted for a guy named Trump," he told reporters after casting his ballot.

With 10 days to go in the campaign, about 54.2 million Americans have already cast early ballots, a pace that could lead to the highest voter turnout in more



"I voted for a guy named Trump," he said

than a century, according to data from the US Elections Project.

The rush to vote is a sign of the intense interest in the contest between Trump and Biden, as well as concerns about avoiding crowded polling places on Election Day and reducing the risk of exposure to the coronavirus, which has killed more than 224,000 Americans.

The US set a single-day record of more than 84,000 new Covid-19 cases Friday, with the spike in infections hitting battlegrounds like Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Controversy over old map of Nepal in Oli's Dussehra greeting card

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 24

NEPAL PRIME Minister KP Sharma Oli was at the centre of a new controversy Saturday following the use of the country's old map in his Vijaya Dashami greeting card which had the national emblem and his portrait printed on it.

Following escalation of the boundary dispute with India this summer, Nepal published a new map to include areas of the Indian state of Uttarakhand.

The Opposition criticised him for using the old map in the card, saying he was trying to "backtrack on the issue, undermining the spirit behind the national consensus on the territorial issue".

Surya Thapa, the PM's press advisor, said the map in the greeting card was the new one, but because of its small size, the new areas were not visible.



Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli

Six weeks ago, Oli had ordered withdrawal of school textbooks that had included the new map. India and Nepal are trying to mend ties, severely strained after Nepal published its new map.

Earlier this week, Oli had a long meeting with Indian R&AW chief Samant Kumar Goel, and his own party leaders were furious that he did not keep them in the loop. Indian Army chief General MM Naravane is scheduled to visit Nepal next month.

THE HISTORIC STATEMENT BY THE POPE, REVEALED IN A DOCUMENTARY, WAS CUT OUT BY THE VATICAN FROM AN INTERVIEW LAST YEAR

Fiasco over Pope Francis' cut same-sex civil union quote intensifies impact

NICOLE WINFIELD
ROME, OCTOBER 24

THE WORLD premiere of a documentary on Pope Francis was supposed to have been a bright spot for a papacy locked down by a pandemic and besieged by a corruption scandal, recalling Francis' glory days traveling the world to bless the oppressed.

But the red carpet rollout of "Francesco" has been anything but bright, with evidence that the Vatican censored the pope last year by deleting his endorsement of same-sex civil unions from an

interview, only to have the footage resurface in the new film.

Aside from the firestorm the remarks created, the "Francesco" fiasco has highlighted the Vatican's often self-inflicted communications wounds and Francis' willingness to push his own agenda, even at the expense of fuelling pushback from conservative Catholics.

That pushback was swift and came from predictable corners: Cardinal Raymond Burke, Francis' frequent nemesis on matters of doctrine, said the pope's comments were devoid of any "magisterial weight". But in a statement, Burke expressed

concern that such personal opinions coming from the pope "generate great bewilderment and cause confusion and error among Catholic faithful".

The kerfuffle began Wednesday with the world premiere of "Francesco", a feature-length film on Francis and the issues he cares most about: climate change, refugees and social inequality. Midway through, Francis delivers the bombshell quote that gays deserve to be part of the family and that he supported civil unions, or a "ley de convivencia civil" as he said in Spanish — to give them legal protections.



10 ECONOMY

DOT'S AIM: WEED OUT INACTIVE NUMBERS & RATIONALISE DISTRIBUTION

New wireline telephone numbers to be allocated on basis of actual utilisation

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

IN AN effort to streamline the allocation of access service code and weed out inactive wireline telephone numbers allocated to telcos, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has modified its process and said the new numbers would be allocated only on the basis of actual utilisation to date.

The data on total utilisation of numbers allocated in the past shall have to be verified by the regional Licensed Spectrum Access (LSA) unit of the DoT in which the operator is present.

DATA WILL HAVE TO BE VERIFIED BY LSA UNIT

■ The data on total utilisation of numbers allocated in the past shall have to be verified by the regional Licensed Spectrum Access (LSA) unit of the DoT in which the operator is present.

■ Only after the data shows at least 80 per cent of access codes or telephone numbers allocated in the past have been utilised by way of activation of such numbers, will new numbers be allocated, the DoT said.

Only after the data shows that at least 80 per cent of the access codes or telephone numbers allocated in the past have been utilised by way of activation of such numbers, will new numbers be allocated, the

DoT said. As of July 31, India had a total of 116.4 crore telephone subscribers, of which less than 2 crore were wireline subscribers, according to data from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

(Trai). Sector regulator Trai had recently expressed concerns over the low penetration of wireline and broadband services in the country.

In August this year, the regulatory body had sought comments from telcos, industry representatives and other experts on the ways to increase broadband proliferation. In the consultation paper, Trai had highlighted that the lock-down enforced in March to prevent the spread of Covid-19 pandemic had forced many government and private enterprises as well as the common people to rely heavily on broadband connections for working from homes.

"The widespread availability and use of broadband have both economic and social benefits. In the post pandemic era, like potable water and electricity, access to broadband would become a necessity. It would be difficult to imagine life without broadband connectivity," Trai said.

One of the questions that Trai sought answers to from telcos and other experts was that even though fixed broadband services were more reliable and are generally more capable of delivering higher speed internet, why did its subscription rates remain so low domestically.

FLOWS INTO US AND EUROPEAN EQUITIES FUNDS



US AND EUROPEAN EQUITIES' PER RATIO



WORD OF CAUTION: The optimism over European stocks may, however, be hampered by a second wave of the coronavirus outbreak, with Germany, France, Britain and others announcing preventive measures, including curfews

STIMULUS HOPES: Some analysts said the impact on the region's economy would be limited this time. "There are likely further (stimulus) measures to come from both governments and central banks," they added

'Investors chase European equities, dump US as poll nears'

Fund flows into European stocks have surged in recent months, data from Morningstar showed, as global investors look to diversify away from US equities amid concerns over higher valuations and caution ahead of the Presidential elections

\$57 BILLION:

Inflows into European equities in the third quarter, compared with an outflow of \$135 billion from US stocks

US equities have rallied this year, fuelled by a surge in technology stocks and economic stimulus measures, while European shares have lagged behind

That underperformance could now bolster European shares, with investors looking for cheaper, quality stocks outside the United States

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT:

The outcome of US elections could have dramatic and broad reaching impacts, the magnitude of which is unclear. With that in mind, it stands to reason that investors could see Europe as a more favourable destination for their risk assets

KEY CONCERNS:

Investors are wary about the possibility of US President Donald Trump disputing the election result if he loses, which could lead to market turbulence

Weak dollar and rising euro have boosted the returns of European assets for foreign investors

I-T, GST returns deadline extended again

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE GOVERNMENT has further extended the filing deadlines for income-tax (I-T) returns and GST annual returns. The deadline for filing I-T returns for individuals for financial year 2019-20 (assessment year 2020-21) has been extended by a month to December 31 and the due date for Income Tax Returns for taxpayers whose accounts require to be audited has been extended till January 31 next year.

Separately, the government on Saturday also extended the due date for GST annual returns for FY2018-19 by two months to December 31.

Many associations of tax consultants, chartered accountants had been over the last few weeks making representations to the Finance Ministry for a further extension of filing deadlines, citing difficulties in running normal business operations due to the Covid-

The government had last month extended the last date for filing GST annual return and audit report for the 2018-19 fiscal by a month till October 31

19 pandemic.

Though the Central Board of Direct Tax (CBDT) had extended the due dates for filing of the I-T returns earlier, the associations and industry representatives said that it is very unlikely that the assessee would be in a position to get the accounts audited by October 31 and then file the returns by November 30.

"The due date for furnishing of Income Tax Returns for the other taxpayers [for whom the due date (i.e. before the extension by the said notification) as per the Act was July 31, 2020] has been extended to December 31, 2020," the

Income-tax Department said on Saturday.

The due date for furnishing of ITRs for the taxpayers (including their partners) who are required to get their accounts audited [for whom the due date as per the I-T Act is October 31, 2020] has been extended to January 31, 2021, it said. Also, the due date for furnishing of ITRs for the taxpayers who are required to furnish report in respect of international/specified domestic transactions has been extended to January 31, 2021.

The government had earlier in May extended various due dates for filing ITRs for FY2019-20 from July 31 to November 30, as part of measures to provide compliance-related relief to taxpayers in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government had last month extended the last date for filing GST annual return and audit report for the 2018-19 fiscal by a month till October 31. In a statement, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said the government has been receiving a

number of representations regarding the need to extend the due date for filing the Annual Return (Form GSTR-9) and Reconciliation Statement (Form GSTR-9C) for FY2018-19.

"In view of the same, on the recommendations of the GST Council, it has been decided to extend the due date for filing Annual Return (Form GSTR-9/GSTR-9A) and Reconciliation Statement (FORM GSTR-9C) for Financial Year 2018-19 from October 31, 2020 to December 31, 2020," the CBIC said.

GSTR-9, the annual return under GST, consists of details regarding the outward and inward supplies made or received under different tax heads. GSTR-9C is a statement of reconciliation between GSTR-9 and the audited annual financial statement. The annual return is mandatory only for taxpayers with aggregate annual turnover of above Rs 2 crore while reconciliation statement is to be furnished only by the registered persons having aggregate turnover above Rs 5 crore.

Forex reserves touch record high of \$555.1 bn

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE COUNTRY'S foreign exchange reserves touched a life time high of \$555.12 billion after it surged by \$3.615 billion in the week ended October 16, according to RBI data. In the previous week ended October 9, 2020, the reserves had increased by \$5.867 billion to reach \$551.505 billion.

During the latest reporting week, the rise in total reserves was due to a sharp rise in Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves. FCA jumped by \$3.539 billion to \$512.322 billion, the data showed. Expressed in dollar terms, FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by \$86 million in the reporting week to \$36.685 billion.

The special drawing rights

Gold reserves were up by \$86 million in the reporting week to \$36.685 billion

with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) remained unchanged at \$1.480 billion during the reporting week.

The country's reserve position with the IMF declined by \$11 million to \$4.634 billion during the reporting week, as per the data.

Alongside this jump in FDI and FPI inflows, the reserves have been supported by a dip in import bill on account of low crude oil prices, decline in gold and other imports on account of the Covid-19 pandemic.

While rising foreign exchange reserves provide cushion to the economy in terms of covering the import expenditure, it also provides stability to the domestic currency against the dollar. **WITHPTI**

CRUDE WATCH

OIL FALLS ON LIBYAN OUTPUT, COVID

New York: Oil fell roughly \$1 a barrel on Friday and headed for a weekly drop on rising Libyan crude supply and demand concerns caused by surging coronavirus cases in the United States and Europe. **REUTERS**

Centre waives interest on interest for loans up to ₹2 cr: How will the cashback work?

SUNNY VERMA & GEORGE MATHEW

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, OCT 24

LAKHS OF borrowers, irrespective of whether they availed of moratorium or not during lockdown, stand to get some cashback from the government soon, as it has decided to come out with a proposal to provide relief in the form of ex-gratia payment. The cashback is the difference between the compound interest and simple interest, which is applicable to certain categories of borrowers, including housing, credit card and MSMEs, for the period between March 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020.

A borrower with a Rs 50 lakh home loan outstanding, for example, will get a benefit of around Rs 12,425 in the form of savings on account of compound interest for a six-month period, assuming the rate of interest is 8 per cent. At this rate, six months' simple interest cost comes roughly to Rs 2 lakh, and along with the compound interest it becomes Rs 2,12,425 — with the government paying the difference of Rs 12,425. All borrowers will have to pay simple interest to the banks. Exact waiver benefit will depend on the stage of the loan and outstanding principal amount.

What's the government's latest proposal?

As per the latest guidelines issued by the Finance Ministry to the banks, the difference between the compound interest and simple interest for a period of six months will be provided to all borrowers with loans up to Rs 2 crore. In simple terms, borrowers need to pay only simple interest and the government will pay back the difference between compound interest charged during those six months and simple interest.

The ex-gratia payment under this scheme will be admissible irrespective of whether the borrower had fully or partially availed or not availed of the moratorium on repayment. It is for those loan accounts that are standard and not non-performing assets (NPAs) as of February 29. For loan accounts that were closed during this period, the ex-gratia payment will be made from March 1, 2020 till the date of closure of such account.

"In view of the unprecedented and extreme Covid-19 situation, the object of the scheme is to provide ex-gratia payment of difference between compound interest and simple interest by way of relief for the period from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 to borrowers in specified loan accounts. Such payment does not constitute a contractual, legal or equitable liability of the central government, the scheme says.

Who is eligible for

BORROWERS WILL HAVE TO PAY SIMPLE INTEREST

■ A borrower with a Rs 50 lakh home loan outstanding, for example, will get a benefit of around Rs 12,425 in the form of savings on accounts of compound interest for a six months period, assuming the rate of interest at 8 per cent. ■ At this rate, six months' simple interest cost comes

roughly to Rs 2 lakh, and along with the compound interest it becomes Rs 2,12,425 — with the government paying the difference of Rs 12,425. ■ All borrowers will have to pay simple interest to the banks. Exact waiver benefit will depend on the stage of the loan and outstanding principal amount.

the scheme?

The compound interest waiver is for most of the loans — housing, MSME, education, consumer durable, credit card dues, automobile, consumption and personal loans to professionals.

Any borrower whose aggregate of all facilities with lending institutions is more than Rs 2 crore — sanctioned limits or outstanding amounts — will not be eligible for the waiver. The waiver will be provided by all private and state-owned banks, cooperative banks, regional rural banks, housing finance companies and non-banking financial institutions. The rate of interest used to calculate the ex-gratia amount will be based on the contracted rate specified for most loans.

The relief has been unveiled after the Supreme Court asked the government to come out with a relief on interest rates.

What's the relief/incentive being offered to borrowers?

A waiver on levy of compound interest, or interest on interest, on home, car, MSME, personal and other loans up to Rs 2 crore may come as a major relief to borrowers, especially whose loans are in initial years of repayment as their interest component is a major chunk. This would help in reducing the burden on borrowers as they are required to pay on the contracted rate of interest on loans. Since the moratorium on loan repayments announced by the Reserve Bank of India was not a waiver, borrowers were liable to pay interest and interest on interest on the accumulated amount.

Customers will still have to bear the liability of simple interest accumulated during the six months of the moratorium period. A senior Finance Ministry official said that ex-gratia payment is being provided to even those who did not avail of the moratorium in order to create parity among borrowers and to preserve the credit culture for timely repayments.

How's the calculation done?

The government has specified that for reimbursement, the compounding of interest should be reckoned on a monthly basis. The rate of interest to be applied for calculating the difference will be the

contracted rate as specified in the loan agreement. For credit card dues, the rate of interest will be the weighted average of lending rate (WALR) charged by the card issuer for transactions financed on the EMI basis from its customers during the period from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020. The computation of WALR should be certified by the statutory auditor of the card issuer.

For education, housing, consumer durables, credit card dues, auto, consumption and personal loans are in the form of a term loan or demand loan and not an overdraft facility or cash credit, the outstanding in the account as on February 29, 2020 will be the reference amount for calculation of simple interest

Will the bank be able to handle it?

Bankers say that it's not an easy task and involves more paperwork for banks and housing finance firms. There are lakhs of borrowers who are now waiting for the cashback from the government. First, banks will have to process the claims of borrowers and credit the amount.

They will have to lodge the claim for reimbursement with the designated cell at State Bank of India (SBI), which will function as the nodal agency for the scheme, by December 15, 2020. SBI will evaluate the claims and furnish the details to the government. Lending institutions will get the funds through SBI.

What's the cost to the government?

According to experts, the cash outflow from the government is likely to be between Rs 5,000 crore and Rs 7,000 crore as all the borrowers may not be eligible for the scheme. "Assuming not more than 30-40 per cent of the overall loans of the banks and NBFCs will be eligible for relief, the cost to the government should not exceed Rs 5,000-7,000 crore. This is assuming all borrowers are given relief irrespective of whether they are availing the moratorium or not," said Anil Gupta, vice-president, ICRA Ltd.

However, significantly, the government has not given any deadline on paying up the cashback to the banks, which will have to give the ex-gratia to the borrowers in advance before submitting it to the government.

HC: Trustees can't wind up Franklin Templeton schemes without investors' consent

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

THE KARNATAKA High Court on Saturday ruled that trustees of Franklin Templeton must take the consent of unitholders by a simple majority for winding up of the six debt funds. However, the court has stayed the operation of this order for six weeks and has also clarified that no redemptions, borrowings or creating liability in the said six schemes can be initiated by the fund house

A division Bench of Chief Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ashok S Kinagi held, "We hold that, no interference in called for in the decision of the Trustees taken on 23rd April, 2020, of winding of the said six schemes. We hold and declare that the decision of the Trustees to wind up 6 schemes

The court has stayed the operation of this order for six weeks and has also clarified that no redemptions, borrowings or creating liability in the said six schemes can be initiated by the fund house

mentioned in paragraph 1 of the judgment, by taking recourse to sub-clause (a) of clause 2 of Regulation 39 of the Mutual Fund Regulations cannot be implemented unless the consent of the Unit Holders is obtained in accordance with sub-clause (c) of clause 15 of Regulation 18."

The court order also said,

"Hence, we restrain the Trustees from taking any further steps on the basis of the impugned notices dated 23rd April 2020, and 28th May 2020, with the consent of the unit-holders by a simple majority till the decision of winding up is obtained by the Trustees in accordance with sub-clause (c) of clause 15 of Regulation 18 of the Mutual Fund Regulations."

The fund house had wounded up six debt schemes collectively worth ₹25,800 crore on April 23.

A spokesperson of Franklin Templeton MF said, "The Hon'ble Karnataka High Court has upheld the authority and decision taken by the trustees to wind up the schemes under regulation 39(2)(a). As per the judgment, for operationalising such a decision, approval of the unit-holders will be required under regulation 18(15)(c)." **FE**

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

INDIA'S LARGEST airline IndiGo has banned nine journalists from flying between October 15-October 30 following recommendations by an internal committee that was formed to look into alleged unruly behaviour by the mediapersons on board a flight operated by the airline on September 9.

On September 9, IndiGo's Chandigarh-Mumbai flight with film actress Kangana Ranaut as a passenger witnessed violation of social distancing and safety protocols by television journalists, according to a report filed by the airline with aviation safety regulator DGCA.

Following surfacing of a video showing mediapersons creating a ruckus in the IndiGo flight, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had issued punitive measures for airlines to

WHAT WAS THE ISSUE?

■ On September 9, IndiGo's Chandigarh-Mumbai flight, with film actress Kangana Ranaut as a passenger, witnessed violation of social distancing and safety protocols by television journalists, according to a report filed by the airline with aviation safety regulator DGCA.

ensure the 'no in-flight photography' rules are followed. DGCA noted in an order that in case of any violation on a scheduled flight, the said flight will be suspended for two weeks and will be restored only once the airline has taken all the necessary punitive action against those responsible for the violation.

The airline then filed a report with the DGCA saying that its crew followed all requisite protocols including announcements to restrict photography, follow social distancing and maintain overall safety. According to the rules prescribed for preventing disruptive behaviour on board aircraft, IndiGo formed an internal committee to look into the incident.

The rules define three categories of unruly behaviour: Level 1 refers to behaviour that is verbally unruly, and calls for debarment up to three months; Level 2 indicates physical unruliness and can lead to the passenger being debarred from flying for up to six months; Level 3 indicates life-threatening behaviour for which the debarment would be for a minimum of two years. According to an IndiGo source, the nine journalists, who have been banned from flying for 15 days till October 30, have already been notified of the decision.

China govt uses ‘United Front’ to gather intel on citizens abroad, says US dy NSA

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

REFERRING TO revelations in a series of investigative reports by *The Indian Express* and other global publications on how a private technology firm in Shenzhen, with links to the Chinese government and Communist Party of China (CPC) uses big data tools for hybrid warfare, a top US Security official has said that the Chinese foreign ministry handles a “United Front”, which includes “powerful tech firms” that gather intelligence to influence private citizens overseas.

Pointing to the database of Zhenhua Data, which targets individuals and institutions in politics, government, business, technology, media, and civil society, US Deputy National Security Advisor Matt Pottinger has said that the CPC is “compiling digital dossiers on millions of foreign citizens around the world”, with the aid of “new tools of digital surveillance”. Pottinger made the remarks from White House on Thursday during a video conference hosted by Policy Exchange in London. *The Indian Express*, using big-data tools, investigated metadata from Zhenhua’s operations to extract Indian entities from the massive dump of log files that constituted what the company called



Overseas Key Information Database (OKIDB). The investigation, published in September, had revealed the firm is monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals, including President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and their families. “The exposure last month of a Chinese database on at least 2.4 million people around the world, including many of us on this call, speaks to the Party’s (CPC’s) sheer ambition to wed traditional Leninist techniques with powerful new tools of digital surveillance,” Pottinger said. He claimed China’s “United Front Work system” is handled by the country’s foreign ministry and “gathers intelligence about, and works to influence, private citizens overseas”. He said, “...The focus is on foreign elites and the organizations they run. Think of a United Front worker as a cross-be-

tween an intelligence collector, a propagandist, and a psychologist.” Pottinger said while “Zhenhua isn’t a particularly large or sophisticated actor in the United Front world”, it “may even be acting opportunistically, because it thinks the Party will reward it”.

He said, “Far more powerful tech firms, including famous Chinese app developers, play a much bigger role in this kind of work. The dossiers Zhenhua is compiling include people in virtually every country, no matter how small. They include members of royal families and members of Parliament, judges and clerks, tech mavens and budding entrepreneurs, four-star admirals and crew members of warships, professors and think-tankers, and national and local officials. They also include children, who are fair game under Beijing’s rules of political warfare. No one is too prominent or too obscure.”

Pottinger said the “United Front Work” is a “serious business”, and the “focus is on foreign elites and organisations they run”. He said, “...the United Front Work Department alone has four times as many cadres as the US State Department has foreign-service officers...the United Front gathers intelligence about, and works to influence, private citizens overseas.”

Monitoring India-China issue, don’t want situation to escalate: top US official

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

WITH INDIAN and Chinese troops locked in a border standoff for the last five and half months, the US is closely monitoring the border row between India and China and does not want the situation to escalate, a senior US administration official said on Saturday. The official told the reporters during a telephonic conference call early Saturday, ahead of the next week’s 2+2 India-US ministerial in New Delhi, that the Trump administration was providing support to India through defence sales, joint military exercises and information sharing. *The Indian Express* had reported earlier that 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 India-China LAC. “We as a government are covering the situation in the

Himalayas closely, and understandably. We certainly want to ensure that the situation doesn’t escalate,” the official said. In response to a question, the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that the US was having an ongoing dialogue with Indian about increased cooperation in Southeast Asia, and not simply about the South China Sea. “And we encourage their involvement. That cuts across development investments, it cuts across security cooperation, and then it also involves presence. So, we welcome greater Indian participation in Southeast Asia across all three of those areas,” said the official. Quad - comprising Japan, India, Australia and the United States - is not an alliance but a grouping of countries driven by shared interests and values and interested in strengthening a rules-based order in the strategically-important Indo-Pacific region, the senior administration official said.

Chief of DMK ally criticises Manusmriti’s ‘portrayal of women’, booked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 24

A VIDEO of a Dalit politician criticising a Hindu text’s alleged portrayal of women has kicked up a major row in Tamil Nadu with the BJP demanding an apology from him for “denigrating women”. Thol Thirumavalavan, the chief of DMK ally Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), was booked by Chennai Police Friday after a complaint by the BJP. Kushboo Sundar, the actor-turned-politician who recently joined BJP from Congress, said Thirumavalavan had denigrated women from a particular faith with his statement and sought an apology. The VCK chief has denied the accusation and said he was simply referring to the Manusmriti’s version. During a webinar in September, Thirumavalavan, a Lok Sabha MP, had allegedly said: “...As per Hindu dharma and Manu dharma, women were basically created by God as prostitutes.” The VCK defended its chief, declaring state-wide protests seeking a ban on the text. Thirumavalavan said his words had been distorted to portray him as someone against the interests of women.

Dalit teen girl shot dead at home in UP’s Firozabad; two held

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, OCTOBER 24

A 17-YEAR-OLD Dalit girl was shot dead inside her house in Firozabad late Friday night. Police said they have detained two persons in connection with the murder. According to police, the girl’s family has alleged that three persons – Manish Chaudhary, Gaurav Chakra, and Saupali Yadav – who were harassing them barged into their home around 11.45 on Friday night and shot her. She was taken to a nearby hospital where she was declared dead on arrival. Police have booked the three accused for murder, rioting and under SC/ST Act. As per the FIR, the accused had threatened the girl’s father during an altercation, two weeks ago. “On October 22, my daughter was heading towards school when the accused stopped her. They misbehaved with her and told her that they would kill her.

We were scared and we didn’t approach the police then. We tried to reason with them but they didn’t listen,” the FIR stated, quoting the girl’s father. Police, however, said that there were “contradictions” in the sequence of events as narrated by the girl’s family. “We inspected the spot... It appears that one of the gates of the house was open. The accused may have entered the house through it. There are contradictions in the family’s version. We have taken two accused in our custody. We are probing all the angles,” said district police chief Sachindra Patel. According to the FIR, the girl was sleeping on the top floor of the house, while the family members were on the rooftop when they heard the sound of the gunshots. “So far, we have not found any evidence of harassment of the girl’s family,” said Circle Officer of the area. The postmortem report is still awaited.

UP DIG’s wife found dead, suicide suspected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 24

THE BODY of a DIG-rank officer’s wife was found hanging at his residence in Lucknow Saturday. While no suicide note has been found, police are suspecting it to be a case of death by suicide. The body has been sent for post-mortem, police said. The deceased has been identified as Pushpa Prakash (36), wife of 2004 batch IPS officer Chandra Prakash, who is posted as DIG at the Police Training School in Unnao and also a member of the SIT probing the Hathras rape and murder case. ACP (Gosaiganj) Archana Singh said the incident took place around 10.45 am when Chandra Prakash, who was then

on his way to the Secretariat, reportedly received a call from Pushpa that she is going to commit suicide. “He returned immediately, but by the time he reached his house, she had allegedly hanged herself,” she said. “We have not found any suicide note... the body was found hanging from a ceiling fan with a stole on the first floor.... At the time of the incident, the couple’s three children were present on the ground floor along with two police staff who work at the house,” said Additional DCP (South) Suresh Chandra Rawat. Lucknow DCP (East) Charu Nigam said it is a case of suicide and legal steps are being taken. The couple has three children -- two daughters aged 13 and 11 years and a seven-year-old son.

Farm laws: Rajasthan special Assembly session on Oct 31

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 24

FOLLOWING THE Ashok Gehlot government’s decision to counter the Centre’s new farm laws, the Rajasthan Assembly will convene on October 31, officials said. A notification issued by the Assembly Secretariat states that the Assembly will resume from Saturday, October 31. Interestingly, the fifth session had not been prorogued by Governor Kalraj Mishra, hence

the Assembly has now been summoned by Speaker C P Joshi for resumption of the session “to transact urgent official work”. On October 20, the Cabinet had announced its decision to call a special session “to protect the interests of the farmers” and to discuss the impact of the central laws and bring the “desired amendment Bills.” Last month, Congress president Sonia Gandhi had directed party-ruled states to explore the possibility of passing Bills to “bypass” and “negate” provisions of the farm laws. The party high command had even circulated a

draft Bill to the states. Article 254(2) of the Constitution allows a state to make changes to Central legislation on a subject on the concurrent list, only if it gets Presidential assent. While the party does not expect President Ram Nath Kovind to clear any move to circumvent the new farm laws, its leadership believes that party-ruled states passing a counter Bill would be “a strong political statement”. On October 20, Punjab Assembly passed four state farm Bills, including three amendment Bills, to counter the central laws cleared last month.

FORM NO. 15
BEFORE, THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
Wing : A,B & F(2nd Floor), Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchari Parisar (GPOA), Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna 800025
O.A/M.A NO.-790 OF 2019
Applicant: State Bank of India, SARB, Patna.
Vs
Respondant defendants: M/S SUNRISE SARAN CONSTRUCTION PVT. LTD. & ORS.
SUMMONS
ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.
To,
1. **M/S SUNRISE SARAN CONSTRUCTION PVT. LTD.**, Gandak Pool Road, Hajipur, Vaishali, Bihar 844101.
2. **SMT. SAVITA DEVI W/O SRI KRISHNA KUMAR**, At & P.O. Banauta, P.S.Parsa, Saran, Pin 841215
3. **SRI DEEPAK KUMAR SINGH, S/O BIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH**, Add-Durhaulia Gachi, P.O-Sonepur, Dist-Saran.
4. **SRI KRISHNA KUMAR S/o Sri Lakshmi Narayan Singh**, At & P.O Banauta, P.S-Parsa, Dist-Saran, Pin 841215.
Whereas the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendants for the recovery of a sum of **Rs.4,67,63,620/- (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Seven Lac Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Only)**.
The above mentioned defendants are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 04/12/2020 at 10.30 A.M. (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned Herein before the Proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 19th day of Oct, 2020
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal Patna

INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT
Applications are invited from eligible retired Central Government Officers (Under Secretary and above) to be appointed as Administrative Consultant in the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi on contract for a limited period. Applications via email may be addressed to Deputy Director General, ICWA at ddgoffice@icwa.in with copy to us@icwa.in. The last date of submitting the application is **13.11.2020 upto 4.00 PM**. For details and terms and conditions, log on to "Public Announcement" column on homepage <http://icwa.in>.

RBL BANK LIMITED
Registered Office: 1st Lane, Shahupuri, Kolhapur-416001
Regional Office: Hansalaya Building, Upper Ground Floor, 15, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110 001

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002)
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSET CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") READ WITH RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("RULES")
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Co-Borrower Guarantor (s) and Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged (collectively referred as "Property") to RBL Bank Ltd. ("Secured Creditor/Bank"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under section 13(4) & section 14 of the SARFAESI Act read with the Rules, as detailed hereunder, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "Without Recourse Basis" on 25.11.2020, for recovery of the Bank's outstanding dues plus interest as detailed hereunder under Rules 8 and 9 of the Rules by inviting bids as per below e-auction schedule:
Brief Description of Parties, Outstanding dues and Property

S. N. O.	Name of the Borrower & Guarantor (s)	Details of Property(ies) & Mortgagor	Amount as per Demand Notice Date of Demand & Possession Notice under SARFAESI Act	Inspection Date and Time	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of e-Auction	Last Date for Receipt of Bids along with documents	Name of Authorised Officer/ Phone No./ Email Id
1	1. Shri. Rash Pal Singh Todd (Mortgagor/ Borrower/ Guarantor / Director), 2. Smt. Balbirinder Kaur (Mortgagor/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor), 3. Shri. Mandhir Singh Todd (Guarantor / Co-Borrower/Director) S.No 1-3 R/o E-26, South City-I, Gurugram -122001 4. M/s Zenica Lifestyle Pvt. Ltd. (Borrower / Co-Borrower) 2nd Floor, Orchid Centre, Sector 53, Golf Course Road, Gurugram -122001	All that part and parcel of DPH-01, 12th Floor, having facility : Super Area of 6083 square feet along with two covered reserved car parking slots bearing No.292 and 293 in Building /Tower-D, situated in Group Housing Colony known as Central Park-I, in the revenue estate of Village Chakkarpur & Wallirabad, Distt. Gurugram, Main Sector Road, Sector-42, Near DLF Golf Course, Distt. Gurugram, Haryana; together with the fittings and fixtures annexed thereto/ building structure standing thereon mortgaged by Rashpal Singh Todd & Balbirinder Kaur.	Loan Against property facility : Rs. 4, 77, 32, 982/- (Rupees Four Crore Seventy Seven Lac Thirty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Two Only) as on 31.03.2019 against Demand notice dated 23.04.2019 Cash Credit Facility : Rs. 7, 43, 06, 005.68 (Rupees Seven Crore Forty Three Lacs Six Thousand Five and paise Sixty Eight Only) as on 31.03.2019 against Demand notice dated 02.04.2019 Date of Possession : Notice-29.06.2020	18.11.2020 between 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m	Reserve price: 5,50,00,000.00 (Rupees Five Crore Fifty Lacs Only) EMD: 55,00,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Five Lacs Lacs Only) Bid Increase amount: 1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh Only)	25.11.2020 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m	On or Before 23.11.2020 upto 5:00 p.m	Deepak Gupta/ 8920244394/ deepak.gupta3@rblbank.com

Note: 1. Interested bidders may note that to the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are following encumbrances on the Property:
a. Unpaid Electricity dues & Unpaid Maintenance charges of Society of **Rs.4,35,755/-** i.e. (Electricity charges till **31.07.2020: Rs.1,51,806/-** and Society Maintenance Charges till **31.07.2020: Rs.2,83,949/-** plus additional monthly Society Maintenance charges and electricity charges as applicable)
b. Municipal Corporation Property Tax aggregating to **Rs.10,401/- till 31.07.2020**
2. Following cases are subjudice before Hon'ble Delhi High Court ('DHC'), however the Bank has been permitted to proceed under the SARFAESI Act & to sell the Property:
a. The Property has been attached by Enforcement Directorate ('ED') u/s 5(1) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 ('PMLA') vide Provisional Attachment Order No. 12/2019 dated 02.09.2019 in ECIR No. ECIR/05/DL20-11/2018 ('PA Order'). The ED has thereafter filed a complaint u/s 5(5) of PMLA having O.C No. no. 1201/2019 before the Adjudicating Authority for confirmation of the PA Order. RBL Bank filed a writ petition (W.P.(C)10048/2019) before Hon'ble DHC for quashing the PA Order which is pending adjudication, however the Hon'ble DHC has vide its order dated 13.01.2020 stayed further proceedings before Adjudicating Authority qua RBL Bank and the Property. Further, the ED has given no objection to sell the Property under SARFAESI Act, which has been recorded in the order dated 16.10.2019. Furthermore, the Hon'ble DHC vide its order dated 06.12.2019 permitted the Bank to sell the Property and directed to inform the court before finalising the sale.
b. ICICI Bank has also filed a suit CS(comm) 306/2019 before High Court for restraining RBL Bank from realizing and dealing with securities in which ICICI Bank is claiming pari passu charge. Pending disposal of the case, the High Court has allowed vide its order dated 12.07.2019, that RBL Bank may go ahead with the proceedings under Sections 13(4) and 14 of the SARFAESI Act.
However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of Property put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ effecting the Property, prior to submitting their bid.

Terms and Conditions:
(1) The E-Auction Sale will be online through e-auction portal. The interested bidders are advised to go through the detailed terms and conditions of auction available on the website of <https://www.bankauctions.com> & <https://www.rblbank.com/pdf-pages/news> before submitting their bids and taking part in e-auction.
(2) It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the Property and specification before submitting the bid.
(3) The interested bidders shall submit their EMD details and documents through Web Portal: <https://www.bankauctions.com> (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://www.bankauctions.com>) through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through NEFT/ RTGS in the following Account of RBL BANK Ltd.- Auction Proceeds Collection GL, Account No 2599109900130047 (IFSC Code RATM0000990), before 5:00 PM on or before 23.11.2020.
(4) Interested bidders may avail support/ online training on E-Auction from **M/s. C1 India Pvt Ltd** Contact No: 124-4302020/21/22/23, 7291981124/25/26. Contact Person Mr. Vinod Chauhan Mob No: 9813887931, e-mail-id: delhi@c1india.com and for any query in relation to Property, they may contact Mr. Deepak Gupta, Authorised Officer (Mob. No. 8920244394 email: Deepak.Gupta3@rblbank.com)
(5) The Authorised Officer of the Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any all bids & / or to postpone/cancel the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final and binding. The confirmation of the sale is subject to the approval of Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT
The Borrower, Co-Borrower, Guarantor(s) and Mortgagor(s) are hereby notified to pay the aforementioned sum along with further interest thereon plus penal and other interest and amounts as per the Transaction Documents, till payment thereof before the date of E-Auction, failing which the Property will be auctioned/ sold to recover the outstanding dues.
Date: 25.10.2020 Place: Gurugram
Sd/-
Authorised officer, RBL Bank Ltd.

ADVERTORIAL
Centenary of Pandurang Shastri Athavale (Dadaji), 19th October 2020
Revered Pandurangshastri Athavale (Rev. Dadaji) the promulgator of Swadhyaya Parivar may be aptly classified as an activist philosopher. This year is the birth centenary year of Dadaji and millions of people all over the world celebrate 19th October, his birthday as Human Dignity Day. They offer their obeisance to him as conferrer of Human Dignity as he has touched and transformed their lives individually and socially. Dadaji's vision, thoughts and work infuses hope for humanity as it touches and yet goes far beyond the prominently understood three intellectual facets of societal progress paradigm namely Political, Social & Economic development.
Dadaji's concept of 'Indwelling God' drawn from Bhagvadgita is simple yet all encompassing. It can easily be understood by one and all and yet the transformation and revolution it unleashes, by its practice, touches and answers all prominent thinkers and philosophers – not just by words but by action and demonstration. Hence Dadaji has been appropriately awarded with 'Padma Vibhushan' at national level and with 'The Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion' and 'Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership' at international level and these are only few of the many awards and encomiums accepted by him during his lifetime.
When Dadaji explained the concept of 'Impersonal Wealth' generated through Swadhyayee Experiments (on Yogeshwar krushi farms, on Matsyagandha trawlers, in Vriskshamandir – orchards as Divine communes for 20 villages and many more), by hundreds of villages across India, at the London School of Economics, the Economists found it very perplexing. They stated that there was no reference to such a concept in any school of Economic thought. The world only understands - ownership of Wealth by Individual or ownership of Wealth by Society. Wealth is understood to have been created out of pure materialistic necessity and hence creativity, intellect, entrepreneurial capacity all lead to creation of barriers which divide the society into rich and poor. Norms of Distribution of Wealth are way beyond the scope of present Economic thinking as such norms are attributed to the domain of Ethics. Even today the world at large struggles to address the problem of 'Haves' and Have Nots'. Capitalism and Socialism have both failed to address this problem successfully as the origination of both these isms is selfishness. Capitalism may be individually selfish, yet Socialism is also collectively selfish. The mentality of exploiting the ignorance and difficulty of another human being for one's selfish gains is at the root of such selfishness. None of the politico-economic models have been able to achieve the lofty ideal of 'Graceful giving and Grateful acceptance'. The era of Comradeship is therefore a bygone era. The twenty first century belongs to the era of Relationships. Dadaji's propagation of the concept of Indwelling God provides exactly the needed foundation or basis to this relationship era. Dadaji not only explained the philosophy behind 'Impersonal Wealth' but also firmly stated that thousands of our farmers, fishermen and other ordinary people working selflessly out of Swadhyaya learning and practice will make the future Economists insert this concept in the Economics of the future. It is impossible to cover every and all aspects of Swadhyaya work in such a small exposition.
The understanding of Divinity within, provides new model and fresh perspective to Human Dignity which is otherwise shackled by or associated with Posts, Positions and Possessions. Dadaji could translate this understanding to change the lives of commonest of people all around the world. Dadaji's vision and work, fructified his assertion that 'Bhakti (Devotion) is a Social Force' that can break through the barriers which divide societies on the basis of caste, creed, race, nationality, religion, economic status, educational status so on and many more. One prominent Educationist from UNESCO very rightly claimed that 'Swadhyay is Silent yet Singing Revolution of India'. There is a 'Revolution' and it is twofold. One, it brings about societal change through change in the context (Indwelling God) of Relationships which are now based on selfless love. Two, there is tremendous transformation in activity, including by creation of 'Impersonal Wealth' which is brought about by constructive and selfless work as an offering of one's efficiency to God. Such a Revolution is indeed "Silent" as it is completely apolitical and it does not have political power as its need or goal. It is indeed "Singing" because it touches the heart, mind and intellect of any human being on the face of this planet. By adding the Emotional and Spiritual facets to the previously understood tri-color revolution – Social, Political and Economic – Dadaji, through his Swadhyay way of life has provided critical foundation to a global village based on 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' ideal, a model of Alternative society, which will be of paramount importance academically and practically, in a futuristic world.
Nivida Winayak Wagle (Fellow Member of The Institute Of Chartered Accountants of India)

MAN FOUND DEAD IN MUMBAI HOSPITAL TOILET

Hospital staff ignored complaints of foul smell from toilet, claim patients

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA & SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

PATIENTS IN Sewri TB Hospital's isolation ward number 12 claimed that doctors disregarded their complaints of a foul smell from the toilet where the body of 27-year-old Suryabhan Yadav was found 14 days after he went missing.

Further, soon after Yadav went missing, an on-duty medical officer wrote in his report that there was a need to "check the toilets" but it is not clear if the instruction was carried out.

On Saturday, when *The Indian Express* visited the first-floor ward, there were over 10 Covid-

19 patients. Male and female patients share three common toilet cubicles. Saraswati Dongre, admitted last week, said, "For two days the smell was unbearable. I could not even go to the toilet. The nurse kept saying one of the toilets gets frequently clogged."

But, Dongre said she saw insects crawling into the cubicle.

Another patient, requesting anonymity, said she vomited after visiting the toilet due to the stench. "I kept asking staff for several days. They did not pay attention," she said.

Subhash Shinde, admitted since 10 days in the hospital, said he also kept complaining about the "smell of dead animals" but got no response from the staff.

Yadav's body lay in the last of three toilet cubicles, inside iso-

lation ward number 12 of Sewri TB Hospital. Patients had complained of unclean toilets and putrid smell for days before staff agreed to inspect the washrooms and found Yadav dead. The facility of bedpan or assistance to visit the toilet is not provided for even those on oxygen support.

The BMC has set up a committee to conduct an external inquiry of the incident. The hospital has submitted statements of 69 staffers, doctors and nurses who were on duty in the isolation ward. Mumbai Police will conduct a separate inquiry.

Yadav, who complained of weakness, must have walked to the toilet in the early hours of October 4 where he is suspected to have collapsed.

Looking for work, he came to Mumbai

Yadav, whose body was found on October 18, was an Arts graduate who arrived in Mumbai only in September in search of a job, said the police.

Hailing from an economically underprivileged family in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, Yadav got Covid-19 and TB soon after moving to Mumbai, they said.

Yadav's father Tejbahadur, a construction worker in Mumbai, was not even aware that his son had disappeared. He came to know of his fate only after the body was recovered. Tejbahadur was able to identify the decomposed body only through a ring, clothes and the rakhi his sister had tied.

7 arrested for cross-border smuggling of arms, drugs

Jammu: Seven people, including a resident of Punjab, were arrested Saturday by the J&K Police who claimed to have unearthed an inter-state gang involved in the smuggling of narcotics and weapons from Pakistan.

Inspector General of Police (Jammu) Mukesh Singh said a case was filed at Arnia police station after a joint patrol team of J&K Police and BSF, on the intervening night of September 19 and 20, foiled a smuggling bid at Bullay Chak near BSF's Budhwar post along the international border in Arnia sector of Jammu.

The team seized 61 packets of heroin, one packet of opium, two pistols, three magazines and 100 live cartridges.

Police have identified the accused as Jash Raj Singh, Subash Chander, Sham Lal, Gurbaksh Singh, Bishan Dass, and Ajit Kumar—all of whom hail from Jammu—and Guru Partap Singh who is a resident of Punjab. **ENS**

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

236 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN


CASES: 78,14,682

TESTS: 10,13,82,564

RECOVERED: 70,16,046

DEATHS: 1,17,956

DOUBLING RATE: 100.20**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING TIME**
■ Maharashtra	16,32,544	7,347	0.50%	142.78
■ Andhra	8,00,684	3,765	0.79%	157.15
■ Karnataka	7,93,907	5,356	0.46%	91.21
■ Tamil Nadu	7,03,250	3,057	0.50%	144.43
■ Kerala	3,77,834	8,511	2.17%	33.25

* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days

** Calculated over 7-day growth

CASE FATALITY RATIO

7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.52

NOW: 1.51

Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths

POSITIVITY RATE

7 DAYS EARLIER: 7.97

NOW: 7.71

Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease

DAILY IN, DAILY OUT

DETECTED TODAY: 53,370

RECOVERED TODAY: 67,549

Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on October 23, 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

Fadnavis tests Covid positive in 'blow' to BJP Bihar campaign


Mumbai, Patna: Former chief minister and Opposition leader Devendra Fadnavis tested positive for Covid-19 on Saturday.

He tweeted: "I have been working every single day since the lockdown but now it seems that God wants me to stop for a while and take a break! I have tested COVID19 positive and in isolation...!"

Fadnavis, BJP's in-charge for the Bihar elections, will take a break from campaigning for the next 15 days. Since October 1, he had been engaged in hectic poll preparations and campaigning, and was instrumental in organising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in Bhagalpur.

Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi and senior BJP leader Shahnawaz Hussain too have tested positive.

A BJP spokesperson said: "Some of our senior leaders being tested positive is a setback, more so ahead of the Prime Minister's rallies." **ENS**



ADVERTORIAL

Centenary of Pandurang Shastri Athavale (Dadaji), 19th October 2020

Covid-19 has put the growing inequalities between the rich and the poor into sharp focus. This gap was already there before, but it is clear that the crisis is casting a much heavier burden on the poor. Their cramped living spaces and townships place them at higher risk of catching the virus, and they also lack the money and resources to be able to patiently wait for the storm to pass.

Even before the pandemic, it was embarrassing that, world over, so much of national wealth is held by a small group of people. Inequality has emerged as a central issue in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) because of the growing body of evidence that inequalities in income and wealth cause economic instability, a range of health and social problems, and create roadblocks for sustainable development.

We are in desperate need of a new model and an alternative approach to addressing these age-old issues before we get to a crisis point. Neither capitalism nor communism have provided adequate solutions to date. We are at risk of these social and economic inequalities further tearing our delicate social fabric and further undermining our social cohesion. The time has come to take action.

One innovative approach comes from the ongoing legacy of the late Pandurang Shastri Athavale (Dadaji), who was awarded the Templeton Prize for 'Progress in Religion' in 1997 at Westminster Abbey due to his work on building bridges between the "haves" and the "have-nots". His Swadhyaya work, now led by his daughter Jayshree Athavale - Talwalkar (Didji), has returned a sense of dignity and hope to a segment of the population that had previously been in despair.

From a young age, Dadaji was deeply concerned by the inequalities he observed around him, observing how people, families and entire communities were being ignored, isolated or left behind. He could see that charitable efforts to throw money at the problem were not enough to resolve the underlying issues. He would say "The have-nots need more than our food, money and things. They are desperately in need of personal warmth and a sense of belonging to the society." His core message was that each of us has intrinsic value, based on the common divinity within each of us. He warned that we need to be careful not to help others out of pity, guilt or charity, but to stand with the other as if they were our own sister or brother. Dadaji's core philosophy of 'Indwelling God' drawn from Bhagwad Gita is the most sound and appropriate basis for such relationship.

Dadaji showed that the way to truly address inequality is to inspire even the most common of people to be able to help themselves and each other. In fact, those who were in need of help themselves, feel motivated to help others in their community too. Over the past 70 years, out of a sense of gratitude to God (bhakti), Swadhyaya volunteers from all walks of life have joined Dadaji to offer their time, effort and skills in creative and collaborative projects that benefit their communities but also engender self-respect and social responsibility in their own lives.


For example, today there are shared Swadhyaya farms (known as Yogeshwar Krishis) in about ten thousand villages across India. These farms are worked on by Swadhyayees, but each individual donates only a few days a year on any one plot. Each volunteer considers these days as an opportunity to devote his / her skills, time and efficiency for God. The volunteers have no personal claim to the wealth produced on the farm, which can only belong to God and is subsequently distributed to the needy.


The creation of such "impersonal wealth" has powerful applications. It is also at the heart of the dozens of tree-planting projects (Vrukshmandirs), where hundreds of large orchards of trees have been lovingly cultivated and looked after by the nearby villages. They see their tending as an act of worship and do so by rotation as priests in these temples of trees. As with farms and orchards, so with fishing communities around the coast of India. In a radical extension of this idea, nearly a hundred of boats have so far been built and crewed in rotation by local fishermen, with the production from their collective labour again being regarded as impersonal wealth belonging to none and silently distributed to the most needy as divine benevolence (Prasad).

These and many other devotional projects and experiments undertaken within Swadhyaya have reduced poverty and increased income of entire communities across tens of thousands of villages. It is a truly revolutionary idea to empower common persons who may have very little for themselves, whether farmers, fishermen or any others, to uplift themselves and their community, by creating "impersonal wealth" for the benefit of those in need.

Dadaji's birth centenary falls on 19th October this year and is celebrated by Swadhyayees as 'human dignity day'. As we emerge from the coronavirus crisis, Dadaji's centenary year is a perfect opportunity for us all to celebrate his innovation and his forward-thinking initiatives to explore how we can create a more equal and empowered society for future generations. When every individual and community is self-sufficient, the entire world prospers.

Mitesh Sheth is graduate from the London School of Economics, a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries and Chief Executive Officer of Redington Ltd, based in the UK






नवोदय विद्यालय समिति

Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

An Autonomous Organization Under Ministry of Education, Deptt. of School Education & Literacy, Govt. of India

B-15, Institutional Area, Sector-62, NOIDA (U.P.)- 201307




IN FURTHERANCE OF SAMAGRA SHIKSHA


Online Applications are invited for Admission to Class- VI in JNVs for the Session 2021-22 through Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Selection Test

OPENING OF ONLINE WINDOW FOR REGISTRATION : 22.10.2020


Date of Selection Test 10 APRIL, 2021 (SATURDAY)



A Scenic View
J.N.V. Yamanunagar (Haryana)



Thogala Sai Teja
12 Class Topper (99.4%)
J.N.V. Nizamabad (Telangana)



Smart Lab.
J.N.V. Bilaspur (H.P.)

GENERAL FEATURES

- Co-educational Residential Schools in every District
- Separate Hostels for Boys & Girls
- Free Education, Board and Lodging
- Wide cultural Exchange through Migration Scheme
- Promotion of Sports & Games
- NCC, Scouts & Guides and NSS

ELIGIBILITY


- Studying in Class V in academic session 2020-21 in a Govt./Govt. recognized School in the same district, where JNV is functional and to which they are seeking admission.
- Studied full academic session and passed classes III & IV from Govt./Govt. recognized school.
- Study for full academic session in Class-V from the same district from where admission is sought.
- Born between 01.05.2008 and 30.04.2012 (Both dates inclusive)

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Special emphasis on quality education resulting in:
JEE MAIN-2019: 38% qualified from 11733 students
966 students qualified in JEE (Advanced)-2019 out of 4451
12654 students qualified in NEET-2019 out of 16156
JEE MAIN-2020: 3586(43.53%) qualified from 8237 students
- Results in Class X & XII (2019-20)

	Pass%	Average
Class- X	98.66%	75.91
Class- XII	98.70%	79.95


LAST DATE FOR UPLOADING ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS : 15.12.2020



Morning Assembly
J.N.V. Agra (U.P.)

Candidates may register through
www.navodaya.gov.in


(https://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/en/Admission-JNVST/JNVST-class)




Regional Cultural Meet-2019
Hyderabad Region

For more details: Visit the Samiti website www.navodaya.gov.in or may contact Principal, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in your District.

Issued by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti





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. tcepharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	Signature Infrabuild Private Limited					
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 121 of 2019 dated 14.09.2019. Building Plan Approved on 26.12.2019 Memo No. ZP-1359/AD(RA)/2019/31954, Haryana RERA Registered No: 02 of 2020 dated 06.01.2020					
3. Location	Sector 89, Gurugram, Haryana					
4. Provisions Project Area	117 no. of apartments available out of total 690 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 4.73125 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%	on allotment 20%
2BHK TYPE -01	19	581.396	83.873	23,67,520	1,18,376	4,73,504
2BHK TYPE -02	63	588.586	85.176	23,96,933	1,19,847	4,79,387
2BHK TYPE -03	13	598.220	86.801	24,36,281	1,21,814	4,87,256
2BHK+STORE (MQ)	22	645.345	123.560	26,31,379	1,31,569	5,26,276

(ii) Balance 75% of the amount in six equalized 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 25.10.2020. 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 licensed colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of 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., tcepharyana.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, requested 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 finish from the one displayed above. Project details / specifications can also be accessed at the office of Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website https://haryanareg.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. 1 Sq. mt = 10.7639 sq. ft. **The subsidy differs 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 tacs but subsidy can be availed only 01/12 tacs of loan amount.

7053-121-121

New Delhi

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eye



POINT OF VIEW

When Raj Met Simran

Twenty-five years after its release, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* remains a template for filmi love stories. But did it sign off romantic rebellion?



BOOKS

- Review of Ishtiaq Ahmed's *Jinnah: His Successes, Failures and Role in History*
- Review of Arundhati Roy's *Azadi: Freedom, Fascism, Fiction*
- By the Book: Children's books on mental health

After a summer of massive protests and standing at the cusp of a significant Presidential election, Indian-American households are grappling with the American racial system like never before

BRINGING RACE HOME



Karishma Mehrotra

WE DIDN'T see ourselves as part of the Black movements or the problem. But we have actually been in the bubble that created it." These words from my mother came on the heels of the largest race-related protests in the US neither of us had seen in our lives here. Her exposure to America's race conversation, from when she immigrated in the 1970s, has been vastly different from mine — raised and born in this country. After years of trying to convince her that Indian Americans are a part of a racial equation in the US that they might not always see, I had suddenly heard a moment of unexpected recognition.

This watershed moment is a microcosm of this year's intergenerational conversations in the Indian-American community, reckoning with their place in America's racial system.

Memories still fresh from the George Floyd protests (the death of a 46-year-old African American man in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in May had sparked off massive protests across the country), Americans are awaiting the Presidential election next week (November 3). Even though this year may see the largest shift in the community towards the Republican Party, this summer also saw a surge of South-Asian solidarity events, marches and talks in religious circles, classical music groups, student associations, and Bhangra teams. Social media was replete with posters describing "How to talk to your Papa about Black Lives Matter for Father's Day" and "How to make old folks listen".

"Over the summer, I was talking to Indian families about the fact that we need to talk about anti-black racism, and, Meena, I'm sure you were, too," said Vanita Gupta, former head of the Civil Rights Division at the US Department of Justice, appointed by President Barack Obama, to Meena Harris, Kamala Harris' niece, in a recent webinar on South Asian voting mobilisation. "We have to not just speak outwardly and protest in the streets but sometimes it's about looking inward at our own families. We are never going to be able to have true equality in this country until we recognise how we are so intertwined in this country's history," said Gupta.

Before 60-year-old Ravi (last name withheld on request) came to the University of Houston in 1982 to study pharmaceutical science, a family from Houston had visited his home in Hyderabad. "They told me that I have to be careful around Black people. As soon as I landed in New York, I had to give my baggage to a Black man. I was sceptical of him. I had created a mental image that you just can't trust them, that all of them are bad," he says.

Over time, Ravi recognised the stereotypes he was taught, but race was still not at the forefront of most family discussions until this summer. "My daughter said, 'No Dad, we have to discuss this,'" he says.

After Shikha, Ravi's daughter, moved into her parent's place during the COVID-19 lockdown, protests began erupting across the country in May. "When my dad was questioning why the protests were violent, I had trouble explaining that this was an emotional response to a broken social contract," says the 25-year-old data analyst.

Shikha, who had begun to understand race relations in college, soon realised that the situation was "no longer about academic conversations or intellect". She had to find mediums that would speak to her dad. "She showed me the *Comedy Central* guy — Trevor Noah. He really explained why people were



angry. I shared that in my college WhatsApp group with Indians who are now in the US and told them that yes, the protests are causing problems, but now you can see their thought process," Ravi says.

Shikha says she saw her dad have a "light bulb moment". "I have known that Indian Americans are taught anti-blackness. But after these conversations, I see that it wasn't out of bigotry that my dad had these views. It was pure ignorance," says Shikha, who ended up rewatching several of her favourite race-focused documentaries with her parents. "I kind of forced my parents to watch the. But my dad began recommending it to his Indian friends!" she says, with a laugh. "She did open our eyes," Ravi says.

Shikha knows her parents might not be on board with defunding the police or reparations. "I've decided to pick my battles. I can only talk about it so much," she says. But, this summer, she felt that was "starting somewhere."

Two decades ago, Vijay Prashad, a South Asian historian and former Trinity College professor, wrote in his book *The Karma for Brown Folk* (2000): "I am a weapon in the war against black America. Meanwhile, white America can take its seat ... surrounded by state-selected Asians, certain that the culpability for black poverty and oppression must be laid at the door of black America." His book has now become rite-of-passage reading material for South-Asian Americans. In the book, Prashad wrote, "In the United States, the bulk of the *desi* community seems to have moved away from active political struggles toward an accommodation with this racist polity. The bargain revolves around the sale of the *desi* political soul in exchange for the license to accumulate economic wealth through hard work and guile ... They live in America, but they are not of America."



(Clockwise from top) Indian Americans at a support rally for Democrat Presidential candidate Joe Biden; a poster in Saratoga, California, against Proposition 16, that will allow for race considerations in policy making; Jocelyn Watson's family at a Black Lives Matter protest



KARISHMA MEHROTRA

ACROSS THE LINES

Prashad is sceptical that this dynamic will change anytime soon. "That dull, self-satisfied middle, between activists and the right, won't get involved until there is a direct attack on Indian Americans from the right wing," he says.

While Prashad remains pessimistic about collective action, many Indian-American families are beginning to feel a shift. In the 1980s, Maryland-resident Jocelyn Watson moved from Kerala. Her family never directly discussed race in the household. "We were just these immigrants here for the sole purpose of bettering our lives. But there were a lot of indirect comments. There was an underlying assumption of superiority."

In college, Watson met a Black man who later became her husband. "My parents had never said I couldn't marry outside my race, but it was implied that I would marry Indian. When Roger and I got serious, my dad would

make little comments. But never direct."

Now with two children, 15 and 13 years old, Watson juggles many cultures in her home, but still tries to teach her kids that they don't have to choose a side to identify with. The family attends a Black church and the children go to a predominantly Black school but Watson's parents live nearby and look after the grandkids, feeding them Indian food. With the protests this summer and the election forthcoming, Watson said all three generations are talking about race head-on. "When Roger had conversations with the kids about what happened to him because of his race, there was just silence on their face," she says.

Watson took her kids to numerous protests this summer, "not to scare them, but to make them understand, because the world sees them as Black children," she says. For the first time, her parents began asking questions

about race. Watson admits to feeling frustrated with her parents, who would often "minimise the situation", asking why Black Americans have to be so angry and questioning the need to take the kids to demonstrations. "As Indians, we can absolve ourselves from this conversation. We're a model minority. There is a sense that we did it and we're still climbing the ladder, so why aren't you and why are you still bringing up the past? At the end of the day, we don't have the same historical trauma here as Black people," she says.

In his book, Prashad speaks about Dinesh D'Souza, a Goa migrant in the US who argued in 1995 that the Asian American success story made the "crisis of black America" even more apparent. Prashad disputed the implication, stating that Asian American achievement in the US was not a matter of harder work or genetics, but more so a product of "state selection".

In the late 1950s, the US was desperate for technical labour on the heels of the USSR's launch of its satellite programme with Sputnik I and II and medical labour to staff the newly-created Medicare and Medicaid programmes. The government was also under severe pressure to deracialise policies after the Civil Rights movement brought much of the Jim Crow era under question. In this context, the country's 1965 Immigration Act allowed in only a subset of immigrants. Between 1966 and 1977, 83 per cent of Indian Americans entering the US were professional and technical workers, leading to strong associations between intelligence, hard work and the Asian racial category. Before the pandemic, unemployment rates amongst Asian Americans (making up 5.6 per cent of the US population) was 3 per cent, while it was 6 per cent for Black Americans (12.7 per cent of the US population).

Shikha has been careful not to directly compare the discrimination her family has

faced with the "systemic issues" facing the Black community. "I had to acknowledge my parents' experiences but also explain the topic of generational wealth — that not everybody can do what my Dad did because not everybody has the same privilege."

More recently, these issues of privilege and structural discrimination have come to the fore with affirmative action lawsuits, one of the most divisive topics in the Asian-American community. "The only issue where the views of Democrats and Republicans seem to approach convergence is affirmative action in university admissions," cites a survey of Indian-American attitudes by Carnegie Foundation, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Pennsylvania, released on October 13. A slim majority (54 per cent) of Indian Americans support this measure, and party affiliation doesn't seem to matter much. Half of Republicans support it, as do 60 per cent of the Democrats.

"I grew up around this topic in India, where there was a lot of animosity towards beneficiaries of caste reservations. I never understood what it meant and we were never taught to question things," says Aparna Ghandari, a school counsellor in California, who immigrated from Hyderabad nearly three decades ago, when she was in her 20s. "After coming here, I took the time to read about it. We Indians take a lot of pride in meritocracy, which actually disguises the privilege that we don't take time to deconstruct," she says.

Since the 1970s, at least five lawsuits arguing against affirmative action in schools were initiated by White people. But two years ago, a high-profile federal lawsuit argued that Harvard discriminated against Asian Americans specifically.

A California proposition (a ballot referendum put up to a popular vote) this year would allow race to be a factor in public employment, education or contracting. It has reignited debates between those that feel race quotas harm certain Asian-American groups and others who believe the dedicated support for Black Americans is necessary to make up for historical and structural inequalities. Signs across the state read either "Don't Divide Us" or "Opportunity for All".

In a similar contention of identities, 15 per cent of Indian Americans said they were less enthusiastic to vote for Democratic nominee Joe Biden after he picked Kamala Harris as his running mate. Of those, 20 per cent said it was because she identified more with her Black roots than her Indian ones. Indian Americans have traditionally been largely Democrats.



Six years ago, in 2014, Michael Brown was killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, igniting the first phase of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. At the time, Gauri Joshi remembers her feelings of anger at her parents for questioning the need to protest. It was the first time race had ever come up between the two generations, and there was very little room for agreement. "I remember feeling very defensive. But the conversation never really returned because, frankly, I didn't have to worry about it," says the 31-year-old. Internally, however, she began to realise the "casual racism" of her childhood; comments about Indians who were dark and associations between all Black people and crime. "It was never intentionally racist but it was so normalised I had never questioned it," she says.

A couple of days after the Floyd protests popped up in her parent's neighbourhood in New Jersey, Joshi's father — who came to the US in the '70s — brought up the conversation to her unprompted. "He said that he was really starting to understand how frustrated the Black community is. For the first time, there was real empathy. It was less about 'this is their problem' and more about how we have been complicit in this. I remember thinking that this time was going to be different," she says. Joshi's father was especially upset that a fellow immigrant, a Palestinian American, had called the police on Floyd. Joshi's mother, though, seemed less willing to support the protests. In an attempt to bridge the knowledge gap, Joshi found an online resource in Marathi explaining the issue. "There is more inclination to have this conversation if there is less of a language barrier," she says.

Joshi's 11-year-old niece, meanwhile, learned about the protests on TikTok and began asking her which organisations she should donate to. "I wish I had that maturity when I was her age to be able to sympathise with people," Joshi says.



New Delhi



Tyranny of Obedience



GETTY IMAGES

Learning ought to be a disruptive and subversive process. Otherwise, it perpetuates proverbial bricks in the wall



IMAGINE
BY SHELJA SEN

WHY DO we send our children to school? The primary reason is that this has been an accepted practice and a societal norm. It is a taken-for-granted way of life. School, college, work — the conveyor belt of life moves on. Social pressure demands obedient children who grow up to be conforming, law-abiding and dutiful adults. To become another proverbial brick in the wall!

“He does not understand anything in the online classes, but his school insists that he sits through each one. So, now, I have to leave my work, my household chores and sit with him every day” — so many young mothers have shared their daily struggles with me. This is ridiculous! Here the world is crumbling due to the pandemic, but little ones have to sit through classes that don’t make sense to them or their families. These little beings will be ready to start work in roughly 20 years. We don’t know what the world will look like then, we have no idea about the kind of jobs humans will be doing and what jobs would be

taken over by robots or digital media. And here, we are insisting that they sit through every miserable, droning class!

Imagine if this year all schools had decided that they would scrap all subjects and instead focus on building critical thinking in children. What we need now, more than ever, is subversive thinkers, children and young people who challenge us. Who question the norms, the givens, the shoulds, the taken-for-granted, the musts, the established, the so-called common sense and typically prescribed ways of life. Children have the courage to think differently. They have the audacity to stand up against dogmas that we have dredged over centuries. Our children are active change-makers who feel very strongly about their world. It could be about climate change, sustainable living, preserving wildlife or handling problems like poverty, corruption, communalism, terrorism — issues that we are struggling with. They challenge and shake us out of the lethargic stupor that we have let ourselves slip into. Their inborn sense of justice, fairness and forthrightness make them suitable and natural agents for change.

These are some of the questions that children have asked me:

- Why are my teachers so cruel to some children in the class? Isn’t it hypocrisy that they tell us to be kind and not bully others?
- Why are the big companies blind to what they are doing to the environment? Do they not know or do they just not care?
- My parents tell me to study so that one day I will be successful, but with climate change, we don’t even know if our planet will be alive when I grow old. What is the point?
- When the boy in my class made filthy re-

LEARNING CURVE

Children question everything as this is what they are wired to do and this is how they make sense of the world

marks about my body, the principal told me that I should take it as a compliment. Whom can I complain about him to?

■ If I am not comfortable being called a girl or with pronouns she/her, why must it be imposed on me?

We have brought our children into this unfair world and expect them not to question it. Why do we value obedience and conformity in our children so much? Because it is much easier to have children who toe the line, are obedient and compliant, and it is inconvenient to have children who are ready to challenge our authority and ask us uncomfortable questions. Therefore, what we tell them is “sit still and be quiet” — the antithesis of what children are designed to do. And then we wonder why children hate school!

Children question everything as they are wired to do so. They make sense of their world through questions. Curiosity is a necessary spark for learning. Every child carries that light, but somehow it gets overlooked, pushed aside or dimmed. They need that curiosity and critical thinking to deconstruct the world and then make it their own.

I have grown to derive a lot from Paulo Freire’s (Brazilian educator and philosopher) ideas on education. This quote is from his 1968 book, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (the title says it all!) “The more students work at storing the deposits entrusted to them, the less they develop the critical consciousness which would result from their intervention in the world as transformers of that world. The more completely they accept the passive role imposed on them, the more they tend simply to adapt to the world as it is and to the fragmented view of reality deposited in them.”

Our only way forward is to let children question and then when they do that, to listen deeply with respect. Wonder with them, be curious, explore, co-research, collaborate. Children are not passive recipients of our knowledge and skills. They have amazing know-how, skills and ideas that can change our world for the better.

If you are a parent or a teacher, ask yourself these questions:

■ Are my children spending enough time questioning, exploring, challenging taken-for-granted ways of living?

■ Are they consciously aware of climate change and are we making sure that their ideas are being heard and implemented, even if it is at a micro-level?

■ Do we have discussions on intersectionality and how different kinds of discriminations intersect and overlap to create marginalisation? Are we questioning dominant and damaging ideas on gender, sexuality, race, caste, class, religion, disability?

■ Do we talk of shame and how it thrives when others are seen as not worthy or good enough just because they are different in terms of the colour of their skin and looks?

■ Are there enough conversations on privilege and how we are born into it without deserving it and how we need to be constantly aware of people who might not live with the same privilege? And how it is our obligation to do something about it?

■ Do we talk to them about power and how it operates through constant self-surveillance and self-policing? And how the people who are damaged by power the most are least aware of its presence?

■ Do we have discussions on ethics and consent regarding gender? Do they know what accountability means and what they would need to do if there are transgressions?

If these are happening, rest assured education is taking place, if not, something else is happening but let’s not call it education.

As Freire puts it, “There’s no such thing as neutral education. Education either functions as an instrument to bring about conformity or freedom.” What are we choosing for our children?

Dr Shelja Sen is a narrative therapist, co-founder, Children First, writer, and, in this column, she curates the know-how of the children and young people she works with. Write to her shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

The Misfits

Every living organism has a role in sustaining the world. But what about humans?

FROM MICROSCOPIC lifeforms called cyanobacteria (aka blue-green algae) to giant blue whales, from lowly worms and dung beetles to mighty elephants and big cats, from rainforest giants reaching to the sky and making their own rain to unseen networks of roots holding the soil together and storing rainwater, from stinging insects playing Cupid for plants, and birds scattering their seeds far and wide, every living thing on our planet plays a role in keeping the world running in tip-top condition. Cyanobacteria photosynthesise in the dim light conditions underwater and produce most of the breathable oxygen in the world. Tigers and big cats keep the population of herbivores in check so that they don’t clean up every green leaf, elephants turn over trees, enabling homebody seeds to get sunlight and thrive.

The system works so well that scholar and polymath Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859) suggested that the whole of nature worked as a single entity, which he called Gaia. Even now, there is a school of thought which suggests that all the oceans of the world are working as one. Of course, this makes environmentalists go gooey-eyed, but hard-bitten scientists have a different take on the matter. They hold that every living creature does what it does for its own benefit — so that it can propagate its genes into the next generation. If this means that some other living entity benefits, then well and good — but even that entity is only looking out for itself. Conversely, if some creature gets harmed — plants and herbivores get eaten, and that’s the end of the line for them — well, that’s too bad! Whatever the case, the fact remains that even while working utterly selfishly, the entire world got on with the business of life pretty savvily.

Then, we came along. The smartest of them all, right at the top of the food chain and already looking towards homes on other planets. We showed every other living thing its proper place, didn’t we? One would imagine that being as brainy as we profess to be, we would have helped the whole machinery of nature to work even more seamlessly and beautifully. Sure, we, too, want to send our genes to the next generation, every other living thing be damned, but what did we end up doing? We systematically wrecked every major facet of the environment because we were and are greedy and selfish beyond belief.



RANJIT LAL

DOING ITS BIT

A bee pollinates a flower and keeps the circle of life going

We’ve filled the sky with poisonous gases that choke our children so we can’t send them out to play. We heated up the earth so the mighty ice-caps are now dissolving, making the oceans rise. Oh, yes, global warming has happened naturally in the past, but taken millions of years — we’ve put it on fast forward and how!

We dug up the earth to mine minerals and metals and pump oil, leaving an unholy mess in our wake. We were not satisfied with what earthworms, ants, termites, microbes, and dung beetles were doing to convert waste material into nutritious soil so plants could thrive, so we added a host of chemicals that, yes, for a while, gave rise to body-builder like plants that grew fast and fat and free of at least some diseases. But they couldn’t reproduce: we took that away from them. And, in doctoring the soil, we killed it. Once exhausted of its Red Bull-like chemicals, it had to be replenished or was useless. We cut down or set fire to enormous rainforests killing millions of living things and upsetting weather patterns grossly. Now, we’re bemoaning the everyday occurrence of Grade 5 hurricanes, huge tidal surges, cloudbursts, or simply no rain at all for years at a stretch. Our oceans have more plastic than fish. I’m still to come across recipes for pan-seared PVC with lemon-butter sauce, otherwise we’d be hosting buffets in the great Pacific garbage patch! Our rivers look and smell like virulent cases of diarrhoea, in which we wash and bathe — and the water of which, we bottle and drink. And, here, in India, we claim our rivers are holy! If there is a God, it would turn his or her stomach. We’ve thrown our rubbish everywhere from the deepest ocean trench to the glittering peaks of the Himalayas.

Ah, you will say, but there are those good souls who are fighting to prevent the damage and to clean up the mess. Of course there are, but they are like an army equipped with wooden sticks facing a force armed with smart missiles and bombs. What we’ve done is to dump all over a magnificent banquet and then expect our children to help themselves to the mess.

Of all the living creatures in existence, we are the big misfits. The planet would carry on pretty happily without us. Yes, of course our genes want to propagate themselves into the next generation — and, if other living creatures have to pay the price for it, so be it. But other creatures’ genes are vital to the continuation of our own: if we wipe them out completely (as we seem to be doing), we’re self-destructing. But it seems the first salvo to stop us has already been fired — the enemy is “alive”, invisible and spreads like stink. And it kills.

even talking to the opposite sex was considered a crime, the chances of young people connecting, and building on those connections were slim to none. And that’s what cinema did, embellishing and exaggerating as it went along: Raj comes off creepy, sure, but is he a creep? Nope, he’s more clown than creep. And the audience watching at that time, could see the difference. No one can love an all-out creep; but can heroes show signs of creepiness? Can we? Of course, we all can. Can we accuse Raj of being a stalker? Not really, and this is where a nuanced view, and an understanding of context, is required. He pursues Simran when he realises that he has fallen in love with her. There’s a difference between stalking and pursuing. SRK had played an outright stalker in a 1993 film, *Darr*, also from the House of Yash, directed by Chopra Sr. That “Kkkkk..Kiran” from SRK’s Rahul in *Darr*, as he stalks Juhi Chawla’s petrified Kiran, still gives me the shivers.

In *DDLJ*, the essential decency of Raj comes through strongly, and that’s what charmed Simran, and the audience. And that charm has been an abiding factor in Shah Rukh Khan’s long screen journey, along with the fact that we always, at some level, wanted him to be a Raj. What I really hold against the film is its insistence on youthful romance being turned into a *sanskari*, family-friendly construct. By getting Raj to turn down Simran’s plea of elopement (“*Main tumko chheen ne nahin, paane aaya hoon*”, declares Raj grandly), an entire generation which included nostalgia-ridden NRIs longing for their roots, as well as modern, “liberalised” *desis* dinging to their traditions, fell hard for Aditya Chopra’s sanitised version of young love, and a hero who required all-round approvals before taking his *dulhan* away. So successful was it, that it’s still running in a Mumbai movie-hall, having spawned countless versions of itself in these intervening years. Post *DDLJ*, the big-budget, starry Bollywood romance got cemented in this template — no rebellion, no giving primacy to sexual longing, all neat and unruffled, all *mehendi*-and-*doli*-and-*karvachauth*. What, indeed, if Raj hadn’t?

Shubhra Gupta

WHAT IF Raj hadn’t taken his *dulhan* away?

I’ve been wondering about this, and a few other things, ever since I watched Aditya Chopra’s debut film, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* first day first show, on October 20, 1995. It gave us the story of the London-based Raj and Simran, with the tagline “Come...fall in love”, and the audience promptly did just that, head over heels. Overnight, Shah Rukh Khan became a superstar, his winsome *jodi* with Kajol joined the ranks of the ultra-popular pairs of Hindi cinema, and the film turned into a handy short-form for Bollywood romance.

I watched it again last week, and again I was struck by the same feelings that I remember from then, as well as the few re-visits in between: one of abiding freshness, which managed to override the problems, then not as clear as now. A film is always a product of its time, and when we look back, we often forget that crucial fact, of how societal changes colour our view of the past: what was not considered a huge problem a quarter century back is now laden with recently-cemented judgements.

The freshness was evident in the creation of the two young people: Raj Malhotra was a hero Bollywood hadn’t seen before. He was neither a straight-arrow do-no-wrong good guy, nor was he a macho, muscle-flexing fellow: he was silly and callow, at least, to begin with, and the film celebrated both those qualities for him. These are the qualities he holds aloft when he meets-cute with Simran, in the back of a train carriage, where he is much more annoying than cute. It takes a while for the two to spark and sparkle, but once they do, you know it’s a forever thing: SRK and Kajol play really well together.

In that first encounter, Raj is over-familiar, borderline-creepy, crowding Simran into the corner she’s wedged herself in, spouting silly lines in order to impress her. Through the month-long journey through Europe, though, where he, with his group of friends, and she with hers, criss-cross each other’s

When Raj Met Simran

Twenty-five-years after its release, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* continues to be a template for big-budget Bollywood love stories. But did it finish off rebellion in romance?



LOVE, SANITISED

Youthful romance was turned into a *sanskari*, family-friendly construct in *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*

paths and get to know one other better, he is also revealed as the “*susheel*, *sanskari* *Adarsh Bharatiya balak*”, who will never cross the line. So was Raj the annoying young man who wouldn’t back off when Simran was telling him to, before graduating to easy banter? Or was he this other guy, who would bring his tipsy leading lady back to the bedroom and keep his hands to himself through the night?

The creepiness of that encounter is much clearer today. Back when the film came out, it

was just more of the same, where Hindi films mirrored the way young men and women met in the world outside the movies. In a society with practically no opportunities to meet on a level-playing field (Raj and Simran were neither in school or college together, nor were they colleagues), and the only way to “show” a marriageable girl was during a wedding, or other “family” gatherings, young men would hang around outside colleges, or other places where young women would congregate, hoping for eye contact, and more. At a time when

Days of Reckoning

In this collection of nine essays, writer Arundhati Roy theorises justice in a broken world

Shah Alam Khan

WHEN MODI announced the nationwide lockdown on 24 March, India spilled out her terrible secrets for all the world to see. Only that."

That's how the introduction of Arundhati Roy's latest book *Azadi: Freedom, Fascism, Fiction*, ends. It may not be customary to review a book starting with the last line of its introduction but these lines define the very kernel of *Azadi*. This anthology of nine essays is about reimagining a world in the midst of ruins. Ruins, we assume, are silent. *Azadi* captures the voices from the ruins. It is an amalgam of language, hope, love, fiction and history.

The best part of *Azadi* is its strange ability to shout and scream as well as to whisper softly into our ears. The book is an amalgam of two similar but distinct Roys — Roy, the storyteller, and Roy, the political realist. The first essay, "In What Language Does Rain Fall over Tormented Cities?" is an elaborate maze of Roy's ability to discuss the power of language and translation through one of her most intricate novels, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* (2017). Besides discussing the many vagaries of language, both public and private, the essay is a deep enquiry into the historical aspects of caste, religious bigotry, and conflicts of identity. This overarching analysis of language as a means of intellectual emancipation has a particular bearing on the title which has been adapted from Pablo Neruda's *Book of Questions* (1974).

The times in which we live are times of dismay, hopelessness and anger. Across the globe, democratic apparatuses are throwing up nationalists and fascists. We have to

develop ways to survive the devastation. To reimagine the world, we have to reimagine ourselves. *Azadi* is a manual for that survival. In the essay "Election Season in a Dangerous Democracy", Roy cautions us against looking away from the enormous distress of the agricultural sector, increasing numbers of farmers' suicides, the lynching of Muslims and the relentless attack on Dalits. The essay also discusses the arrest of activists in the Bhima-Koregaon case. The essay was first published in August 2018. Since then, many more have been arrested, many more lynched and many who have committed suicide. As a nation, we keep looking away. *Azadi* is a documentation of our "looking the other way". In a nutshell, *Azadi* theorises justice in a world of conjectures.

One of the judges on the panel which awarded the Booker Prize to Roy had apparently remarked on her "heightened capacity for wonder". *Azadi* brings out that wonder in all its hues. In the essay, "The Language of Literature", there is a rare moment of self-appraisal. Roy writes, "I have never felt my fiction and non-fiction were warring factions battling for suzerainty. They aren't the same, certainly, but to pin down the difference between them is actually harder than I imagined. Fact and fiction are not converse. One is not necessarily truer than the other, more factual than the other, or more real than the other. Or even, in my case, more widely read than the other. All I can say is that I feel the difference in my body when I am writing."

As the pandemic rages through our land, as the rot in our healthcare system gets exposed and as more and more among us give up hope, Roy captures the chaos in the "Pandemic is the Portal". Like a surgical wound, the essay describes her interactions with those displaced by India's unplanned, hasty and undemocratic lockdown following the COVID-19 outbreak. In this poignant narrative, she's reminded of what a carpenter, Ramjeet, who had planned to walk all the way to Gorakhpur, told her: He said, "Maybe when Modiji decided to do this, nobody told him about us. Maybe he doesn't know about us." Roy writes, "us" means approximately 460 million people.

The cover page of *Azadi* has a falcon in majestic flight. In Urdu, the falcon is called *shaheen*. Need I say more? Books like *Azadi* act as the repository of our consciences for these disquieting times. GK Chesterton once wrote that the way to love anything is to realise that it may be lost. We are on the verge of losing *azadi* in more than figurative ways. Roy's *Azadi* grabs us by the collar and reminds us of just that.

Shah Alam Khan is professor of orthopaedics, AIIMS, New Delhi



PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Jinnah Question

Ishtiaq Ahmed's new book on Jinnah is an opportunity for both India and Pakistan to understand their past in order to make sense of their present

S Irfan Habib

I CAN say with some confidence that this book on Mohammad Ali Jinnah is one of the most important books to have come out in the recent past. Ishtiaq Ahmed is known for his extensive work on Partition history but *Jinnah: His Successes, Failures and Role in History* is a bold attempt to look at Jinnah's profile afresh and it raises some uncomfortable questions. It's a daunting book, running into over 800 pages, yet a very engaging one.

The book is pertinent for both Pakistan and India, particularly in the times we are living in. In India, especially, many of us often bend over backwards to comprehend our present and do that to justify our present political actions and needs. We tend to read history very expediently, many of us telescope our present into the past and imagine an India which conforms to the present political, social and cultural concerns. In the process, historical facts are the first casualty, which are obscenely twisted and vandalised.

It has been said by many scholars and even lay persons that the Indian National Congress shoulders a lot of responsibility for the tragedy of the Partition. It could have handled Jinnah and the Muslim League better to avoid the gruesome violence and division of India. Ahmed reiterates through facts that Jinnah and the League were committed to the two-nation theory and the British actively collaborated to keep them strong against the composite nationalism espoused by the Congress.

He talks about Jinnah's secular phase when he was known as the ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity. However, during the '20s, particularly after the arrival of Gandhi from South Africa in 1915, his politics began to change. Jinnah left the Congress party in 1920; even the Lucknow pact of 1916, of which he was the main architect, was behind him. The author describes, in great detail, the ego problems Jinnah had with Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana



Azad. There are many pertinent quotes in the book to show how condescending Jinnah was towards all three leaders, while they remained always measured and civil in their exchanges with him.

Ahmed stresses the point that "Jinnah's principal adversaries wrote prolifically, Gandhi and Nehru in English and Abul Kalam Azad in Urdu. Jinnah never wrote a book, not even an extended article". They engaged with him in detail on the issue of nationalism and identity while Jinnah's responses were mostly polemical and "in the typical form of the brief lawyers prepare to argue their case".

The book also questions the popular belief in Pakistan and India that Jinnah was not treated well by the Congress leadership and Nehru was in a hurry to be the prime minister. In India, particularly, this narrative is peddled *ad nauseum* these days to run down Nehru, even if it exonerates Jinnah, to some extent, for the Partition tragedy. However, Ahmed stresses with facts that Mohammad Ali Jinnah "set forth the two-nation theory dichotomising Hindus and Muslims as two discrete, hostile

nations. Muslim nationalism became the hallmark of his separatist politics, and he resorted to all sorts of populist arguments and political manoeuvres to win the case for Pakistan in the face of stiff opposition from a host of opponents, among whom the most

inveterate opponent was the Indian National Congress, while the final arbiter over the future of India were the British."

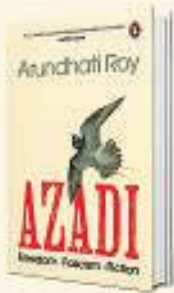
The author questions the narrative that Jinnah was really the sole spokesperson for all Muslims, as he relentlessly claimed through the 1930s and '40s. There were many popular Muslim leaders within the Congress and there were several Muslim organisations, with a widespread support base, which never stood with the League and Jinnah's divisive politics. Maulana Azad did not fight a lone battle against the Muslim League, as Jinnah wanted the British and the Muslims to believe. He was hated and derided as a show boy of the Congress party to show that most other Muslim leaders were with the idea of Pakistan, which is actually a fallacy.

A very large number of Muslims remained united against the two-nation rhetoric but the League, with the open patronage of the British, continued to pursue its divisive agenda. Ahmed underlines repeatedly, through documentary sources, that the nexus between Jinnah and the British was like an umbilical cord — there was no way it could be detached.

The book is neatly based on four stages of Jinnah's political career: first as an Indian nationalist, then as a Muslim communitarian, next as a Muslim nationalist, and, finally, as the founder of Pakistan. Of the fourth stage, when Jinnah succeeded in dividing India and establishing Pakistan, realising his lifelong ambition to be the supreme leader, the author says that he had no clear or consistent policies to offer. As there was no single core argument around which to conduct his politics, the fear of the perceived Congress-Hindu-India conspiracy against him and Pakistan remained the constant referent.

This foundational malaise continues to ail Pakistan and its leadership, which suits the political concerns of many political groups in India as well. Ishtiaq Ahmed has succeeded to a great extent in making us understand the enigmatic Mohammad Ali Jinnah. It should be read by all Pakistanis and Indians to understand their present better.

S Irfan Habib is a historian and former Maulana Azad Chair at the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi



AZADI: FREEDOM, FASCISM, FICTION BY ARUNDHATI ROY Penguin-Hamish Hamilton 256 pages ₹449



JINNAH: HIS SUCCESSES, FAILURES AND ROLE IN HISTORY BY ISHTIAQ AHMED Penguin-Viking 840 pages ₹999

CASTING A LONG SHADOW

(Top) Jinnah had frequent differences of opinion with Mahatma Gandhi; Jinnah announcing the creation of Pakistan over All India Radio in June 1947

They Built Us Our Cities

A new book reveals how women living in urban slums are powering the transformation of their communities

Roshini Suparna Diwakar

THIS YEAR has brought to the limelight the range and complexity of issues that citizens in informal, urban spaces face — issues related to livelihood, health and housing. Even as mainstream media took note of the plight of the working poor following the nationwide lockdown, organisations like Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT) have been working to alleviate their situation for decades. MHT, founded in 1994, grew out of the SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) movement to focus specifically on the habitat needs of poor urban women. More than 25 years later, MHT has published a treasure trove of insights and personal stories emerg-

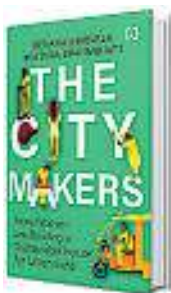
ing from its work.

The City Makers: How Women are Building a Sustainable Future for Urban India, co-authored by Renana Jhabvala (executive trustee, MHT) and Bijal Brahmabhatt (director, MHT), captures the work that the organisation has done in the past two-and-a-half decades. Each chapter focuses on one area of the organisation's work, intertwining anecdotal evidence from across the country with concrete analysis of implementation processes.

MHT began its work in Gujarat, partnering with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to deliver a one-of-its-kind project called 'Parivartan'. Also known as the Slum Networking Project, it connected slum residents with a range of basic services, including water, sanitation and solid waste man-

agement. The programme not only delinked essential services from tenure security, but also made community participation central to its success. For the first time, the local government viewed the urban poor as citizens actively participating in their development and not as recipients of "handouts". This was critical to the work that MHT would do and the model of community leadership that it would develop.

The underlying thread of the book is MHT's participatory and inclusive approach. Rooted in the philosophy of community-led development, MHT created Community Action Groups (CAGs) of local women who led the advocacy for their rights. They built relationships with local government institutions, educated the community on their needs, and



THE CITY MAKERS: HOW WOMEN ARE BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR URBAN INDIA BY RENANA JHABVALA & BIJAL BRAHMBHATT Hachette India 208 pages ₹399

sourced solutions from within. Over time, the CAG model has grown, creating a new rung of leaders called *Vikasinis* who come together to represent the needs of their communities at the city level. These women work closely with the municipal corporation and are active participants in the planning of their city.

The book delves into the manner in which MHT has evolved its portfolio by responding to communities. Every intervention is a dialogue; a conversation between the community and MHT, that shapes the work of the latter and the lives of the former. In recent years, climate resilience has become a cornerstone of the work that the organisation does, piloting an innovative programme that builds resilience against climate stresses in 100 slums.

What sets this book apart from others that document policies and interventions in urban spaces is the centrality of the women's voices. We hear directly from the CAG leaders and *Vikasinis*, who do not mince words while talking about their journeys. Their stories underscore the broader arguments made for responsible urbanisation and adequate housing for all.

The authors do not shy away from discussing challenges, barriers and failures that they have encountered along the way. Confronting private for-profit partners who jeopardised projects, facing continued gender-based discrimination in accessing a minimum wage, and dealing with funders who did not believe in the community-based model of development have been some learning experiences for the communities as well as MHT staff. "Bringing those who have lived on the margins for long to the table and demanding their inclusion requires coordinated action among many local actors and building a leadership that can be sustained over time..." note the writers.

The City Makers is a short yet essential read for anyone working on urban development, poverty, gender or participatory governance. On the surface, it chronicles the evolution of MHT; dig deeper, and you hear voices that are often silenced, emerging to tell stories of grit, empathy and perseverance.

Roshini Suparna Diwakar is a senior qualitative researcher who works on gender, community development and participatory governance

BY THE BOOK

A CURATED READING LIST FOR THE YOUNG 'UNS. THIS WEEK, TWO BOOKS ON MENTAL HEALTH

The Deep Dark

Paromita Chakrabarti

ON ONE of her Instagram posts on World Mental Health Day on October 10, Kairavi Bharat Ram noted, "We've all had those moments when giving up is on our mind/When to your dark future you feel totally resigned/But pat yourself on your back and keep repeating this phrase, So far you have survived 100% of your bad days." It's the memory of the darkness that she has overcome and her deep sense of empathy that Bharat Ram shares in her latest book, *C is for Cat, D is*



for Depression (Scholastic, Rs 495, appropriate for young adults), "Depression. There I said it. It's always spoken of with a hush./Such an important topic upon which in school they don't even brush./You may have heard the word but not know what it means./It's hard to really understand unless in depression you have been," she writes, taking her readers on a journey into the dark, clammy world of a mental health affliction that continues to affect a considerable percentage of children and young adults across the world and that has found few expressions in popular literature, especially for children.

Bharat Ram, 22, identifies depression as a dark pit, a ceaseless radio commentary of negativity in her head, a churning ocean that leaves her floundering for lack of swimming skills or a nightmare without end. Her spare narrative is lit with the patient awareness of one who has walked the difficult path herself, telling her readers about the different ways depression manifests itself, the havoc it wreaks and the coping mechanisms that have worked for her: "Facing it head-on is best, you've got nothing to fear./After all I've been through, I'm still HERE," she writes.

As always, illustrator Priya Kuriyan's work blends into the narrative with intuitive precision, her colour palette moving from bleak monochromes to a hopeful, warm-hearted burst of colours. This is a gorgeous, sensitive book on mental health that needs to be read over and over again, not just by those trying to understand its vagaries, but by everyone who hopes to be there when a loved one is in need of empathy and solidarity.

TEN-YEAR-OLD Susruta Patel, better known as SP, just cannot seem to find the light at the end of the long tunnel that he tumbles into ever so often. He feels things deeply — be it the barbs of school bullies or his father's disappointment at his lack of



pro prowess in football. His inability to match up to the expectations of those around him makes him feel smaller every day. The only thing that gives him comfort is his art book, where he sketches episodes from his life. But,

some days, all he can manage are squiggles and loops, just like the reels of his own inadequacies that runs through his mind.

Mumbai-based writer Vaishali Shroff's *The Boy in the Dark Hole* (Eklavya, Rs 110; appropriate for 8+ years) addresses an important theme — the fragility of mental health in children and how tenuously balanced it often is for those who don't always conform to general standards. In keeping with SP's anxiety, Samidha Gunjal's artwork moves from a mostly blue-and-grey colour palette to a burst of colours towards the end. While a tighter editing, especially in the early chapters, would have served the book better, Shroff does a good job of bringing out the casual cruelty of peers, the burden of expectations on hypersensitive children and the comfort of deep friendships.

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

VARIOUS S&T WORK IN CONNECTION WITH RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION WORK

DRM/S & T acting for and behalf of T. President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. DRM-S&T-ADI-Sig 12 of 2020-21 closing date 18-11-2020 at 15.00. Bidders will be able to submit the original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Tender No. DRM-S&T-ADI-Sig 12 of 2020-21 (1) Name of Work: Part supply of signalling material, installation, testing, commissioning & modification of 6N interlocked Level crossing gate connection with Railway Electrification work between Gandhidham-Bh section in Ahmedabad Division.

(2) Estimated Cost of Work: ₹ 1,33,75,953.00/- (Rs. One Crore Thirteen Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Three Rupees on 00 Paise only).

(3) EMD: ₹ 2,16,900.00/- (Rupees Two Lakh Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred on 00 Paise only).

(4) Date and Time of closing of tender and opening of tender: Not later than 15:00 hrs. of 18-11-2020 at Ahmedabad. Opening on 18-11-2020 at 15:30 hrs. For details visit the website of E-Tendering at www.treps.gov.in

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