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**AMENDS LAND LAWS, OMITTS PROTECTION TO PERMANENT RESIDENTS**

Centre throws open J&K for land sale, Gupkar parties term it huge betrayal

Non-agri land opened up; rest assured, land will not be given to anybody: L-G

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & NAVEED IQBAL
NEW DELHI/ SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27

IN A DECISION that mainstream political parties in Kashmir said stokes fears of demographic change, the Centre on Monday amended and notified land laws for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and explicitly omitted the protection earlier available to its 'permanent residents'.

The amended laws open up

urban or non-agricultural land for purchase by outsiders, permit contract farming on agricultural lands, provide for setting up of an industrial development corporation, and also insulate zones identified for development from application of various laws that earlier ensured ownership remained with 'permanent residents'.

The laws, as amended, do not place any restrictions on purchase of farm land by non-J&K agriculturists, and also do not impose limits on the quantum of

**J&K has been put up for sale, says Omar; L-G allays fears**

These new amendments are, however, not applicable to the Union Territory of Ladakh.

National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah said, "J&K has been put up for sale and left bereft of any basic protections. The amendments add to the fear of demographic changes. They want to alter the character of this place."

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (an alliance of political parties including National Conference, PDP, CPI, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXPLAINED Little protection to locals

THE CENTRE'S move, after more than a year of the abrogation of Article 370, will add to the fears of alienation and demographic change. A reading of the amended laws suggests the government can still introduce safeguards for the UT's citizens through notifications.

Washington signs key defence pact with Delhi, calls out Beijing

Citing Galwan, Pompeo says will stand by India to confront threats to liberty

**NSA Ajit Doval and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo greet each other at South Block in New Delhi Tuesday. ANI****SHUBHAJIT ROY**
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

AS INDIA and the United States announced Tuesday signing of the crucial military pact, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), visiting US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo recalled the Galwan valley incident in June and said that the US would "stand with the people of India to confront threats to their sovereignty and to their liberty".

From the Hyderabad House lawns and with Defence **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

**NO BAIL FOR JAMIA STUDENT**

Anti-CAA stir meant to provoke disaffection against India: Delhi court

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

A DELHI court on Tuesday refused bail to a 27-year-old university student, saying "vociferous agitation in the guise of Citizen Amendment Bill coupled with other activities of violence would show it was meant to cause or intended to cause disaffection against India".

This is the second time that Asif Iqbal Tanha of Jamia Millia Islamia, who has been charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in the Northeast Delhi riots conspiracy case, has been refused bail.

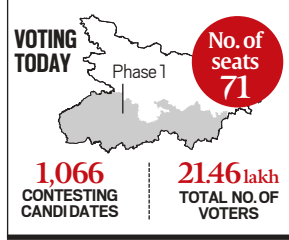
Police have accused Tanha of conspiring with former JNU student Umar Khalid and JNU student Sharjeel Imam to "overthrow the Government" by setting up a chakka jam (road blockade) in Muslim-dominated areas. Police have alleged that Tanha used fake documents to buy a mobile phone SIM to use in the riots. This SIM was subsequently provided to another Jamia student and co-accused Safoora Zargar to organise further protests, police have said.

When Tanha's lawyer Sidharth Aggarwal argued that organisations such as the Jamia Coordination Committee (which coordinated the protests against the citizenship law) or Students' **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Night before polls, grief over death in puja-police clash

DIPANKAR GHOSE
MUNGER, OCTOBER 27

LESS THAN a kilometre away, in the premises of a school, there is a tent with purple drapes and a tempo with election equipment. But in Munger's Loharpatti area, a day before the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, the first in the country during the pandemic, there is mourning — and a heartbroken father who can barely speak. "If I had not come home early yesterday, I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**DECISION 2020****B I H A R**

Nitish diminished, Tejashwi banks on Caste-plus refresh

VANDITA MISHRA
ARA, SASARAM, OCTOBER 27

AS BIHAR begins voting tomorrow, the figure of Nitish Kumar looms, bruised and diminished — and alone.

In 2010, Nitish was alone, too, but as the conquering *bijli-sadak-paani* hero, the centre of the NDA campaign, with the BJP taking a quiescent second place. "Kaam kiye hain", was the approving refrain, as voters counted out the list of public goods and subsidies his govern-

ment delivered, most spectacularly cycles for schoolgirls.

In 2015, he shared the stage with rival-turned-friend Lalu Prasad Yadav with the BJP his aggressive challenger. In that election, "Nitish ji kaam toh bahut kiye hain" was the opening line but wasn't always the conclusion, even though the Lalu-Nitish alliance went on to win.

This time Nitish looks alone and embattled in the Election 2020 frame, as voters ask: "Road aur bijli se pet bhar jaayega (is road and electricity enough)?"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Four days after House hearing, Facebook's Ankhi Das quits

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

FACEBOOK'S POLICY director for India, South and Central Asia Ankhi Das is leaving the firm, a statement issued by the company Tuesday said.

This comes four days after Das had appeared before Parliament's Joint Committee on the Personal Data Protection Bill which had questioned her on Facebook's advertisement model, its targeting of audiences, earnings and taxes and its **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



INDIAN CHINESE REMEMBER '62 WAR: 'LASTED A MONTH... WE SPENT 5 YRS IN CAMP'
While India and China are yet to resolve their standoff at the Line of Actual Control, a group of elderly Indian Chinese speaks to The Indian Express on their life as internees at the Deoli camp in Rajasthan and how they ended up being treated as prisoners of war.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



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In Bihar, COVID-19 isn't the biggest worry

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Today on the 3 Things podcast, we talk about why COVID-19 doesn't seem to be a concern in Bihar and how it is affecting the election campaign

Mumbai ED officials among five booked for stealing trailers, bid to sell them

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SURAT, OCTOBER 27

FIVE PERSONS, including a deputy director of Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Mumbai, were booked for allegedly stealing and trying to sell trailers seized during a probe against a Surat-based firm. Three of them, including an informer of ED, were sent to judicial custody at Surat Central Jail Monday. Two ED officials are yet to be arrested.

According to police, the trailers were seized from Siddhi Vinayak Logistics in 2018 during a joint probe by the CBI and ED, and were parked at a yard in Siyalaji village in Kosamba, Surat.

On October 16, a team of Surat Rural police stopped three trailers, each loaded with two trailers, at Kamrej toll plaza. When the drivers failed to produce required documents, police seized the trailers. The drivers told police that they worked for Mahadev Roadlines, Vapi, and the six trailers were loaded from a parking yard on NH-48. One Santosh Singh asked them to deliver it to Sanjay Jaiswal at Nashik, they told police. Police traced Santosh Singh and Mumbai residents Afsar Khan and Punaji Sawkar who told them that Deputy Director of ED in Mumbai Praveen Salunke and Bheraram, ED inspector, were allegedly involved in the racket of stealing trailers and selling them. It is learnt.

Surat Rural Local Crime Branch inspector B K Khachar registered an offence with Kosamba police station under IPC sections, 379, 119, 120 (b), 170, 201 and 381, against all five, including Salunke and Bheraram. The FIR states, "ED officer Praveen Salunke and Santosh Singh struck a deal on October 11, according to which the trailers would be sold at Rs 2 lakh each, of which Santosh would get Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000, while remaining amount would go to ED officials."

Chirag's video shoot triggers row day before polling in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, OCTOBER 27

LJP PRESIDENT Chirag Paswan has hit out at Bihar CM and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar amid the row over a purported clip of the LJP chief rehearsing for a video message a day after father Ram Vilas Paswan's death.

The video that emerged 24 hours before the first phase of polling in Bihar has gone viral.

In the nearly two-minute clip, the Jamui MP can be seen standing in front of a portrait of his late father and bantering with his associates about people having "different textures of hair". "You people will do the cut and edit part. I will include a line about our candidates," he is purportedly seen as telling the camera crew.

JD(U) leader and state Information and Public Relations Minister Neeraj Kumar said in a statement that the video presented "a shameful facet of dynastic politics where one's own father becomes a tool for setting political agenda".

The LJP chief alleged that the controversy was triggered at the behest of the Bihar CM to "divert public attention". "Do I have to prove to Nitish Kumar how much grief the death of Papa has caused me," he asked.

"I had never imagined that the Chief Minister can stoop so low. I am appalled," said Chirag.

FROM PAGE ONE Washington

Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar by their side, the visiting US ministers, Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper, launched a sharply worded attack on China.

The four of them were addressing the media after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While Pompeo said that Indian and US leaders and citizens see with "increasing clarity" that the Communist Party of China (CCP) is "no friend to democracy and rule of law", Esper set his sights at Beijing as he flagged the "increasing aggression and destabilising activities by China".

Indian and Chinese soldiers are locked in a border standoff for more than five months and as the harsh winter begins, BECA will help New Delhi get real-time access to US geospatial intelligence that will enhance accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones.

It will also help access topographical and aeronautical data and advanced products which will aid navigation and targeting. This could be key to Air Force-to-Air Force cooperation between India and the US.

Singh and Jaishankar, however, did not name China, but talked about "respecting" and "upholding" the "territorial integrity and sovereignty" of all states — a not-so-veiled reference to Beijing's belligerence along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Pompeo, in his remarks, said: "The challenge of defeating the pandemic that came from Wuhan also fed into our robust discussion about the Chinese Communist Party. Our leaders, and our citizens, see with increasing clarity, that the CCP is no friend to democracy, the rule of law, transparency, nor to freedom of navigation, the foundation of a free and open and prosperous Indo-Pacific. I am glad to say that the United States and India are taking steps to strengthen cooperation against all manner of threats and not just those posed by the Chinese Communist Party."

Recalling his visit to the war memorial in the capital this morning, Pompeo said: "We went...to honour the brave men and women of the Indian Armed forces who have sacrificed for the world's largest democracy including 20 that were killed by the PLA forces in the Galwan valley in June. United States will stand with the people of India to confront threats to their sovereignty and to their liberty".

Echoing this, Esper cited China as well: "The defence ties between our two nations remain a key pillar of our overall bilateral relationship. Based on our shared values and common interests, we stand shoulder to shoulder, in support of a free and open Indo Pacific for all, particularly in light of increasing aggression and destabilising activities by China."

Singh framed the security situation in terms of a "shared assessment" of the security situation across the Indo Pacific. "We reaffirmed our commitment to peace, stability and prosperity of all countries in this region. We also agreed that upholding the rules-based international order, respecting the rule of law and freedom of navigation in the international seas and upholding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states are essential. Our defence cooperation is intended to further these objectives," Singh said, adding that both sides welcomed Australia joining the forthcoming Malabar Exercise.

Jaishankar took his cue from Singh, but added that "a multi-polar world must have a multi-polar Asia as its basis" — signalling that China's hegemonic behaviour in Asia works against India's interests and aspirations.

"As you have heard from my colleagues, the Indo-Pacific region

was a particular focus of our talks. We reiterated the importance of peace, stability and prosperity for all countries in this region. As Raksha Mantri stated, this is possible only by upholding the rules-based international order, ensuring the freedom of navigation in the international seas, promoting open connectivity and respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states. A multi-polar world must have a multi-polar Asia as its basis," Jaishankar said.

Tejashwi

That the three-term Chief Minister looks alone with the people's anger points to a formless opponent, and an ally receding from the stage.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who dominated the 2014 Lok Sabha poll with his promise of "change" and then the 2019 Lok Sabha poll on the "national security" plank, shored up by Hindutva, is not a domineering presence in this election. Except a section of forward caste voters, Bihar will vote for and against Nitish, not in Modi's name.

Therefore, Modi's own ability to draw votes from across caste fault-lines may not become the ballast for the NDA.

On the other side, anger against Nitish is seen and heard, even among the backward castes, and especially in the young and educated, but it's not clear whether these alienated voters are engaging meaningfully with Tejashwi.

In this election amid a full-blown pandemic of distress, dislusion, and coronavirus, in that order, Tejashwi Yadav draws crowds, and his promise of 10 lakh jobs is commanding attention. And yet, in many voters' telling, a vote for him appears to be a form of NOTA — None Of The Above — when he is not merely seen as Son of Lalu.

Being his father's son brings him a large part of the traditional RJD Muslim-Yadav base, but also stakes spectres of "jungleraj" for the upper castes, and of "Yadavraj" for sections of the non-Yadav backward castes. In an intensely politically self-conscious state, how many will be driven to cast a purely negative vote — that is the question.

The formlessness of Candidate Tejashwi is certainly not for want of trying. Indeed, there has been a concerted effort in the RJD camp to re-package him. Almost as if they were taking a leaf out of the Modi-BJP playbook, RJD strategists seem to have designed a multi-layered appeal — Caste-Plus for Tejashwi, on the lines of Hindutva-Plus for Modi.

So, within caste, the ticket distribution was done with data and on laptops. In Sasaram, for example, the RJD has fielded a Bania candidate for the first time — social engineering over-riding caste patronage.

Aware that his party's history can be a burden, Lalu is conspicuously missing on Tejashwi posters. And "social justice" is consciously overlaid with "economic justice" — jobs over representation — in the RJD slogan. This is a significant shift for a party which, so far, had the now-incarcerated Mandal Messiah as its only USP — and its main liability in a changing Bihar. Over his three terms in power, Nitish successfully imbued the agenda of social justice with the grammar of development.

Yet, across castes, including in the Yadavs, you hear an anti-Nitish argument that still doesn't quite sound pro-Tejashwi.

In village Makarain in Dehri-on-Sone, in the affluent home of businessman Santosh Kumar Singh Yadav, his brother Dev Anand Singh Yadav, who is an IT consultant in Gurgaon, and is working from home during the lockdown, says he voted for Modi at the Centre. In Bihar, "Nitish has done work in road and electricity... But not jobs. It does not want subsidies and freebies anymore, from Nitish or Modi. No compa-

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INDIAN CHINESE REMEMBER '62 WAR: 'LASTED A MONTH... WE SPENT 5 YRS IN CAMP'
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Centre throws open J&K for land sale

CPM and People's Conference) described the Centre's action as a "huge betrayal". "It is a massive assault on the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and is grossly unconstitutional," said the alliance's spokesperson Sajad Lone, who is also the President of People's Conference.

A notification published in the official gazette on Monday shows that the reference to 'permanent residents of the State' has been removed from laws that provide for housing for economically weaker sections and low-income groups. Further, the government can now prescribe dimensions for such sites; earlier they were fixed and specified in the law itself.

Land acquired by the government for industrial or commercial purposes can now be allowed to be disposed of or sold to anyone. Earlier, only 'permanent residents' of Jammu and Kashmir could purchase such land.

While the new clauses technically open Jammu and Kashmir for purchase of land by outsiders, the government may provide some protection through notifications.

Earlier in the day, Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, told The Indian Express, "Ekdam aash-wast rahiye, kisi ko zameen nahin dee jayegi (Rest assured, land will not be given to anybody). But if someone wants to

set up an industry they will have to be given land. That will be done through industrial parks." He said while agricultural land would remain reserved for agriculturists, "for industrial areas — that are being identified — we want that industries should come to J&K like other parts of the country so that development can take place and youth can get employment." On the setting up of industrial units, J&K Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said, "We don't want polluting industry, we don't want steel and iron. In the next 2-3 days, everything will get clarified."

In amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, the Centre has said no person shall transfer land to any person other than the "Government, or its agencies and instrumentalities".

Earlier, it was limited to "Government of Jammu and Kashmir". It has also said that nothing shall prohibit transfer of ownership of land for 'contract farming, or grant of lease or mortgage for loan. Earlier, it was limited to mortgage for loan.

Some crucial amendments have also been made to the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970. The Centre has introduced Section 11A to the Act which protects notified development zones from application of Land Revenue Act and Agrarian Reforms Act.

Ankhi Das

models for data storage and transfer.

"Ankhi has decided to step down from her role in Facebook to pursue her interest in public service," Ajit Mohan, Facebook's India Vice President and Managing Director said in a statement. "Ankhi was one of our earliest employees in India and played an instrumental role in the growth of the company and its services over the last nine years. She has been a part of my leadership team over the last two years, a role in which she has made enormous contributions."

Das, in a statement to her team members, said she had joined Facebook when it was a "small unlisted start-up" guided by a mission to connect people in India. "After nine long years, I feel that the mission has largely been met. There is an enormous amount I have learnt from incredibly smart and talented people in the company, particularly from people on the policy team. This is a special company and a special group of people," she said.

In August, *The Wall Street Journal* had reported that citing business imperatives, Das had "opposed applying hate-speech rules" to at least four individuals and groups linked with BJP despite the fact that they were "flagged internally for promoting or participating in violence."

Following this report, the Parliamentary standing committee on information technology, headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, sought an explanation from the company.

Days later, Das filed a complaint to the Delhi Police Cyber Cell alleging "relentless harassment" and "violent threats" against her including "cyber-bullying and eve-teasing online." Demanding police protection, she alleged that the WSJ article was published in a "mischaracterized and distorted manner."

On September 1, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad wrote to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg alleging political bias and raising "serious concerns" that Facebook India management had deleted

pages and "reduced" the reach of "right-of-centre ideology" supporters before the 2019 elections.

Das oversaw the expansion of WhatsApp's office and operations in India after the global merger. But the commercial roll-out of WhatsApp Pay has been delayed for over two years despite the company saying it adhered to all guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India as well as other agencies and ministries. Industry analysts say that it was during her term that Facebook India grew into one of the largest media companies in terms of advertising revenue.

Her tenure also saw Facebook invest \$5.7 billion in Reliance Industries Limited's digital business unit Jio Platforms marking the Silicon Valley giant's formal entry into India's telecom sector.

India is among the largest markets for Facebook and its instant messaging platform WhatsApp. While Facebook has close to 350 million users in the country, WhatsApp has close to 400 million. Facebook's picture and short-video sharing platform Instagram has close to 100 million users in India, second only to the US, which has 130 million users.

Munger

could have held him in my arms, even if he was dead," said Anamath Poddar.

Durga Visarjan was meant to be a day of festivities here. But late Monday night, a clash broke out between devotees and police over a delay in the immersion of idols in the Ganga, leading to lathicharge, stone-pelting and firing at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) Chowk. Poddar's son, Anupam (22), was killed in the firing, which left seven others injured. A video showed a procession breaking up, a section running away and police raining blows with their lathis on devotees seated around the idol.

Local residents and eye-witnesses say Anupam, a first-year student at JMS College, was killed in police firing. Police say they had only fired in the air to disperse a mob, which allegedly retaliated by firing back with country-made guns. But with voting just a few hours away, the incident has ig-

promotion of healthcare or senior secondary or higher or specialised education".

The Government can "allow transfer of land, as defined in the said section, in favour of any person, institution or corporation, for such industrial or commercial or housing purposes or agricultural purposes or any other public purpose as may be notified by the Government for industrial and commercial development of the Union Territory."

However, all such "non-agriculturists" would have to use the allotted land only for purposes intended during allotment and would never be recognised as agriculturists.

The Centre has also diluted restrictions on conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural land. Earlier such conversion could only be done only with the permission of the Revenue Minister. It can now be done with the permission of the District Collector.

Through insertion of a new section, special protection has been given to grazing land or those that grow fuel and fodder, albeit they too can be converted with the Collector's permission.

The Centre has also expanded Section 13 which deals with "permission to be taken for development" from the authority concerned. It has said the Authority may "declare any zone or part thereof as development area for the purposes of this Act".

nited a political firestorm with the Opposition calling for an inquiry and action against police — a demand that is being echoed by the JD(U)'s ruling ally BJP.

Outside Poddar's home, there is even talk of boycotting the polls.

According to Anupam's friends and family members, he stepped out with his friends at 10 am and returned after celebrating Durga Puja by 3.30 pm. By 5.30 pm, Anupam left again after telling his father that he would call when the procession came close to their first-floor home.

At 10.30 pm, as Poddar watched the Shadipur idol, Badi Durga, stop before the chowk, his son went home once more with three friends for a cup of tea.

According to Poddar, the idols didn't seem to be moving, and there were murmurs of unrest ahead in the road. And just as he returned home, the father was told that there has been a stampede. "In another five minutes, we were told that Anurag had been shot at DDU Chowk. I told a neighbour to take my wife on a Scooty, and I ran. We found him dead on the road. We tried to take him to a private hospital but there was no doctor. At the Sadar hospital, too, there was no help," said Poddar.

Local residents said the festival has grown over the years in Munger, with over 120 idols being usually immersed in the river from across Munger and neighbouring Jamalpur. According to custom, the Shadipur idol is immersed first.

But this time, says Deepak Kumar Barma, sabhapati of the Shadipur Durga Puja, trouble started from the beginning. "The administration told us that because of the elections, we need to finish the immersion quickly. We told them this is a festival, which has rules. But the administration kept pushing the devotees, who numbered over a thousand, to hurry up," said Barma.

In the melee, Barma says, the administration suggested that a smaller idol be immersed first. "This was against everything we have always done. They had no patience in dealing with devotees. When people resisted, they began

to lathicharge everyone and assaulted us. Even I got hit," he said.

As things went out of hand, said Barma, police opened fire. The police claimed to have recovered three country-made pistols with live and empty cartridges from the site. "We are collecting video footage of the spot to identify troublemakers. Adequate forces have been deployed to ensure no further untoward incident happens," said Munger SP Lipi Singh.

According to police, about 20 personnel, including the station in-charges of Sangrampur, Kotwali and Qasim Bazar, were injured in the incident.

Gopal Patwa, an office-bearer of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the BJP's youth wing, said: "It was the administration that opened fire at DDU Chowk. The administration beat people mercilessly for not hurrying up. This is entirely the fault of the administration," he said.

With the three-phase elections starting, ruling ally BJP was quick to call for a probe. "I demand that an inquiry committee be set up. Whoever is found guilty, the strongest action must be taken, no matter how big the official," said Union Minister Gिराज Singh.

LJP leader Chirag Paswan said that the firing shows the "Talibani rule" of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's government and called for "strict action" against the policemen responsible.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted: "Will the BJP-JDU government thrash Durga worshippers like animals? Will the BJP-JDU government kill people for immersing Durga idol?"

The state government and the JD(U) have not yet issued an official statement over the incident although there has been a heavy deployment of police in Munger.

BJP youth wing leader Patwa says the incident will affect Wednesday's voting. "People are angry. Many in Munger town have decided to boycott the elections. We held a small protest in the morning, we will protest again after the elections," he said.

Patwa says "this changes everything".

Politicians made a beeline to the Poddar home, but nobody was given a long audience. "We want nothing from them. All we want is that a proper investigation takes place. My son cannot come back. But I want to know how he died. And I want justice," said Poddar.

Delhi court

Islamic Organisation were not terrorist organisations under the UAPA, Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said: "Acts which threaten the unity and integrity of India, ...causing social disharmony and creating terror in any section of the people, by making them feel surrounded resulting in violence, is also a terrorist act."

ASJ Rawat agreed that these groups were not proscribed under UAPA, but said, "we have to understand terrorist activity" as per Section 15 of the Act.

"...The entire conspiracy beginning from December 2019 of intentionally blocking roads to cause inconvenience and causing disrupting of the supplies of services... resulting in violence with various means and then leading to February incident with the focus being targeted blocking of roads at mixed population areas and creating panic and attack on police personnel with facade of women protesters in front and leading to riots would be covered by the definition of terrorist act," the court said in its order.

"Acts which threaten the unity and integrity of India, in as much as causing social disharmony and creating terror in any section of the people, by making them feel surrounded resulting in violence, is also a terrorist act."

FULL REPORTS ON

www.indianexpress.com

New Delhi

TOTAL CASES		HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
3,64,341				15,766	10,202
VENTILATORS		Recoveries		Deaths	Tests
				1,239	474
Oct 26	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	Total active cases
Oct 27	4,853	2,722	44	57,210	
Total	27,873*	3,30,112	6,356	44,56,029	

FARIDABAD: ACCUSED, HIS ACCOMPLICE ARRESTED

Accosted outside college, 20-year-old woman shot dead by former classmate



CCTV footage of the incident shows the main accused trying to push the woman into the car at gunpoint, but she manages to free herself and rush behind her friend. He then pulls her friend away, points a gun at Tomar and shoots her.



SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, OCTOBER 27

A 20-YEAR-OLD woman was shot dead outside her college in broad daylight, allegedly by two men who tried to first drag her into a car and then opened fire when she resisted. Both the accused, including the 21-year-old main accused who was a classmate of the victim's in school, have been arrested. The incident was captured on a CCTV camera.

The victim has been identified as Nikita Tomar, a third-year year B.Com student. The accused have been identified as Tauseef, a resident of Kabir Nagar in Sohna, Gurgaon, and Rehan, a resident of Rewasan village in Nuh. Tomar's family alleged Tauseef had been pressuring her to marry him.

Police said the incident took place around 4 pm Monday outside Aggarwal College in Ballabhgarh where the victim studied. In his police complaint, Tomar's brother Naveen said she had just left college after an exam when the two men obstructed her path and tried to drag her into a white i20 car, shooting her when she resisted.

Footage shows one of the two accused trying to push the woman into the car at gunpoint. As he opens the rear door of the vehicle and pushes her head, she manages to free herself and rushes behind her friend, who



Family and friends of the victim Nikita Tomar (left) staged a protest on the Ballabhgarh-Sohna road, Tuesday. ANI

tries to shield her from the accused. The main accused pulls her friend away and points the weapon at Tomar even as the second accused can be seen getting out of the car and rushing towards him. In the seconds that follow, the main accused shoots Tomar as his accomplice grabs his arm. The men rush to the car and speed away, leaving Tomar on the ground in a pool of blood with her friend looking on.

The victim was rushed to a private hospital nearby but succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment. Police said she had been shot in her right shoulder, with the bullet going straight through her body.

An FIR was registered under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 34 (common intention) and Section 25 of the Arms Act, said police,

adding that a team reached the crime scene immediately and found a pool of blood and the country-made pistol used in the murder. "A five-hour operation was carried out immediately after the incident, spanning three districts of Faridabad, Palwal, and Nuh. The main accused, Tauseef, was arrested from Nuh on Monday night. Investigation revealed an FIR had been registered against him by the victim's relatives in 2018 as well for kidnapping. But the parents later submitted they did not want further investigation into the matter, and the FIR had been cancelled," said Commissioner of Police O P Singh.

"While Tauseef was a third-year physiotherapy student, Rehan was his friend. He was arrested on Tuesday afternoon from



Nuh. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to carry out further investigation in the matter. The accused have been produced in court today and taken into police remand for further questioning. During this time, we will also retrieve the car used in the crime and determine where he procured the weapon. We will ensure the strictest punishment possible for the accused," he said.

Family and friends of the victim blocked the Ballabhgarh-Sohna road for several hours on Tuesday, shouting slogans and demanding capital punishment.

Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij also took to Twitter on Tuesday evening to offer reassurance of a "quick investigation" into the matter. "Both accused involved in the brutal murder of a girl student in Faridabad last evening have been arrested. The murder weapon has been recovered. An SIT led by ACP Crime Anil Kumar would ensure quick investigation and time-bound trial to ensure justice to the family," he tweeted.

Kin claim accused was pressuring her to marry him

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, OCTOBER 27

"SINCERE AND ambitious" with dreams to join the Army is how relatives describe Nikita Tomar, 20, who was shot dead allegedly by a former classmate outside her college Monday.

"She wanted to join the Army and we were making every effort to support her dreams. She had recently taken the Air Force Common Admission Test and had started preparing for the National Defence Academy exam, and was planning to focus on this once she was done with her college exams. She had just written her last exam when this incident happened," said her father Mool Chand Tomar. Her brother Naveen (25) added said she excelled academically.

It was in Class XII that Nikita met main accused Tauseef (21). Her family claimed he had developed a one-sided affection and kidnapped her in 2018 in the hope of pressuring her into marrying him. The family then filed an FIR. "He had kidnapped her in 2018 on the pretext of dropping her home. She was leaving college with two-three friends, and he offered them a lift. Since my daughter knew him as they were in the same class in school, they agreed. However, when her friends got off at Sector 55, Tauseef took her to

his home, locked the door and started trying to pressure her to marry him," alleged her father.

Tomar's father approached police when she failed to return home that evening, and she was recovered from the accused's home within a few hours. Although an FIR was registered, police said it was cancelled after her father submitted he did not want any further investigation.

Mool Chand, who works at a private firm in Faridabad, further alleged, "We had lodged an FIR but Tauseef's relatives begged us to drop the case. They reassured us this would not happen again... We also thought our daughter was safe and we wanted to protect her name, so we dropped the matter. In the two years since, he had stopped harassing her... But in the last few days, he once again started pressuring her to marry him, asking her to convert to Islam so they could get married, but she was not willing. This is what happened on Monday as well. Tauseef asked her to go with him. When she refused, he tried to abduct her and shot her when she resisted."

The victim's family and friends blocked the Ballabhgarh-Sohna road for several hours Tuesday and shouted slogans calling for capital punishment for the main accused. "We want him to be hanged, nothing less will do," said Naveen.

With 4,853 cases, highest single-day Covid spike in city



The daily positivity rate in Delhi reached an all-time high with 8.48% after authorities tested 57,210 people. Abhinav Sahra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE CAPITAL recorded 4,853 fresh Covid cases on Tuesday — the highest single-day spike till date — taking total infections to 3,64,341. The previous highest single-day spike of 4,473 cases was recorded on September 16.

The daily positivity rate also reached an all-time high of 8.48%, with 57,210 tests being performed. Over the last three days, the daily positivity rate has been over 8%, indicating a rise in spread of the infection. This figure has been hovering around 5-6% for the last one month.

The death toll increased to 6,356 with 44 new deaths reported in the last 24 hours. The fatality rate, based on data from the last 10 days, stands at 1.02%.

The cumulative seven-day growth is also rising slowly — 0.9% to 1.13% in 10 days.

The Indian Express on October 27 had reported how cases are expected to rise two-three times in November with people flouting social distancing norms in small gatherings amid festival season, change in weather and

no restrictions on border movement, as per health experts.

A high-level expert committee led by NITI Aayog member Dr V K Paul had suggested that Delhi may report 15,000 daily cases during the festival season.

"It is extremely important for everyone to wear masks and follow social distancing rules. Anticipating a surge in the number of cases, we are also gearing up to increase beds for patients," said Dr B L Sherwal, medical director, Rajiv Gandhi Super-Speciality Hospital.

There are 27,873 active cases in the city, of which 16,415 are under home isolation. There are 15,766 beds earmarked for Covid-19 patients in the city, of which 10,202 are vacant.

Meanwhile, the Delhi government has started collecting data of healthcare workers in the city to prepare a list of those who will be vaccinated against Covid-19 in the first phase.

The database will have 13 categories of healthcare workers, including MBBS doctors, AYUSH practitioners, nurses, lab technicians, pharmacists and ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives).



IN A FIRST

Mahi Purnea, a transgender, at work manning the ticket counter of Noida Metro's Sector 50 Metro station, which was renamed 'Pride Station' on Tuesday. Gajendra Yadav

AQI to remain very poor till month end

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

DELHI'S AIR quality is expected to remain in the 'very poor' category until Friday, as unfavourable meteorological conditions are hindering dispersion of pollutants and the contribution of stubble burning emissions to air pollution has increased, as per forecast from government agencies.

To help combat air pollution, Environment Minister Gopal Rai Tuesday said CM Arvind Kejriwal will launch a 'Green Delhi' mobile app Thursday. Through the app, people will be able to lodge complaints against waste burning, industrial pollution, dust emissions and other polluting activities. "There will be a time limit to address complaints received via the app, and failure to do so will result in action against nodal officer of the department concerned," Rai said.

The share of stubble burning emissions from Punjab, Haryana and UP in Delhi's PM2.5 levels — fine particles suspended in the air — increased to an estimated 23%

Tuesday. This is the highest for the season so far, with close to 2,000 fire counts being recorded, as per the Centre's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

Delhi's average air quality index (AQI) was 'very poor' for the fifth day in a row Tuesday with a reading of 312, lower than 353 recorded Monday, as per data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

"A significantly large increase in the number of fire points were observed over Punjab, Haryana and UP, which is likely to impact air quality of Delhi-NCR and other parts of northwest India," a forecast from the Earth Sciences Ministry's Early Warning System (EWS) for Delhi said.

It said 'very poor' air quality is likely to persist till October 30. It could deteriorate within the 'very poor' category on Wednesday, as the ventilation index is likely to be 4,000 sqm/sec, unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. Ventilation index is a product of mixing depth — height available in atmosphere for pollutants to disperse — and wind speed.

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Sd/-
Registrar

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Last date: 12th November 2020 till 4:30 pm at Facilitation Centre, GGSIP University, Sector – 16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi – 78.

Registrar

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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. tchpharyana.gov.in).

PROJECT DETAILS

1. Coloniser/Developer	Signature Infrabuild Pvt. Ltd.					
2. Project Approval	Licence No. 73 of 2019 dated 04.07.2019, Building Plan Approved on 30.09.2019 Memo No. ZP-1339/AD(RA)/2019/24562 Haryana RERA Registered No: 69 of 2019 Dated 14.11.2019					
3. Location	Sector 95, Gurugram, Haryana					
4. Provisions Project Area	285 no. of apartments available out of total 738 number of units in the housing scheme spread over 5.1125 acres. As per Policy, 5% of total apartments are available for management quota and 95% of total apartments are for public. Community Facilities: One Community Hall of 2000 sq.ft. and One Anganwadi-cum-croche 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	86	585.551	83.701	23,84,055	1,19,203	4,76,811
2BHK TYPE -02	34	594.065	82.151	24,17,336	1,20,867	4,83,467
2BHK TYPE -03	101	594.829	74.401	24,16,517	1,20,826	4,83,303
2BHK TYPE -04	27	592.860	85.703	24,14,292	1,20,715	4,82,858
2BHK TYPE -05	34	586.573	83.055	23,87,820	1,19,391	4,77,564
2BHK TYPE -07	3	548.889	99.589	22,45,351	1,12,268	4,49,070

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

Eligibility: 1. The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
2. Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed colony/sector or any 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., tchpharyana.gov.in).

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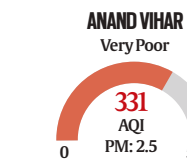
Promoter urges every applicant to inspect the project site and shall not merely rely upon or be influenced by any architectural impression, plan or sales brochure and therefore, requested to make personal judgment prior to submitting an application for allotment. The images shown here are indicative 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://haryanaera.gov.in/>. Journey time shown, if any, is based on 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% & Apply 1% sq. mt. = 11.7639 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

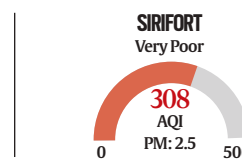
New Delhi



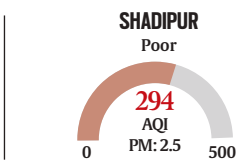
0-50 Good



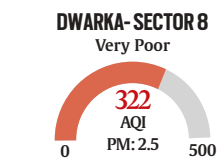
51-100 Satisfactory



101-200 Moderate



201-300 Poor



301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

BRIEFLY

Court grants bail to man in 4 riots cases

New Delhi: A Delhi court has granted bail to a man in four separate cases related to the communal violence in Northeast Delhi in February, saying there were no independent witnesses, CCTV footage or any video recording to show his presence at the spot or his involvement in chanting slogans against a community. Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav granted the relief to Neeraj on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 20,000 with a surety in each of the cases of alleged torching, looting and vandalism of shops in Bhajanpura area.

No dengue deaths in Delhi so far

New Delhi: Not a single dengue death has taken place in Delhi so far this season as compared to the last four years, as per data shared by Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday, who congratulated the city's residents in actively participating in the Delhi government's 10-week awareness programme against the vector-borne disease. As per the data, the number of deaths reported during this season has been declining since 2017. In 2017, the city had reported 10 deaths, which fell to 4 in 2018 and 2 in 2019.

Man stabbed to death over 'loud music'

New Delhi: A 29-year-old man was stabbed to death after he allegedly objected to loud music being played at a neighbour's house in Northwest Delhi's Mahendra Park Tuesday afternoon. The deceased has been identified as Sushil, a blanket seller, while the accused is Abdul Sattar, a garlic trader. Police said Sushil was declared dead on arrival at Babu Jagjivan Ram hospital. Mittal said, "Four four accused were apprehended. Investigation is on." **ENS**

AMID POWER TUSSLE

Prez nod to inquiry against DU V-C for 'administrative lapses'

RITIKA CHOPRA & ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind has approved the Education Ministry's proposal to launch an inquiry against Delhi University Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Yogesh Tyagi for administrative lapses, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The approval comes within a week of an ugly power tussle that played out between Tyagi and Pro-Vice-Chancellor P C Joshi. According to sources, Tyagi's unauthorised absence from the university is among the grounds for initiating inquiry against him.

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



DU V-C Yogesh Tyagi

sources, Tyagi has not been attending office regularly since January this year.

The Indian Express had reported on October 24 that the education ministry had made attempts in the past to build a case for Tyagi's removal. Among the occasions when this was informally discussed was when he did not heed repeated reminders for

filling up faculty posts lying vacant for years, and his handling of last year's teachers' protest over reappointment of ad hoc teachers. The government had intervened to resolve the crisis.

However, matters came to a head last week when he went head to head with Joshi over appointing a new Registrar. A day later, the government issued a strongly-worded directive snubbing Tyagi, declaring his contentious appointment to the Registrar's post as invalid since it was done during his leave of absence.

Interestingly, despite the government's public snub to Tyagi, P C Jha, who was appointed Registrar by the V-C, wrote to the ministry on Friday last week insisting his appointment complied with the rules. The Education Ministry then wrote to the Registrar appointed by Joshi ordering DU to initiate

disciplinary action against Jha under the University Act.

Jha, however, continued issuing notices as DU registrar. On Tuesday, he issued a notice saying, "It has been observed that a few notifications regarding teaching, legal affairs, transfers and cluster innovation centre (CIC) have been issued on the letterhead of the university on October 24. These notifications are issued in complete disregard of the Delhi University Act 1922, its Statutes and Ordinances, and therefore, null and void."

The notifications in question were issued by Vikas Gupta, the Registrar appointed by DU's Executive Council and recognised by the Education Ministry. According to government sources, Joshi will issue a show cause notice to Jha as per the ministry's instructions.

Tyagi and Jha did not respond to calls seeking a comment.

CM: Claim that govt owes MCDs Rs 13,000 cr false

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE DELHI government has sanctioned around Rs 213 crore to the three MCDs, senior Delhi government officials said. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, meanwhile, said the claim that the government owes Rs 13,000 crore to civic bodies was completely false and that it was "shameful" the corporations were not being able to pay their doctors.

"It is a matter of shame that doctors who put their lives on the line in dealing with Covid-19 patients are not being paid. For the past few years, MCDs have been having problems paying salaries to its employees. Whatever the Delhi government owed legally to the MCDs, we have given," he said.

Officials said till Monday, the Delhi government had disbursed over Rs 1,700 crore to the corporation. "Up to Monday, the Delhi government has paid Rs 1,752.61 crore to the MCDs, and the total that is due to them — as per the 5th Finance Commission which designates 12.5% of the share of Delhi government's revenue for MCDs — is Rs 1,965.91 crore. Remaining amount has been sanctioned and is in the process of being disbursed," said the official.

The official added that disbursement was higher last year as the government tax collection was also higher: "We cannot give the same amount as last year as during the pandemic, even the Delhi government's tax collections dropped.



Manish Sisodia and Arvind Kejriwal were speaking at the launch of WTP plant at Ghazipur poultry market. Praveen Khanna

Last year, the same sum was over Rs 4,000 crore. Revenue collection is slowly picking up now."

The Delhi BJP, however, said the government was suppressing municipalities by withholding funds. State BJP president Adesh Gupta and the three MCD mayors said at a press conference Tuesday that if the government does not release funds, they will be forced to protest again. The mayors had held a dhama outside Kejriwal's house on Monday, after which they met Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain.

A statement issued by the BJP said the EDMC was "sanctioned Rs 1,677 crore, of which only Rs 301 crore has been paid; and the SDMC is due Rs 1,157 crore, of which only Rs 303 crore has been paid."

The CM also said while Delhi government's revenue had been hit as well, they had managed to pay salaries to employees: "I found

out — the MCDs have Rs 12,000 crore budget, of which around Rs 6,000 crore goes for salaries. At least they can give the salaries — where has this money gone... Even though our tax collection fell during Covid, we managed to pay salaries. The MCDs are busy mismanaging their finances."

Officials also pointed out that the CM had written to the Prime Minister in 2016, asking Delhi be given Rs 488 per person to municipalities. As per present rules, Delhi and union territories are not given this amount. In the letter, the CM had said the NCT of Delhi and union territories are exempt from this grant, which is "completely unfair", arguing that "municipalities in Delhi perform the same functions as municipalities in other states, and taxation and other fiscal powers of the government of NCT of Delhi are also similar to other states".

Waste-to-power plant launched at Ghazipur market

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the 15 tonnes per day Waste-to-Power (WTP) plant at the Ghazipur poultry market, along with Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and Environment Minister Gopal Rai Tuesday.

Using the process of biogasification, the plant can convert organic waste weighing up to 15 tonnes into 1,500 units of electricity. The cost of managing and operating the plant for six years is Rs 1.11 crore.

Kejriwal said more such plants should come up across the city: "With an existing big WTP plant and the establishment of hundreds of such small plants, waste should no longer be dumped on garbage mountains. It should be recycled and turned into compost or combusted to generate electricity or be used in brick kilns. Only through such judicious recycling will Delhi prosper, or these mountains will keep on increasing in the next 10 years. The plant is a step in this direction." Sisodia said, "Governance is

choosing to use waste to produce electricity instead of letting it be on the streets or dumping it on garbage mountains. This shows how the government is progressing using technological and scientific advancements."

He added, "The responsibility of managing mandi waste is of the three MCDs, but due to their failure in doing so, mandi officials and Delhi government took this responsibility upon themselves. This waste will be used to generate electricity. I hope many such plants will come up in all mandis across Delhi, and all mandis will become zero-waste mandis soon."

Rai said the government has introduced a new model to produce energy and manure by recycling waste collected from the city: "Delhi is grappling with pollution from activities within as well as around the city. We are in touch with the Centre to assist us in reaching an effective solution to curb polluting activities outside the city. AAP is the only government in power in Delhi which has been instrumental in fighting pollution around the year."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia Tuesday visited the Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidhyalaya, Paschim Vihar to congratulate its teachers and principal, as five students from the school have been selected in different branches of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). Twenty two students from school had also qualified NEET.

During his interaction, Sisodia said, "If five students cango to IITs and 22 clear NEET from a single Delhi government school, then other schools can achieve this feat too. The best practices from this school should be adopted by other schools so that we can repeat and multiply this success."

"It is the dream of Hon'ble Chief Minister that every child of Delhi should get such exciting, and valuable opportunities to enhance their talent, and make the country proud. By learning from your best practices and approaches, we want to create more opportunities for children in all schools for a brighter future," he added.

Sisodia said the 98% result in the Class XII board results, and the "Scale of success in JEE and NEET" showed that the quality of government schools in Delhi had improved drastically.

"We have to learn from these successes to make Delhi's education revolution so effective that it will not only inspire our country but the whole world," he said.

Principal Preeti Saxena said the school had adopted the Five-C's model — Connect, Counselling, Constant Motivation, Curiosity and Creative Thinking — which enhances the educational experience. School teachers also said they were making a "conscious effort to change the perception among the children that to succeed in JEE, NEET, one needs to enroll in expensive coaching".

"The teachers also expressed their gratitude to the Arvind Kejriwal-led govt. for the training they've received, including being able to visit Cambridge and Singapore for the same. They also said that technological devices like tablets that were provided to them by the Delhi govt. upscaled their teaching," the Delhi government said in a statement.

5 accused in Amity student's murder held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, OCTOBER 27

NOIDA POLICE arrested five persons in connection with the murder of Amity student Akshay Kalra (24) following an encounter Tuesday. Akshay had died during treatment at a hospital on September 4, two days after he was assaulted during a carjacking in Sector 62.

The accused, Kuldeep Chauhan, Vikas Kumar, Sonu Singh, Shameem Sheikh and Ajay Kumar Rathore, were arrested after an exchange of fire in the early hours of Tuesday. They opened fire at police when intercepted by



a team near NIB Chowki. As police returned fire, four accused received injuries to the leg while one other accused was arrested during a combing operation.

Alok Singh, Commissioner of

Police, Gautam Buddh Nagar, said: "On September 2-3, a student was attacked by a group of people. Despite efforts, Akshay could not be saved. During investigation... we caught many gangs but this



Akshay Kalra; (left) his father with Noida Police.

Gajendra Yadav

particular group had been evading arrest. On Tuesday, during a chance encounter, the accused were arrested. We recovered Akshay's stolen Creta vehicle. During questioning, we were able

to ascertain the sequence of events leading up to his death."

Police said on the night of the incident, the accused were near an eatery in Sector 62 when they spotted Akshay in the Creta. They pursued the car with the intention of stealing it and managed to stop Akshay, police said. They broke a window and pushed the student out. By then, he had removed the keys from the ignition. The accused allegedly assaulted Akshay to get the keys and fled with the car, said police.

Besides Sonu who hails from Delhi, all accused hail from Ghaziabad. Accused Kuldeep and Vikas have multiple cases of theft registered in Ghaziabad.



In 1956, J&K politician Tirath Ram Amla set up Hotel Broadway at Asaf Ali Road in Darya Ganj. Tashi Tobgyal

PANDEMIC FALLOUT

Home to Thugs & Chor Bizarre, Delhi loses a landmark in Hotel Broadway

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

DECADES BEFORE Hotel Broadway in Darya Ganj opened a dingy bar in the '90s called "Thugs", which paid an ode to Hindi film villains, the hotel was frequented by Sheikh Mukhtar, one of the early villains of the industry.

"Every time he would visit Delhi from Bombay, he would only stay at Hotel Broadway... and we would eat nihari near Jama Masjid," recalled Billoo Seble (79), a Delhi-based film distributor.

In 1956, J&K politician Tirath Ram Amla set up Hotel Broadway at Asaf Ali Road in Darya Ganj — an address that would soon become a landmark in the city. In 1990, Chor Bizarre, a restaurant that served Kashmiri cuisine, was set up inside the hotel, and Thugs, the bar, followed two years later.

In May, however, as the city started to reopen after the lockdown, it was decided that Hotel Broadway — which hosted a bevy of politicians, industrialists and film stars over six decades — would shut shop. Mukta Kapoor, who heads communications for Old World Hospitality, which ran

the place, said, "Broadway and Chor Bizarre were both heavily dependent on foreign tourists, so the revenues had come to nought due to the effects of Covid. With social distancing norms and lack of tourist inflow expected to continue in the foreseeable future, it was thought best to shut down."

She said there is no decision on what use the building will be put to in the future. The hotel employed 44 people, and Kapoor claimed all statutory and contractual dues had been paid to them.

Doors locked, all that hangs is a notice that says "no longer economically viable", signed by

Rohit Khattar, founder of Old World Hospitality Pvt Ltd.

In 1956, Hotel Broadway was the first high-rise building of Delhi. The tariff for a single room with bread and breakfast cost Rs 15.

Kapoor said that Amla's daughter Vijay Lakshmi Khattar had taken over in the early '70s.

It was when Rohit returned from the US that he decided to open a theme restaurant, and it was art curator Rajeev Sethi who suggested the name "Chor Bizarre", which opened in 1990.

Sethi told *The Indian Express*, "This was in the late '80s. The hotel was on the cusp of Old Delhi

and New Delhi. The thieves' market or chor bazaar was a stone throw's away. Antiques, odd cutlery and furniture were sold as junk, and I told Rohit to buy all that — tables that didn't match chairs, soup bowls that didn't match the plates. I told him we will find order in that chaos, and we did."

It was exactly this odd decor that regulars remember till date. Restaurateur Zorawar Kalra said, "We used to come here for the Kashmiri wazwan on Sunday. In the middle of the restaurant there was a vintage car that had salad plated." The vintage car that Kalra mentions was a 1927 Fiat Balilla.

In 1993, when Bunny Seble (48) was a student at Delhi University, Thugs was the bar his friends frequented. Red walls, dingy lighting, beer barrels as decor, portraits of Hindi cinema's finest villains — Mogambo and Gabbard, among others — welcomed the patrons. The bar menu too was true to its theme with cocktails and mocktails named 'Mona Darling', 'Arre Oh Sambha', 'Don's Daiquiri', and 'Lilly don't be silly'.

Theatre veteran MK Raina said, "This is where we brought our non-Kashmiri friends. It's sad it's shut down. This is how a city loses landmarks."



New Delhi



5 DECISION 2020 BIHAR



BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNYY



What will Bihar be under those who have 8-9 children: Nitish



In home district Nalanda, Tuesday. PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PATNA, OCTOBER 27

THE WAR of words between Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav continued on Tuesday, on the eve of the first phase of polling, with the JD(U) leader asking what development can be expected from people producing "eight-nine children for a son". With the remarks seen as intended at Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi said these were another sign that Nitish was tired — "both mentally and physically".

He also said the CM's comments were actually meant to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Because Modiji also has six siblings. Using such language, Nitish Kumar has raised questions on the dignity of women and a mother," the Grand Alliance CM candidate said, accusing the ruling party of raising such issues rather than talking about inflation, corruption, unemployment.

Speaking at a rally at Mahnar in Vaishali district Monday, Nitish said, "Kisi ko chinta nahin. Aath-naa bachha paida karte hain. Beti par bharosa nahin hai, saat-aath beti ho jaane ke baad ladka hua. Kaisa Bihar banaana chaate hain?... Agar logon ka yahi aadarsh hain to Bihar ka kya hoga (Nobody cares. They produce eight-nine kids. They have no faith in daughters, have seven-eight daughters, before a son. Is this the Bihar you want... If this is their ideal, what will happen to Bihar?)."

The CM also said that he had left the Grand Alliance in 2017 because of charges against Tejashwi Yadav. "I told him to come clean on charges levelled against him in a moneylaundering case. He could not. Soon, I realised they have returned to their old habits of influencing even police stations and so I thought it's difficult to work with them."

Tejashwi Yadav said Nitish Kumar was his elder, and so he considered even his "abuses" as "blessings".

In a video tweeted by the RJD's Twitter handle, Tejashwi Yadav said that opponents might throw any poison or mud, but the party wouldn't answer back in the same manner.



ON YOUR MARKS...

Drawing circles for voters to stand in to ensure social distancing at a polling centre in Patna, Tuesday, ahead of first phase. AP

KEY CONTESTS: PHASE 1 POLLS

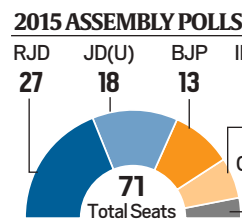
1 DINARA

JAY KUMAR SINGH (JD-U Minister) (Incumbent MLA)



RAJENDRA SINGH

(BJP rebel, former state BJP vice-president)



19 IMAMGANJ

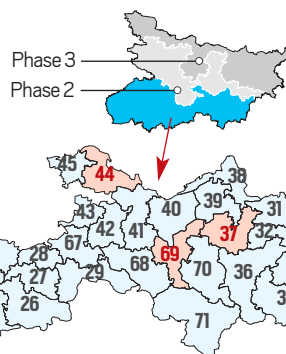


UDAY NARAYAN CHOUDHARY (RJD) (Former Bihar Speaker)

JITAN RAM MANJHI (HAM-S) (Former CM, incumbent MLA)

69 JAMUI

SHREYASI SINGH (BJP) (Ace shooter, daughter of former Union minister late Digvijay Singh)



44 MOKAMA

ANANT KUMAR SINGH (RJD) (Incumbent MLA, seeking re-election for fifth consecutive time)

RAJIV LOCHAN SINGH

(JD-U) (Electoral debut)

37 TARAPUR

MEWAL LAL CHOUDHARY (JD-U) (Incumbent MLA)

DIVYA PRAKASH

(RJD) (Daughter of former Union Minister Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav)

VIJAY PRAKASH

(RJD) (Incumbent MLA; younger brother of senior RJD leader and former Union Minister Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav)



1.6K VIEWS, 457 LIKES, 374 RETWEETS IN 3 HOURS

HASHTAG POLITICS

● Anurag Thakur: Tejashwi, why embrace Tukde Tukde Gang?

Tweeting #JawabDoTejashwi video, BJP MP @anuragthakur asked @yadavtejashwi: "why embrace the (onion) garland, the Tukde Tukde Gang, the perpetrators of massacre? Does he want to push Bihar once again into jungle Raj?" BJP leader @KapilMishra_IND had tweeted "Mood of Bihar" with his rally video on Monday, where he said: "On Bihar's land, there will be no tolerance for the communist, Urban Naxals, Tukde Tukde Gang - they may look innocent, but they stoke fire".

At the RJD's first 'Naukri Samvad' broadcast live on Facebook, Tejashwi Yadav reiterated his promise of 10 lakh jobs for residents of Bihar and said that if voted to power his government will ensure that 85 per cent of government jobs in the state are for locals. "We see that people from outside come and take our jobs. Maharashtra and other states have domicile for their residents. We will do the same. Eighty-five per cent of our jobs will be for local residents," he said. The RJD leader did not take questions.

1.2K LIKES, 157 RETWEETS IN 9 HOURS

BIHAR OUT SIDE BIHAR SURAT

At other end of country, they cling to hope of jobs, 'a new Bihar'

KAMAAL SAIYED

SURAT, OCTOBER 27

FOR THE Bihari migrants at the labour quarters in Sitaram Society in Navsari, the election was decided in April. Stuck for days during the lockdown without any money, 15 of them had reached out to their RJD MLA, Jitendra Kumar Rai from Mahaurah, says Ritesh Kumar Yadav.

Rai called up Tejashwi Yadav, now the Grand Alliance's Chief Minister candidate, who in turn called up Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, Ritesh says. Soon, Akram Shah, working in the office of BJP Navsari MP and now Gujarat BJP chief C R Paatil, reached Ritesh's home with rations for a month. In May, Shah arranged for them to go home on a Shramik Special train.

Part of the ruling alliance in Bihar, the BJP in Surat has been trying to ensure the migrants who returned stay back there so as to cast their vote — around 50 BJP volunteers have been given the task of making at least 100 calls a day to them. However, as per Ritesh, that may be backfiring on the party.

Of the migrant workers in Surat's textile and related factories, nearly four lakh are from Bihar. During the lockdown, as food and money ran out, at least six incidents of vio-

lence involving migrants were reported in the city. The special trains headed for Bihar carried nearly three lakh migrants; about 30% are believed to have returned.

A B.Tech in mechanical engineering, the 26-year-old Ritesh earns Rs 18,000 a month working as a supervisor at a factory. He rushed back to Surat when their contractor called them in June to say the factory had started running again. With no pay in April and May, and Rs 2,000 from the company to help them tide over the lockdown and "a younger sister", Ritesh couldn't say no.

Pointing out that they have to come to the other end of the country to make a living, Ritesh says, "In his three terms, Nitish has not provided any jobs."

Hoping to get married soon, Ritesh talks of Tejashwi's promise to provide 10 lakh jobs. "Time will tell whether he delivers or not. (But) in our village, everybody supports Tejashwi... He is young, energetic, is taking up issues of people against the government."

Ajay Choudhary, who is associated with the textile industry and is a former BJP office-bearer, says he arranged for special trains to take workers home to Bihar. "Our volunteers call them on the phone regularly and tell them to return to Surat only after the Bihar elections." However, he admits there is anger with the Nitish government



Signboards in Hindi in Katargam, which has a large migrant population. Hanif Malek

over its initial advice to the migrants to stay where they were.

Prabhunath Yadav from Purnea district in Bihar, who is a union leader, says the workers want to return to Surat but there are not enough trains. He also attributes lack of jobs as the reason for disaffection with Nitish. "No recruitment as been done in government de-

partments and no effort made to set up industries in Bihar," Prabhunath, who came to Surat in the '80s, says. Adding that migrants compare development in Surat with that back home, he says, "They feel heartbroken seeing the situation of Bihar." Tejashwi holds a promise, he adds.

Dilipkumar Chorasaya (32), who hails

from Samastipur, left his wife and two young children back home when he returned to Surat after the lockdown. During the time the factory he works in was shut, his savings were used up. So, he now shares the one-room accommodation he had bought with loans from a bank and friends with five "tenants", instead of his family. "I spent Rs 2,000 to buy a rail ticket in the black market to return to Surat... Staying alone, I can save some money. The tenants pay too."

About 7,000 migrants from Bihar live in similar one-room quarters in the area. As one enters Ved Road, the signboards change from Gujarati to Hindi, the clothes of the people on the streets are markedly different.

However, any signs of the heated contest back home are missing. A disinterested Chorasaya says he finds no difference between Lalu Prasad and Nitish's regimes. His father Dipak Kumar decides whom the family votes for and, this time, it may not be the BJP.

"The BJP has not given ticket to our community leader," Chorasaya says. However, the most important issue for youths is "development", "government jobs" — and hence "the faith in Tejashwi" — he insists. "While his father is in jail, Tejashwi has been single-handedly running the party, everybody likes him."

On the other hand, he feels, LJP chief Chirag Paswan is yet to prove himself, and

has just taken up late father Ram Vilas Paswan's mantle. "He has done nothing... Even during the lockdown, he did not utter a word for people stuck in other states."

Chorasaya's dream is that his children — 10 and 7 — are able to get jobs in Bihar so that they can be close to their "own culture".

Sudhir Singh, 40, from Vaishali district in Bihar, who runs a small shop selling knick-knacks in Ved Road area, also hopes the same for himself and his children, particularly at times of festivals like Chhath. His children study in the local municipal school and his wife Aarti takes small ancillary work back home from local textile units.

However, the children don't have any interest in Bihar, Singh says; they are impressed with "the wide roads, flyovers and gardens of Surat". Every Sunday evening, the family goes for a ride on his bike. "The development of Surat is due to Gujarat's good leaders. The political leaders in Bihar only think of their chair and image." He calls Nitish's term for them of "pravasi mazdoor" at the time of the migrant crisis an "insult".

Backing Tejashwi, Singh argues that the RJD leader not having finished schooling is not a disqualification. "As CM of Bihar, Lalu could have managed to get a graduation certificate for him from any university. But he did not do any such thing."

AMARPUR

Tie-ups shuffle vote bases, 'it's anyone's game'

Popular BJP rebel threatens JD(U) candidate; Cong Rajput face loses out on RJD Muslim, Yadav votes

SANTOSH SINGH

AMARPUR (BANKA), OCTOBER 27

JD(U) candidate from Amarpur (Banka) Jayant Raj could have taken his victory for granted under normal circumstances. While he might be an outsider for Amarpur, his father Janardhan Manjhi has represented the constituency the last two times.

Putting a spanner in the works, like at many seats in Bihar this time, is a BJP rebel. Mrinal Shekhar, who in 2015 managed about 62,000 votes despite being a first-time contender and despite Manjhi's might, is standing on an LJP ticket after being denied one by the BJP. In 2015, the JD(U) was in the Grand Alliance; this time its partner is the BJP and in the seat tussle, Amarpur went to the JD(U) quota.

However, even the Mahagathbandhan is believed to have got its calculations wrong in Amarpur. Its candidate, Congress leader Jitendra Singh, is a Rajput like Shekhar. An RJD candidate could have more easily rallied the Yadavs and Muslims in the constituency. Jayant Raj belongs to the OBC Kushwaha community.

Amarpur, which votes on Wednesday, is dominated by Yadavs, Rajputs, Kushwahs and Muslims, followed by Dalits, who include Paswans.

Shekhar has a strong ABVP background, and took with him almost the entire local cadre of the BJP, including heads of 42 'Shakti Kendras', when he left for the LJP, forcing the BJP to expel all.

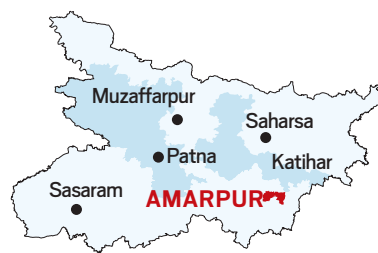
This makes Amarpur a case study of the tensions playing out on the ground between the BJP and JD(U), as well as how it is influencing the caste matrix.

With the exodus of its cadre, the BJP is almost helpless in rallying votes for Jayant Raj. The JD(U) expects some of the BJP's upper caste support to go to the Congress candidate, while the departure of Kushwaha leader Upendra Kushwaha from the NDA might take away the OBC votes from the party. The JD(U) thus is hoping it can rally enough of its EBC support base to pull through in Amarpur.

At a village in Belari panchayat, Mohammed Sarfaraz, a small businessman, says he will vote for Shekhar as he has been working in the area despite losing in 2015. "He



Mrinal Shekhar (in cap) took away all BJP cadre with him to LJP. Santosh Singh



helped us get our electricity bills rectified. He responds to our calls. In comparison, JD(U) MLA Manjhi is hardly available in the area."

With the LJP out of the NDA, many Muslims say, the "taint" of being with the BJP is not attached to Shekhar either.

Shekhar says he is seeking votes on the basis of his work. "I know each and every household of Amarpur. It is about insider versus outsider. I hail from here, I bank on my connection with the people."

While the Ramchua village of Rajputs is more sharply divided among the three candidates, this might also end up giving Shekhar an upper hand. Says Bharat Singh: "Jitendra Singh, being a Rajput, also expects our votes, but then, he is in alliance with the RJD. We are not sure about them."

Sunil Singh says the outcome will depend on how much each candidate erodes the vote base of the other. "If Mrinal gets some chunk of the RJD votes, he can sail through. It is anyone's game."

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INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS

● WHO'S WHERE TODAY

PM MODI IN DARBHANGA, MUZAFFARPUR AND PATNA; RAHUL GANDHI IN VALMIKINAGAR AND KUSHESHWAR ASTHAN.



WHAT DOES KANHAIYA BRING TO POLL TABLE?

● POLL PITCH

CM NITISH KUMAR'S VAISHALI SPEECH

6 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN

AS THE Army's top leadership is in Delhi for the biannual Army Commander's Conference, it brought together an opportunity for all of them to pay tributes to the fallen soldiers of the Army on Infantry Day. For the first time, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Army Chief General M M Naravane and all Army Commanders and Colonels of the Regiments, who were present in Delhi, laid wreaths together to mark their respect for the infantrymen. October 27 is celebrated as Infantry Day, as it was on this day in 1947 that first Indian soldiers had landed in Kashmir to defend against the attack from Pakistan. Army establishments across the country pay homage to infantry soldiers who lost their lives in the line of duty ever since.

AMAZING MOMO MAN

DURING HIS interaction with street vendors of Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chanced upon a person who may well be called an ideal beneficiary of government schemes — a momo seller in his constituency, Varanasi. The vendor, who uses vegetables for fillings in his momos, said he has availed of government loan scheme, knows of the benefits of digital payments, and has enrolled for home delivery through an online aggregator. Besides, he said, he also has got himself enrolled in another flagship scheme of the government, and offers a complimentary momo to any customer who wears a mask and maintains physical distance in front of his stall. An impressed Modi said that he, too, would like to taste the momos but his security does not allow such things to go past them.

DISTANCE ENCOUNTERS

HYDERABAD HOUSE hosted the first media interaction with physical distancing in the Covid-19 era. After the 2+2 ministerial meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper, all officials came out wearing masks. There were also no customary handshakes between ministers, and only elbow bumps and namastes.

'DAYLIGHT ROBBERY IN NAME OF INTEGRATION'

Huge betrayal: J&K parties slam Centre move on land laws

NAVEEDIQBAL
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 27

ALL POLITICAL parties in Jammu and Kashmir, except the BJP, have condemned the changes brought to its land laws by the Centre that essentially open up purchase of non-agricultural land to those from outside the Union Territory.

The mainstream parties that have joined forces to form the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration termed the amendments a "huge betrayal".

Alliance spokesperson Sajad Lone said the move is "a massive assault" on the rights of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and "grossly unconstitutional".

The alliance headed by National Conference president and Srinagar MP Dr Farooq Abdullah vowed to fight the "anti-J&K" measure on all fronts. "The unconstitutional move is clearly designed as an attempt to preempt the outcome of the challenge before the Supreme Court. The assault on exclusive property rights apart, changes in urban development laws and creation of Security Zones is bound to prejudicially affect the environment and

ecosystem in environmentally fragile regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh in utter disregard of grave environmental concerns," Lone said.

National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah tweeted, "Unacceptable amendments to the land ownership laws of J&K. Even the tokenism of domicile has been done away with when purchasing non-agricultural land & transfer of agricultural land has been made easier. J&K is now up for sale & the poorer small land holding owners will suffer."

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti tweeted, "Yet another step that's part of GOI's nefarious designs to disempower & disenfranchise people of J&K. From the unconstitutional scrapping of Article 370 to facilitating loot of our natural resources & finally putting land in J&K up for sale."

The Congress said in a statement, "This is another betrayal of BJP with people of J&K, as time and again the people were assured that their right to land and jobs shall be protected at all costs, even post 370 abrogation."

CPM's M Y Tarigami said, "It is daylight robbery of land in the name of integration, development and security."

Sarma dumps MLA panel report, says won't allow 'Miya Museum'

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 27

ASSAM'S HEALTH, FINANCE and Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has stirred a controversy in the state by saying that his government would not allow a 'Miya museum' despite a legislative committee dominated by BJP and its allies recommending a museum to showcase exhibits from Muslim-majority riverine areas.

On October 18, Sherman Ali Ahmed, a Congress MLA from Baghbar constituency, wrote to the state's Director of Museums

requesting him to "expedite" the process of establishing "one museum reflecting the culture and heritage of the people living in Char-Chaporis of Assam in the premises of the Srimanata Sankardeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati" as recommended by the Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSC) on Education in March.

'Char-Chaporis' refer to the riverine sand belts of the Brahmaputra, which are home to a vast majority of Muslims of Bengali-origin, a community which colloquially — and often derogatorily — is called 'Miya' in

INDO-US 2+2 MEETING

Act immediately on terror, Pak told

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

AFTER THE Indo-US 2+2 meeting on Tuesday, Foreign and Defence ministers of India and the US called on Pakistan to take "immediate, sustained and irreversible" action to ensure that "no territory under its control is used for terrorist attacks", and to expeditiously bring to justice perpetrators and planners of all such attacks, including 26/11 Mumbai, Uri, and Pathankot.

In December 2019, Uri was not mentioned in the joint statement.

The leaders also discussed their shared interest in promoting a sovereign, peaceful, united, democratic, inclusive, stable and secure Afghanistan, including support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, the statement said. External Affairs minister S Jaishankar had highlighted India's stakes in Afghanistan on Monday with his counterpart, US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo, stating that decisions about the country's future should be made by Afghans without use of force.

They applauded India's development assistance for Afghanistan, and efforts to build trade linkages and multi-modal connectivity infrastructure for the country to enhance its regional connectivity to sustain growth and development over the long term.

On 5G, on which the US has always asked India to avoid Chinese firms Huawei and ZTE, the ministers on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to-

EXPLAINED

Consolidating the gains

TUESDAY'S 2+2 ministerial meeting evaluated and consolidated the gains made over the last four years. It also set up ambitious targets and initiatives for the next incumbent in the US administration, cutting across sectors from nuclear to defence, and narcotics to health. New Delhi will now watch the next White House occupant on how he takes the ties forward.

wards an "open, reliable and secure internet", as well as the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance. "They emphasized fostering cooperation between their industry and academia for an open, secure and resilient supply of strategic material and critical infrastructure and to independently evaluate the risk associated with deployment of emerging ICT technologies, including 5G networks", it said.

Recalling the historic India-US civil nuclear agreement, which has been stuck for a decade, the ministers welcomed the project "Division of Responsibility principles between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) for the construction of six nuclear reactors at Kovvada, and looked forward to the detailed Division of Responsibility that would pave the way for a techno-commercial offer".

After Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Pompeo and US Defence Secretary Mark T Esper, they also decided that a new India-US

Counter-Narcotics Working Group will hold its first virtual meeting later this year, with an in-person meeting in 2021, an initiative to collaborate through an International Center of Excellence in Research focused on infectious diseases, including COVID-19 and other emerging threats, and an overarching MoU to enhance health cooperation.

The joint statement said: "The Ministers committed to continued exchange of information about sanctions and designations against terror groups and individuals, particularly in light of recent legislative changes in India, as well as countering the financing and operations of terrorist organizations, countering radicalism and terrorist use of the internet... They denounced the use of terrorist proxies and strongly condemned cross border terrorism in all its forms. They emphasised the need for concerted action against all terrorist networks, including al-Qaeda, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



Rajnath Singh and S Jaishankar with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark Esper in Delhi. *PTI*

Eye on China, India-US raise defence cooperation

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

A SECURE video-conferencing capability between the three services of both countries, and foreign and defence ministries; enhanced sharing of maritime information; and meeting of a Military Cooperation Group later in the year to review the military-to-military engagement — these are some of the new understandings arrived at after the Indo-US 2+2 ministerial meeting on Tuesday.

While the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is one of the highlights in the outcome of the meeting, these smaller but important understandings are expected to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.

Dynasty of corruption from generation to generation makes country hollow: PM

'Unlike in past, poor can now get loans easily'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

"GENERATIONAL CORRUPTION" is a major challenge for the country and "dynasty of corruption" makes the country hollow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the National Conference on Vigilance and Anti Corruption, PM Modi said, "Generational corruption is a major challenge that has been gradually growing in the past decades and has taken a formidable form in the country."

He explained generational corruption as the corruption transferred from one generation to another. "When a generation of corrupt people does not get the right punishment, then the second



PM Narendra Modi

generation commits corruption with more vigour. Due to this, it became part of political tradition in many states. This corruption and dynasty of corruption from generation to generation makes the country hollow," Modi said. He said this situation is a major hurdle in the development of the country and wished that this topic would also be discussed in the national conference organised by the CBI. The PM stressed the necessity for administrative systems to be transparent, responsible, accountable and answerable to the public.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 27

SAYING THAT his government managed to "pass" the coronavirus test with "flying colours" as it focused on welfare schemes for the poor during the lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said a perception was created in the past that the poor do not repay loans.

Speaking during a video interaction with street vendors from UP who availed of loans amounting to Rs 10,000 each under the PM SVANidhi scheme, the PM said, "The poor have proved... they are



A vendor speaks to PM Modi through video-conference, in Lucknow. *Vishal Srivastav*

repaying their loans." He said the scheme's successful implementation is an answer to those who said that making the poor join the banking system will not help anyone.



ON POLL EVE: CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat with CPI leader Kanhaiya Kumar during an election meeting, in Bihar's Samastipur on Tuesday. *ANI*

Time to bring change: Sonia message to Bihar ahead of first phase

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

ON THE eve of the first phase of voting for Assembly elections in Bihar, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said winds of change are blowing in the state and asserted that the time has come to start a new chapter.

In a video message for the state, she said the governments in Delhi as well as Bihar have become "shut-down" governments. This was the first time she sent out a video message related to elections. On October 2, she addressed a Jan Chetna rally via video-conference to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

While she will not be travelling to Bihar for campaigning,



Sonia Gandhi

Rahul Gandhi will campaign in the state on Wednesday for the second time. He will address two rallies — one in Valmiki Nagar and another in Kusheshwar Asthan in Darbhanga district.

In Tuesday's message, Sonia said: "The government in Bihar, high on power and its ego, has deviated from its path. Neither their speech, nor their actions are good. The working class is helpless. Farmers are troubled and youth are disappointed. The fragile state of the economy is hitting the people's lives hard..."

Sonia said people of the state had many questions. "For the next generation and the next crop... the time has come for a change," she said.



but to instead distinguish between "satya and asatya" and "dharma and adhama" by voting for the Congress and restoring the democratic process in MP.

Soon after Pilot's arrival in MP, he is said to have met BJP Rajya Sabha MP Scindia. Scindia later told the media that anyone is welcome to campaign for the polls, as that is a part of the democratic process.

Addressing the gathering in Gwalior, Pilot accused Chouhan of making a backdoor entry and sitting on "people's chest" after being "sent home" in 2018 Assembly polls. The former Rajasthan deputy CM said he had come to campaign for the

Congress when asked by senior leader Kamal Nath and assured that he will do what is required to strengthen the party's position in the state.

He recounted the Vyapam scam under the Chouhan government and said that many innocent lives were lost.

On Tuesday, he also went to Shivपुरi and Morena before reaching Gwalior.

He said, "There is a lot of anger in the people on how the Congress lost power and the response in these constituencies was very positive." Pilot is expected to tour the remaining seats of Gwalior-Chambal region before returning to Rajasthan.



Pilot is said to have met BJP's Scindia after his arrival *File*

Congress to bring down the Kamal Nath government earlier this year.

Pilot, who has a strong influence on Gujar community in the region, urged people to not get divided among caste and class lines

IRAM SIDDIQUE
GWALIOR, OCTOBER 27

AT A stage set up across the street from the iconic Gwalior fort, Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Tuesday took on Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh, accusing him of making a backdoor entry for his government after the Congress defeated BJP in the elections.

Pilot, the Congress's star campaigner, is on a two-day tour of the seats in Gwalior-Chambal region going to bypolls. He refrained from making any direct remarks on Jyotiraditya Scindia and his team of MLAs who quit the

Assam. However, people from other communities also reside in such riverine areas in some districts.

On October 24, Samta tweeted Ahmed's letter with the comment, "In my understanding, there is no separate identity and culture in Char Anchal of Assam as most of the people had migrated from Bangladesh. Obviously, in Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra, which is the epitome of Assamese culture, we will not allow any distortion. Sorry MLA Sahab."

Abdul Khaleque, a Congress MP from Assam, replied to Sarma,



Govt disallowed museum in Kalakshetra (in pic)

"Sorry Sir, @himantabiswa. Ancestors of these people were migrated from erstwhile Bengal, which was integral part of undi-

vided India. Kindly don't distort history more just sake of getting power (sic)." On Monday, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal told reporters that the government would always work with devotion to keep the ideals of Srimanta Sankardeva intact.

The MLA from Baghbar, Ahmed, is himself a member of the 15-member DRSC on Education. The committee is led by an MLA from the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), an ally of the BJP in the state. Of the 15 MLAs, BJP and its allies have 10. The DRSC has six members from the BJP, two from the AGP, two from the BPF, three from the Congress and

two from the AIUDF. In its report to the Assam Assembly on March 24, DRSC had said, "The Committee recommends that one museum reflecting the culture and heritage of the people living in the Char-Chaporis of Assam shall be established at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati." Ahmed said none of the BJP leaders said anything then.

"Now, they are trying to polarise Assam prior to 2021 elections," he told *The Indian Express*.

When contacted, Yasing Shimray Wunglengton, Director, Directorate of Museums, said, "As a government servant, I have

nothing to comment on this political controversy."

When contacted, renowned academic Sanjib Baruah, professor of political studies, Bard College, New York, told *The Indian Express* over email, "I think the Assamese have good reasons to be proud of the integrative capacity of their culture... But no culture is ever static. The current leadership of Kalakshetra will have to find ways to incorporate newer elements of our culture into its collection to show that this integrative capacity of Assamese culture has not weakened."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY



Ramdas Athawale and Sunil Tatkare

MAHARASHTRA
Athawale, Tatkare test Covid positive, in hospital

Mumbai: Union minister Ramdas Athawale and NCP MP Sunil Tatkare, announced on Tuesday that they have tested positive for Covid-19. Both have been admitted to hospitals in Mumbai. Athawale (60) is diabetic. He had attended an event in Mumbai on Monday to induct actor Payal Ghosh into his Republican Party of India (A). Tatkare (65), who has been named by NCP as a star campaigner for the Bihar Assembly polls, is a close aide of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who had tested positive for Covid-19 on Monday. **ENS**

RAJASTHAN
3 held in Jalore for assault of Dalit youths

Jaipur: Jalore police arrested three persons after a video of two Dalit youths being assaulted went viral on social media. In the video, two youths are seen with their hands and legs tied and sitting on the ground, and at least two men hit them with sticks. Sanchore police station SHO Arvind Kumar said they were accused of theft. After the video emerged, police located the victims, who submitted a complaint, saying they were kidnapped by Kiran Kumar, Darjaram Soni and Ratnaram. An FIR was lodged at Sanchore police station on Monday under relevant IPC sections as well as sections of the SC/ST Act. Jalore SP Shyam Singh instructed Sanchore Additional SP Dashrath Singh to take up the case and make arrests. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH
Bhojpuri singer injured in celebratory fire

Lucknow: Bhojpuri singer Golu Raja was hit by a bullet during celebratory firing at a birthday party organised by a local BJP youth wing leader in Ballia on Monday night. Ballia SP Devendra Nath said, "At Mahakalpur village, one Bhanu Dubey had organised the birthday function of his son.... Around 10 pm someone fired a celebratory shot from his gun.... We have registered an FIR in the case and taking proper action." Bhanu Dubey is the district vice-president of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha, district BJP chief Jai Prakash Sahu confirmed. Police said the singer is out of danger. Police, however, claimed that they are yet to identify the person who fired the shot. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA
Maneater tiger which escaped caught again

Nagpur: A tiger named RT1 in Chandrapur district's Rajura forest, which has killed eight persons and injured three more, has been caught, officials confirmed. Chandrapur Chief Conservator of Forest N R Praven said, "The tiger was trapped around 3.10 pm." The tiger was shifted to a transit facility at Chandrapur and is to later be shifted to Nagpur's Gorewada Rescue Centre, an official said. Last week, the tiger was caught in a cage below a culvert but managed to squeeze out. **ENS**

Centre flags pollution role in Covid mortality, spike in 3 states

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

AGAINST THE backdrop of rising pollution levels being reported in the national capital region, ICMRDG Dr Balram Bhargava on Tuesday flagged that evidence from scientific studies conducted abroad reveal that pollution is contributing to Covid-19 mortality and that rapid adoption of masks is the only effective approach to this twin public health problem. "It is well-known that pollution is one of the most important aspects of death. First being malnutrition, then tobacco, high blood pressure, and pollution..."

On pollution related to Covid-19 mortality, there have been some studies in Europe and the United States. They have looked at polluted areas, and have compared the mortality during lockdown and correlation with pollution, and have found clearly that pollution is contributing to the mortality in Covid-19. That is well established by these studies," Dr Bhargava said at a briefing. "...rapid adoption of masks is the most inexpensive but effective approach to this situation," he said. Days after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced free Covid-19 vaccine for people of Bihar and at least two states announced that they will offer

free vaccine, NITI Aayog Member Dr V K Paul said the expert committee has requested state governments to "wait for the overall picture to become clear". "Vaccine scenario is dynamic because we don't have a single vaccine which has been licensed for use... let us remember that today there is no vaccine... we are working on vaccine scale-up... in that regard the access to the vaccine will be in such a way that if the vaccine supply is not unlimited, prioritisation has to be done... overall we can say that resources will not be an issue in ensuring the access to vaccine as it unfolds," Paul said. "...we have requested the state governments to wait for the

overall picture to become clear and to take a national approach towards engaging with companies, deciding the criteria for the vaccine, etc. The state governments have made these statements and they need to be respected," he said. Meanwhile, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan pointed out at the weekly briefing that in the last 24 hours, 49.4 per cent of the new cases came from five states and UTs — Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi. "Our trend (of decline in cases) is a good sign. However, the trend in three states, in Kerala, West Bengal, and Delhi are worrisome. Delhi is having a third peak..." Paul said.

Low Covid fatality rates in countries with poor hygiene, study shows

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, OCTOBER 27

SCIENTISTS HAVE been intrigued why there is a higher prevalence of Covid-19 infection and deaths in richer nations as compared to low and low middle income countries. A study has now shown countries with poor hygiene, low quality sanitation and water seem to have low Covid-19 fatality rates as compared to countries with better sanitisation.

While the findings indicated that the poorer the water sanitation in a country, the lower the deaths per million, the study has strongly advised against pursuing weak hygiene as a disease-coping mechanism.

"It was fascinating to explore reasons that would explain higher prevalence and deaths due to Covid-19 among richer nations. Our researchers from Pune's National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) and Chennai Mathematical Institute conducted a statistical analysis and examined more than 25 to 30 parameters including water and sanitation and deaths of Covid-19 patients per million in 106 countries," Dr Shekhar Mande, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), who is the co-author of the study, told *The Indian Express*.

The study has also strongly advised against pursuing weak hygiene as a disease-coping mechanism

The study, titled "The mortality due to COVID-19 in different nations is associated with the demographic character of nations and the prevalence of autoimmunity" has been published as a preprint on *MedRxiv*. Researchers Bithika Chatterjee from NCCS and Rajeeva Laxman Karandikar from Chennai Mathematical Institute examined developmental parameters like demography, prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases, BCG vaccination status, sanitation and Covid-19 deaths per million in 106 countries.

The researchers ran multivariate linear regression models to find that the incidence of communicable diseases correlated negatively while demography, improved hygiene and higher incidence of autoimmune disorders correlated positively with Covid-19 mortality and were among the most plausible factors to explain Covid-19 mortality as compared to the GDP of the nations, Dr Mande said.

Gujarati superstar dies of Covid, days after singer-brother's death

RITU SHARMA
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 27

POPULARLY KNOWN as the "Naresh-Mahesh duo" in the Gujarati film industry, they sang together — and died together. Two days after his elder brother, Mahesh Kanodia (83) died after a prolonged illness, Gujarati cinema 'superstar' turned-politician Naresh Kanodia (77) died of Covid-19 on Tuesday morning.

"People talk of Ram-Lakshman, but they actually proved it," said Naresh's son, Hitu, BJP MLA from Idar. "He (Naresh) was brought to the hospital on October 20; the next day, he was put on ventilator since he was having breathing problems," said Dr Kaushik Barot, at the UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre in Ahmedabad where Naresh was admitted.

"In a span of two days, we have lost both Maheshbhai and Nareshbhai Kanodia. Their contributions to the world of culture, especially popularising Gujarati songs, music and theatre will never be forgotten. They also worked hard to serve society and empower the downtrodden," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.



Naresh (left) and Mahesh Kanodia. Credit: Hitu Kanodia/ Facebook

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also tweeted about their contribution to the Gujarati film industry.

The two brothers started their career in Gujarati cinema together — in *Veli Ni Aavya Phool* in 1969 — in which Naresh acted and Mahesh was the music director and a playback singer.

A superstar of Gujarati cinema, Naresh worked in over 300 films in his career spanning several decades. In 2012, he won the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. "In the initial years, his name was Naresh Kumar. Over the years, their surname became Kanodia, as they hailed from Kanod village of

Mehsana district in North Gujarat," said Jayshree Parikh, who starred with Naresh in *Veli Ni Aavya Phool*.

Recalling a phone-in programme with Naresh on Doordarshan Gimar, Rupa Mehta, the then programme head, said: "I have not seen such a popular actor in my entire life. At the launch of the 'Mission Manoranjan' programme three years back, the phone just did not stop ringing."

The brothers were known for their versatility — Naresh is credited with having introduced dancing in Gujarati films, while Mahesh introduced the concept of Gujarati orchestra. The brothers later made their debut in politics — Mahesh was a BJP MP for four terms, while Naresh, contesting on a BJP ticket, wrested Karjan Assembly constituency in Vadodara from the Congress in 2002.

"I am saddened by the demise of Gujarati film superstar and BJP leader Nareshbhai Kanodia. Gujarat will always feel the loss of an evergreen actor who won the hearts of Gujaratis by popularising Gujarati films through his leading performances..." Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani tweeted.

Onion trade suspended in Nashik as traders protest stock limit by Centre

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
PUNE, OCTOBER 27

ONION TRADE across Nashik remained suspended on Tuesday, with traders refraining from auctioning to protest the stock limit imposed on the bulb by the central government to control the current price spike. Trade is likely to remain suspended till the issue is resolved, said Sohanlal Bhandari, director of Pimpalgaon Baswant market in Niphad taluka.

In view of the steep rise in onion prices across wholesale markets, the Centre clamped down heavily on the trade. Last week, the government prescribed a stock limit of 25 tonne (250 quintals) and two tonne (20 quintals) for wholesale and retail traders, respectively. This was done under the amended Essential Commodities Act, with government agencies citing a 100 per cent year-on-year price rise in the commodity. Before these stock limits were imposed, the government had consider-

ably eased import norms of the bulb, and back in September, onion export had been banned. Bhandari, however, said the stock limit was non-feasible. "By the time the stock limits were announced, we had already procured more than 25 tonne of onion in anticipation of the post-Dussehra demand from north and east Indian states," he said. "Till the time we are unable to dispose of (the stock), we will not be able to buy new stock, and thus, we have decided to suspend operations."

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

239 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 79,46,429
RECOVERED: 72,01,070
DEATHS: 1,19,502
TESTS: 10,44,20,894 | DOUBLING RATE: 111.74**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING TIME**
■ Maharashtra	16,48,665	3,645	0.42%	172.78
■ Andhra	8,08,924	1,901	0.41%	175.34
■ Karnataka	8,05,947	3,130	0.64%	112.03
■ Tamil Nadu	7,11,713	2,708	0.42%	169.75
■ Kerala	3,97,217	4,287	1.95%	36.84

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

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.52 NOW: 1.50	7 DAYS EARLIER: 7.90 NOW: 7.61	DETECTED TODAY: 36,410 RECOVERED TODAY: 63,782
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths	Positives against number tested (in %) indicator of the spread of disease	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on October 26, 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

Current guidelines on reopening to be applicable till Nov 30: Centre

New Delhi: The Centre Tuesday said the current guidelines allowing various activities like opening of cinemas, theatres and multiplexes with up to 50 per cent of their seating capacity will continue to be applicable till November 30 in areas outside

the containment zones.

Earlier, the guidelines for reopening activities issued on September 30 were to be in force till October 31. The Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order on Tuesday to extend this period till November 30, an official said. PTI

KAPURTHALA'S 'ZERO STUBBLE BURNING' VILLAGES

Farmers say doing away with fire has improved wheat yield

ANJU AGNIHOTRICHABA
JALANDHAR, OCTOBER 27

FOR THE third year in a row, Gurjeet Singh and Gurjinder Singh, two small farmers in Allahditta village of Kapurthala district's Sultanpur Lodhi subdivision, have not burnt any parali (paddy stubble) in their fields.

The alternative stubble management technique they employ isn't prohibitively expensive, and the farmers say their yields of wheat have improved. In fact, Allahditta and the neighbouring village of Ahmadpur Chhanna have reported no farm fires this stubble-burning season.

Gurjeet (50), said he manages the stubble on his five acres by first harvesting his (kharif) paddy with a combine harvester equipped with a 'Super SMS' (straw management system) that cuts the stubble in half and scatters it on the field, and then sowing (rabi) wheat using a 'happy seeder' machine.

He also rents a mulcher machine and a rotavator that mixes the stubble with the soil, before sowing wheat with a zero till drill machine. The whole process is quite simple, said Gurjeet, who hires the machines from a cooperative society in the neighbouring Mothanwala village.

"The only major expense is on diesel because all these machines are tractor-mounted," he said. It costs him between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,000 to manage every acre of stubble.

Gurjinder, who owns six acres of land in the same village,



Nihal Singh, who grows potato after harvesting paddy, says he has stopped setting his field on fire. Express

said: "After facing a little trouble in the first year, I am now getting a very good yield of wheat, much better than when I would burn my fields."

Indeed, until five years ago, most farmers in Allahditta and Ahmadpur Chhanna used to set their stubble on fire. But after the National Green Tribunal directed the Punjab government to stop the burning of stubble, they decided to purchase machines to manage the stubble, said Shingara Singh, the husband of Sukhwinder Kaur, sarpanch of Ahmadpur Chhanna.

Big farmers such as Shingara and his brothers, who grow paddy and potato on 300 acres, took the lead in buying the machines. Once it became easy to hire this machinery, even small farmers began to use them — and increasingly fewer fields were set on fire.

"There has not been a single incident (of stubble burning) in

our village and in Allahditta for the past three years," Shingara said.

According to Shingara, the better yields that came with the adoption of stubble management acted as a powerful incentive. Said Gurjeet of Allahditta: "My wheat crop has started giving me higher yields since I started ploughing the stubble back in the fields. Besides, who doesn't like clean air?"

Agriculture Development Officer, Sultanpur Lodhi, Dr Jaspal Singh confirmed there had been no farm fires in Ahmadpur Chhanna and Allahditta this year. "When they have already gone for sowing the next crop, there is no question of burning crop residue here," Dr Singh said, adding that efforts were on to bring down the incidence of farm fires in the entire subdivision.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

No Rural Development Fund for Punjab this paddy season

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 27

A FEW days after President Ram Nath Kovind's assent to Central government's new farm laws, the Centre has not kept a provision for the Rural Development Fund (RDF) in the Cash Credit Limit (CCL) extended to Punjab for the current paddy procurement season. The Centre has also sought to scrutinise how the state government spends the RDF.

In the CCL extended to the state by Centre for paddy procurement, the RD fee component is not accounted for in the provisional cost sheet for pro-

urement of paddy. This means that Punjab cannot withdraw RDF from the CCL it has received.

If the state does not get RDF on paddy, it would cost the exchequer about Rs 1,100 crore in the paddy season alone.

The *Indian Express* tried to call and sent messages to the Union Food Secretary, who was unavailable for a comment.

As per the new agri laws, the states cannot charge any RDF and mandi fee from the buyers.

Punjab makes about Rs 3,500 crore annually on account of RDF and Mandi fee, at the rate of 3 per cent each of MSP, both charged from the buyers (in this case the

Centre, as the foodgrains go to Central pool).

In a letter dated October 23 to Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, Punjab, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Distribution stated "matters related to deductions from MSP made by state and utilisation of RD fee for the purpose of development of procurement centres are under scrutiny". In the provisional cost sheet attached along with the letter, no monetary provision is indicated towards the RDF. The column mentioning about the RDF has been kept blank with a footnote that the RDF is now under scrutiny.

Urgent opening of SPA for saving this trade - A.W.A.S.



In Delhi SPA owners and therapist of the SPA are taken back in all guidelines issued by the Kejriwal Govt. with the hope that SPA will be opened SPA is the only trade which is not allowed to be opened by the Delhi Govt. rest of the business are now permitted to operate even swimming pools etc. All neighbor states have permitted to open the spa, Why Delhi has banned it, the members

Appeal of the association has no other means to earn for their livelihood & due closure of their SPA's their families are facing the stage of starvation even through state govt. continues to charge fixed electric, water bills etc. This is also crating a massive loss of revenue for Delhi state since all are migrating to NCR in the periphery of Delhi where these are opened by respective states govt. AWAS request to Delhi Govt. open Spa as soon possible. AWAS send several letters to (LG/CM, BJP National VP Shri Dushyant Gautam, BJP Delhi President Aadesh Gupta, AWAS Unit 32, Upper Ground Floor, Vasant Square Mall, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070.

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CIN: L23201MH1952G0108858

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Wednesday, November 04, 2020 to consider, inter-alia, the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Second Quarter & Half year ended September 30, 2020.

The said notice can be accessed on the Company's website at <https://www.hindustanpetroleum.com> Notice to this effect has also been given to NSE and BSE.

As communicated to the Stock Exchanges earlier, it is further informed that the Trading Window for dealing in securities of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is under closure from October 01, 2020 to November 06, 2020 for all 'Insiders' as per the Insider Trading code of the Company. The Insider Trading Code is available on the Company's website www.hindustanpetroleum.com

Place : Mumbai V. Murali
Date : October 27, 2020 Company Secretary

कार्यालय जिला बेसिक शिक्षा अधिकारी, गौतमबुद्धनगर

पत्रांक / बेसिक शिक्षा 6998-7002 / 2020-21 दिनांक : 23.10.2020

प्रेर दिवस

शासनदेश संख्या -895 / 68-5-20-810 / 2017 टीओ सीओ बेसिक शिक्षा अनुभाग-5, लखनक दिनांक 02 सितम्बर 2020 के अनुमति नं शैक्षिक सत्र 2020-21 हेतु पंचविदीय विद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत 86651 छात्र - छात्राओं के लिए निःशुल्क विटर यूनीफार्म (स्वेटर) का क्रय भारत सरकार द्वारा विकसित प्लेटफार्म GeM (Government e & Market Place) पर बिडिंग के माध्यम से कराया जाना है । स्वेटर का अधिकतम मूल्य रु० 200.00 प्रति पीस निर्धारित है । बिड अवार्डिड फर्म को चार साईजों में Small, Medium, Large, XL/ XXL के दो - दो सेट का नमूना बिड के तकनीकी नमूनाकन में सफल होने पर उपलब्ध कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा । स्वेटर क्रय किये जाने हेतु नियम एवं शर्त GeM पर अपलोड कर दी गयी है । जेम पोर्टल पर पंजीकृत फर्मों द्वारा उक्त बिड के क्रम में स्वेटर आपूर्ति हेतु अपना बिड अपलोड करते समय अनुभव के समन्वय में निम्नलिखित कोड भी एक बिन्दु के अनुसार दस्तावेज अपलोड किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा ।

- क्रय आदेश के साथ बिड की स्वप्रमाणित प्रति अपलोड की जाये तथा साथ में बिडर्स द्वारा स्वप्रमाणित किया जाये कि किल के सापेक्ष आपूर्ति कर दी गयी है ।
- क्रय आदेश के सापेक्ष आपूर्ति उपरान्त क्रेता द्वारा निर्गत कार्य निष्पादन / कार्य अनुभव प्रमाण - पत्र (जिस पर क्रय की गयी सामग्री का मूल्य अंकित हो) अपलोड किया जाय ।
- क्रय आदेश के सापेक्ष आपूर्ति किये जाने के साथ स्वरूप अन्य कोई दस्तावेज जैसे थर्ड पार्टी इन्स्पेक्शन रिलीज नोट इत्यादि अपलोड किया जाय ।

(सीरेन्द्र कुमार)

जिला बेसिक शिक्षा अधिकारी

गौतमबुद्धनगर



The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

BACK TO FUTURE

Signing BECA sets the stage for expansive security cooperation between US and India, serves long-term interests of both

THE SIGNING OF the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) at the 2+2 dialogue between the defence and foreign ministers of India and the United States in Delhi on Tuesday marks the end of the prolonged phase of mutual trust-building and sets the stage for more expansive security cooperation. The BECA is the last of the so-called “foundational agreements” that the US wants its defence partners to sign. The BECA, which lets the Indian and US armed forces exchange geospatial information, follows three other agreements that aim to protect the military information shared by the US (GSOMIA), provide mutual logistics support around the world (LEMOA), and facilitate communication between the weapons platforms of the two armed forces (COMCASA). These agreements have been hailed as major advances, but they are, in fact, rather routine. They have been under discussion between Delhi and Washington for nearly two decades.

The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed by the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee back in 2002. The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was signed a full 14 years later in 2016. The Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) was signed in 2018. The missing years in between belonged to the UPA government. To be sure, it was the UPA that opened the space for a bold new strategic engagement with Washington. Defence minister Pranab Mukherjee signed a 10-year framework agreement on defence cooperation with the US in June 2005 and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signed the India-US civil nuclear initiative in July 2005. The four foundational agreements should have followed easily from the 2005 breakthrough. But the Congress leadership was struck by “buyer’s remorse” — it turned each of these functional agreements into purity tests for India’s non-alignment.

Unlike the Congress leadership, Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed with the armed forces that saw major security gains from these agreements and even, more importantly, the political value of deeper strategic partnership with the US. That has helped clear the brush for more intensive engagement between the armed forces —from interoperability to intelligence-sharing and joint defence research to production of weapons. As the real possibilities for bilateral and multilateral defence and security cooperation open up now, it will be wrong to view the current developments as a tactical response to the immediate military challenges that India confronts vis-a-vis China. India’s defence dialogue with the US has a longer history than either country’s concerns about China. Substantive and institutionalised cooperation between the two defence establishments will serve the long-term interests of a rising India and an America that is restructuring its global security burden. Acting together, Delhi and Washington will be in a better position to shape the regional and global environment in favour of peace and stability.

RESIST THE BINARY

Centre should be careful not to turn proposed law on Delhi’s air pollution into a punitive exercise against Punjab’s farmers

THE CENTRE NEEDS to carefully think through its decision to frame a law “on air quality management” for the National Capital Region. The imperative to clear the capital’s unhealthy haze is, of course, unquestionable. But experiences of the past 10 years show that the pollution — a cocktail of particulate matter from vehicles in NCR, industrial emissions, construction dust and fumes from crop-residue burning in Punjab and Haryana — defies easy solutions. The Graded Response Action Plan — a set of incremental measures put in place since 2017 to obviate an environmental emergency in the worst months of early winter — has yielded mixed results at best. With stubble burning proving an intractable problem and the Punjab and Delhi governments showing little inclination to join forces, the judiciary has been called to step in on more than one occasion. The decision to draft a new law comes in the wake of the latest intervention — the Supreme Court had asked the Centre’s response to a petition on curbs on crop-residue burning. On Monday, solicitor-general Tushar Mehta told the court that the draft will be ready by this week. It will need to be informed by the lessons of the past —especially the need to understand the problem in all its complexity.

Every year, when farmers in Punjab and Haryana harvest their paddy crop, they are left with a stubborn residue. Though there have been some attempts to convert this straw to fuel, it seems to have very little commercial value. Using manual labour to extract the stubble is both expensive and time-consuming. With very little time to prepare the field for the winter sowing, the farmer has found it expedient to set fire to the straw. Winds carry the fumes to Delhi, which has few natural avenues to flush out the toxins. The problem has become vexed because pollution control authorities have, by and large, framed it in an unfair binary — the choking Delhi resident versus the smoke-spewing farmer. On paper, residue burning is banned but it makes little practical sense to ask farmers to give up an established agricultural practice without giving them viable alternatives — subsidised machines that root out the stubble have found little traction because the farmers find very little use for devices they will use only once a year.

In the long run, farmers in Delhi’s neighbouring states will have to be weaned away from water-guzzling paddy. Till then, governments will need to reach out to them in multiple ways — incentives, awareness campaigns. Heavy-handed measures may end up doing more harm than good.

PEOPLE’S CONSTITUTION

For the first time, Chile is on the path to having a constitution that represents the will of its people

IT BEGAN INNOCUOUSLY enough. The decision to raise metro fares in Chile, though, sparked massive nationwide unrest. Over a million people thronged the plaza in Santiago, and at least 30 protesters were killed. A year later, Chileans have voted overwhelmingly in a referendum to replace the country’s Pinochet-era constitution with a new one, to be drafted by an elected constituent assembly by 2022, which will then be subject to another referendum before it’s approved. For the first time, Chileans will have a set of governing principles that are not the legacy of a dictatorial regime but represent the will of the people.

Through the far-right dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet (1973-90), and then as a democracy since the 1990s, Chile has been an economic success. But it wasn’t just metro fares that brought millions to the streets. The vast inequality in wealth and access to social goods like healthcare and education, deepened the cleavages in society. The mass protests last year, and now the promise of a new constitution, are a consequence of that structural inequality. The challenge before the soon-to-be-elected constituent assembly is a historic one. The document it drafts cannot merely reflect the popular will of the moment, it must strike a balance.

Important issues such as the recognition and rights of the Mapuche indigenous population, powers to form unions, and water and land rights will be at the centre of the debate. It is equally important to ensure that conditions conducive to business and private capital remain. These issues are complex, and will require deliberation, debate and compromise. Yet, for a country that has not had its voice or founding principles enshrined in a document until now, it is an opportunity to be relished.



SANJIB BARUAH

THERE WAS A time when the United States was regarded as one of the world’s most stable democracies. It has one of the world’s oldest modern constitutions, which was drafted in 1787, ratified in 1788, and has been in effect since 1789. This political order has survived numerous challenges, including a four-year long Civil War (1861-1865) when the 11 slave-owning southern states broke away to form the confederacy. However, this challenge to the Constitution serves as a reminder that this economically and politically powerful democracy has not always been a liberal one. The US, as political theorist Judith Shklar liked to point out, “was not a liberal state until after the Civil War”, and even then, for a long period “often in name only”.

The peaceful transition of political power is only a bare minimum threshold for a stable democracy. Yet, whether this would happen in the US after this election is today in doubt to a degree that is unprecedented in living memory. In some of the most influential quarters of American life, there is great concern about the prospects of an orderly presidential transition. The *New York Times* has even published the “nightmare scenarios” of seven election experts — their fears about the worst thing that could happen with the elections — and possible measures to prevent it.

When Donald Trump won his unlikely election victory four years ago, the talk was of a populist challenge to liberal democracy. Concerns about the rise of populist demagogic politics in various parts of the world were then based on parallels with the politics of Europe in the 1930s, which seemed overblown to many.

But the fears about the possibility of a peaceful presidential transition point towards a crisis of liberal democracy that has uniquely American characteristics. The efforts by Trump and his allies to undermine the integrity of the election system — through often-repeated but unsubstantiated concerns about voter fraud and misinformation about the credibility of postal ballots — creates conditions for Trump’s supporters to reject the election results. In addition, the talk of voter

Can Americans count on a peaceful transition of political power?

The efforts by Trump and his allies to undermine the integrity of the election system — through often-repeated concerns about voter fraud and misinformation about the credibility of postal ballots — creates conditions for his supporters to reject the election results. It also provides cover to controversial decisions that could lower voter turnout among groups that disproportionately support Democrats.



BENITA FERNANDO

In what’s been a rough year for statues, the latest to face criticism is *Medusa With the Head of Perseus* (2008) by Luciano Garbati. The faux-classical statue — six feet tall and naked — was recently stationed outside the New York County Criminal Court, where Harvey Weinstein, once a god in Hollywood, was convicted for rape.

The Medusa story is more than two millennia old. According to Greek mythology, the sea-god Poseidon raped the beautiful mortal, Medusa, in goddess Athena’s temple. Athena transformed the rape survivor into a monster with hair of snakes and a gaze that could turn men into stone. When the hero Perseus later beheads Medusa, it’s only by looking at her reflection in his shield.

The myth was set in bronze by Renaissance sculptor Benvenuto Cellini, who hoists Perseus on Medusa’s decapitated body. Armed with a sword, Perseus raises Medusa’s head as a trophy and a warning. Garbati reverses this story. But his Medusa looks like a runway model, her wild mane tamed into a stylish coiffure, Perseus’s head dangling casually between her fingers like a Bottega Veneta Pouch.

In the post #MeToo world, the statue’s new positioning has a new charge. But viewers have also questioned it. Why is she carrying Perseus’s head instead of her rapist’s? Why is she sporting a Brazilian wax?

Historically, the earliest depictions of Medusa featured fangs, snakes, a vacuous gaze. Eventually, she became easy on the eyes, but continued to arouse in men fear and desire. Feminists reclaimed Medusa as the woman silenced by victim-blaming. Cindy

THE FEMALE GAZE

Why another Medusa makeover freezes #MeToo conversation in art

Sherman’s photographic work from 1993, *Untitled #282*, has the artist with Medusa’s snakes, gazing straight at the viewer, upturning the idea of the muse. Beyond art, Sigmund Freud considered her monstrous face as a metaphoric vulva. Later, feminist Hélène Cixous rewrote her, emphasising her unbridled laughter.

But subject to countless makeovers, Medusa deserves a break. In the name of dismantling set structures, we seem to have run out of fresh ideas. Garbati’s avatar is just the latest in this long line of re-imaginings, and not even the most nuanced. For instance, Medusa was armed with a petrifying gaze. Why would she need a phallic sword to kill men? Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo movement, wrote that Garbati could have created “something to memorialise the women who have stood outside of that courtroom in beautiful solidarity”. This statue, as part of New York’s public art programming, is a missed opportunity.

But worse, Medusa is occupying space that should ideally be devoted to new, suppressed or forgotten voices —and to spotlight the gender disparity in the art world. According to The Art Market 2019 report, only two works by women have ever broken into the top 100 auction sales for paintings, despite women being the subject matter for approximately half of the top 25. In 2018, as women sought out art to respond to the tumult of #MeToo, a chilling painting by Artemisia Gentileschi, titled *Judith Beheading Holofernes*, resurfaced. Gentileschi, a famous 17th century Italian painter, fell out of art history’s favour in the centuries that followed.

troversal, Obama said, “this president and those who enable him, have shown they don’t believe in these things”. Biden and Harris should be supported because they believe that the right to vote is sacred in a democracy and that “we should be making it easier for people to cast their ballots, not harder”. Unlike Trump, they believe that “no one, including the president, is above the law”, they don’t think their political opponents are “un-American”; or that the free press is the “enemy”. And then came Obama’s clincher: “That’s how a democracy withers, until it’s no democracy at all.”

What makes American democracy particularly vulnerable to the Trump challenge is the peculiar way in which it elects its president. Presidential elections are determined not by the national popular vote, but by the votes of individual states reflected in the Electoral College. Donald Trump became president in 2016 even though nationally Hillary Clinton won 2.9 million more votes than him (2.1 per cent of the total votes). But Trump won 304 Electoral College votes to Hillary Clinton’s 227.

The Electoral College gives states with small populations such as Vermont, Alaska, Montana and Wyoming a disproportionate voice in choosing the president. They enjoy the same advantage in the Senate, the country’s most powerful legislative body: Wyoming (population: 0.6 million) and California (population: 39.5 million) both have two Senators.

The Harvard historian Alexander Keyssar, author of the new book *Why Do We Still Have the Electoral College*, tells us that historically the institution can only be understood as a legacy of “slavery and white supremacy”. There have been more amendments proposed to change the Electoral College than on any other subject. But the US Constitution is notoriously difficult to amend; there have been only 17 constitutional amendments in the last 230 years. For most of its history, says Keyssar, the efforts to reform or abolish the Electoral College have been stymied “by Southern politicians in the interest of maintaining white supremacy”.

The writer is professor of political studies at Bard College, New York



OCTOBER 28, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM BANDH

THE 24-HOUR ASSAM bandh marking the resumption of the agitation on foreigners’ issue brought life in the state to a complete halt. Stray incidents of assault, clashes, stabbing and *gherao* were reported from various parts of the state. The police had to resort to lathicharge and teargassing at certain places. All shops, courts and banks remained closed, while attendance at district courts and the Dispur complex was thin. Most of those reporting for work were magistrates, who came to work in cars accompanied by bodyguards. The Gauhati refinery, not exempted from the bandh call, closed down last night for reasons of safety.

The bandh has been called by the All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad as part of their renewed agitation for an acceptable solution to the foreigners’ issue.

AIR INDIA STRIKE

A HARDENING OF the attitude of the management of Air India towards its striking ground staff was seen on the fourth day of a work stoppage called by the Air India Employees’ Guild. Close on the heels of its decision to de-recognise the guild for acting contrary to the code of discipline agreed mutually, the management suspended employee office-bearers of the guild.

TN GOVERNOR

PRABHUDAS PATWARI, WHO was last night removed from his post of Governor of Tamil Nadu, said that he would not challenge his removal in court. “I never aspired for any post and I am not going to fight for it,” he told newsmen at the Raj Bhavan in Madras.

LETTER TO SADDAM

IRAQ PRESIDENT SADDAM Hussein received a special message from PM Indira Gandhi on the Iraq-Iran conflict. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the message related to efforts by India “to settle the dispute peacefully” and was delivered by the secretary for External Affairs, Romesh Bhandari.

9 THE IDEAS PAGE

My Covid-19 family

A group of coronavirus patients from diverse backgrounds comes together in a hospital ward in Delhi to help heal each other – and transcend the climate of hatred and hostility outside



MASEEH RAHMAN

AFTER 10 DAYS OF treatment at home for COVID-19, I was rushed one evening to a private hospital in Delhi in a hypoxic state. The oxygen in my blood was falling and I was barely aware of my surroundings. I was immediately put on an oxygen concentrator, and started getting various antibiotics intravenously.

Getting admission in a hospital at the height of the pandemic in September wasn't easy. I was assigned to a general ward, called an "economy room", with five patients to a small room that had a common washroom. The other four patients in my ward were also admitted the same day.

As I lay in bed in a small, curtained cubicle, connected to various tubes, anxious and a little delirious, I recall my first thoughts – there was something warm and reassuring. I told myself, about the voice of the patient in the next cubicle (he was speaking on the phone). I didn't realise then that I had opened a small door to what was eventually a rather profound experience.

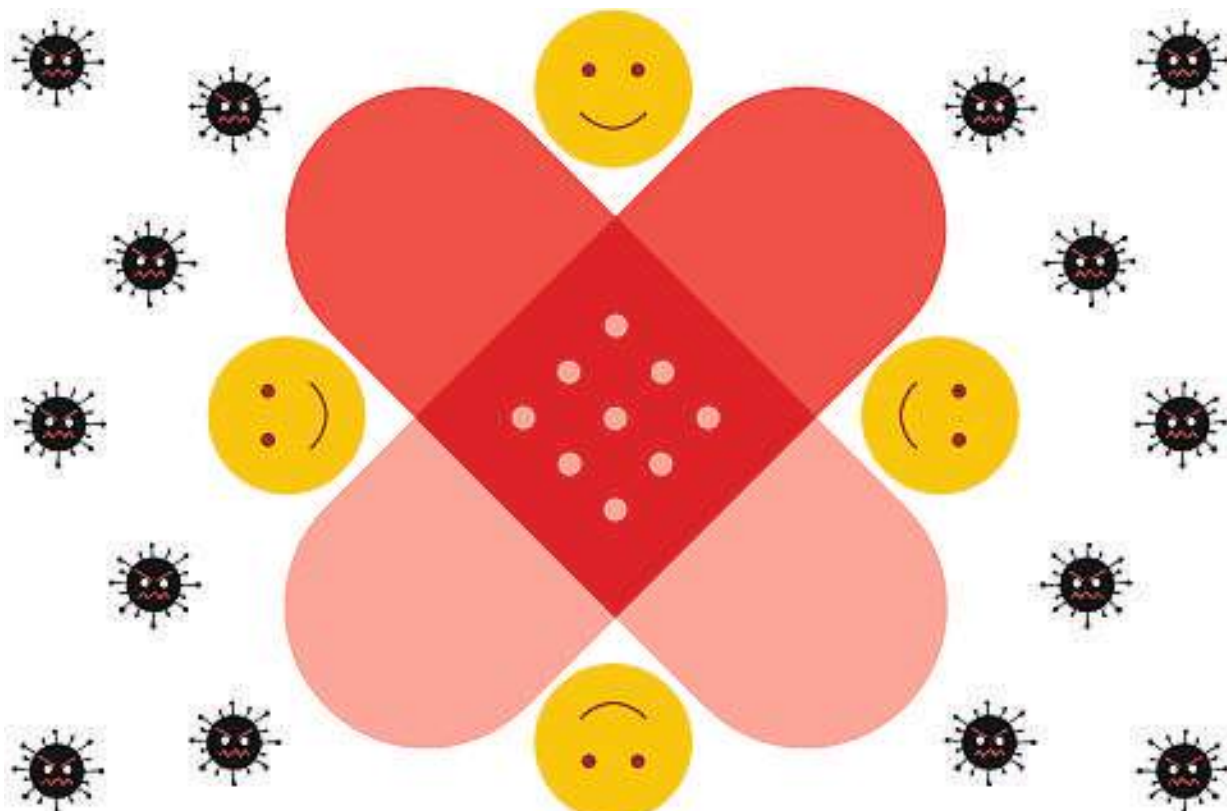
The moment of epiphany came at 3 am on my fifth night in hospital. A woman walked into my cubicle and declared, "You're shifting to the third floor! Pack your things." Though both the medical treatment and the hospital care I was getting in the ward was good, there had been a mishap the night before – the antibiotics being administered to me intravenously had twice gone into the bed mattress, instead of my vein. My family had, therefore, organised a single room for me the moment it felt vacant, expecting better care on a more exclusive floor.

But I instinctively felt I should not leave the general ward. Being more ill than the other patients in the ward, I had barely related to them. But I had been hazily aware of their interactions, supporting, encouraging and advising each other. Total strangers, they had in a few days come together and created a community of the convalescent. It would be a mistake to leave such a supportive group and lie alone in a large single room, I felt, especially when relatives, friends and even senior doctors could not visit COVID-19 patients. I refused to go.

Along with me my neighbour – a prosperous costume jewellery trader from Delhi's Sadar Bazaar – was also offered an upgrade. He packed his things and left. Within 10 minutes, he was back. "I feel better here," he said matter-of-factly.

I got both the treatments which are now the subject of controversy – the drug Remdesivir and blood plasma therapy – besides a plethora of antibiotics. I felt the three shots of blood plasma helped. On the seventh day, it seemed like I had turned a corner. I began relating to the other patients.

The very first encounter in the passage was uplifting. "You look just like my Nana (grandfather)," a young mother with unflagging spirit cheerily told me. "It's so good to see you up



C R Sasikumar

and about and smiling." She had to leave her eight-month-old baby at home after contracting COVID-19.

As often with Indians, it didn't take us long to become aware of each other's origins.

Unsurprisingly, they were quite disparate – Punjabi Hindu refugees from Sargodha in Pakistan; Marwaris from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan who had migrated to Gorakhpur in eastern UP; also from UP, the upper-caste Jaiswals, known historically as much for their religious tolerance as for their skill at trading in liquor; and middle-class Sunni Muslim from Hyderabad.

But far from creating anxiety or hostility, awareness of each other's backgrounds seemed to help us better understand each other. What was crucial, though, was the empathy, concern and caring we shared. We were in Delhi's best private hospital, but I felt the healing process was greatly assisted by the sense of community we created.

Lying in bed, with the window framing tall eucalyptus and ashoka trees, and a tranquil moon at nights, I couldn't help recalling how very different my experience had been just a few months earlier.

Delhi had been swept by a campaign of hate and intolerance. Violence had not yet exploded in the city's north-east, but the air was full of anti-Muslim invective. I was invited to the residence of a European ambassador, along with others from the capital's cultural and media world. It was amidst these elegant diplomatic surroundings that I first directly and dramatically experienced the radical transformation taking place in our society. A guest I had met barely a half-hour ago walked up to me at the buffet table. He seemed to be seething with rage. He pointed a finger at me, and apropos of nothing, began screaming, "I hate Muslims, I hate Muslims.... I especially hate rich Muslims."

In all seriousness, he then began insist-

As journalists, we tend to sometimes adopt a general theory about India, especially in challenging times. Which is that no matter how corrupt and extreme politics gets, the innate intelligence and goodness of 'ordinary Indians' will re-establish the equilibrium. It happened, for instance, after the Emergency. But this time the forces of darkness are far more powerful and ruthless. For the sake of our people and our country, I am desperately hoping that we succeed in restoring the balance again. Twelve days in a hospital ward showed me that it's possible.

ing that we go out to the ambassador's garden and engage in a fistfight – it was as if his uncontrollable rage needed immediate physical redemption. I will not forget the look of utter disbelief on the face of a fashion designer from the Northeast standing next to me.

This was not a solitary experience. Around the same time, a good friend had turned overnight into an ardent fan of a nasty and divisive leader. Our conversations had soon acquired the quality of baiting.

I had then asked myself: Is the India of Swami Agnivesh and Rajmohan Gandhi and Sudha Bharadwaj, of decency and kindness and human empathy, disappearing so fast? It was both depressing and scary.

But then I was admitted to the hospital. And it became a transformative experience.

I was the last to leave my ward. Before they went home, both the costume jeweller and the young mother touched my feet and sought my blessings. The other two patients were a successful doctor from Gorakhpur and his wife. After I got home, the doctor phoned. "We were all worried the first few days. Your condition seemed bad," he said. He invited me to visit Gorakhpur as his guest. "We're like a family now."

I have been a reporter all my life. As journalists, we tend to sometimes adopt a general theory about India, especially in challenging times. Which is that no matter how corrupt and extreme politics gets, the innate intelligence and goodness of "ordinary Indians" will re-establish the equilibrium. It happened, for instance, after the Emergency. But this time the forces of darkness are far more powerful and ruthless. For the sake of our people and our country, I am desperately hoping that we succeed in restoring the balance again. Twelve days in a hospital ward showed me that it's possible.

The author is a journalist living in Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Prime Minister Imran Khan has done himself, and his government, no favours by refusing to engage with the opposition. His attitude remains rigid and uncompromising."
—DAWN, PAKISTAN

Give reforms a chance

Central farm bills give states the opportunity to liberate the farmer from archaic systems



VINOD RAI

THE CENTRE HAS finally decided to bite the bullet by instituting major reforms in the labour and agriculture sectors. The reforms were announced piggy-backing on the COVID-19 relief package. Parliament has passed three bills on agriculture reform. This has evoked protests, largely in Punjab and Haryana. Unfortunately, politics in India has been played in the name of the farmer. Parties across the political spectrum have, at some point of time or other, advocated the reversal of the archaic mandi system. However, some parties continue to decry the steps taken.

Taking recourse to Article 254 of the Constitution, the Punjab government has passed its own bills to nullify some provisions of the central acts. Similar action by the Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan governments seems to be on the anvil. Let us analyse the legal implications of this action and how it might impact farmers in these states.

The Constitution has placed agriculture on the state list, implying that state governments are required to address all issues relating to it. However, it is the Centre which decides and announces support prices for major crops for the entire country. It also decides issues such as bank loan waivers. International agreements and multilateral trade in agricultural products also fall in the Union government's domain – issues related to agricultural and dairy products, in fact, had a prominent role in India not joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). So, in effect, agriculture gets dual consideration. This has led to considerable debate for moving it to the concurrent list. There is precedence for such action – the 42nd constitutional amendment had moved education to the concurrent list in 1976.

Some other constitutional provisions, in the Union and concurrent lists, provide legal justification for the Centre's intervention in issues pertaining to agriculture. Entry 33 in the concurrent list limits the power of states in agriculture, by empowering both governments to legislate on production, trade and supply of a range of agricultural foodstuffs and raw material. In fact, the Sarkaria Commission had opined on the Union government using Entry 33 to promulgate the EC Act in 1955. This significantly enhanced the Centre's power.

What seems to have raised the hackles of the states are provisions in the new bills which entrust the Centre with overriding powers of implementation. The Congress has issued an advisory to governments in states in which it holds office to explore the possibility of passing laws under Article 254(2) to bypass the central legislation. In

doing so, they are taking a leaf out of the NDA government's book – in 2015, the NDA government had been unable to amend the Land Acquisition Act passed by UPA-II due to an inadequate majority in the Rajya Sabha. It had then advised BJP-led states to invoke Article 254(2) to override the provisions of the central act.

The Punjab bill has set in motion the process of states taking refuge under Article 254 to pass their own pieces of legislation. The bill declares all purchases below the MSP to be illegal and punishable with imprisonment. It has also levied a fee on trade outside the mandis. All state bills that seek to nullify central acts have to be approved by the President after they have received the consent of the governor of the state. It is quite likely that the Punjab governor will return the bills, but will be legally constrained to pass them on to the President once the state government sends it to him again. If the intent of the Centre in passing the new acts were to prevail, it would advise the President to reject the Punjab legislation. It could even languish with the President for a long time. However, if they play politics, they could go along and advise presidential assent while continuing to undertake procurement at MSP – which the Centre had declared that it would not be curtailing. This may take the wind out of the sails of the state government as they have declared mandatory the purchase of only paddy and wheat at MSP. These two food-grains were, in any case, being more or less fully mopped up by procurement agencies. Under the new central law, the *arhtiyas* will not get their commission or fee.

Various petitions have also been filed in the Supreme Court claiming that the central laws infringe upon the jurisdiction of state governments and that they render farmers vulnerable to corporate greed and are, therefore, anti-farmer. While the legal issues will be adjudicated upon by the court in due course, the politics that is playing out is definitely going to be detrimental to farmers' interests.

The reforms certainly point to a direction where farmers would be freed from the archaic provisions of the APMC and EC Acts. It would be in the interests of the farming community and state governments to give the much-delayed reform measures a fair chance by giving them access to competitive purchases, affording better prices, since the safety net of MSP will in any case continue. Reformist chief ministers and astute policy planners should grab this opportunity and encourage investment in private infrastructure to create supply chains and give the farmer the benefit of demand-led prices. They should also take appropriate action to create institutional mechanisms, such as farmer producer organisations or aggregators, to ensure greater farmer participation.

This is certainly the 1991 moment for Indian agriculture. The first state off the starting block will liberate the Indian farmer as no other action of government has done in the last five decades.

The writer is distinguished visiting research fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore



ARUN MAIRA

Winners take it all

Post-Covid world must find ways to reduce distorting power of global capital

DEBATES ABOUT FREE trade pit those who advocate the value of economic growth against those who advocate values of justice. Many who support openness in trade also say that the present rules of the game are not just. They are concerned about how the rules of the game are framed.

The Economist (October 5) says, "Investor-state dispute-settlement (ISDS) clauses of international trade and investment agreements give foreign investors the right to resort to a secretive tribunal of well-remunerated corporate lawyers to seek compensation when they are in disagreement with a host government. They threaten governments who want to pass laws that seem self-evidently in their country's and even the world's interests". Nearly 150 members of the European and national parliaments have signed a letter saying the ISDS threatens the climate ambitions of EU countries. The ISDS has been used more than 1,000 times so far, and seven of 10 of the biggest compensation awards received by investors since 2012 have been to fossil-fuel companies.

The interests of remote financial investors are considered superior, in global trade rules, to the rights of local people represented by their own democratically elected governments. TRIPS (the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of International Property Rights) is another egregious example. Lobbies of multinational pharma companies want to protect their investors with intellectual monopolies under TRIPS, denying affordable medicines to the world's poorer people.

Investors are gaining more power over

the rights of people within India, too. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification 2020 mooted by the government intends to make it easier for investors to take over lands for projects by debilitating the assessment process which requires that communities be heard. The new labour codes passed by Parliament to simplify regulations have also weakened the rights of workers to be represented by unions.

The world wasn't healthy before COVID-19 struck. Climate change isn't being arrested. Some world leaders even deny that businesses have contributed to it. At the same time, a majority of workers around the world have precarious incomes without firm employment. New business models are throwing more workers into short-term contractual arrangements to make it easier for investors to do business. People and the planet are suffering, while profits increase. Vulgar inequalities between those who earn incomes from their financial investments, and those who have to labour to earn, have been made stark by COVID-19. Meanwhile, countries compete on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings (presently under a cloud) to make themselves more attractive to global investors.

An era is passing. Fifty years ago, Milton Friedman wrote in the New York Times that the business of business must be only to make profits because that is how business serves society. Ronald Reagan, inspired by Friedman and the Chicago school of economists, declared in his inaugural address, 40 years ago, that government is not the solution, it is

the problem. After COVID-19, everyone, including businesses, is asking governments to do more to pull the economy out of the crisis.

Never waste a crisis, some say. Therefore, free-market economists and business lobbies are now urging the Indian government to use its parliamentary majority to initiate reforms in labour, environment and agriculture laws. They want markets to work more efficiently; and they want India to be more attractive for investors.

In good markets, the terms of trade must be fair to both suppliers and buyers. In India, terms of trade have been stacked against small farmers to keep prices low for consumers; against small enterprises in financial markets, and also when they supply to large buyers in global supply chains. The terms of trade are unfair for all workers (including those self-employed) who are on the supply side of labour markets vis-à-vis those who pay them. Small people do not have clout in any market. Those with more money set the terms of trade.

"Put your money where your mouth is", is a common expression wherever money talks. Economist Albert Hirschman saw the contradiction between institutions of capitalism and democracy building up 50 years ago. He pointed out, in his book *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty* (1970), that Milton Friedman had expressed his difficulty in accepting the notion that people should desire to express their views to make them prevail. Friedman described this as a resort to "cumbrous political channels". He would much rather they resort to "efficient market mechanisms" and

use their money rather than their mouths to make their opinions known.

But what if people have little money, or no money? How can they influence reforms to make them just for poor people and less harmful for the environment? Their wealth is in their numbers, not in bank accounts. Therefore, workers, tiny enterprises, consumers and citizens must be encouraged to form stronger associations – not prevented from forming them for making life easier for investors.

The global governance crisis is a conflict between the governance principles of capitalism and democracy. Capitalism runs on the principle of property rights: Those who own more must have a greater say in the governance of the enterprise. One dollar gives one vote; a million dollars gives a million. Democracy, on the other hand, runs on the principle of human rights. Every human being, whether she owns a billion dollars, or none, has an equal vote. Money is speaking too much in fixing the rules of the game: It influences elections; it controls the media; it powers lobbies for reforms at international and national levels.

The way the rules of the economy and trade are made must change to create a more just and resilient world. Voices of the poorest people and their associations must be heard more loudly than the opinions of the rich and their lobbies.

Maira is author of

The Learning Factory: How the Leaders of Tata Became Nation Builders

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GIVE US DATA

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Drug case: Can't access details of calls, texts as they are encrypted, WhatsApp tells HC' (IE, October 27). WhatsApp refused to share the information, saying that texts and calls are encrypted. This move should be taken as a symbol of Facebook's monopoly. It is disappointing, given that we have a population of more than 1.3 billion and a commensurate market. It's high time we think of creating a data access deal with such companies, where they are bound to provide necessary data for legal use in our country.

Ayushi Singh, Agra

TOP-DOWN PROBLEM

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Truth must come out' (IE, October 26). When all the three wings of the democracy lack holy cows, the chances of the pot calling the kettle black cannot be ruled out. But as suggested, the truth must be found out. Instances of levelling charges should not become a daily feature, as it can bring the government to a grinding halt. A permanent solution, therefore, needs to be found out. But it is easier said than done. This is because in some cases the fish rots from the head down.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

WORRYING CAVEAT

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'India jolted China, must build ties to grow bigger than Beijing: RSS chief' (IE, October 26). Mohan Bhagwat, while decrying atrocity and discrimination without mentioning caste, further undermined its significance by

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● **PRECARIITY OF DALIT LIVES IN INDIA:**
JAVED IQBAL WANI AND L. DAVID LAL

● **THE DIGITAL IN THE BIHAR CAMPAIGN:**
ANITA TAGORE

www.indianexpress.com

adding: "But if a one-off incident does take place in such a big country..." There is no way to dismiss NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) data that reveals not only the number but also the nature of crime against Dalits.

LR Murmu, Delhi

CHINA'S RISE

This refers to the article, 'A poll-proof relationship' (IE, October 27). The bipartisan support in the US, favouring a tighter strategic embrace with India is not entirely unconditional. The meteoric rise of China has pushed US into deeper engagements with regional powers. India's has its own differences with China – Chinese global ambitions are not in tune with India's vision for rule-based multipolar world order.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata



New Delhi



UTTARAKHAND TO MOVE SC HC orders CBI probe on charges against Rawat

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 27

THE UTTARAKHAND High Court on Tuesday ordered a CBI probe into allegations made by a journalist in a video, accusing Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, then BJP in-charge of Jharkhand, of allegedly getting money transferred to accounts of relatives in 2016 to back the appointment of a person in Jharkhand to head the Gau Seva Ayog.

Justice Ravindra Maithani also ordered quashing of the FIR against the journalist, Umesh Kumar Sharma.

The state government will move the Supreme Court challenging the order, Darshan Singh Rawat, media coordinator of the CM, said. “The government respects the High Court order. Facts will be cleared in the inquiry,” he said.

BJP state president Bansi Dhar Bhagat said, “I am not aware of the matter, but certainly the High Court order will be followed.”

The HC ordered the CBI probe in the hearing of separate writ petitions (criminal) filed by two journalists – Sharma and Shiv Prasad Semwal – who had sought quashing of an FIR lodged in July this year at Nehru Colony police station of Dehradun under different IPC sections. The FIR was lodged after a retired professor, Harinder Singh Rawat, manager of a college in Dehradun, approached the police with a complaint against a video Umesh had uploaded on Facebook in June. As per the complaint, Umesh had alleged that his

wife Savita Rawat, an associate professor, is sister of CM Rawat's wife, and that during demonetisation in 2016 a man named Amratesh Singh Chauhan had deposited money in different accounts – belonging to him and his wife. The complaint stated that Umesh alleged that the money was paid as a bribe to Rawat to get Chauhan appointed chairperson the gau seva panel.

Harinder rejected allegations that his family is related to the CM, and stated in the complaint that Umesh, in his video, showed fabricated documents relating to cash deposits in bank accounts.

Hearing the petition, Justice Maithani stated, “...this court can, within the scope of jurisdiction under Article 226, order for investigation into allegations levelled by the petitioner in para 8 of the petition. This court is of the view that considering the nature of allegations levelled against Trivendra Singh Rawat, Chief Minister of the State, it would be appropriate to unfold the truth.”

The court directed the CBI SP in Dehradun to register an FIR on the basis of allegations levelled in para 8 of the petition and investigate. Petitioner Umesh said para 8 refers to allegations of an alleged deal between Amratesh Chauhan and Trivendra Rawat, and also has details of bank accounts of the CM's relatives in which money was allegedly transferred. He said, “I stand by the allegation I made. Amratesh was not appointed Gau Seva Ayog chairman and he shared details of the deals with me...”

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

NAMES INCLUDE 26/11 CONSPIRATORS, IC 814 HIJACK ACCUSED

Under amended UAPA, Centre declares 18 people as terrorists

DEEPTIMANTI WARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE CENTRE has designated 18 key operatives and leaders of groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Indian Mujahideen (IM) and members of the Dawood Ibrahim gang as individual terrorists under the recently-amended Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

Among those in the list are key 26/11 conspirators Sajid Mir and Yusuf Muzammil, alias Muzammil Butt; IC 814 case accused and JeM leaders Ibrahim Athar and Yusuf Azhar; JeM chief Masood Azhar's brother Rauf Asghar, key conspirator in Parliament attack, Pathankot air-base attack and Pulwama CRPF convoy attack cases; IM founders Riyaz and Iqbal Bhatkal; HuM chief Syed Salauddeen; and Dawood's close aides Chhota Shakeel and Anees Shaikh, be-

EXPLAINED What 2019 amendment means

THE CENTRE had amended UAPA, 1967, in August 2019 to include the provision of designating an individual as terrorist. Before this amendment, only organisations could be designated as terrorist outfits. In first orders under the new Act, the government had, in September 2019, declared LeT's Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, JeM's Masood Azhar and Dawood Ibrahim as terrorists. Nine leaders of Khalistan movement were later designated as terrorists.

sides 1993 Mumbai blasts accused Tiger Memon, among others. All of them are said to be in Pakistan currently.

“Reinforcing the commitment of strengthening national security and its policy of zero tolerance to terrorism, the Modi Government today has declared... eighteen more individuals as designated terrorists under the provisions of UAPA Act 1967 (as amended in 2019) and included their names

in the Fourth Schedule of the said Act,” the MHA said in a statement.

Abdur Rehman Makki, brother-in-law of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed, is also among the 18 named. Makki is said to head LeT's political affairs and has led the terrorist outfit's foreign relations. Another inclusion is that of Shahid Mehmood, alias Shahid Mehmood Rehmatullah. Mehmood is the Pakistan-based deputy chief of proscribed organ-

PARENTS ALLEGE TORTURE

Dalit boy dies in Gujarat observation home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 27

A 17-YEAR-OLD Dalit boy died under mysterious circumstances at an observation home in Khanpur on Tuesday, after which his parents alleged he was tortured and demanded a police investigation.

According to police, the victim, a resident of Isanpur, was detained on October 23 on charges of assault. He was produced before a Juvenile Court and sent to Khanpur Observation Home.

On Tuesday, the boy's father was told his son's health had deteriorated and that he should reach the Civil Hospital in Asarwa.

“They have not yet told me how he died. I had been trying to meet him since he was detained but was denied permission... I even went with a lawyer... They tortured my son... and that is why they did not allow me to meet him,” the father, who works as a daily wage labourer said.

An accidental death report was filed at Shahpur police station, whose incharge said, “We have sent the viscera sample to the Forensic Science Laboratory. Prima facie, we have not found any injury marks on the body...”

Additional commissioner Gautam Parmar said, “...we are awaiting post-mortem report.”

King George's Medical University U.P.

Chowk, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India-226003

Ref. No 22/Notice/E.E(M)/20 Date: 27.10.2020

Tender Inviting Notice

Second time bids are invited under two e-bid system latest by 13.11.2020 The Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for a period of 5 Years of Passenger Lifts of Otis make at T.G Hostel, R.A.L.C, Rheumatology, Gautam budh hostel, Geriatric Mental, Iari Cardiology, C.T.V.S, Queen marry, Old Dental, New Dental, New O.P.D, urology, Plastic surgery, Pediatric surgery, Private ward, Medicine, Bal Vibhag, Ophthalmic, Resident Hostel, Library, Microbiology, S.P.M. Shatabdi Hospital Phase-1, Trauma Centre, Over Bridge Queen marry, Over Bridge New Dental DEPARTMENT King George Medical University U.P. Lucknow, their authorized Company/contractor can apply on the terms and conditions as per Tender document & short details of the equipments, EMD & DD can be view at KGMU website. Tender will be available on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. www.kgmucindia.edu/www.csmmu.in

(Executive Engineer)
(Electrical/Mechanical Department)

UJVN LTD.

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248001

CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025886

Telephones: 0135-2763508, Fax: 0135-2763507

Ro.No.- 676 Corrigendum-01 Dated- 26.10.2020

1. At point No. 3 e (for experience) in Section I of e-15/UJVNL/EE(M&G)/KPS/2020-21, for Procurement of various consumable items (electrical) for Kulhal Power House , "last 7 years shall be read as last 2 years"

2. In section I-3 "Similar works" of NIT No.16/UJVNL/EE (M&G)/Kulhal /2020-21 for Annual maintenance of Unit -C of Kulhal Power Station (3x 10 MW), "Mechanical maintenance works" shall be read as electrical and mechanical works.

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> and www.ujvn.com.

Executive Engineer (M&G), Kulhal

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Regd. Office: Nagarabhivridnghi Bhavan,

22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560 038

Ph: 080-25196124-129 , Fax: 25196110

Website: www.kuidfc.com e-Mail: info@kuidfc.com

No. KUIDFC/KUWSMP/NGO/HDW/225/2015-16 Date: 28.10.2020

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the "SUPPORT ORGANIZATION" (SO) for implementation of Communications and Stakeholders Intermediation Activities at Hubballi-Dharwad city

(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KUIDFC is implementing 24x7 Continuous Pressurized Water Supply Scheme under the World Bank assisted "Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project" (KUWSMP) in the city of Hubballi-Dharwad. KUIDFC intends to appoint Support Organisation for Hubballi-Dharwad city to implement Communications and Stakeholder's Intermediation Strategy (CSIS) Activities. Interested SOs may apply online through e-Portal by 1600 Hrs on 26.11.2020 (as per e-Portal time). Details of EOI and other information on the proposed assignment is available on the Karnataka e-Procurement Portal <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> and KUIDFC website: www.kuidfc.com from 29.10.2020. For any clarifications, the Task Manager (KUWSMP), KUIDFC may be contacted.

Telephone: +91 80-25196124; Facsimile: +91 80-25196110.

Sd/- Task Manager, KUWSMP, KUIDFC

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC. BE AWARE

Wear Mask 8 Foot Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

BUILDINGS (C&M) CIRCLE, MEDICAL WORKS, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 005.

NIT No. 10/2020-2021/BCMC/WW/CHENNAI Date : 27.10.2020

FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMPsum (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Medical Works, Chepauc, Chennai-5 invites tender for the following work at his Office upto 3.00 P.M. on 01.12.2020 in two sealed covers containing, Cover (1) Pre-Qualification details and EMD in a separate inner cover and Cover (2) Price Tender Schedule in another sealed cover and put into one common sealed cover from the experienced and Registered Contractors / Firms in Public Works Department as detailed below. The Pre-Qualification will alone be opened at 3.30 P.M. on the same day.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Appx. value including G.S.T. (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Period of Completion	Cost of tender documents with GST (in Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Sub Work : Construction of Quarters for CRRI (Boys) & Resident Doctors (Male & Female), Infrastructure facilities such as Protection Wall for Residential and Hospital Campus, Approach Road, Parking facilities and HT & LT supply arrangements for New Government Medical College and Hospital in Thiruvallur.	2500.00	Rs.12,65,000/-	18 (Eighteen) Months	Rs.15,000/- + Rs.1800/- (GST)

Eligible Registration Class of Contractor : Registered in Class-I in State Level (Rs.75.00 Lakhs and above).

Cost of Tender Schedule and EMD to be remitted in favour of : The Executive Engineer, PWD, Buildings Construction Division-II, Medical Works, Chepauc, Chennai-5.

All other details including EMD, Qualification criteria are incorporated in the tender documents, which are available in the following website and can be download at free of cost: www.tenders.tn.gov.in

The Tender documents can also available in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Building Construction & Maintenance Circle, Medical Works, Chepauc, Chennai - 600 005 during office hours upto 05.45 PM by remitting cost of Tender Schedule as furnished as above column 6 by remitting through Challan in State Bank of India, Chennai-1 and any Clarification will be entertained during office hours on working days upto 30.11.2020.

DIPR/ 4021 /TENDER/2020 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD,

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

Superintending Engineer (H)
Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle,
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 02/2020-21/CMDP/DO/dated: 27.10.2020

(Online only)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage Tender under Two Cover System, through online only for Division – I work of 'Forming link Road and Construction of Bridge across Buckingham Canal connecting Rajiv Gandhi Salai and ECR Km 0/0 - Km 0/860 including Land Acquisition for entire link road from OMR to ECR' will be received upto 04.12.2020, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai-15.

Detailed scope of work, approximate value, EMD, availability of tender document and all other details are available from 31.10.2020 onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in>. If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc to the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer(H)
CMDP Circle, Saidapet, Chennai-15.

DIPR/4010/Tender/2020

Religare ex-CEO among 2 held for siphoning funds

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested Religare Enterprises Ltd former director and CEO Maninder Singh and one of his aides for allegedly siphoning off funds from the company. Police identified the aide as Narendra Goushal (56) —

a promoter-director of Arch Finance Limited. Police said Singh, who was CEO in 2017, allegedly sanctioned 13 loans from Religare Finvest Limited (RFL) worth Rs 700 crore to “fake entities” as part of a conspiracy involving REL

promoters, who have been arrested. ENS

दक्षिणार्धक विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.
CIN:U31200UP2003SGC027460

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
अकोहाबारकली द्वारा निर्मासित विद्युतनिगम व मागों में दिनांक 11.11.2020 समय 1200 बजे तक प्रेषित एवं बोध्य देवदार/विद्युतदाताओं से निगम कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है एवं दिनांक -11.11.2020 को समय 1500 बजे खोला जायेगा। विद्युत जाकाकी चर्चा खान का आधिकारिक ई-प्रोक्वेस्ट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है- 1. ई-निविदा विधिकीयक संख्या- 20/SE/EDCM/2020-21: पूर्ण जाका योजना के अन्तर्गत विद्युत वितरण उपखंड चरखारी की सीमान्तगत अर्जुन सहयोग परियोजना करवाई नहर निर्माण में अकोहा व चरखारी पर 11 केंवली लाइन का उल्कीकरण कार्य। करवाई धनराशि- रु. 3050.00 , निविदा शुल्क- रु. 1180.00 (जीएसटी सहित) 2. ई-निविदा विधिकीयक संख्या- 21/SE/EDCM/ 2020-21: महोबा जम्दर स्तर पर सोसल मीडिय प्रकोष्ठ के लिए मायनड कार्यालय में 02 नंग कम्यूटर नंग स्लॉर, बिंदर एवं यूनिफॉर्म को आपूर्ति। प्रकोष्ठ धनराशि- रु. 1200.00, निविदा शुल्क- रु. 1180.00 (जीएसटी सहित) 3. अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विनोदमोहन, महोबा 1066/वि.वि.म.नं.सी-1(नूराबाद)/2020-21 दिनांक 27-10-2020 राष्त्र हित में बिजली बचाय

Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance Department of Planning Room no 403- Vishwakarma Bhawan, Uttarakhand Secretariat, 4, Subhash Road, Dehradun 248001

Letter no: 381/42/CPPGG/SCW/2020

Date:27th October 2020

Request for Bid from Firms for Designing IEC material

Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPPGG) anchored in Department of Planning supports the Government of Uttarakhand in governance and policy reforms. CPPGG invites bid from individual/firms to design posters on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For details regarding requirements of the assignment, terms and conditions and quotation format etc. please visit <http://cppgg.uk.gov.in/> . Last date of submission of bid is 11th November 2020.

Additional CEO
CPPGG

HC to monitor CBI probe into Hathras; victim’s family to get CRPF cover: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE ALLAHABAD High Court will monitor the CBI probe into the Hathras case — in which a 19-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly gangraped and murdered last month — and the girl's family and witnesses will now be provided CRPF security, the Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday.

The court, which was hearing petitions seeking an SC-monitored CBI or SIT probe and transfer of trial from UP to Delhi, said it would be appropriate for the CBI to complete its investigation and a transfer of trial may be discussed if the need arises in future.

A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and also including Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, noted that the state government had taken sufficient steps to provide security to the victim's family and witnesses but said they should be given CRPF protection “to address the normal perception and pessimism” in a crime of such a nature.

The bench said the HC had already registered a suo motu PIL in the matter.

“...it is noticed that the High Court has adequately delved into the aspects relating to the case to secure fair investigation and has also secured the presence of the father, mother, brother and sister-in-law of the victim and appropriate orders are being passed...”

“In that circumstance, we do not find it necessary to divest the High Court of the proceedings ... That apart, the incident having

occurred within the jurisdiction of that High Court and all particulars being available, it would be appropriate for the High Court to proceed to monitor the investigation in the manner in which it would desire,” the bench said in its order.

Disposing of applications seeking the court's intervention and raising concern over the incident and manner in which the victim was cremated, the bench said the parties may present their case before the HC.

“... Without expressing any opinion on the merits of the rival contentions, all aspects of the matter are left open to be considered by the High Court in PIL... relating to the incident regarding which the investigation is to be conducted by the CBI and also with regard to the grievance put forth alleging illegal cremation,” the SC said.

On the plea for transfer of trial, the court said it could be considered if the need arises.

On the UP government's affidavit on details of security provided to the victim's family and witnesses, the court said “the affidavit as filed no doubt indicates that sufficient steps have been taken by the state government to provide protection”.

“However... without casting any aspersions on the security personnel of the State Police; in order to allay all apprehensions... we find it appropriate to direct that the security to the victim's family and the witnesses shall be provided by the CRPF within a week from today,” the court said, asking the Chief Secretary to inform the CRPF, which will report the same to the HC.

Chennai Police book former HC judge over remarks on judges

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 27

FOLLOWING A complaint by a lawyer of the Madras High Court, the Chennai police cyber cell on Tuesday booked former HC judge CS Karnan for his remarks against several former and sitting judges of the high court and the Supreme Court.

A senior officer said the complaint was followed by a letter written by senior lawyers of Madras High Court to Chief Justice of India Sharad A Bobde against Karnan over a video in which he is purportedly heard making objectionable comments against women, threatening judicial officers and spouses of judges with sexual violence.

The video also shows Karnan alleging that some judges of the Supreme Court and the high court “sexually assaulted women court staff and women judges” and naming the alleged victims.

The lawyers' letter to CJI Bobde said Karnan's statements “amount to a horrific act of vio-



Former HC judge CS Karnan

lence and an affront to the dignity of all women” and “reveal a deep-rooted misogyny” and sought immediate action.

On Tuesday, the cyber cell booked Karnan under Sections 153 and 509.

The Supreme Court had sentenced Karnan to six months' imprisonment in May 2017 after he was found guilty by a seven-judge bench for contempt of the apex court, the judiciary and judicial process.

He was punished when he had six months left in the service. Karnan, who faced several corruption allegations during his career, had claimed that he was targeted because of his Dalit background.

Khushbu taken into custody

Chennai: Actor-turned-politician and BJP leader Khushbu Sundar was taken into preventive custody by Chennai Police on Tuesday while en route to Chidambaram town in Cuddalore district to protest against Dalit leader Thol Thirumavalavan's remarks on Hindu women and the Manusmriti. Soon after police action, Khushbu hit out at the ruling AIADMK government. ENS

11 | E. EXPLAINED

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020



@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

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

Water on the Moon: a discovery, an estimate, and why it matters

KABIR FIRAQUE & MEHR GILL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE MOON has water at places where none had been detected before, and has potentially more water than previously believed in regions where it was already understood to exist. In two studies in *Nature Astronomy*, scientists have reported findings with possible implications for sustaining humans on the Moon in the future. One study reports the detection of water on the Moon's sunlit surface for the first time. The other estimates that the Moon's dark,

shadowy regions, which potentially contain ice, are more widespread than thought.

Why does the discovery of water matter?

Apart from being a marker of potential life, water is a precious resource for astronauts landing on the Moon, not only for sustaining life but also for purposes such as generating rocket fuel. NASA's Artemis programme plans to send the first woman and the next man to the Moon in 2024. If space explorers can use the Moon's resources, it means they need to carry less water from Earth.

What is known about water on the Moon?

Previous Moon studies, including by ISRO's Chandrayaan-1 mission, have provided evidence for the existence of water. In 2009, the Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) instrument aboard Chandrayaan-1 found water molecules in the polar regions. A paper in *Nature Geoscience* in August 2013 analysed M3 data to report the detection of magmatic water (water originating from the deep interiors) on the Moon's surface. What was not established in previous studies was whether the detected molecules were water as we know it (H₂O) or in the form of hydroxyl (OH).

What is different in the new discovery?

This time, it is confirmed H₂O molecules, discovered in Clavius Crater in the Moon's southern hemisphere. It also shows water on the Moon is not restricted to the shadowy regions. SOFIA, which is a modified Boeing 747SP jetliner that flies at altitudes up to 45,000 feet, has an infrared camera that picked up the wavelength unique to water molecules. Concentrations are low — 100-412 parts per million trapped in 1 cubic metre of soil.

How could the water have formed?

Space rocks carrying small amounts of

water could have bombarded the Moon. Alternatively, the Sun's solar wind could have carried hydrogen, which then reacted with minerals in the lunar soil, NASA said.

The sunlit surface retaining the water presents a puzzle, since the Moon does not have a thick atmosphere. One possibility is that the water could be hidden between grains of soil and sheltered from the sunlight, NASA said.

So, how widespread is the water?

On the sunlit side, it is not yet known whether the water SOFIA found is easily accessible. For the hidden, shadowy pockets on the

lunar surface called "cold traps", the other study has an estimate: they are spread across a combined 40,000 sq km (roughly the size of Kerala), all potential reservoirs for ice. The estimate used mathematical tools to analyse data from NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter.

What next?

SOFIA will look for water in additional sunlit locations to learn more about how water is produced and stored. Meanwhile, NASA's Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover will be carrying out a mission to create the first water resource maps of the Moon.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

France, Macron and Islam

The French President is under attack from leaders and citizens of Muslim countries following comments he made about Islam and secularism. A look at France's complex relationship with Islam

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 27

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron's remarks about Islam have pitted France against several countries in the Islamic world. A look what he said, and why:

Why are many countries in the Muslim world angry with France?

France has a long and complex relationship with Islam, and its 5 million Muslim citizens (just under 9 per cent of its population). On October 16, when an 18-year-old Chechen refugee in France beheaded schoolteacher Samuel Paty, 47, days after he had shown caricatures of Prophet Mohammed to his students, President Macron said: "We will continue... We will defend the freedom that you taught so well and we will bring secularism." He said France would "not give up cartoons, drawings, even if others back down".

Days before Paty's killing, Macron had made a controversial speech. He declared that "Islam is a religion that is in crisis today all over the world", "plagued by radical temptations and by a yearning for a reinvented jihad which is the destruction of the other".

He spoke of an "Islamist separatism" within the country, and the need to counter it through the rules and values of the Republic, to build a French version of Islam, an "Islam of Enlightenment" that would integrate French Muslim citizens better with the French way of life. French secularism was not the problem, he said. It was the "conscious, theorised, politic-religious project, which materialises in repeated deviations from the values of the Republic, often results in the constitution of a counter-society, and whose manifestations are children dropping out from school, the development of sporting and cultural community practices that are the pretext for teaching principles not in conformity with the laws of the Republic. It is indoctrination through the negation of our principles, equality between women and men, human dignity".

Macron called it an attempt to create "a parallel order, to erect other values, develop another organisation of society, separatist at first, but whose final goal is to take control. And this is what makes us reject freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, the right to blasphemy".

The speech, and Macron's pronouncements after the killing of Paty, have infuriated



Recep Erdogan (left) and Emmanuel Macron in Berlin in January. Erdogan has strongly criticised Macron over his recent comments. AP

many Islamic countries, with Turkey and Pakistan taking the lead in denouncing the French President of Islamophobia. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has long-standing rows with France and Macron — over gas reserves off Cyprus, over Nagorno Karabakh, and over the wars in Libya and Syria — questioned Macron's mental health after the speech. A number of Islamic countries have declared they will boycott French goods.

What is the French definition of secularism?

Macron's remarks brought to the fore the difficulties that France has faced in reconciling its strictly interpreted secularism with the increasing assertion of religious identity by its Muslim citizens, and how France itself has changed in the way it views Islam.

French secularism, or *laïcité*, sees no place for religion in the public sphere. In this way, it is the opposite of how India has practised its secularism. Over the years, *laïcité* has been in confrontation with the religious practices of many immigrant groups in France, including the Sikhs. But the biggest confrontations have been to do with its Muslim citizens, who form the largest group of Muslims in Europe, ahead of four million Turkish Muslims in Germany. Most French Muslims of today were born in France, descendants of first-generation immigrants from former French colonies in north Africa. The French constitution demands that those seeking citizenship must commit themselves to integration. But this has proved elusive.

Macron acknowledged in his speech that there have been shortcomings in how France has dealt with this challenge. He acknowl-

edged that the country had not dealt with the legacy of its problematic Algerian war. He also said French governments had to take the blame for ghettoising Muslim communities across the country and creating conditions for radicalisation.

Only a few thousands may be radicalised Islamists, but France's troubled relationship with Islam has manifested itself in many ways — in the 2005 rioting in the Paris banlieues, suburban ghettos where immigrants were confined; in the refusal, on the grounds of *laïcité*, to allow Muslim women to wear the hijab in public spaces; the 2010, burqa ban. In 2011, *Charlie Hebdo's* cartoons triggered angry reactions in the Islamic world, but the French hold the right to blaspheme as an absolute individual freedom, equally available to those who want to insult Jesus Christ as those who will blaspheme Islam. This is considered the French "way of life" — which also includes knowing the language, as well adherence to *laïcité*.

Macron's controversial speech well before Paty's killing; so, what triggered it?

The killings at the *Charlie Hebdo* office in January 2015, apparently to avenge the publication of the Prophet Mohammed cartoons, were a turning point for France. Then in November came a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris and a suburb that shook the entire world. The attacks included suicide bombings, shootings at a football stadium, mass shootings at cafes and restaurants, and another mass shooting and hostage taking at a theatre. In Europe, France was the country with the highest number of citizens who had left to join ISIS in Iraq and Syria in 2014-15.

Study identifies genes that help or inhibit coronavirus

A MASSIVE screening study of cells has identified dozens of genes that enable SARS-CoV-2 and MERS-CoV to replicate in cells, and also genes that seem to inhibit the virus. The study by researchers at Yale University and Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard is published in *Cell*. The researchers screened millions of cells exposed to the two viruses and sought to understand the genetics behind some cells being more susceptible to infection. The proviral and antiviral role of the



genes as identified, the researchers said, will help guide scientists in development of new therapies.

The screen was performed on a line of green monkey cells. The researchers simultaneously tracked interactions of virus and cells. The screens reconfirmed that the ACE2 receptor protein promotes infection by SARS-CoV-2. The screens also identified two new proviral protein complexes. And a third seems to assist in preventing infection. Source: Yale University



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AN EXPERT EXPLAINS

How Bangladesh has reduced gap — and is now projected to go past India



ASHIKUR RAHMAN

ABOUT TWO years ago, India's Home Minister Amit Shah spoke of "infiltrators" who were following out the country "like termites". A Minister from Bangladesh retorted that Shah's statement was "inappropriate", "unwanted", and "not based on information". The IMF's recent per capita GDP projections for South Asian countries show that the alleged 'termite factory' is shining — Bangladesh, which has been doing better than both India and Pakistan on social and human development indicators for several years now, is also beginning to march ahead on the economic front.

Development economists Jean Drèze and Amartya Sen showed in their 2013 book, *An Uncertain Glory: India and its Contradictions*, that Bangladesh had been outshining its larger neighbours on indicators such as infant mortality, child immunisation, female literacy, access to improved sanitation, and total fertility rate. When the nation was born in 1971, the average Bangladeshi could expect to live for only 46.5 years, two years less than the average

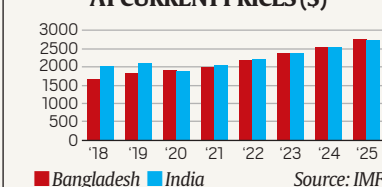
Indian. By 2018, life expectancy in Bangladesh had risen to 72 years, two years more than India's. Bangladesh lagged behind India in only one major economic dimension — income per capita, which in 2015 was approximately 25% less than India's. But if the IMF's latest projections are accurate, the gap is set to disappear, and Bangladesh and India are expected to be neck and neck until 2025.

To see this as a one-year phenomenon arising out of the pandemic induced (~10% growth in India while Bangladesh registered a (+)3.8% growth, would be a mistake. Each social or economic indicator seeks to capture a certain aspect of human welfare — and when a country consistently does better across a range of indicators, an "economic catch-up" too, is entirely likely. Most analysts in Bangladesh have been seeing this coming for quite some time — the Covid-19 outbreak might have simply expedited this process.

So, what has allowed Bangladesh to turn the corner?

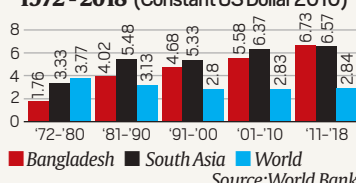
The economic story of Bangladesh has not always been optimistic. Soon after independence, then United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (in)famously branded Bangladesh as a "bottomless basket", and development pundits did not believe that an overcrowded country with very few natural resources had great economic prospects. These prophecies obviously did not account for incremental improvements in social and economic indicators over time. From 2009 onward, the government of

FIGURE 1: GDP PER CAPITA AT CURRENT PRICES (\$)



Source: IMF

FIGURE 2: AVERAGE GDP GROWTH 1972 - 2018 (Constant US Dollar 2010)



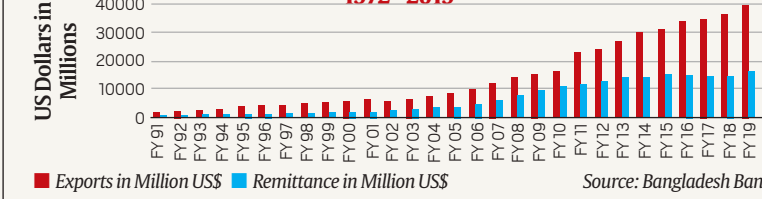
Source: World Bank

TABLE 1: STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY

	FY80	FY90	FY00	FY18
Agriculture	33.21	29.52	25.28	14.23
Industry	17.08	20.78	25.71	33.66
Of which Manufacturing	11.12	12.52	15.4	22.85
Services	49.72	49.7	48.72	52.11
GDP at Constant Prices	100	100	100	100

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

FIGURE 3: EXPORTS & REMITTANCES 1972 - 2019



Source: Bangladesh Bank

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has demonstrated a strong political will to uproot Islamic terrorism and establish peace, along with a sustained policy commitment to

macroeconomic stability through prudent fiscal and international debt management, expansion of the social security net, and execution of mega infrastructure projects. One

of the Prime Minister's most significant achievements has been to successfully balance the competing interests of India, China, Japan, Russia and the US, which has allowed Bangladesh to protect its national interest and develop a win-win political and economic rapport with major global powers.

Taking a long view, it is evident that the economic growth of Bangladesh has been steady over the past four decades. Following some turbulence in the years after independence due to famine and natural disasters, overall progress since the 1990s has been good. Consider:

■ Average GDP growth for Bangladesh has been higher than the world's average GDP growth over the last three decades; it has been higher than the average growth rate of South Asia since 2010. Bangladesh's average economic growth has steadily increased in each decade since 1980. In 2018, Bangladesh emerged as one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

■ The contribution of agriculture in Bangladesh's GDP has declined steadily, while that of manufacturing and services has increased (Table 1). In 1980, agriculture accounted for almost a third of the GDP; industry for less than a fifth. In 2018, the contribution of agriculture to GDP had fallen to less than 15%, and industry now accounts for more than a third. The contribution of the manufacturing sector to GDP has doubled since 1980.

■ Exports have been buoyant since the 1990s (Figure 3). They have risen from less than US \$2 billion in FY92 to more than US

\$40 billion in FY19 — growth by a factor of (approximately) 20 in 37 years.

■ Figure 3 also shows remittances have risen fast after FY91, from approximately US \$764 million to more than US \$16.4 billion in FY19. Bangladesh is among the world's top 10 remittance receiving countries, even though the difference in remittance earnings of Bangladesh and countries with far smaller populations (such as Philippines) is very large — which underlines that Bangladeshi remittances come from low-wage labour. Despite such weaknesses, Bangladesh has received more than \$18 billion in remittances this year, which has helped stabilise the aggregate demand shock from the pandemic induced lockdown.

Bangladesh has seen both structural transformation and the rise of sectors capable of generating decent foreign exchange earnings, which has helped policymakers sustain comfortable macroeconomic fundamentals. To sustain this economic progress over the long run, there is a need to improve core governance challenges — weak tax mobilisation capacity, an over-burdened judiciary, inadequate bureaucratic capacity — that have plagued almost all South Asian countries. Also, with many parts of the world quickly losing faith in the doctrine of free trade, and larger trading blocks increasingly veering towards protectionism, Bangladesh will need to thoroughly examine the international context within which it competes.

(Dr Ashikur Rahman is a Senior Economist at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, Dhaka)

TOP OF THE WORLD



Keith Raniere

USA

Long jail stint looms for defiant self-help guru

KEITH RANIERE, a self-improvement guru whose organization NXIVM attracted millionaires and actresses among its adherents, faces sentencing Tuesday on convictions that he turned some female followers into sex slaves branded with his initials. US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis will announce an almost-certain lengthy prison term Tuesday for Raniere after hearing victims speak. The court proceeding in Brooklyn culminates several years of revelations about NXIVM, which charged thousands of dollars for invitation-only self-improvement courses. Raniere was convicted on charges including racketeering, alien smuggling, sex trafficking, extortion and obstruction of justice. **AP**

BOSNIA

2 Serb ex-soldiers detained over wartime killing of 78 Bosniaks

BOSNIAN POLICE on Tuesday detained two Serb ex-soldiers accused of taking part in the murder of at least 78 Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) civilians early in the Bosnian war of the 1990s, the state prosecution said in a statement. A quarter of a century after the US-sponsored Dayton peace accords ended the war among Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks in which about 100,000 people were killed. Uncanin Boško, 51, and Despot Dragan, 56, are accused of violating the the Geneva conventions on the protection of civilians during war and of crimes against humanity. **REUTERS**

BOLIVIA

Judge scraps arrest warrant against Morales

A BOLIVIAN judge annulled on Monday an arrest warrant for exiled former president Evo Morales, clearing the way for him to return to his country without facing the risk of detention. Bolivian prosecutors in December of last year issued the warrant on allegations of sedition and terrorism related to accusations from the interim government that Morales had stirred unrest since resigning. The investigation into the case that led to the warrant is ongoing, officials said. **REUTERS**

Senate confirms Barrett, delivering for Trump and reshaping US top court

Swearing-in held at White House a month after event to mark her nomination became 'superspreader'

NICHOLAS FANDOS
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 27

AMY CONEY Barrett, a conservative appeals court judge and protégée of the late Justice Antonin Scalia, was confirmed on Monday to the US Supreme Court, capping a lightning-fast Senate approval that handed President Donald Trump a victory before the election and promised to tip the court to the right for years to come.

Inside a Capitol mostly emptied by the resurgent coronavirus pandemic and an election eight days away, Republicans overcame unanimous Democratic opposition to make Barrett the 115th justice of the Supreme Court and the fifth woman. The vote was 52-48, with all but one Republican, Susan Collins of Maine, who is battling for re-election, supporting her.

It was the first time in 151 years that a justice was confirmed without the support of a single member of the minority party.

It concluded a brazen drive by Republicans to fill the vacancy created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg just six weeks before the election. They shredded their own past pronouncements and bypassed rules in the process.

Democrats insisted Republicans should have waited for voters to have their say on Election Day. They warned of a disastrous precedent that will draw retaliation should they win power. In replacing Ginsburg, a liberal icon, the court is gaining a conservative who could sway cases in every area of life, including abortion rights, gay rights, business regulation and the environment.

A jubilant Trump, working to

EXPLAINED Immediate impact

THE UNPRECEDENTED swearing-in of a new Supreme Court justice just a week before Election Day means that Amy Coney Barrett will be immediately faced with a number of high-profile cases. Election-related disputes from two of the most crucial swing states, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, are set to be decided by the court before the Nov 3 vote. Trump has publicly stated that he expects there will be many more lawsuits that could affect the election result, and argued for Barrett's quick confirmation due to this reason. A case challenging Obamacare is also expected to come before the court early next month.

bolster his flagging reelection campaign, held an unusual swearing-in ceremony shortly after the vote on Monday night on the White House lawn.

After the swearing-in Trump escorted Barrett to the Truman Balcony, where they posed and he waved to the hundreds assembled on the lawn below. It was a scene more befitting a political rally than the installation of a new justice. To hold the event at all was a remarkable choice after a similar one announcing Barrett's nomination one month ago turned into a coronavirus superspreader event. **NYT**

Trump with Amy Coney Barrett after she took her oath of office, at the White House. *Reuters*

Biden goes on offence in Georgia while Trump targets Midwest

WILL WEISSERT, ALEXANDRA JAFFE & KEVIN FREKING
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 27

ONE WEEK until Election Day, Joe Biden is going on offence, heading Tuesday to Georgia — which hasn't backed a Democrat for president since 1992 — and pushing into other territory where President Donald Trump was once expected to easily repeat his wins from four years ago.

The Democratic presidential nominee planned to travel to Iowa, which Trump took by 10 points in 2016, later in the week. His running mate, California Sen. Kamala



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Harris, is heading to Arizona and Texas, where Republicans haven't lost a statewide office since 1994.

The aggressive schedule is a sign of confidence by the Biden team, which is trying to stretch the electoral map and open up more paths to 270 electoral college votes.

But after Democrats flirted with GOP territory in 2016, only to lose those states as well as their traditional Midwestern strongholds, Biden's campaign is mindful of overreaching.

Trump is staying focused on the so-called "blue wall" states that he flipped in 2016: Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, where he'll return Tuesday to hit West Salem just three days after holding a Janesville rally. While Biden rarely travels to more than one state per day, Trump maintained a whirlwind schedule, crisscrossing the country and making the argument that he built a booming economy before the coronavirus pandemic upended it. **AP**

AMID ANGER OVER PROPHET CARTOONS

France tells citizens abroad to take extra precautions

REUTERS
PARIS, OCTOBER 27

FRANCE WARNED its citizens living or travelling in several Muslim-majority countries to take extra security precautions on Tuesday as anger surged over cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

In a sign that some countries want to limit the fallout, Saudi Arabia condemned the cartoons but held back from echoing calls by other Muslim states for a boycott of French products or other actions.

The row has its roots in a knife attack outside a French school on October 16 in which a man of Chechen origin beheaded Samuel Paty, a teacher who had shown pupils cartoons of Prophet Mohammad in a civics lesson on freedom of speech.

France's foreign ministry on Tuesday issued safety advice to French citizens in Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iraq and Mauritania, advising them to exercise caution. They should stay away from any protests over the cartoons and avoid any public gatherings.

"It is recommended to exercise the greatest vigilance, especially while travelling, and in places that

Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower briefly evacuated

Paris: The areas around the Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower in central Paris were briefly evacuated on Tuesday following a bomb alert and discovery of a bag of bullets, police told Reuters. Two local French news sites showed pictures of a blue bag with different kinds of ammunition. The sites were reopened not long after, and the bomb alert was lifted. There have been several false bomb alerts, most recently in the Lyon railway station last week and at the Eiffel Tower a month ago. **REUTERS**

are frequented by tourists or expatriate communities," it said.

The French embassy in Turkey issued similar advice to its citizens there.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been one of the most vociferous critics of the French government, leading calls for a boycott of French goods.

Swept by new Covid-19 surge, Europe enacts new restrictions

CRISPIAN BALMER
ROME, OCTOBER 27

EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS moved on Tuesday to impose new curbs to try to rein in a fast-growing surge of coronavirus infections and provide economic balm to help businesses survive the pandemic.

World leaders face an increasingly difficult task holding the disease at bay while keeping their economies afloat as they pin their hopes on as-yet unproven vaccines.

"We are dealing with exponential growth," German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier told a virtual German-French economic conference in Berlin. "In Germany the number of new infections is rising by 70-75% compared to the week before."

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets across Italy on Monday to vent their anger at the latest round of restrictions, including

Medical workers test people for Covid-19 at a new test station in Zagreb, Croatia, on Monday. *Reuters*

early closing for bars and restaurants, with demonstrations in some cities turning violent.

In France, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin warned the country to prepare for "difficult decisions" after some of the strictest restrictions currently in place anywhere in Europe have failed to halt the spread of the disease.

The Czech government will ask lawmakers to extend its emer-

gency powers until Dec 3, PM Andrej Babis said on Tuesday, as it tries to stem one of the strongest surges in infections in Europe.

Authorities in Russia ordered people to wear facemasks in public places.

Spain's La Rioja region ordered the closure of restaurants and bars in its two largest towns for a month. A nationwide curfew is also in place. **REUTERS**

Indian Army chief to visit Nepal from Nov 4-6

SHIRISH B PRADHAN
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 27

INDIAN ARMY chief General M M Naravane will arrive in Kathmandu on November 4 on a three-day official visit during

which he will meet Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, who is also holds the defence portfolio.

Gen Naravane will be in Nepal until November 6 at the official invitation of the Nepalese Army chief, according to a statement issued by the Nepal Army.

Continuing a tradition of friendship between the two militaries, Gen Naravane will be conferred with the honorary rank of 'General of the Nepal Army' by President Bidya Devi Bhandari at a ceremony, the statement said. **PTI**



It is unclear where WhatsApp fake news in the US originates or whether it is part of organised efforts. *Reuters*

Together. "And this year is different for everybody because we're relying on virtual connections more than ever."

Each day, users can receive hundreds of memes, videos, voicemails and texts spanning

greetings, social invitations and political propaganda. Users regularly forward shocking and humorous messages, with the original sender's name automatically stripped, making it hard to trace them.

"It's almost like going viral on Facebook," Bantval said.

WhatsApp said its role in US politics is small. But political misinformation on WhatsApp in Brazil, India and elsewhere prompted the service beginning in 2018 to limit recipients when forwarding messages.

It also introduced a chatbot that users can message to access fact checks by internationally recognised organisations. But when Reuters queried the system for topics in messages sent to South Asian voters, it generated zero results.

WhatsApp also said users can search the web from heavily forwarded messages to find rele-

Rescue workers and police officers at the site of the blast in Peshawar on Tuesday. *AP*

Blast at seminary in Pakistan kills 8 students, injures 136

RIAZ KHAN
PESHAWAR, OCTOBER 27

A POWERFUL bomb blast ripped through an Islamic seminary on the outskirts of the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar on Tuesday morning, killing at least eight students and wounding 136 others, police and a hospital spokesman said.

The bombing happened as a prominent religious scholar during a special class was delivering a lecture about the teachings of Islam at the main hall of the Jamia Zubairia madrasa, said police officer Waqar Azim. He said initial investigations suggest the bomb went off minutes after someone left a bag at the madrasa.

TV footage showed the damaged main hall of the seminary, where the bombing took place. The hall was littered with broken glass and its carpet was stained with blood. Police said at least five kilogrammes of explosives were used in the attack.

Several of the wounded students were in critical condition, and hospital authorities feared the death toll could climb further. Authorities said some seminary teachers and employees were also wounded in the bombing.

Initially police said the bombing killed and wounded

Several of the wounded were critical, and hospital authorities feared the death toll could climb further

children studying at the seminary but later revised their account to say that the students were in their mid-20s.

Shortly after the attack, residents rushed to the seminary to check up on their sons or relatives who were studying there. Many relatives were gathering at the city's main Lady Reading Hospital, where the dead and wounded students were brought by police in ambulances and other vehicles.

Some Afghan students studying at the seminary were also among the wounded, officials said. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan condemned the bombing. "I want to assure my nation we will ensure the terrorists responsible for this cowardly barbaric attack are brought to justice," Khan said.

The bombing drew condemnation from the country's opposition party, which has been holding rallies meant to force Khan's government to quit.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. **AP**

Fatal police shooting of Black man sparks unrest in Philadelphia

At a protest in Philadelphia on Monday night. *AP*ASSOCIATED PRESS
PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 27

POLICE SHOT and killed a 27-year-old Black man on a Philadelphia street after yelling at him to drop his knife, sparking violent protests that police said injured 30 officers and led to dozens of arrests.

The shooting occurred before 4 pm Monday as officers responded to a report of a person with a weapon, police spokesperson Tanya Little said.

Officers were called to the Cobbs Creek neighbourhood and encountered the man, later identified as Walter Wallace, who was holding a knife, Little said. Officers

ordered Wallace to drop the knife, but he instead "advanced towards" them. Both officers then fired "several times," Little said.

Wallace was hit in the shoulder and chest. One of the officers then drove him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead a short time later, Little said.

Hundreds of people took to the streets to protest the shooting late Monday into early Tuesday, with interactions between protesters and police turning violent at times, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Video showed many yelling at officers and crying. Police cars and dumpsters were set on fire as police struggled to contain the crowds.

BIDEN'S TEAM SAYS IT TRACKED SEVERAL MESSAGES OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN CONTAINING MISINFORMATION

Fake news spread on WhatsApp to Indian-Americans worries campaigns

PARESH DAVE
OAKLAND, OCTOBER 27

NEW JERSEY tech entrepreneur Arun Bantval is US presidential candidate Joe Biden's top fake-news watchdog on messaging service WhatsApp about the Democrat and his Indian-American running mate Kamala Harris.

Bantval, 56, who chairs the Biden campaign's five-member rapid response team focused on South Asian voters, has tracked dozens of concerning messages of unknown origin and crafted about 50 rebuttal graphics and texts over the last

three months.

His team and similar ones at nonpartisan groups are trying to fill WhatsApp's moderation void by joining big WhatsApp groups and asking community leaders to report items.

Fighting fake news on social media such as Facebook and Twitter has become standard practice for campaigns. But messaging apps such as WhatsApp have flown under the radar despite serving as a crucial political forum among middle-aged Indian-Americans, Latinx and other immigrant groups.

South Asian voters, mostly Indian-Americans, will be pivotal in the Nov. 3 contest in swing

states such as Florida, North Carolina and Pennsylvania where results will be close and predict the national outcome.

About 72% of Indian-American registered voters plan to back Biden, according to a September survey by Carnegie Endowment. But South Asian Biden supporters and nonpartisan activists worry that misinformation on WhatsApp will affect turnout and support.

"There's just a lot of inaccurate information for an already confusing process," said Chavi Khanna Koneru, executive director of nonpartisan group North Carolina Asian Americans

ECONOMY WATCH
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

‘Even if it is negative or near zero in FY21, will be among fastest growing next year’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

THE ECONOMY will witness negative or zero growth this fiscal, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday, noting that the government expects India to be one of the fastest-growing economies next fiscal. She added the Centre expects that domestic demand would witness a sustainable uptick as a result of growing demand in rural India as well as a boost in demand in the ongoing festive season. “If that sustainable revival is going to happen between Q3 and Q4, we expect that the overall GDP growth, notwithstanding the pandemic... even if it is going to be in the negative or near zero this time, the next year will be very clearly India seeing itself as one of the fastest-growing economies,” said Sitharaman at the India Energy Forum. India’s GDP contracted 23.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2020-21 and is expected to contract 9.5 per cent for the whole fiscal, as per estimates by the Reserve Bank of India. Even before Covid-19 stuck and related lockdowns, the growth had slowed to 4.2 per cent in FY20.

Sitharaman highlighted that the manufacturing PMI, a monthly indicator based on a survey of private sector companies, in September rose to an eight-and-a-half year high of 56.8. She said that an uptick in key economic indicators, coupled with an expected rise in demand during festive season, suggested a sustainable increase in domestic demand.

“All indicators show that the primary sector, related sectors of agriculture and rural India are all doing very well. As a result, the demand for durable goods, agricultural equipment factors, vehicles, are all going up,” said Sitharaman. In September, demand for transport fuels and electricity surpassed pre-Covid levels.

The Finance Minister said infrastructure spending was the top priority of the government and the second priority was to ensure India’s surplus grains, vegetables and fruits would be ready for export.

“We are attracting a lot of funds to which the spend on



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government expects uptick in demand in the festive season. Express file

States curbed spending in FY20, says RBI

New Delhi:

Though their combined revenue receipts turned out to be a steep 12 per cent below estimated for 2019-20, state governments exercised sudden, drastic controls on both revenue and capital expenditures in final months of FY20, to keep their consolidated gross fiscal deficit (GFD) to GDP ratio at 2.6 per cent, exactly as budgeted, a Reserve Bank of India analysis said Tuesday. **FE**

infrastructure is the top priority,” she said, adding that infrastructure investment was mainly aimed at boosting agricultural exports through connectivity to ports and required infrastructure for food processing as well as cold chains.

Sitharaman said that reforms encouraging FDI inflows and India’s low corporate tax rates had led to a 13 per cent rise in FDI inflows in April-August, as against the year-ago period, despite the pandemic.

“All of them (foreign investors) have really been attracted by those companies which have set global standards in the governance practices. So India has a list of such companies which because of the best practices are even during Covid able to convince investors,” she said.

Meanwhile, as per a PTI report, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, speaking at the forum, said India’s growth would be in positive territory in the second half of this fiscal.

LENDERS WORKING ON RESOLUTION WHEREVER POSSIBLE

Facing credit card defaults, banks move to settle dues

GEORGE MATHEW & SUNNY VERMA
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, OCT 27

FACING A surge in defaults by credit card customers, with the Covid lockdown leading to layoffs, salary cuts and closure of units, banks have started approaching card holders for settlement of dues at “terms that are beneficial to the borrowers”.

SBI Cards, a leading credit card issuer, has seen its gross non-performing assets shoot up to 4.29 per cent of gross advances as on September 30, 2020, as against 2.33 per cent on September 30, 2019. Impairment and losses jumped from Rs 329 crore in the September 2019 quarter to Rs 485 crore in the June quarter of 2020-21 and Rs 862 crore in the quarter last month — a 162 per cent rise.

Sources said that with apprehensions of a spike in NPAs from the third quarter, banks are working on resolution of outstanding amounts wherever possible. “Settlement in credit cards is relatively easier to execute and frees up the banks’ capital, apart from the effect on quality of the loan book. While corporate loans will be restructured based on guidelines of the Kamath committee, banks are being proactive to ensure resolution wherever feasible for retail loans,” said a senior banker.

The banker said that many

With interest rate on unpaid balances at over 40 per cent per annum, overdues will be a big burden on customers and can skyrocket, said officials

banks are approaching customers selectively to settle their dues with a haircut or reduction in value — or repayment at a discount.

Banks and card issuers have managed to show lower NPAs so far due to the moratorium that was valid till August 2020 — the issue of interest waiver is being heard in the Supreme Court.

According to banking sources, a clear picture will emerge when PSU banks report their September and December quarter results. Though the moratorium ended on August 31, many customers are yet to pay up as banks have not yet started showing defaults as NPAs.

With interest rate on unpaid balances at over 40 per cent per annum, overdues will be a big burden on customers and can skyrocket, said officials. “There’s no collateral on credit card dues of a customer. If the customer refuses to pay up, it will become an NPA. Banks will try to avoid this scenario. The latest government

scheme on cash-back is a small relief,” said a senior official of a nationalised bank.

In its scheme for providing compound interest relief to borrowers with loans up to Rs 2 crore, the government has said that in the case of credit card dues, the rate of interest will be the weighted average of lending rate (WALR) charged by the issuer for transactions financed on EMI basis. The computation of WALR should be certified by the statutory auditor of the card issuer. Since the WALR is much lower than the actual interest rate on credit cards, customers with unpaid liabilities will have to pay a significant portion of the compound interest along with interest on dues.

The latest move by banks comes at a time when credit card outstandings declined to Rs 104,833 crore as of August 2020 from Rs 108,094 crore in March 2020, according to RBI data. Monthly credit card spends have reverted back to pre-Covid levels with banks reporting spends worth Rs 50,311 crore in August 2020 against Rs 50,574 crore in March 2020. However, this was still lower than Rs 60,011 crore in February 2020. “We expect the upcoming festive season to boost credit card spends,” says an ICICI Securities report.

At the same time, experts pointed out, banks and credit card issuers have refused to bring

down interest rates on outstandings even though interest rates are going downhill following successive rate cuts by the RBI.

Many banks have increased the rates on card outstandings — in some cases above 40 per cent per annum. Earlier this year, Citibank India hiked the interest rate on credit card outstandings by up to 480 basis points from 37.2 per cent to 42 per cent per annum. The interest-free credit period could range from 20 to 50 days, subject to submission of claims by the merchant. However, this is not applicable if the previous month’s balance has not been cleared in full or if the cardholder has availed of cash from any ATM.

Sources said banks and NBFCs are pruning their portfolio of unsecured loans like that on credit cards, personal loans and risky credit, like loans against securities, due to uncertainty over incomes. The focus is shifting to collateral-backed credit like home, vehicle and even gold loans, they said.

For instance, the country’s largest NBFC, Bajaj Finance, grew its asset under management (AUM) for mortgages by 14 per cent in July-September 2020 over the same quarter last year, while auto finance business grew by 7 per cent. However, sales finance business contracted 42 per cent and securities lending business by 26 per cent.

Why energy MNCs are asking natural gas inclusion under GST

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

GLOBAL ENERGY majors are bullish on the growth of natural gas usage in India and have called on the government to bring it under the GST regime at the India Energy Forum being held this week.

Currently petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel (ATF), natural gas and crude oil fall outside the country’s Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. Government officials have also indicated that the Centre is considering bringing natural gas under the ambit of the indirect tax regime. “GST was a welcome federal initiative to ease trade and it will be good if natural gas is included in that,” said Bernard Looney, CEO of British oil major BP, at the Forum on Tuesday, adding that under the current regime, India was a complex market as it has 29 markets within itself (because of differences in state laws).

Impact of bringing natural gas under GST regime

Experts have argued that bringing natural gas under the GST would lead to a reduction in the cascading impact of taxes on industries, such as power and steel, which used natural gas as an input. The inclusion of natural gas under the indirect tax regime would do away with the central

Experts have argued that bringing natural gas under GST would lead to a reduction in the cascading impact of taxes on industries that used natural gas as an input

excise duty and different value added taxes imposed by states.

This would lead to an increase in the adoption of natural gas in line with the government’s stated goal to increase the share of natural gas in the country’s energy basket from 6.3 per cent to 15 per cent.

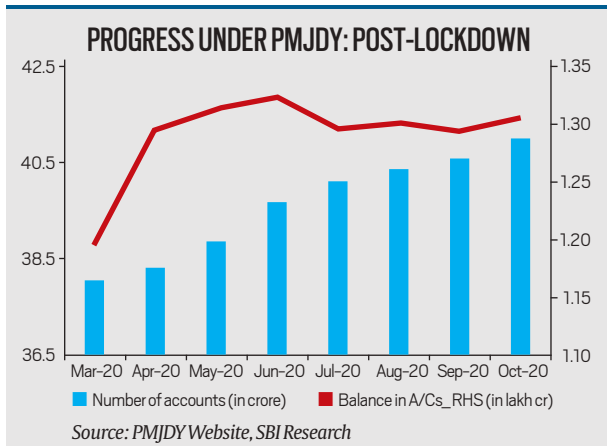
‘Huge potential’ for energy consumption growth

Investing in renewable energy capacity was a key focus for Patrick Pouyanné, CEO of France’s Total, who noted that the company was aiming to expand its renewable energy portfolio in India to 6 GW.

Noting that he expected India’s energy consumption to grow significantly, Pouyanné said, “The energy consumption per capita in India is just 30 per cent of the world average. So you have a huge potential with a very dynamic young population and that is a key priority of the Indian government...,” he said.

‘Return of labourers: After lockdown lows, remittances pick up in September’

After declining during the lockdown phase and touching its lowest levels in April, labour remittances picked up in September, indicating a return of labourers after reverse migration, SBI’s economic research report said



EPFO PAYROLL DATA (IN LAKH)

Period	Net New EPF Subscribers
Apr	0.9
May	2.3
Jun	5.6
Jul	7.5
Aug	8.7
Apr-Aug '20	25.0

BIHAR, ODISHA, UP have seen a rise in remittances in September from last year

41.05 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts as of October 14 with deposits over Rs 11,000 crore

₹3,185 average balance of PMJDY accounts in October, which was Rs 3,168 in September

The government should strive to put more money into such accounts as a sort of third fiscal stimulus, possibly by enlarging NREGA scheme or via a scheme for urban poor, the report said

Compiled by ENS Economic Bureau. Source: SBI Research

BRIEFLY

Last date for tax dispute payment

New Delhi: The government Tuesday extended the deadline to make payments under ‘Vivad Se Vishwas’ scheme to March 31, 2021. **PTI**

Nod proposed for Bio E vaccine

New Delhi: A panel of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation recommended nod for early- and mid-stage human trials for the Biological E Covid-19 vaccine candidate. **ENS**

RBI: Implement waiver by Nov 5

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank asked all lenders to ensure implementation of interest waiver scheme for loans up to Rs 2 crore for the moratorium period by November 5.

‘49% fall in global FDI flows’

New Delhi: Global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows fell 49 per cent in the first half of 2020 over 2019 due to the economic fallout from Covid-19, UNCTAD’s Global Investment Trends Monitor said Monday. **PTI**

‘In fight with Amazon, Future Retail sees liquidation if Reliance deal fails’

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

FUTURE RETAIL Ltd (FRL) will go into liquidation if its deal to sell assets to Reliance Industries fails, the group told a Singapore arbitrator while arguing against Amazon.com Inc’s bid to scupper the deal, a legal order seen by Reuters showed.

Amazon on Sunday won an injunction from a Singapore arbitrator to halt FRL’s deal to sell assets to Reliance. Amazon alleged FRL had breached certain contract provisions it entered into last year in a separate deal with the US firm.

The dispute centres around FRL’s decision in August to sell its retail, wholesale, logistics and some other businesses to Reliance for \$3.38 billion, including debt.

Future’s retail unit, which has more than 1,500 outlets, will need to pack up if the transaction with Reliance doesn’t go through, hitting the livelihoods of thousands of employees and workers at its vendor firms, the Indian group argued before the arbitrator, according to the order which is not public.

“If the disputed transaction falls through, FRL will go into liquidation. That will mean that the livelihoods of more than 29,000 employees of FRL will be lost,” the

group’s representatives told the arbitrator V.K. Rajah, a former attorney general of Singapore.

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit many Indian businesses, especially in the retail sector, and the FRL-Reliance deal was aimed at protecting the interests of all stakeholders through a large infusion of funds and the acquisition of liabilities, Future argued at the tribunal.

But Rajah ruled that “economic hardship alone is not a legal ground for disregarding legal obligations”.

Amazon, FRL and Reliance didn’t respond to a request for comment.

For MSMEs, cut in input costs to help quick revival, says Gadkari

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 27

MICRO, SMALL and medium enterprises (MSME) must focus on reducing costs of inputs, such as power and logistics, to grow and revive quickly in the post-Covid era, Union MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

“The MSME sector should make use of technology, innovation, research. Actually we need upgradation of technology. Such improvements can play a major role towards industrial development and global expansion,” Gadkari said during an event to launch Walmart India’s training programme for MSMEs.

The global retail giant on Tuesday launched the ‘Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Programme’, under which Walmart India aims to train and empower around 50,000 MSMEs to make in India and for supplies across the country as well as the globe.

As part of the programme, Walmart will also launch an all-digital classroom which will train MSMEs in the Panipat, Sonapat and Kundli areas of Haryana.




A sergeant on one of Kolkata police’s Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Express file

riding gear and apparel through a

network of brand-exclusive Harley-Davidson dealers and Hero’s existing dealership network in India, the companies said.

As per a licensing deal, Hero MotoCorp will develop and sell a range of premium motorcycles under the Harley-Davidson brand name, the statement added. “These actions are aligned with Harley-Davidson’s business overhaul, The Rewire, and the company’s announcement in September to change its business model in India,” the statement said. **WITHPTI**



NMDC LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
BAILADILA IRON ORE MINE
KIRANDUL COMPLEX, KIRANDUL- 494556

PRESS NOTIFICATION						
Tender No.	Description of items	Quantly	Display & download of Tender	Last Date & Time for submission of offer	Tender Fee (Rs.)	EMO (Rs.)
(1) Tender No. NMDC/ Kirandul/ 178/20-21/ ET/536 Purchase Indent No. 10C43 dt. 21.07.2020	Tender are invited for Procurement of Exciter for Elecon make JU400 and TRF make TUF-11 Vibrating Feeder at NMDC Limited Kirandul Complex, Dist. Dantewada (C.G.)	As per Tender document available in MSTC website. (02 Items)	27-10-2020 To 27-11-2020	27-11-2020 03:30 PM (IST)	Rs. 5,900/- (Rupees Five Thousand Nine Hundred only)	Rs. 75,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five Thousand only)

The complete tender document can be viewed and/or downloaded from MSTC portal http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp and Central Public Procurement (CPP) site www.eprocure.gov.in from 27-10-2020 to 27-11-2020. Contact details: - 07857-255234, 9109197722, 9109197670, 9685120227. E-mail: kyp@nmdc.co.in; gnanakumar@nmdc.co.in; nikhilsharma@nmdc.co.in. THE INTERESTED BIDDERS SHOULD DOWNLOAD THE TENDER DOCUMENTS AND SUBMIT THE ONLINE OFFER THROUGH MSTC PORTAL ONLY WITHIN THE DUE DATE AS MENTIONED ABOVE.

Note: - Any addendum/corrigendum/bid clarifications/time extension shall be issued on the MSTC website only. No separate press notification shall be issued.

Dy. General Manager (Materials)



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
KARNATAKA STATE HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
PWD Offices, Annexe Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 001.
Tel: 080-22226262, 080-2212 6758/59/60/61, Fax: 080-22229666 E-mail: piukship@gmail.com
No: PIU/KSHIP2/IE/WAP1-WAP2/IFB/2020-21/1739 Date: 27.10.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

PROCUREMENT OF INDEPENDENT ENGINEER SERVICES FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PERIOD OF ANNUITY CONTRACTS OF KSHIP2

- The Project Director, Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project [KSHIP] invites technical and financial proposals from reputed Consulting Firms for Providing **“Independent Engineer services during Operation and Maintenance Period”** for the following two DBFOMT (Hybrid Annuity) contracts combined under KSHIP2:

RFP No.	Details of Contracts for IE Service			Period of IE Services
	Contract No.	Road	Length in Km	
IE-WAP1-WAP2	WAP-1	Malavali to Pavagada	193.34	4 years
	WAP-2	Mudhol to Nippani	107.94	

- E-proc. Indent No. PIU/KSHIP2/IE/WAP1-WAP2/IFB/2020-21/1739
- Selection will be based on Quality & Cost Based Selection Procedure (QCBS).
- Interested applicants may access bidding documents (RFP) from the e-procurement portal www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 29-10-2020 onwards.
- Applicants meeting the minimum qualification criteria specified in the Letter of Invitation of RFP shall participate.
- Pre-proposal meeting will be held on **26-11-2020 at 11.30 Hours**
- Last date for submission of Technical & Financial proposals is **26-11-2020, 17.00 Hours**
- Opening of Technical Bid is on **30-11-2020 at 11.30 Hours**.
- The Technical proposal, EMD and financial proposal shall be submitted in e-format as per the instructions in the RFP document.

* Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through News papers and further changes will be updated only on e-portal / KSHIP Website <http://www.kship.in>

Sd/-
Project Director, KSHIP, Bengaluru

DIPRI/DDU/YC/1483/2020-21
COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.



Wear Mask



Follow Physical Distancing



Maintain Hand Hygiene

16 SPORT

BRIEFLY

Faiza first woman to coach a men's pro team in Egypt



Faiza Heidar grew up playing football in the streets with the boys and went on to captain Egypt's national women's team. Now she has become the first woman to train one of the country's professional men's clubs. Heidar has been signed up by the fourth division side Ideal Goldi, based in Giza. "There is usually some mockery at the beginning," the 36-year-old, said "But then they realise that they will learn something, that they will develop their skills." She said she was the first Egyptian coach - male or female - to gain the Premier Skills Coach Educator status, certified by England's Premier League. Football remains an overwhelmingly male sport in Egypt. "I would tell her not to go. She would say: 'No, I will go.' She loved the sport," said Heidar's mother, Khodra Abdelrahman. "I let her go and prayed that God help her. And she did go, and she has done so well."

Two positive in latest EPL COVID-19 tests

The Premier League said on Monday that two people had returned positive results in its latest round of COVID-19 tests conducted on players and staff last week. The league said the individuals who had tested positive for the novel coronavirus would now self-isolate for 10 days. "...between Monday 19 October and Sunday 25 October, 1,609 players and club staff were tested for COVID-19. Of these, there were two new positive tests," the Premier League said in a statement. A total of 44 people have tested positive for the virus in eight rounds of testing since the new league campaign began on Sept. 12. There have been more than 900,000 COVID-19 infections and over 44,000 deaths in the United Kingdom, according to a Reuters tally.

Aguero ruled out for two to four weeks

City striker Sergio Aguero has been ruled out of Tuesday's Champions League trip to Olympique Marseille through a hamstring injury and could be out of action for two to four weeks, manager Pep said. Aguero was withdrawn at halftime in Saturday's 1-1 Premier League draw at West Ham United with Guardiola confirming the 32-year-old suffered a muscular problem, only a week after making his first start of the season following knee surgery. "It depends on the injury. We expect 10-15 days for sure minimum, or it could be three weeks or a month," Guardiola told reporters. "When you are out for four or five months with a knee problem, you always have a risk when you come back. "We tried to handle it the best as possible, (playing him) 50-55 minutes in the games, but it was not enough to maintain it and get him through the games."

India team physio wants 2-3 weeks' rest for Rohit

Captain seen at MI nets but his availability for rest of tournament uncertain

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 27

A DAY before they selected the Indian team for the tour of Australia, the selectors were informed by the Indian team physiotherapist Nitin Patel that Rohit Sharma will not be available for selection. The physio submitted a detailed medical report. When the Indian cricket board announced the Indian squad, a footnote stated that the medical team will monitor Sharma and Ishant Sharma's progress.

However, the Indian board and selectors were surprised when Mumbai Indians tweeted out pictures of Sharma batting at nets hours after selection. The selection committee was under the impression that Sharma will miss IPL games in order to get fit for the Australia tour. The Indian team is scheduled to play its first game in Australia on November 27. It remains to be seen if Sharma will take any further part in the IPL.

Patel had consulted two other specialist doctors on Sharma injury and both advised rest for three more weeks, sources in the board said. A medical report was submitted to the selectors headed by former India spinner Sunil Joshi. The five member selection committee went by Indian team physio Patel's expert advice and didn't name Sharma in the squad.

"Patel had submitted a detailed fitness report of every player. It's a normal procedure where Indian team physio informs the board and selection committee about which player is fit and which player is not. The selectors were informed that Rohit will be not available for selection due to injury. He even submitted two expert doctors' advice who both said Rohit needs rest for two to three," a BCCI official said.

Social media storm

The pictures and video shared by Mumbai Indians triggered a storm of criticism. "If he is in the nets, then honestly I don't know what kind of injury it is. I think a little bit of transparency, a little bit of openness about what actually is the problem with him will help everybody," Sunil Gavaskar told Star Sports, a sentiment that was shared by many fans in the social media.

The selection committee and Indian board now say that they had no clue about Sharma resuming his batting practice. Sharma had suffered the injury on October 18, during the Mumbai Indians game against Chennai Super Kings and hasn't played since.



These picture of Rohit Sharma at the nets was posted by Mumbai Indians' official Twitter handle on Monday.

ferred the injury on October 18, during the Mumbai Indians game against Chennai Super Kings and hasn't played since.

Hopeful that Sharma can travel to Australia with team

The Indian board is hopeful that Sharma will continue to recover and can join the rest of the team and travel to Australia at the end of the IPL. With bio-secure bubble and air-bubbles planned by the chartered flight from Dubai to Australia, they are hopeful that Sharma can travel with the team.

It will also help Sharma to quarantine and stay in the bubble with the rest of the team in Australia, recover from his injury, and train there. Once fit, he can play the practice games and can get match fit, a luxury that won't be available to him in India.

"The injury as of now is manageable. We are hopeful that he can travel with the team.

He can continue to be in the bio bubble with the team, in air-travel and in Australian hotel. That's the plan, still," the source said.

This is the second time this year that Sharma has been sidelined by an injury. He had to leave midway from New Zealand in February, and miss the ODI and Test series due to an injury on his left calf.

Three selectors' term ended

The BCCI has informed three selectors Jatinder Paranjpe, Sarandeep Singh and Devang Gandhi that their term has ended and their services won't be required further. These three selectors completed their four-year term as senior selectors. The BCCI will now invite applications for selectors in the coming months to fill up the three posts. With no India A tours and no international assignment in the near future, board will take its time in having a new appointee in place.

FIFA BOSS INFANTINO CONTRACTS COVID

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has tested positive for COVID-19, global soccer's governing body said on Tuesday. Infantino, who is 50 years old, has reported mild symptoms and is in self-isolation and will quarantine for at least 10 days, FIFA added in a statement. "All people who came into contact with the FIFA President during the last few days have been informed accordingly and they are being requested to take the necessary steps," the statement said.

Ronaldo doubtful for Messi Champions League showdown

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
TURIN, OCTOBER 27

CRISTIANO RONALDO remains uncertain to take on Lionel Messi's Barcelona on Wednesday as he recovers from coronavirus, Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo said on the eve of the match in Turin.

Ronaldo tested positive for COVID-19 two weeks ago while playing with Portugal, and has been in self-isolation since returning to Italy. "Ronaldo had a test like everyone else, this evening (Tuesday) we will have the definitive result," Pirlo told a press conference in Turin before the Champions League Group G game.

"For now it's all on the high seas, when the final result comes everything will be clearer."

According to UEFA rules the 35-year-old Ronaldo will need to test negative late on Tuesday, 24 hours before being allowed to feature. "Tomorrow (Wednesday) morning we will count the number of players available," continued Pirlo.

"Depending on the result, we'll see what we do. It's not easy to play an entire game after 15 days of inactivity."

Ronaldo, who has no symptoms, has missed three games including his side's 2-0 Champions League win at Dynamo Kiev last week. The clash would be the first between Ronaldo and Messi since the Portugal forward left Real Madrid for Juventus in 2018.

"For 15 years, Messi and Ronaldo have done great things," said former Italy and Juventus midfielder Pirlo. "For the first time, I'll be taking on Messi as a coach, I'll treat him with the enormous respect that he deserves."

'Not a decisive game'

Messi, 33, has featured in four victorious campaigns for Barcelona, while Ronaldo has won the Champions League five times, four with Real Madrid and once with Manchester United. Messi has six Ballon d'Or titles with Ronaldo claiming five.

However, Ronaldo has 130 Champions league goals to Messi's 116.

"It's clear that any team would miss a player like Cristiano," said Brazil defender Danilo at the pre-match press conference.

"But we have faith in every player on the team. We have people who want to do well and help us have a great match."

Messi has won 16 of their 35 encounters to Ronaldo's 10, with the remaining nine ending in draws. The pair has only met five times in Champions League games, most recently in the semi-final in 2011.



Ronaldo, who has no Covid symptoms, has missed three games so far.

Pirlo has defensive worries with captain Giorgio Chiellini, and Matthijs De Ligt out but fellow centreback Leonardo Bonucci's thigh strain will be evaluated on Wednesday morning. "These are the matches that everyone would like to play. We have this opportunity and we can't wait to test ourselves against Barcelona," said Pirlo.

"It's not a decisive game, but we still want to see what our value is." Argentina forward Paulo Dybala remains "a bit tired" after playing for 90 minutes in his first match in over three months last Sunday against Verona.

"It's normal after the first game as a starter. He'll have time to recover and play tomorrow night."

Ole confident

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer says Manchester United will have virtually a full squad to choose from for Wednesday's UEFA Champions League match against RB Leipzig.

Centre-back Eric Bailly and midfielder Jesse Lingard are likely to be the only absentees for the Group H clash, meaning that, barring any late incidents, the likes of Edinson Cavani and Mason Greenwood should be available to play.

Of course, Anthony Martial is also available for selection despite his domestic ban still being in force, while Alex Telles and Axel Tuanzebe could be called upon.

KEY FIXTURES:

Man United vs Leipzig
Juventus vs Barcelona
Live on Sony Ten Network, 1:30 am (Thursday)

Warner & Bros' near-perfect show keeps Sunrisers alive

SYNOPSIS

Synopsis: Saha, the guest of honour. Khan puts the cherry on top

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
OCTOBER 27

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD needed a strong performance to lay the ghost of their batting choke against Kings XI Punjab to rest. They responded superbly to trounce Delhi Capitals by 88 runs. Chasing 220 for victory, DC folded up for 131 in 19 overs. SRH lived to fight another day with 10 points from 12 games, while DC have now suffered three back-to-back losses. With 14 points from 12 matches, DC, however, are still well poised to reach Playoffs.

Saha, the guest of honour

Birthday boy David Warner threw a party in Dubai. But Wriddhiman Saha was



Wriddhiman Saha reached his half-century in 27 deliveries and ended up scoring a 45-ball 87. BCCI

the guest of honour. Saha has been playing the waiting game. This was only his second game this IPL. His previous match was against Kolkata Knight Riders more than a month ago. Then again, Saha's career has always been about playing the waiting game. After their batting implosion against Kings XI Punjab that saw Sunrisers Hyderabad

POINTS TABLE

Team	Matches	Won	Lost	NR	Points
MI	11	7	4	0	14
RCB	11	7	4	0	14
DC	12	7	5	0	14
KXIP	12	6	6	0	12
KKR	12	6	6	0	12
SRH	12	5	7	0	10
RR	12	5	7	0	10
CSK	12	4	8	0	8

snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, some changes became imperative. Jonny Bairstow's exclusion, though, threw up a surprise. Saha was called upon to open the innings with Warner.

His start was a tad agricultural. A streaky boundary and a couple of mistimed shots were part of his bedding-in period. But once he got into the groove, Saha dazzled. He used the sweep shot against Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel to fantastic effect.

Indian spinners have traditionally been uncomfortable against batsmen who play the sweep shot well. Saha is a top player against spin and being someone who knows Indian spinners inside out, the 'keeper-batsman used the sweep to upset the rhythm of the Delhi Capitals spinners. And once he got going, Saha was terrific against pace as well. A pull against Kagiso Rabada and a lofted off-drive against Anrich Nortje were gorgeous.

Be it the Indian team or his IPL franchise, Saha seems to be always walking a tightrope. In a win-or-bust game for SRH, he probably didn't have the licence to fail. Saha reached his half-century in 27 deliveries and ended up scoring a 45-ball 87.

Warner played the initial gig and allowed his opening partner to bed in. Until this match, Warner's batting in this IPL looked to be a little cagey. On Tuesday, he grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck. The SRH captain targeted Rabada and a 22-run over, which took his team's score to 77/0 at the end of the Powerplay, made a serious impact. Warner's 34-ball 66 was gold standard.

His 107-run partnership (58 balls) with Saha laid the foundation for an imposing total. Rabada, the current Purple Cap holder, returned with 0/54 from his four overs.

Cherry on top

DC lost Shikhar Dhawan and Marcus Stoinis in the first two overs of their chase and the only time they looked to be putting up a fight was when Ajinkya Rahane and Shimron Hetmyer were playing with intent. Hetmyer took consecutive boundaries off Jason Holder. Rahane played a brilliant front-foot pull for a six. But Rashid Khan came and castled Hetmyer off his first ball. Four balls later, a googly trapped Rahane leg-before. The leggie returned with figures of 3/7 from four overs to put the cherry on top after the batting blitz by Saha and Warner.

BRIEF SCORES: Sunrisers Hyderabad 219/2 (Saha 87, Warner 66; Ashwin 1/35) beat Delhi Capitals 131 all out (Pant 36, Rahane 26; Khan 3/7) by 88 runs.

CSK vs KKR
Star Sports, 7:30pm

OFF COURT, IN COURT

Why is tennis great Becker in middle of a legal battle

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 27

UNTIL THREE years ago, Boris Becker was at the pinnacle of tennis. As Novak Djokovic's coach, he helped the World No. 1 win six Grand Slam titles - completing a Career Grand Slam. In a way, it reflected his own genius when he was a player. But just as sudden as his rise in tennis - becoming the youngest ever Wimbledon champion at 17 in 1985 - the downfall was just as rapid.

Last week, the 52-year-old was accused in a London court of failing to submit his Grand Slam trophies to repay his debts. He's been fighting legal battles since filing for bankruptcy in 2017. There have been quite a few twists in Becker's financial saga.

What has he been accused of?

A total of 28 charges have been levied against Becker at the Southwark Crown Court in London. One of the charges includes failure to produce his Wimbledon

trophies from the 1985 and 1989 Championships, along with his Australian Open titles from 1991 and 1996.

He's also been accused of hiding over GBP 1 million (over INR 9.6 crore) in bank accounts, along with transferring "hundreds of thousands of pounds" in the accounts of his former wife Barbara Becker, and estranged wife Sharley 'Lilly' Becker, as reported by the BBC.

Furthermore, the six-time Grand Slam champion had failed to disclose property in London, his home town Leimen in Germany, and a few more abroad.

The next hearing will be in September next year.

When did he file for bankruptcy?

Becker filed for bankruptcy at a London court in June 2017. At the time, he owed a private banking firm, Arbuthnot Latham & Co, what The Guardian estimated was around GBP 3.3 million (over INR 31 crore).

He had allegedly crossed the repayment deadline by over two years in 2017, and had



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asked the bank to delay filing a lawsuit against him for 28 days. In the interim, he hoped to sell his property in Mallorca to repay a part of the debt.

However, the bank's registrar reportedly refused, stating that "one" has the impression of a man with his head in the sand."

Did Becker make any attempts to gather funds?

Yes. He held an auction that began in June 2018. The idea was to raise funds to repay the debt by selling memorabilia from his playing days - including trophies and kits. In all, he had 82 items up for sale.

The most expensive purchase was his US Open trophy from 1989, which he won by beating Ivan Lendl in the final. It sold in July 2019 for GBP 150,250 (INR 1.44 crore). He also managed to sell a replica of a Davis Cup trophy he won, for GBP 52,100 (just over INR 50 lakh).

In all, the auction raised over GBP 680,000 (INR 6.5 crore).

What all has he done to avoid the lawsuit from the bank?

The most eye-raising of the German's attempts was claiming diplomatic immunity. In April 2018, Becker claimed he had been ap-

pointed the Sport and Culture Attache to the European Union by the Central African Republic (CAR).

According to rules established at the 1961 Vienna Convention, international diplomats are immune from persecution in a host country - which includes criminal and civil proceedings.

However, Cherubin Moroubama, CAR foreign ministry's chief of staff, told Agence France Presse (AFP): "The diplomatic passport that (Becker) has is a fake."

He further explained that the serial number on the passport Becker possessed was from a batch that was stolen in 2014. Furthermore, Moroubama asserted that the position the German claimed he had from the CAR "does not exist."

Curiously, there have been a host of individuals who have cited diplomatic immunity from CAR to avoid prosecution in Europe, including a former advisor to

Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Is this Becker's first case of debt?

Since he retired in 1999, the German has struggled with his finances - be it through alimony or failed businesses. During his playing days, he won USD 25,080,956 in prize money, according to his ATP profile, and there have been estimates that his total wealth might have crossed USD 130 million (over INR 958 crore, by today's exchange rate) through endorsement deals.

In 2001 however, the German government had accused him of tax evasion estimated between GBP 3.2 million to GBP 10 million (over INR 30 crore and INR 96 crore respectively, according to today's exchange rate). At the time, Becker had claimed he was living at his home in Monaco - a tax-free haven. However, he had reportedly been seen often at his apartment in Munich, leading investigators to believe he had indeed been staying in Germany, and was hence subject to German taxes.