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India slams Turkey, Pak for attacks on Macron

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

IN A rare move, India on Wednesday came out in support of France's President Emmanuel Macron, whom Pakistan and Turkey have targeted for strongly defending the French people's right to freedom of expression.

New Delhi joined major European countries in condemning the personal attacks against the French President. On October 16, an 18-year-old Chechen refugee in France beheaded a 47-year-old schoolteacher, Samuel Paty, days after Paty had shown caricatures of the Prophet to his students.

Condemning the murder, Macron said: "We will continue... We will defend the freedom that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

VOTING IN 71 SEATS, EC THANKS VOTERS

Little Covid effect as over 54% come out to vote in Bihar Phase I

Virus shield slips in several booths across 3 districts

DIPANKAR GHOSE
BHAGALPUR, MUNGER, LAKHISARAI, OCTOBER 28

ON WEDNESDAY morning, the primary school at Maheshi village in Bhagalpur's Sultanpur constituency seemed like a parallel universe. Around 10.45 am, a BSF officer waved Dularin Devi inside, towards two masked women, one with a hand-held thermometer, the other with a packet of gloves. She was asked to sanitise her hands, cast her vote and discard the gloves in the dustbin.

But then came the question that many voters had been asking, often mockingly, since voting began here in the first phase



Thermal scanning being carried out at a polling booth in Paliganj, in Bihar on Wednesday. AP

of the Bihar assembly polls — the first election in the country since the Covid outbreak. "Bas iss school mein hi corona hai? Bahar bazaar mein toh bheed hai (Does the

coronavirus exist only inside this school? There is a crowd in the market outside)," Devi, 28, said.

As 71 seats went to polls Wednesday with provisional fig-

DECISION 2020
BIHAR

NITISH SEEKS VOTES IN PM'S NAME

YUVRAJ OF JUNGLE RAJ: PM TARGETS TEJASHWI PAGE 6

POLLS NOT ABOUT FAMILY: RAHUL HITS BACK PAGE 7

FULL COVERAGE, VISIT WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

ures marking a turnout of 54.26 per cent — marginally lower than 54.75 per cent for the same seats last time — there is a surreal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Overruling own decisions, Baghel govt spares Tatas Rs 200 cr penalty

2 extensions in 2 yrs, just 25% of rural broadband connectivity project over

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 28

OVERRULING THE decisions of two IAS officers who were successive CEOs of the key nodal agency for a Rs 3,057-crore rural broadband project, the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in Chhattisgarh decided

not to deduct Rs 200 crore in penalties it had imposed on Tata Projects Ltd for twice not meeting its deadline. This penalty was as per terms of the agreement between the company and the state and its imposition was a decision ratified by a Chief Secretary-led committee, records investigated by *The Indian Express* have found.



A Common Service Centre in Korba district awaits fibre internet connection under BharatNet Phase II. Gargi Verma

TOMORROW

A LOCAL VENDOR'S ASSURANCE ON PENALTY

That's not all — the state government also refunded a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Parliament panel wanted to visit Leh, Defence says 'not advisable'

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE DEFENCE Ministry has objected to a visit by Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to Leh next month to study the working conditions of soldiers deployed in forward locations in the high altitude areas.

In a letter sent on Wednesday, the Ministry said "it may not be advisable" for the MPs to visit, given the standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

In another letter sent only a day earlier, however, the Ministry had made no mention of such concerns.

The PAC, headed by the Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, had last month got clearance from Speaker Om Birla to visit Ladakh to meet the soldiers.

The PAC wanted to visit Leh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'Fund diversion': NIA raids activists, journalists in J&K, triggers outrage

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 28

IN A coordinated action targeting activists, NGOs and news organisations based in J&K, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said Wednesday that it has conducted searches at ten locations in Srinagar and Bandipora, and one in Bengaluru, in connec-

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

J&K REALTY
New land laws will not help govt build trust

PAGE 10

tion with a case of funds being raised from "India and abroad in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Some districts trying to control the testing for Covid: top pvt lab

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE MANAGING director of one of India's top private diagnostic labs has said that government authorities in some districts have been trying to "control" the process of testing for the novel coronavirus in order to show a "better scorecard".

"Even though testing has been opened up, the government is still

controlling private centre testing at district levels. It is happening more today than before. We have been told not to pick up samples in many districts in different states, claiming that we are reporting false positives," A Velumani, founder and managing director of Thyrocare Technologies, told *The Indian Express*.

Thyrocare is among the top five diagnostic centres in the country, and has been collecting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
Accurate picture is important

THE POINT of testing more is to ensure that Covid-19 cases are detected and contained in time. The Centre and states must investigate the allegation and take corrective action, if needed.

All eyes on economy, Uday Kotak is guest at Express e-Adda today

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

INDIA'S BANKING sector is at the centre of a push to get the economy back on track, working to ease stress on borrowers and stabilise the financial system, after a record GDP contraction of 23.9 per cent in the June quarter.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Uday Kotak, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank



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WEB EXCLUSIVE

WHY BJP IS CASHING IN ON THE MANUSMRITI CONTROVERSY IN TAMIL NADU

Unlike in Kerala, where the BJP gets to attack both the ruling CPI(M) and the opposition Congress, the saffron party's Tamil Nadu unit has a limited canvas to take up issues as they rule at the Centre while ally AIADMK has been in power in the state for almost a decade.

VIDEO OF THE DAY

EXPLAINED WITH SUHAS PALSHIKAR

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

ENTERTAINMENT/REVIEW

'BICCHOO KA KHEL' TRAILER

Divyendu can't seem to let go of 'Mirzapur's' Munna

EXPRESS AUDIO

What the latest 2+2 meeting did for India-US ties

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of th '3 Things' podcast, we take a look at the impact of the latest bilateral discussions between India and the US.

FROM PAGE ONE

Macron

Steffen Seibert, the spokesman for Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel has said: "They are defamatory comments that are completely unacceptable, particularly against the backdrop of the horrific murder of the French teacher Samuel Paty by an Islamist fanatic."

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte tweeted: "President Erdogan's words addressing President Emmanuel Macron are unacceptable," adding that the Netherlands stood "for the freedom of speech and against extremism and radicalism."

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte tweeted: "Personal insults don't help the positive agenda the EU wants to have with Turkey but pushes solutions further away."

France, Germany, and the UK, countries to which Shringla is headed, are all strategic partners of New Delhi, and nations with whom India has close and well-established relations.

Shringla will review bilateral relations and discuss matters of mutual interest and share Indian perspectives with his counterparts and with other key interlocutors. He will also interact with businesspersons, academics, intellectuals and media persons in these three countries. He will discuss international cooperation in dealing with the ongoing pandemic and its consequences.

"India's relations with France, Germany and UK are built on a foundation of shared democratic values and are informed by a commonality of interest in issues such as sustainable development and climate change. India has very substantial trade and commercial ties and large investment flows with these countries. India also works closely with these countries in multilateral and plurilateral platforms on various issues," the MEA said.

"Indian priorities such as robust and reformed multilateralism, its expanded multilateral and plurilateral engagements including its forthcoming non-permanent tenure in the United Nations Security Council, and its commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific will be discussed," it said.

Parliament panel

since it is examining a CAG report which had earlier this year said that the troops stationed in areas like Siachen and Ladakh faced an acute shortage of high-altitude clothing and equipment, including snow goggles, because of delays in procurement.

The PAC had initially decided to visit Ladakh on October 28 and 29. But some MPs on the panel sought a change in dates, citing the Assembly elections in Bihar, by-elections in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, and the prevailing Covid-19 situation.

The PAC then revised its plan, and decided to visit Leh from November 8 to 10, instead. It sent the revised schedule to the Defence Ministry, Army, and Lok Sabha secretariat.

But the Defence Ministry has informed the PAC that it may not be advisable to visit Ladakh now, since the Army is fully engaged with the situation on the border.

"The present situation with soldiers from both sides in close proximity; all officers and men are involved in ensuring full preparedness, to prevent any escalation in the situation. Accordingly, it may not be advisable for such a delegation comprising VVIPs to visit Leh, Ladakh at this juncture. A fresh date will be intimated as and when there is some disengagement on the ground," a letter dated October 28 from the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) of the Ministry of Defence said.

The DMA is headed by Chief

you taught so well and we will bring secularism." France, the President said, would "not give up cartoons, drawings, even if others back down".

In response, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused Macron of running an anti-Islamic agenda, and said the French President needed a "mental health check".

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan said Macron was encouraging anti-Muslim sentiments and provoking Muslims; Iran and Saudi Arabia condemned the cartoons.

In an official statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday: "We strongly deplore the personal attacks in unacceptable language on President Emmanuel Macron in violation of the most basic standards of international discourse. We also condemn the brutal terrorist attack that took the life of a French teacher in a gruesome manner that has shocked the world. We offer our condolences to his family and the people of France."

"There is no justification for terrorism for any reason or under any circumstance."

India's statement comes a day before Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's scheduled October 29-November 4 visit to France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

While France has seen repeated violent incidents around caricatures and cartoons that are deemed offensive, it is unusual for New Delhi to wade into a controversy over religion in another country.

In January 2015, after the attack on Charlie Hebdo journalists and cartoonists, the MEA spokesperson had said "we have vociferously condemned the situation", and then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj had written to her counterpart Laurent Fabius. "We are on the side of those who condemn this barbaric incident," the spokesperson had said.

Earlier in March 2006, controversy over the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet in a Danish daily had forced the cancellation of Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen's scheduled six-day visit to India. Following widespread protests over the cartoons, New Delhi had conveyed to Copenhagen that this was not the "optimal time" for the visit.

New Delhi has close strategic ties with France, especially on issues of mutual interest from counter-terrorism to defence, and nuclear to space. Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares a personal rapport with President Macron, who had invited the PM to the G-7 leaders' summit in Biarritz last year.

France has been extremely supportive of India at the UN Security Council on Kashmir and Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, among other issues. The two countries have a close cooperation on climate change, and have formed the International Solar Alliance.

Following Wednesday's statement by the MEA, France's Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain posted on Twitter: Thank you @MEAIndia. France and India can always count on each other in the fight against terrorism."

India's vocal support for Macron could also have been influenced by the fact that the charge against the President has been led by Turkey and Pakistan, two countries that have repeatedly attacked India over Jammu and Kashmir and alleged human rights violations.

European leaders have rallied around Macron and criticized attacks on him, particularly from Turkey.

Little Covid effect as over 54% come out to vote in Bihar Phase I

sense of disbelief about Covid in Bihar's villages.

At the polling booths, there were measures in place to keep the virus at bay. But amid intermittent shouts for voters to keep distance, the bizarre disconnect was visible even inside. Three of the officers inside the booth at Maheshi had strung their masks around their necks, until they spotted a camera.

About 27 km away, at Bariyarpur village in Munger district, masks were a rare sight as security personnel asked voters to wrap their saris or gamchas around their faces. Inside the booth at a primary school, there was social distancing. At the gate though, the voters stood cheek by jowl.

"If they are creating space inside, they should ensure distancing outside, too," said Rameshwar Prasad, 48, who was waiting to vote.

The architecture of each booth was the same. A shami-ana at the entrance and polling agents, unmasked mostly, sitting a little distance away. And at the gate, two-four women officials, mostly Asha and Anganwadi workers, on duty, holding thermometers and single-use gloves. As for the voters, once their fingers were inked, they threw the gloves outside in open bins, some on the ground outside. In some booths, masks were handed out, too.

What did seem to work though for the Election Commission, was the number of booths. With a stipulated limit of 1,000 people per booth, down from 1500, there were no long queues across the districts of Bhagalpur, Munger and Lakhisarai. In Munger town, Ranjan Tiwari walked up to the Middle School in Puraniganj at 1 pm, not to vote, but to see if there was a crowd.

"I have aged parents. I wanted to see if they could come. There is nobody here. I will bring them quickly," he said.

By 3 pm, fatigue seemed to have set in over even basic preventive steps. At Mano Rampur village in Lakhisarai, the gates of Shri Govind Higher Secondary School were wide open, and women officials meant to check temperature and hand over gloves were engaged in a discussion among themselves. There was no attempt to check temperature or issue gloves, and voters went in without protest. "The elections are happening, rallies are taking place, markets are open, so will corona catch us in the voting booth?" asked a voter.

In Munger, there were other elements in play, too. Every shop in town had their shutters down to protest the clash between the administra-

tion and Durga devotees on Monday night that left a 22-year-old dead. "People are not coming out as they used to," said a BJP poll booth agent. At 5 pm, Munger's turnout was the lowest of 16 districts at 43.64 per cent.

In Delhi, meanwhile, the voting percentage was being watched closely amid apprehensions among political parties over the pandemic. But Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said the turnout vindicated the panel's decision to hold the elections on time. "I want to thank the voters who came out to vote in these extraordinary circumstances, the political entities for conducting themselves with maturity, and our election machinery on the ground for ensuring all precautions are taken," Arora said.

(WITH RITIKA CHOPRA IN NEW DELHI)

Overruling own decisions, Baghel govt spares Tatas Rs 200-crore penalty

Rs 28.79-crore penalty already levied, despite having granted Tata Projects an extension of timeline twice in two years.

Awarded to the company in July 2018, the BharatNet Chhattisgarh project was originally scheduled to be completed in a year. It involves laying an optical fibre network covering 32,466 km, linking 85 blocks and 5,987 gram panchayats across 27 districts in the state.

The lighting up of gram panchayats in Chhattisgarh with internet is part of the nation-wide BharatNet project, one of the flagship projects under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India plan, and aims to connect 2.5 lakh villages.

As on September 25, 2020, Tata Projects could ensure broadband-ready infrastructure in only 1,394 gram panchayats (24 per cent of the target). A detailed questionnaire mailed to Tata Projects Ltd on October 26 did not elicit a response.

Under Sameer Vishnoi, appointed on January 23 as its CEO, the Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHIPS), a nodal agency of the state tasked with monitoring the project, set aside the decisions of its two past CEOs — Alex Paul Menon and KC Devasenapathi, both of whom had invoked the penalty on Tata Projects for not adhering to timelines mutually agreed upon.

But these decisions were set aside by Vishnoi. When contacted, he admitted not much work had been done when he joined in January this year. "The work picked up only in the past six months. We started with only 33 gram panchayats in February, and now within a fortnight, we will inaugurate 1,200-1,500 villages," he said.

Asked why he decided to stop withholding the penalty and refund the amount already levied, Vishnoi told The Indian Express, "Earlier, procedure

was not followed. I stopped so that we can restart the penalty procedure." He said that a fresh notice for invoking penalty has now been issued to Tata Projects.

As per the original Master Services Agreement, Tata Projects was required to ensure end-to-end completion and integration of 10 per cent of total gram panchayats with State Network Operations Centre (S-NOCs) by October 26, 2018. Having failed to do so, then CEO of CHIPS Alex Paul Menon invoked a penalty equal to Rs 164 crore (10 per cent of Rs 1,674.62 crore, the total capital expenditure) on November 3, 2018, after issuing three notices beginning August 2018.

With projected milestones not being met, KC Devasenapathi, who was appointed CEO of CHIPS in January 2019, invoked the maximum penalty equal to Rs 200.95 crore (12 per cent of total capex of Rs 1,674.62 crore)

on February 23, 2019.

Not only that, CHIPS extended the project completion deadline by six more months on June 22 this year, beyond the 12-month extension already allowed earlier that had expired on June 17. Tata Projects, however, has sought more time given Covid-19 restrictions, but a decision on this request is pending.

When contacted, Subrat Sahoo, Additional Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh, told The Indian Express that a penalty was never issued. "We have just sent them a show cause notice of penalty. The money that was given to them is their money, kept as security deposit as in all standard tenders. About 90 per cent payment is generally made and the balance 10 per cent is given after checking the work quality. This is general practice," he said.

(WITH AASHISH ARYAN IN NEW DELHI)

NIA raids

the name of charitable activities" and allegedly used "for carrying out secessionist and separatist activities in J&K".

The locations that were targeted included the offices of Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), English daily *Greater Kashmir* and NGO Athrout — and the residences of leading activists, including JKCCS coordinator Khurram Parvez.

The action drew sharp criticism from political leaders in the Valley, with PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti describing it as a "vicious crackdown on freedom of expression" and Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone saying that the "raids add to the environment of fear".

The Kashmir Editors' Guild (KEG) condemned the raids and said that the local media "continues to get targeted, demonised, vilified and raided by both the state and non-state actors..."

The NIA said in a statement that it "conducted searches at 10 locations in Srinagar & Bandipora (J&K) and 1 location in Bangalore in connection with a case pertaining to certain so-called NGOs and Trusts raising funds in India and abroad in the name of charitable activities and

then using those funds for carrying out secessionist and separatist activities in J&K".

The agency claimed that "several incriminating documents and electronic devices have been seized."

It said that the raids were part of a case registered on October 8, based on "credible information that certain NGOs and Trusts are collecting funds domestically and abroad through so-called donation and business contributions, etc., and are then utilising these funds for secessionist and terrorist activities in J&K".

Among the entities raided was JKCCS, a federation of rights groups and activists in J&K that was founded in 2000 by Parvez Imroz. Its coordinator Khurram Parvez, whose residence was searched, also serves as Chairman of Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) and was recipient of the 2006 Reebok Human Rights Award. Parvez had lost his leg in a landmine while monitoring the 2004 Parliamentary elections.

The agency also searched the residences of Parvez Ahmad Matta, a JKCCS office-bearer, and Parveena Ahangar, chairperson of the Association of Parents of

Disappeared Persons (APDP) who won the 2017 Rafto Prize for Human Rights.

The residence of journalist Parvez Bukhari, who works for the wire service Agence France Presse (AFP), was also searched with the NIA describing him as "an associate" of Parvez.

The NIA said its raids also focused on Greater Kashmir Trust, which was founded after the 2014 floods and is affiliated to GK Communications, which runs Greater Kashmir and the Urdu daily Kashmir Uzma. Greater Kashmir founder and owner Fayaz Ahmad Kaloo had been summoned by the agency last year.

NIA officers also raided the office of Athrout, which is a prominent charitable group that runs a dialysis centre in Srinagar and a fleet of ambulances, and provides medicine at discounted rates. The NGO has been active in tackling the Covid outbreak and donated six portable ventilators to the Shere Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS).

In a statement posted on social media, Athrout said: "We would like to inform all our well wishers that NIA visited our Head office today. They had a few queries regarding our work-

ing, which were asked in a very friendly & professional manner & all the required details were provided accordingly & transparently." It said that its "operations will continue as normal".

Reacting to the raids, former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti posted on Twitter: "NIA raids on human rights activist Khurram Parvez & Greater Kashmir office in Srinagar is yet another example of GOI's vicious crackdown on freedom of expression & dissent. Sadly, NIA has become BJP's pet agency to intimidate & browbeat those who refuse to fall in line."

Peoples Conference President Sajad Lone said: "NIA raids add to the environment of fear. GK essentially was one institution which struggled its way to the top. The institution now stares helplessly as fear and slander take over. Hoping against hope that sanity prevails."

The Kashmir Editors' Guild said: "Though NIA said that the raid was on GK Trust, GK Management said the investigating agency checked the computers and took away the hard disks...KEG expresses its concern over the mounting costs of being a journalist in Kashmir. It hopes that Kashmir media is permitted to function without hassles and hurdles."

Covid testing

samples in several high Covid-19 caseload states including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Uttarakhand.

"Around 2,000 of our samples are reduced every day across at least 100 districts because of this, and one of the motivations is obviously they don't really want to show a higher positivity scorecard. They want to show a better scorecard," Velumani said.

Thyrocare has been facing this problem in 30 per cent of the districts it collects samples from, Velumani said. He declined to name the districts where lab staff were allegedly being told verbally to limit testing.

Ameera Shah, managing director of diagnostic chain Metropolis Healthcare, underlined the crucial importance of testing at this stage of the pandemic in India. "The more we increase testing and the more that we take care of those who are Covid-19 positive and do rigorous contact tracing, the better our chances of avoiding a possible next spike that is expected to come in the October to December quarter," Shah said.

A senior executive of another large diagnostic firm confirmed they too were facing issues similar to the ones flagged by Velumani.

This executive, who declined to be identified, said certain parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat had been engaging in such practices in the recent past.

"We continue to see this happening. We're not seeing this evenly spread everywhere, but in certain places. It's random and arbitrary, and happening across different districts across the country," the executive told The Indian Express. As a result, the firm has been unable to ramp up testing to its full capacity, the executive said.

"Basically, states have their own pressures for not wanting to show positive cases. Because the pressure is trickled down, at the district level, we are finding that people are telling us to do a maximum total number of tests per day," the executive added.

A top executive of another major diagnostic firm, however, told The Indian Express that issues such as the one flagged by Velumani had been more common "a few months ago".

The executive of the first firm

said some district authorities had also instructed them to run the results by the authorities before releasing the final reports to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

"They have said that if they tell us to not release it (the reports), then we shouldn't release it... This is possibly affecting the number of tests being done and, possibly, the number of positives coming out," this executive said.

Asked for a comment, ICMR's media coordinator told The Indian Express: "All the issues highlighted are within the purview of the respective state governments. ICMR is a research body, which has played a pivotal role in guiding states on testing protocols and modalities...ICMR does not have any regulatory authority. All states are free to decide on the levels of engagement with the private and public sector."

The Health Ministry has stated that India is among the "topmost" countries in testing. Since October 1, the country has tested between 8.5 lakh and 14.7 lakh samples every day. Cumulative tests since the pandemic began crossed 10.5 crore on Wednesday.

Uday Kotak

To discuss the way forward and reforms needed to boost growth, Uday Kotak, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), will be the guest at the Express e-Adda Thursday.

Veteran banker Kotak has played a crucial role in the development of the capital market and banking sectors. He has also been a part of several government committees, including that on corporate governance.

Two years ago, Kotak was entrusted with the task of turning around IL&FS after its board was superseded. In June this year, he took over as CII chief, and has been closely working with the government to revive the economy at a time when India has record foreign exchange reserves and surplus liquidity with banks.

In September, several key indicators, including automobile sales, power demand, toll collection and petrol consumption, reached the pre-Covid levels of February 2020, even as credit growth in banking remained muted. According to analysts, the recovery continues to hold in October.

Established in 1985, the Kotak Mahindra group has become a leading financial conglomerate over the years with operations in banking, insurance, mutual funds and broking businesses.

At the e-Adda, Kotak will be in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express, and P Vaidyanathan Iyer, Executive Editor-National Affairs, The Indian Express.

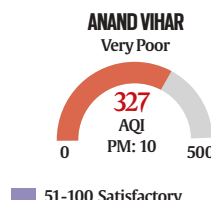
The Express Adda is a series of informal interactions organised by The Indian Express Group and features those at the centre of change.

Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSMEs Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal, AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria, and former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian were guests at the E-Adda this year, as these discussions moved online during the pandemic.

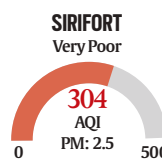
Among prominent guests at past editions of Express Adda have been Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian, cancer specialist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee, and cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara.



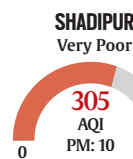
0-50 Good



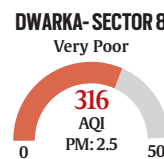
51-100 Satisfactory



101-200 Moderate



201-300 Poor



301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

INQUIRY TO PROBE 8 CHARGES

Power tussle in DU ends with President suspending V-C Tyagi

Inquiry to look into allegations that V-C kept key posts vacant, delayed faculty recruitment

RITIKA CHOPRA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE WEEK-LONG power tussle between Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi and Pro V-C PC Joshi ended Wednesday with the former's suspension on President Ram Nath Kovind's order.

Tyagi's suspension, a first in DU's history, came a day after the President approved the Education Ministry's proposal to launch an inquiry against him for failing to discharge his duties and responsibilities. The President is DU's Visitor and the appointing authority for the V-C's post.

Tyagi has been suspended until further orders to ensure fair in-

quiry as he may "influence/coerce witnesses and tamper with the material records of the University", the ministry's directive states.

The government has identified eight charges of dereliction of duty against him. The inquiry will probe into allegations that the V-C kept statutory and key posts such as Pro V-C, Registrar, Finance Officer and Treasurer vacant; delayed faculty recruitment despite meetings held by the Education Ministry; mishandled last year's teachers' protest over the reappointment of ad hoc teachers; went on an unauthorised leave of absence from the first week of July; and hampered the functioning of the university by making parallel appointments to the Registrar's post even as he



DU V-C Yogesh Tyagi

was on leave, among others.

"... the Vice-Chancellor is not administering the university in accordance with the provisions of the Act, Statutes, ordi-

nance of University of Delhi, which has caused mis-governance and malfunctioning of University of Delhi. This is not conducive for appropriate academic as well as administrative environment of the University," the ministry's order states.

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 to fill 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. 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, PC Jha, who was appointed Registrar by the V-C, wrote to the ministry last week on Friday 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.

Tyagi did not respond to calls seeking a comment.

Faridabad murder: Man who gave weapon to accused held

SAKSHI DAYAL

GURGAON, OCTOBER 28

ADAY after a 20-year-old student was shot dead outside her college in Ballabgarh by a former classmate and his accomplice, Faridabad police Wednesday night arrested a third accused from Nuh who had provided the two assailants with the weapon.

"Ajru, the man who supplied the country-made pistol used in the crime, has been arrested from Nuh after conducting raids in dozens of places," said Faridabad Police PRO Sube Singh, adding that the vehicle used in the crime has also been seized.

The incident took place on Monday around 4 pm, outside Aggarwal College in Ballabgarh, where the victim, Nikita Tomar, was a third-year B.Com student. Main accused Tauseef and his accomplice Rehman had allegedly accosted Tomar when she was leaving the college after giving



Nikita Tomar (20)

an exam, and tried to force her into a car.

The victim, however, resisted their efforts and was shot dead as she tried to escape from them. While Tauseef, who had studied with her at a private school in Faridabad, had been arrested on Monday night, his accomplice was arrested Tuesday afternoon.

Tomar's family alleged Tauseef had been pressuring her to marry him and had kidnapped her in 2018.

Visiting Tomar's relatives, Faridabad MP and Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar said: "Strictest possible action will be taken against the accused. A Special Investigation Team has already been formed to conduct the probe, and the accused have been arrested... The Haryana government and the Centre are fully committed to ensuring safety of women."

Tauseef's uncle, Javed Ahmad, who fought the Haryana polls on a BSP ticket in 2014 and 2019, said they had no inkling he would do such a thing: "His father is involved in agriculture in Sohna... he gave no indication to anybody that he was planning this. He was good and hardworking... Nobody expected him to do such a thing... This is a condemnable incident and the law will take its course," he said.

On the alleged abduction in 2018, Ahmad said he was not familiar with the incident.

Apex court declines to interfere with HC bail order on Kalita

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE SUPREME COURT Wednesday declined to interfere with a Delhi High Court order granting bail to Pinjra Tod activist Devangana Kalita in a case related to Northeast Delhi riots. A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah dismissed the appeal filed against the HC's September 1 order.

Appearing for NCT Delhi, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju submitted that she is "very influential" and could "tamper with evidence". But the bench did not agree. Justice Shah asked, "How can influence of a person be a ground to deny bail?"

Raju pointed out that the HC had said there were only police witnesses in the case, while the fact is there are other protected witnesses too.

Kalita was granted bail in a case of "criminal conspiracy" for allegedly instigating people to indulge in rioting. The case, registered at the Jafraabad police station, was being investigated by the Crime Branch.

The High Court, in its order, had said the police had failed to produce any material that she, in her speech, instigated women of a particular community or gave any hate speech. Justice Suresh Kumar Kait had said, "In my considered opinion, no prejudice would be caused to the respondent's investigation by grant of relief to the petitioner, and she would be prevented from suffering further unnecessary harassment, humiliation and unjustified detention."

Kalita had also been booked under UAPA for "conspiracy" that allegedly led to the riots and remains in jail in connection with this case.

Ghaziabad Police seeks access to CCTV cams

AMIL BHATNAGAR

NOIDA, OCTOBER 28

GHAZIABAD POLICE has launched the scheme 'Donate a Camera' to increase police surveillance in the district. According to police, citizens may come forward and provide access to CCTV cameras installed in their residence or shops to cover more areas for the purpose of policing.

"The footage is crucial evidence in working out cases. We request families and citizens to install cameras as much as they can. We ask people to donate one camera to the police by providing the feed access to the local station. In this way, there will be better policing, and it will lead to prevention of crimes," said Kalanidhi Naithani, SSP Ghaziabad.

According to police, in the hours after the scheme was launched, more than 300 people have approached police to provide access to their CCTV footage. The camera can be set up in any industrial, commercial or residential facility, police said.

Police officials have been asked to identify key areas within their beat and hold meetings with people to make them aware of the scheme. Police will focus on increasing coverage in market areas and industrial areas to prevent incidents of late night loot or robberies.

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Kejriwal acquitted in defamation case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

A DELHI court acquitted Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a criminal defamation case filed by South Delhi BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri. The order was passed by a Special MP/MLA Court presided over by Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja, who acquitted Kejriwal of all charges.

Kejriwal was summoned as an accused by the court in 2016 on a criminal defamation complaint filed against him by Bidhuri under IPC Section 500 (defamation).

Bidhuri had alleged that Kejriwal defamed him during an interview with a news channel. He had claimed that during the interview, Kejriwal had falsely said criminal cases were pending against Bidhuri and a Congress leader but the Delhi Police was not taking action against them. Bidhuri claimed no case was pending against him and Kejriwal had defamed him by giving such a statement.

During the trial, Kejriwal's lawyers urged the court to drop the charges, arguing that it was an hour-long interview and the BJP leader has taken the statement out of context.

BRIEFLY

3 granted bail in riots case

New Delhi: A Delhi court Wednesday granted bail to three people in a case related to Northeast Delhi riots in February. The order said the police have given no explanation on the 40-day gap between the incident and recording of statement of the beat constable who identified the three as accused.

Hindu Rao docs call off strike

New Delhi: After the salary of the last 3 months was released by North MCD Wednesday, resident doctors of Hindu Rao hospital and other facilities under the civic body suspended their indefinite strike which began Tuesday. The Municipal Corporation Doctor's Association said: "The administration has agreed for timely release of salary in future... and that various issues of hospital administration and doctors will be reviewed quarterly at the level of additional commissioner (Health)."

1 arrested for Dwarka murder

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested an accused in the murder of a man in Dwarka on October 22. A video of the incident had gone viral. An eyewitness had alleged that a man named Kamal Gehlot had killed Vikas Mehta. "Gehlot's father Pawan had invited Mehta to his office. Pawan wanted revenge as he suspected Mehta of killing his elder brother," said police. Police have arrested Pawan. "We are looking for the other accused," said Additional DCP RP Meena. **ENS**

An Opportunity to Develop Fuel Cell Powered Train for Indian Railways

INDIAN RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION FOR ALTERNATE FUELS (IROAF) INVITES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FUEL CELL/BATTERY BASED HYBRID POWER TRAIN

In order to develop Technical specifications for development of fuel cell/battery based hybrid power train along with associated control and suitably designed Energy Management Strategy (EMS) and storage module for retrofitment on 700 HP Narrow Gauge ZDM3 Diesel- Hydraulic Locomotives running on Kalka- Shimla section **EOI (IROAF/CME/BD/FUEL CELL POWERED LOCO) is invited.**

OCTOBER 2020

Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuels (IROAF), Government of India, Ministry of Railways, New Delhi invites **Expression of Interest (EOI) for development of fuel cell/battery based hybrid power train** along with associated control and suitably designed Energy Management Strategy (EMS) and storage module for retrofitment on 700 HP Narrow Gauge ZDM3 Diesel- Hydraulic Locomotives running on Kalka- Shimla section.

The **Functional Requirement Specifications No. FRS/ED/2020/90 of October 2020** issued by Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) of the desired product and **Format for Letter of Response** have been uploaded on the website of IROAF <https://iroaf.indianrailways.gov.in/> → **IROAF Tenders** → **Expression of Interest**. Alternatively EOI form can be collected in person from the office of IROAF, New Delhi. Interested Firms/Organizations who have experience and capability to meet with such requirements are requested to submit technical and other details in the prescribed Format attached herewith **on or before 31.12.2020** to the address mentioned below.

Firms willing to participate in EOI shall be required to make a presentation/video conferencing on **03.12.2020** before sending their response.

Chief Mechanical Engineer/BD, Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuels (IROAF), Government of India, Ministry of Railways 4th Floor, Railway Office Complex, Tilak Building, New Delhi-110002 Telephone no.:- 011-23379107, Fax no.:- 011-23379083 Email: cmebdiroaf@gmail.com

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E-No.: ED/130/UBV/2020 **Date : 28-10-2020**

Notification - Selection of Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru city University

- The Government of Karnataka invites applications for the selection of **Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru** as per sec. 14(2) of Karnataka State University Act, 2000 from eligible distinguished Academicians/Professors with following credentials
 - A person of the highest level of competence, integrity, morals and institutional commitment.
 - A distinguished academician, with a minimum of ten years' of experience as Professor in a University or ten years' of experience in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership.
 - As provided in the sec 14(5) and 14(6) of Karnataka State University Act, 2000, the Vice-Chancellor shall, subject to the pleasure of the Chancellor and the State Government, hold the office for a maximum period of 4 years or until he attains the age of Sixty Seven years whichever is earlier. Consequently, a person to be appointed as Vice Chancellor shall have clear four years tenure.
- Persons interested in submitting their candidacy for the **Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru City University**, should make hard copies of the application in triplicate duly filled along with the academic, research credentials and administrative experience, achievements & other details in the proforma prescribed by the UGC within 15 days at the latest from the date of publication of this advertisement, to:- **Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, 6th Floor, Gate No. 02, M.S. Building, Bangalore - 560 001.**
- Single soft copy of the application in PDF format should be mailed to e-mail : kgsheduni2020@gmail.com.
- In support of unblemished career and undoubted integrity, the applicant who is retired from service, should file a self attested certificate to the effect that no departmental/criminal enquiry is instituted / pending against him or no enquiry is culminated in penalties. Whereas, in case of applicant in service, he should file a certificate of his employer in this regard. The concerned will be subjected to stringent action if certificates are found to be false. Further, the applications not accompanying the above mentioned certificates will not be considered and processed.
- The application proforma is available on the website of **Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru Karnataka.**
- Incomplete applications and applications received after the stipulated time limit will not be entertained. This office is not responsible for postal or other kinds of delays.
- The candidature of those who indulge in undue influencing on the selection process through unethical means will stand cancelled.**

Sd/-
Principal Secretary to Government Higher Education Department

DIPR/DDU/1490/4Winds/2020-21

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4 THE CITY

In trial run, farmers see hope in Pusa stubble control tech

SHIVAMPATEL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

UMESH SINGH (42) examined a few paddy straws at his brother Prakash's field in North Delhi's Hiranki village on Tuesday afternoon. He crushed a few of them in his palm with ease. "Usually, the straw is very stiff, it doesn't break apart easily. The straws at this field have decomposed about 90% and would be easier to mix with soil. Wheat can be sowed here in about a week from now."

Singh then walked over to his field across the road, picked up a few straws and tried to crush them. "These straws still require some effort. They will decompose in about a month," he said.

The difference between Singh's field and his brother's field is that Prakash had the 'Pusa decomposer' solution sprayed about two weeks ago for managing crop residue — a fungi-based technology developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).

Trial of this technology on about 800 hectares of field in Delhi was inaugurated by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at Prakash's farm on October 13.

Singh, on the other hand, decided to flood his field with water to try and decompose the stubble, a method he and Prakash had been following since the past few years. "But the stubble at my field is just as it was 15 days ago," Singh



said on Tuesday.

Burning of paddy stubble, a practice usually followed by farmers in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to quickly clear their fields before planting wheat crop, contributes to air pollution in the northern Gangetic plains and its already polluted cities like Delhi at the start of winter.

Efforts to stop the practice through use of machines that provide an alternative solution for stubble management have so far been unsuccessful, despite 50% to 80% subsidy provided to farmers in Punjab and Haryana on these machines.

The 'Pusa Decomposer' costs Rs 20 for a pack of four capsules, which can be mixed water, 150 grams of jaggery and 50 grams of besan, to develop a 25-litre solution for 1 hectare of field.

IARI director Dr AK Singh said the solution contains enzymes that helps decompose the stubble fibre in about 15-20 days, which can then be mixed with soil in the field to act as compost before planting the next crop.

"Even if some straws are seen on the fields after 15-20 days, they are soft enough to be easily broken and mixed in the field. It's the hard straws that create a problem," he said. Burning the straw harms the soil, Dr Singh said, killing essential microbes in it and also causing pollution.

With the use of this technology, nutrients released from the decomposed stubble will be beneficial for the soil, which will improve its quality, Dr Singh added.

Back at Hiranki village, Prakash's son Sumit Singh (24) said the technology works: "The stubble has decomposed, we will start sowing wheat in about a week from now. This is profitable for us because we didn't have to take the stubble anywhere... Earlier, when we used to flood the field with water to decompose the stubble, it would take a long time."

Umesh said that the solution would save his brother at least 12 litres of diesel, as instead of using a Rotavator machine three different times to prepare the field for planting the next crop, it would have to be used just once, since the stubble is soft enough.

He also said they might require fewer bags of fertilisers as the decomposed straw would act as compost. "The technology has helped in faster decomposition of stubble, but the next thing we will be watching is the productivity of soil... This will depend upon the quality of our next wheat crop," Umesh said.



Paddy straw decomposing in Prakash's field in Hiranki village; (above) Umesh and Prakash

In Noida, 25 teams to curb pollution

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, OCTOBER 28

WITH NOIDA'S AQI averaging between 410 and 450 in the 'hazardous' category for the last 48 hours, authorities are looking at ways to curb local sources of pollution. As per AQI in data, PM 10 levels were recorded at 413 while PM 2.5 spiked to 215 Wednesday as against an ideal limit of 50.

"We do not have a conclusive study as to what amount of pollutants are emitted by which particular activity. But overall, construction and traffic add to pollution considerably," said Pramod Kumar, Regional Officer, UP Pollution Control Board.

According to officials, 25 teams are working across the district to implement emergency measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) including mechanised sweeping and water spraying.

Ahead of Diwali, 11 teams to keep eye on cracker sale in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE DELHI Pollution Control Committee will deploy 11 teams to keep an eye on firecracker manufacturers to make sure only green crackers are manufactured, sold and used in Delhi. The government said it would launch an anti-firecracker campaign November 3, a couple of weeks before Diwali.

"We all know that the key reasons behind Delhi's air pollution spike are Diwali and Parali (stubble burning)... This year, we have decided that only manufacturing and use of green crackers will be allowed. This decision is as per the Supreme Court order of October 23, 2018," Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said.

"Across India, there are around 93 companies which make green crackers using pyrotechnic. Tomorrow, we will up-

load a list of these companies on our website so that traders can contact them," he added.

Air quality in the city improved from 'very poor' to 'poor' as the AQI value was recorded at 297. The slight relief was short lived, with SAFAR forecasting a dip on Thursday.

"A decrease in Delhi surface winds resulting in low ventilation, and deterioration in air quality is expected by tomorrow. The SAFAR model predicts that AQI will slip into the higher end of the 'very poor' category for the next two days," the official forecast said.

The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority, meanwhile, released a report prepared for the Supreme Court on a regional plan to fight pollution. The report said vehicular pollution needed to be curbed and public transportation needed to be strengthened in NCR.

and taxes, for which we have not gotten any respite."

On June 4, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued guidelines for hotels to follow on reopening, which include only allowing asymptomatic guests to enter, wearing gloves and other equipment by staff, recording travel and personal details of guests, proper crowd management, among other measures.

At hotels in Paharganj, lack of international tourists is felt as bookings remain low. At Hotel Ritz with 54 rooms, only three-

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

HOTELS ACROSS Delhi are reporting low occupancy rates — below 30% — since reopening in August as international tourist visas remain suspended and domestic tourism is yet to see a revival. On August 19, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority permitted reopening of hotels after six months of closure to help revive the economy.

The hospitality sector has

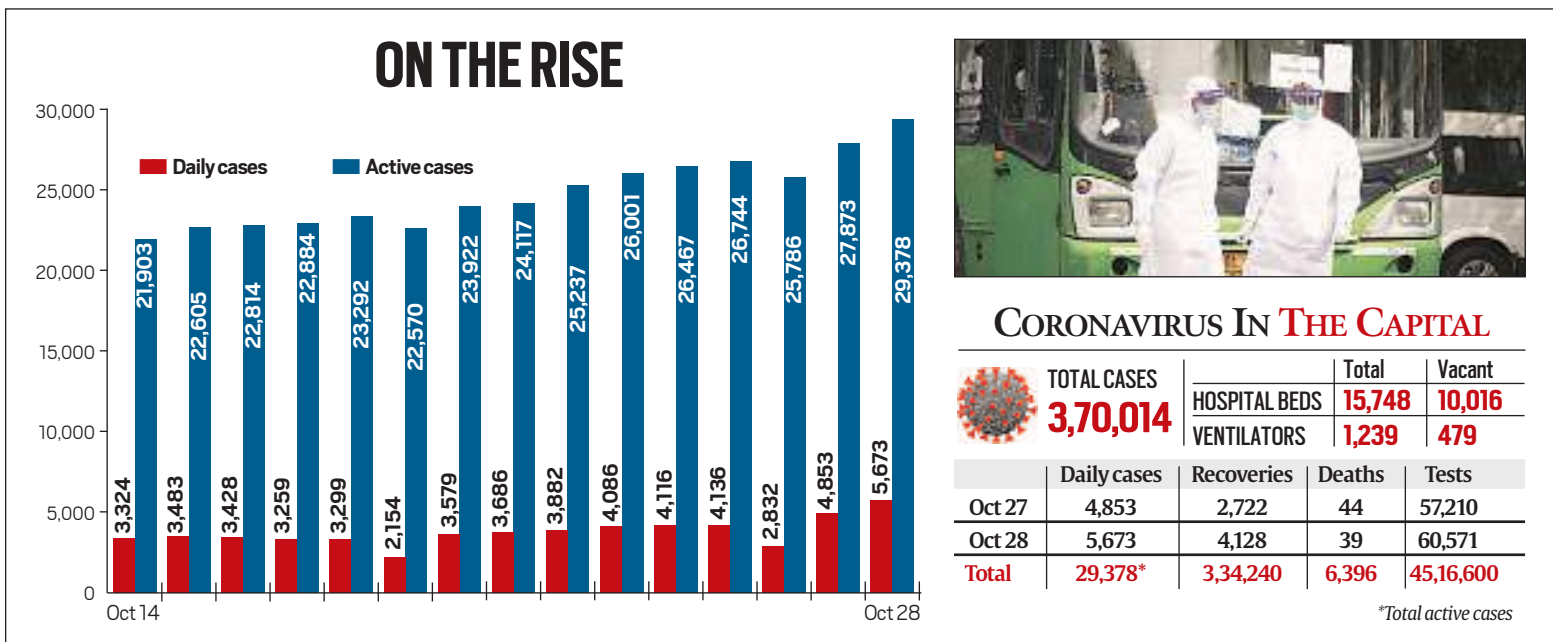
been hit hard by the lockdown as hotels struggle to pay EMLs and rent. As reported by *The Indian Express* in June, sectors dependent on tourism and hotel business such as the hotel employees, laundry services and others have also been hit due to this.

Sandeep Khandelwal, president of the Delhi Hotel and Restaurant Owners' Association, told *The Indian Express*, "The hospitality industry is running on huge losses, and even our employment generation is low. It is a struggle paying electricity bills

and taxes, for which we have not gotten any respite."

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POSITIVITY RATE 9.37%, OFFICIALS SAY WORRYING

Daily cases breach 5,000 mark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

NEW COVID-19 cases crossed the 5,000-mark for the first time in Delhi on Wednesday. The city recorded 5,674 cases between Monday and Tuesday, taking Delhi's overall case tally to 3,70,014. The high-level expert committee, led by NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul, had told the Delhi government that the city could see over 15,000 cases per day closer to Diwali.

Increased activity in offices and markets, Delhi government officials said, was behind the spike and that the case tally could be high till a week after Diwali. "Over the past two weeks, more and more offices have reopened. We have also seen a lot of activity in markets, owing to the festive season. Social distancing norms are not being followed, leading to crowding in many areas; a majority of people are not wearing masks. We believe people have grown tired of staying indoors.



Testing underway at the Patparganj weekly market, Wednesday. Tashi Tobgyal

With several weddings taking place in the past week, small gatherings are being held. All these factors result in an increased case count," the official said.

The rate of recovery has not managed to keep pace with the sudden increase in cases. While the number of active cases in the city was a little over 21,000 on

October 14, it stood at 29,378 on Wednesday. Active cases include those in hospitals, Covid care centres as well as patients under home isolation. There are 16,822 people under home isolation, and 5,730 are admitted in hospitals.

The case fatality rate in Delhi is 1.73%, and 6,396 people have died of the viral disease so far. The cu-

mulative positivity rate is 8.19% (since March). Wednesday's positivity rate stood at 9.37%, which officials said was worrying.

"It is not the number of cases in a day that is the biggest factor, but the positivity rate. We were never scared of big numbers because at one point we were testing over 60,000 people every day.

The positivity rate had fallen to below 6% a couple of weeks ago. An increase of three to four percentage points in such a situation shows that the incidence of disease among people is increasing," said the government official.

The only silver lining is that hospital bed availability is much better this time around as compared to in June, when a sudden jump in cases was seen. In mid-June, the number of total active cases were similar to what they were on Wednesday — around 30,000. While there were a total of close to 13,500 Covid beds in the city at the time — and almost half of them were occupied, on Wednesday, there were over 15,700 Covid beds — with a third of them occupied.

"We are much more comfortably placed in terms of hospital beds this time primarily because the rate of hospitalisation is not that high anymore. Protocols have changed and more people are being allowed home isolation," another Delhi government official said.

Man killed in Northwest Delhi: Security up in locality, Sisodia assures help to kin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

A DAY after a 29-year-old man was stabbed to death, allegedly by his neighbours following an altercation over playing loud music, police have stepped up security outside his house in Northwest Delhi's Sarai Pipal Thala to avoid communal tension.

The victim has been identified as Sushil Chand and police have arrested three men, Sattar and his sons Shah Nawaz and Aafaq, while two others are absconding. A minor has also been apprehended, police said.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who visited Sushil's family on Wednesday evening, said:



The victim, Sushil Chand. His 2 brothers were injured in the incident as well

"I met his father, brother and wife... they are shaken by the brutal murder... Two culprits are absconding. I will talk to senior police officers to arrest them as soon as possible. The government will help the family get a senior lawyer who can take the case and provide stringent punishment for the accused. A fight between the neighbours shouldn't turn into a

murder like this. This sends a wrong message to society. This is a simple family, they are vendors... We will also help them financially. The government will compensate them for their loss and we will help them get justice."

Additional DCP (Northwest) Vikram Harimohan Meena said, "There's no communal angle to this incident. It was a fight between neighbours over music. We have arrested the suspects and are investigating the matter."

Around 3 pm on Tuesday afternoon, Sushil was sitting outside his house when his neighbours started playing loud music inside their home. He went to complain but an altercation ensued and his brothers, Sunil and Anil, came to help him. Locals al-

leged the accused pulled out knives and stabbed the three brothers.

The three were taken to BJRM hospital where Sushil was declared dead on arrival. His brothers were shifted to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment.

Police said Anil gave a statement on Tuesday night about the incident. "He told us they objected to the loud music but five-six members of the neighbouring family stabbed them. He also told us they had had issues with their neighbours before but it never turned violent," said a senior officer.

Police said Sushil and his brothers sold blankets on the streets while the accused sold vegetables.

Two arrested for damaging vehicles after row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

TWO MEN have been arrested and two juveniles apprehended hours after a group allegedly damaged over 10 vehicles and threatened people with sticks in Outer Delhi's Mangolpuri.

Police said the incident took place on Monday night. A video

of the incident showing a group of men armed with sticks, allegedly damaging vehicles parked on the roads, went viral on social media Wednesday.

According to police, the group of seven juveniles and seven adults were allegedly looking for a man who fought with one of them earlier. "On Monday, a woman was buying groceries from a shop when one of the ac-

cused allegedly harassed her. The woman's brother objected to this and a heated argument broke out," said a senior police officer.

The accused allegedly wanted to take revenge on the woman's brother and called his friends. "The accused reached the man's house but he wasn't there. They looked for him in the area but couldn't find him. Agitated, they started damaging bikes and

cars on the road. They also threatened locals with sticks," said a senior police officer.

While no one was injured, police said five-six bikes and around seven cars were damaged.

Additional DCP (Outer) Sudhanshu Dhama said, "Based on the woman's complaint, we have arrested two men and apprehended two juveniles."

In hospital, JNU student asked to clear road

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

JNU STUDENTS' union joint secretary Mohd Danish Wednesday alleged he was issued a notice from the administration, for "illegal occupation" of a road inside the university, at Safdarjung Hospital where he is currently admitted due to dengue. The notice was issued by Chief Proctor Dhananjay Singh over a protest by JNUSU demanding entry inside campus for not just PhD students but all research scholars.

Singh said, "No such orders were given. I don't know who in the security department took the decision. If this has happened, it is insensitive and inappropriate."

Danish claimed he was handed the notice by a JNU security. Chief Security Officer Naveen Yadav said, "I'm not aware of this. We had told security to serve the notice but nobody told the guard to go to the hospital." Registrar Pramod Kumar said he wasn't aware of the matter.

JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh and general secretary Satish Yadav also received similar notices. Ghosh said: "JNUSU will continue its protest..."

NO INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC TOURISTS

2 months after reopening, hotels report poor occupancy — below 30%

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

HOTELS ACROSS Delhi are reporting low occupancy rates — below 30% — since reopening in August as international tourist visas remain suspended and domestic tourism is yet to see a revival. On August 19, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority permitted reopening of hotels after six months of closure to help revive the economy.

The hospitality sector has

been hit hard by the lockdown as hotels struggle to pay EMLs and rent. As reported by *The Indian Express* in June, sectors dependent on tourism and hotel business such as the hotel employees, laundry services and others have also been hit due to this.

Sandeep Khandelwal, president of the Delhi Hotel and Restaurant Owners' Association, told *The Indian Express*, "The hospitality industry is running on huge losses, and even our employment generation is low. It is a struggle paying electricity bills

and taxes, for which we have not gotten any respite."

On June 4, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued guidelines for hotels to follow on reopening, which include only allowing asymptomatic guests to enter, wearing gloves and other equipment by staff, recording travel and personal details of guests, proper crowd management, among other measures.

At hotels in Paharganj, lack of international tourists is felt as bookings remain low. At Hotel Ritz with 54 rooms, only three-



four rooms are occupied in two weeks, said general manager Vinay Kumar. "There are just no guests, no online bookings now. We used to get a lot of international tourists. Now even domestic tourists are not coming," he said.

At Leela Palace in Chanakyaपुरi, 15-20% of the 236 rooms and 18 suites rooms were occupied since it reopened, with

Leela Palace has recorded 15-20% occupancy rate

a similar occupancy in the 250 rooms of Taj Vivanta in Dwarka.

"We are getting couples or overnight stays, not business-related guests or domestic tourists," said a manager at the front desk of Taj Vivanta hotel.

At the Taj Palace Hotel on Man Singh Road, only 40 rooms out of 292 are open to guests currently since two floors are under renovation, of which 30-32 rooms are occupied on an average daily. Nitish Mishra, front desk manager, said, "Due to protocol, after a guest vacates, we sanitise it and

leaving it empty for 24 hours before offering it to another guest — this is affecting the number of guests."

At Hotel Waterfall in Paschim Vihar, only 5-6 of the 18 rooms are occupied. "Corporate meetings are now online, and domestic tourists visiting Delhi or Manali and Himachal have fallen. We even used to get engineers from abroad staying for some work and used to have 15 out of 18 rooms occupied," said general manager Manpreet Grewal. Now, guests come for family functions or examinations, he said.



Banks Launch Tempting Festive Offers to Revive Credit Growth

Hoping to cash in on the festive cheer and make up for losses owing to the coronavirus pandemic, banks are offering a host of deals to attract customers in the retail space and home, auto, personal, gold and business loan segments

THE months of September and October mark the beginning of the festive season in India. And when it comes to celebrating festivals, one automatically turns to shopping. In India, every festival is an opportunity to shop your heart out to have a complete celebration. No celebration is considered complete unless there's some shopping involved in it, be it for festive essentials, apparel or gift sets, etc. To cash in on the festive season, financial institutions such as banks and NBFCs have launched several exciting deals, seeking to lure prospective loan-seekers.

With the pandemic causing financial distress through job and salary cuts, Indians have begun to spend less and more wisely. However, in an attempt to increase credit growth, banks are trying to cash in on the festive cheer by rolling out special offers on loans, luring people into resuming borrowing and making big purchases. "Due to the pandemic, private transfer receipts fell 8.7% in a single year. India's current account balance recorded a sharp increase in the surplus, which stood at \$19.8 billion in the April-June 2020 quarter. The surplus indicates an increased ability to save but decreased spending, which translates into low credit growth for the banks. Thus, the festive offers are a way to revive the expenditure", according to sources.

As it is, the festive season is the time when the likelihood of a person purchasing a house, car or any other high-value commodity increases, following which there is a steep rise in the requirement of credit facilities. Besides this, many banks have also tied up with the leading e-commerce giants to provide attractive discounts and deals to online buyers. Several banks have launched a series of offers to encourage spending.

Recently, the State Bank of India had announced a 100% waiver in processing fees for customers applying for car, gold, and personal loans through the YONO app. The bank said there will be a complete waiver of processing fees on home loans for homebuyers in approved projects, according to a press release issued by it. It has also offered a 0.10% rebate on interest to potential homebuyers, if they have good credit scores. Customers applying for gold loans will get flexible repayment options for up to 36 months at interest rates as low as 7.5%.

Meanwhile, lending rates for personal loans will start at as low as 9.6%, said the bank's press release. As the State Bank of India is one of the largest home loan providers, the waiver of processing fees augurs well for the consumers. During the festive season, "this decision would encourage customers to opt for a dream home, especially considering the stable property prices and interest rate, which is at a 15-year low." With SBI being the market leader, other banks and financial institutions may follow suit.

PUNJAB & SIND BANK Utsav Mala for retail purchases

TO live up to its motto of "where service is a way of life" by delivering best possible customer services and providing banking solutions to customers in order to meet their unique needs, Punjab & Sind Bank, one of India's top public sector banks, has launched PSB Utsav Mala. This is aimed at borrowers keen on loans under the retail segment in the 2020 festival season. The unique concessions offered under PSB Utsav Mala include waiver of processing and inspection charges along with attractive rates of interest: PSB Apna Ghar (Home Loan) @ 6.90%* and PSB Apna Vahan (Car loan) @ 7.10%*. The PSB Utsav Mala will extend up to 31.12.2020. Further, the bank is offering Gold Loan @ 7% ROI (of up to Rs.10 lakh) and 7.50% ROI (of above Rs.10 lakh).



Currently, other banks too are putting their best foot forward – offering fee discounts, lower interest rates and a promise of quick loan processing – to revive credit growth, which is languishing at multi-decade lows because of the pandemic. Large private lenders such as HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank "have unveiled a host of special offers to take advantage of pent-up consumer demand during the festive season as they hope higher demand will make up for the lost first quarter."

Recently, in an attempt to boost consumption, HDFC Bank had announced "halving of processing fees on auto, personal and business growth loans, while removing the fees altogether for two-wheeler loans." It is also offering special deals on various brands with credit and debit card purchases. Despite the sluggishness in the market today, HDFC Bank is endeavouring to change mindsets, bring in some positivity and help spur demand. During last year's festive season, "HDFC Bank saw a 50-60% jump in loans with similar offers, and this time, it expects to match that rate or do better due to pent-up demand and a 2.5x rise in digital enquiries." HDFC Bank is giving "1000 special offers under its 'Festive Treats' scheme where it is giving relaxations on processing fee and EMIs along with cashbacks and

gift vouchers."

According to sources, "ICICI Bank is also giving discounts on processing fees for home loans along with home loan offers at lower EMIs on fresh loans or on transferring the loan balance of other banks." ICICI Bank customers too will be able to avail discounts and cashback via the bank's tie-ups with brands across categories such as electronics and gadgets, apparel and jewellery, automobiles and wellness, among others.

Kickstarting its festive season offers, Axis Bank had also recently announced a host of discounts on various consumer platforms, as well as loans at special rates. Axis Bank has partnered with some top brands for the festive season offerings. It is currently offering deals and discounts on more than 1 lakh branded products on purchase through Axis Bank credit and debit cards under its 'Dil se Open Celebrations'. Among its key options during this festive season, Axis Bank is offering "home loans starting at 6.90% as well as car loans at 7.99% and up to 100% road funding."

Moreover, retail and corporate customers can avail benefits from Axis Bank as well as its subsidiary companies Axis Finance and Axis Direct, it said in a release. Axis Bank is also offering customers two-wheeler loans with EMIs as low as Rs 278 per Rs 10,000 for a tenure of 48 months and up to 100% road funding. The bank is also offering special interest rates on home loans, auto loans, gold loans and business loans. "Personal loans will be offered starting at 10.49% (EMI Rs 2,149 per lakh); education loans at 10.50% to transfer the existing loans, and gold loans over Rs 2 lakh with a processing fee at 0.25%." Besides, it will also offer business and working capital loans at attractive interest rates.

Banks believe that the festive rush is the best time for business growth and spurring of demand. They also hold that the state and central governments' incentives, such as the stamp duty cut announced by the government of Maharashtra, to consumers will benefit banks even as it leads to growth in demand in the process. The banks are already seeing an increase in home and auto loan enquiries.

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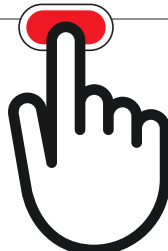
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HASHTAG POLITICS



● @INCIndia) tweeted a video of @ShashiTharoor saying in a singsong way, "Bihar has election, Bihar has a chance!... Modi's posters have replaced Nitish's. This indicates NDA's acknowledgement of the fact that the public is not with Nitish. It is... way of saying: 'you want change? wait, we will go change our attire!'. Vote for the Grand Alliance."

COVID-19 UPDATE

CASES IN 24 HRS*: **780**

DEATHS: 4

TOTAL CASES: **2,14,163**TOTAL DEATHS: **1,069**ACTIVE CASES: **8,776**

* Bihar Health Dept



HEAVY DUTY

Security personnel on way to depositing EVMs, at A N College in Patna, after the first phase of polls on Wednesday. As per provisional figures, poll percentage for 71 seats stood at 54.26% (54.75% in 2015), with Banka registering the highest voting percentage (59.57%; 56.43% in 2015) and Munger the lowest (47.36%; 52.24% in 2015). PTI

SECOND LEG BEGINS

Naya Nitish: Seeks votes in name of Modi, says PM will develop Bihar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, OCTOBER 28

MARKING A full circle from the time he had refused to share stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on Wednesday sought votes in his name. With his *vikas* plank not cutting ice with voters, Nitish devoted his speech here to works undertaken by the Centre in Bihar and said Modi would ensure the state was developed if the NDA was voted back to power.

Praising Modi profusely and thanking him for "taking time out" to campaign, Nitish said, "Listen to his appeal. If you give the NDA one more chance, then you can be sure he will transform the state. Bihar will march ahead." The CM referred to Patna Metro, Smart Cities plan, the Ujjwala scheme and roads in Bihar while applauding the PM's "generosity".

Amid slogans of "Modi, Modi" from the crowd, Nitish said people had come to the rally to listen only to Modi, and said his efforts in controlling the Covid-19 were "exceptional". After Nitish's speech, Modi was invited to speak, with introduction as "Yug Purush".

While the NDA's victory in 39 out of 40 seats in 2019 was largely credited to the Modi factor, it is the first time in an Assembly poll that the CM is seeking votes in the PM's name.

Earlier in the 2009 Lok Sabha and 2010 Assembly polls, when he was the Gujarat CM, Modi had kept out of Bihar during NDA campaigns reportedly at Nitish's behest. At a 2010 public meeting Nitish had said, "When there is Sushil Modi in Bihar, there is no need of another Modi (Narendra) here." He had even cancelled a scheduled NDA dinner in 2010 in Patna over Modi's presence.

Nitish's discomfort with Modi was attributed to the 2002 Gujarat riots, though the JD(U) leader himself had been part of the NDA government at the Centre at the time.

Nitish parted ways with the NDA in 2013. He fought 2015 polls as part of Mahagathbandhan. During that time, he had called for a "Sangh-mukt" Bharat.

In the last few days, across Bihar, the BJP has put up prominent posters with PM's photograph underlining the party's promise of jobs, which has emerged as a big poll issue.



PM Modi backed Nitish Kumar as future chief minister at his Patna rally, warned against forces "that make Bihar ill". PTI

Modi raises Ram temple, BJP campaign rallies round Central govt's schemes

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

RETURNING TO Bihar for his second round of rallies on Wednesday, PM Narendra Modi spoke about the Ram temple, apart from the achievements of the Nitish Kumar government and RJD regime's misrule. As the state completes the first leg of polls, the Modi government's "achievements", essentially Ayodhya, abrogation of Article 370, handling of Pakistan and China, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and allegations of "tukde-tukde" gang, are emerging as some of the main themes in speeches of the party, as it hopes to finish on a footing equal to, if not higher than, the JD(U).

Sharing the stage with Nitish in Darbhanga, a town believed to be linked to the kingdom of Mithila, Modi said, "Today, Mother Sita must be looking at her place with love, her glance will definitely fall on Ayodhya too... The political people who used to ask us about the dates (of the temple)... they are also clapping in compulsion. Coming to Maa Sita's area, I congratulate people here for construction of Ram temple."

Referring to Nitish as the future CM, he credited him for Bihar's economic turnaround.

Modi, who addressed rallies at Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Patna, said people could "save Bihar from falling ill (Bimar), with one vote", and warned against "jungle raj ke yuvraj" — in an apparent reference to Tejashwi Yadav.

"There is a danger in front of the human race, the coronavirus. The second danger is from forces that make Bihar ill," Modi said in Patna.

Kicking off his campaign last week, the PM had contrasted the NDA's work on a "naya Bihar" with the "misrule" of the 1990s, and went on to talk about Pulwama, Galwan and Article 370. "The country had been waiting for years to abrogate Article 370... Today, these people are talking about reversing this decision... They have the nerve to seek votes from the people of Bihar who send their sons and daughters on the border..." he said in Sasaram.

On October 15, addressing a rally in Karakat in Rohtas district, BJP president JP Nadda listed the Modi government's achievements, including free rations to people during the pandemic, before moving to Article 370 and Ram temple.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath, who has addressed several rallies, spoke about Article 370. In a speech at Jamui, he said, "When Article 370 was abrogated in Kashmir, who was hurt the most? Rahul Gandhi or Asaduddin Owaisi...

People of Jamui can now buy land in Kashmir." Another BJP leader fronting the party campaign, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, underlined the importance of the tie-up with JD(U). "In Bihar, the BJP-JDU alliance is like the opening jodi of Sachin (Tendulkar) and (Virender) Sehwag," he said at a rally.

Union MoS for Finance Anurag Thakur, who was served a notice by the Election Commission during the Delhi polls for egging on a crowd against "desh ke gaddar" (traitors of the country), said during his appearance in Bihar: "I want to ask RJD and its leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav why did he align with the CPI (M-L), tukde-tukde gangs, or those who believe in perpetrating massacres?"

Kapil Mishra, accused of making hate speeches ahead of the Delhi riots, said, "The CPI-M-L, Naxalites, those who want to divide the country, will not be allowed to thrive in Bihar... They come so innocently and ask for votes, but if you vote for them by mistake... within 15 days... Delhi paid the price."

Among those who campaigned for the BJP is its controversial MP and youth wing head Tejasvi Surya, who said the RJD couldn't talk for jobs with its previous regime marked by "scandals".

LOOKING FOR LALU PRASAD

Glued to TV, 'not anxious', RJD chief waits for two verdicts: court, elections

SABA RAHMAN
RANCHI, OCTOBER 28

SERVING OUT his prison term at the Ranchi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), where he has been staying since May 2018, the man who has been synonymous with Bihar politics for four decades is away from the heat and dust this time. Even son and political heir Tejashwi Yadav is accused by rivals of downplaying the Lalu Prasad influence.

However, the 72-year-old is watching the action closely. "Laluji is watching news on TV all the time, even while having meals. He doesn't read newspapers much... He sometimes asks nurses to read out headlines," says an official of the Birs Munda Central Jail, Ranchi, where Lalu is supposed to be lodged, who paid a routine visit to him less than a week ago.

The official adds, "When I went to the hospital ward, he was eating lunch and watching Tej Pratap Yadav (his elder son who is fighting from Hasanpur, which will vote on November 3) address a rally. Easy lag rahe the (he looked calm)... His body language was relaxed."

Lalu has been serving consecutive jail terms since December 2017 since his conviction in cases of fodder scam dating back to his term as CM of undivided Bihar in 1990s. He has spent most of his term at the RIMS, where he is being treated for multiple ailments.

With the RJD facing a make-or-break election, its founder-president, it seems, is more than hopeful. "Laluji is confident of a grand victory of the Grand Alliance," Jharkhand RJD youth president Abhay Singh said. "He says sarkaar mera hi aayega... jiti der jage rehte hain, chunav prachar hi dekhte hain. Thoda bhi vyakul nahin hain, swasth hain (He says it's our government that will come... All the time he is awake, he is following the election news. He is not at all anxious, he is healthy)."

The jail official says Lalu doesn't have a cell-phone, and that visitors are allowed once a week. A few days ago, some party workers visited him. While Tejashwi, the CM face of the



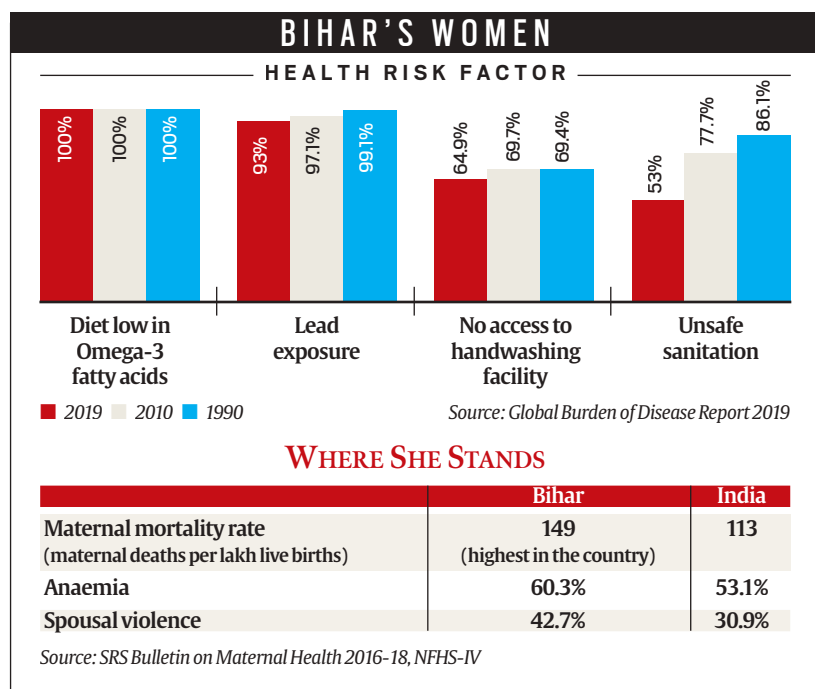
Lalu at a July meeting with Jharkhand Health Minister Banna Gupta. Express

RJD-led alliance, his daughters and wife Rabri Devi came more than two months ago, the officer says, Tej Pratap visited a month ago. "Laluji was waiting for him anxiously, asking people if there was a word from him... His *samdhi* Jitendra Yadav also came to see him from UP".

Jitendra Yadav, who met Lalu for a few hours in the third week of September, says Lalu looked healthy "but his sugar was out of range on the day". "I do not talk politics with him. I meet him as a relative. I see him every few months." One of Lalu's daughters is married to Jitendra Yadav's son.

Tejashwi has been saying at rallies that Lalu will be out of jail on November 9, and it will be Nitish Kumar's *vidai* (farewell) the next day, on November 10, when the election results are declared. Lalu's counsel Prabhat Kumar says they are confident of this. "Laluji has already served half of his jail sentence — three-and-a-half years — in the Chaibasa treasury and Deoghar treasury cases and was granted bail in those cases on that ground. Now, in the Dumka treasury case (embezzlement of Rs 3.13 crore), he is set to complete 50% of his sentence of 7 years. We will file bail application when the Jharkhand High Court reopens on November 2, after the Durga Puja vacation, and most likely he will be out of jail on November 9."

Is he looking at arguably the greatest homecoming for a politician? The RJD hopes so.



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● WHO'S WHERE TODAY

RLSP CHIEF UPENDRA KUSHWAHA IN BARHARIA, GORIAKOTHI, EKMA, MINAPUR; AIMIM CHIEF ASADUDDIN OWAI SI IN KISHANGANJ



WHY CONTRACTUAL TEACHERS ARE A POLL ISSUE?

● POLL PITCH

PM MODI'S PATNA ADDRESS, RAHUL GANDHI'S VALMIKINAGAR SPEECH

Lockdown on top of flood woes threatens to drown JD(U) in Muzaffarpur

DIPANKAR GHOSE
KORIGAMA (MUZAFFARPUR), OCTOBER 28

BEHIND RAM Pukar Thakur, there is what appears to be a pond, with a few shoots of green poking out. All around, as far as the eye can see, are similar pools, interspersed with culverts used by villagers as walking paths. This water has been here for four months, Thakur says, since the floods, with the district of Muzaffarpur one of the worst hit. "It's not a pond, it is my field."

In the immediate aftermath of the floods, that left close to 17 lakh people affected in 16 districts, with rivers like Gandak and Budhi Gandak, and canals overflowing and inundating fields and homes, the Nitish Kumar government had said it had disbursed Rs 1,000 crore to bank accounts of 20 lakh people across the state — Rs 6,000 was given per family to

help them tide over the crisis.

With the polls near, the government would have hoped this would also help it tide over public anger. Only, not everyone got the money.

Standing next to his field in Siswan village in Korigama block, Thakur says that in May, he had spent money on hybrid seeds, fertiliser and a tractor. "Sab nash ho gaya (I lost everything). Water entered the fields and has not receded so I can't even plant anything new."

Officers came, he said, a "vikas mitra" as village representatives are called, and photos were taken. "But they didn't declare the area flood-hit, unlike other villages," Thakur says.

While the Nitish government had held up the money transfer directly into accounts as a corruption-free delivery mechanism, that cut out middlemen, the seemingly arbitrary nature of selection of flood-hit areas, villagers say, is because of "qasrshahi" (officialdom) — a word being repeated across Bihar to describe Nitish



At his field in Siswan village, Thakur says he didn't get relief fund. Dipankar Ghose

Kumar's third term. "What is it if not officialdom? They declared one part flood-hit, and not these. Can they not see our fields? They must have taken some money," Thakur said.

But even those who received the money ask how Rs 6,000 is enough. Narayan Sah says that in any case, nobody in the area gets fair price for their paddy. "The rate should be

Rs 1,500 per quintal, but because nobody buys at MSP, we only get Rs 1,100. That doesn't even cover the input cost, even when there is no flood. A farmer has to pay for seeds, fertilisers, tractor, labour, one cycle on an acre can mean Rs 20,000," Sah says.

While floods are not new to Muzaffarpur or Bihar, with images of submerged villages now a yearly occurrence, what is different this year is the additional distress caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Usually, young Ramesh Sah would travel to nearby areas to find work as a labourer. But this year, that work too hasn't been available. "There is no work in Muzaffarpur. In our families, there were many people who lived in the cities and sent money home. But in the lockdown, that stopped. So many have taken loans, we do not know how we will repay," Ramesh says.

On the ground, the disenchantment might not yet mean a vote for the Mahagathbandhan

— though villagers say they are now considering that option when it was unthinkable for them not to vote for Nitish again. The CM also seems to be bearing the most of the anger, though the lockdown was imposed by the Centre. Siswan falls under the Baruraj Assembly seat, where the RJD faces the BJP.

Ram Pukar Thakur, who is over 60 years old, says, "Sochenge abhi (We are weighing our options still). Earlier, I gave my vote to Nitish Kumar, when the RJD and JD(U) were together (the RJD candidate had won in 2015). Modi should not have locked the country down, but we don't want Nitish. I do not like Lalu Prasad either," he said.

Chandan Kumar, 19, is clearer in his choice for change. "I do not like this Chief Minister. Now we want a young leader. They will understand the problems of unemployment that make even these situations of floods worse," he says.



7 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



CHEER FROM LEADER

IT'S NOT unusual for star campaigners to refer to local issues in the main narrative to appeal to supporters. At times, star campaigners also end up boosting the morale of party's other leaders camping in a state to manage campaigning there. This happened on Wednesday, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought cheer to one of his Cabinet colleagues — Ravi Shankar Prasad — who has been camping in Bihar for the Assembly elections. In his speeches at Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Patna, Modi spoke about different local initiatives. He highlighted Bihar's potential to become an IT hub and the optical fibre work undertaken for villages during his rally in Patna. Both these initiatives are part of Prasad's ministry. Prasad, who happens to be the Lok Sabha MP from Patna, was justifiably happy in front of the people of his constituency.

JOB WELL DONE

ON WEDNESDAY, the Election Commission sent out an invite for a press briefing on the first phase of polling in Bihar. Such briefings are routine and are addressed by Deputy Election Commissioners. But on Wednesday, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, in a departure from convention, turned up to brief the media on the voter turnout. He chose to make an appearance to congratulate voters, political parties and the state election machinery, as successful conduct of the first phase amid the pandemic was no ordinary feat.

REDUCING DISTANCE

ALMOST THREE weeks after he was given additional charge of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal on Wednesday made a brief appearance at Krishi Bhawan for the first time. The minister came with his personal staff and remained there for a while. So far, Goyal, who holds two other portfolios — Railways, and Commerce & Industry — was working from there. He was given the charge of Food Ministry on October 9, a day after the death of his predecessor, Ram Vilas Paswan. Since then, he has held meetings with the Food Ministry through video conferences.

CIC slams NIC, MeitY for evasive reply on Aarogya Setu app, issues notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE CENTRAL Information Commission (CIC) has pulled up the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National Informatics Centre (NIC) for providing an evasive reply on Aarogya Setu app and issued them show cause notices.

Information Commissioner Vanaja N Sarna, in an interim order on Tuesday, asked the NIC to explain how they do not have any information about the creation of the app "when in the Aarogya Setu website it is mentioned that the platform was designed, developed and hosted by it".

She has asked the NIC why it has no information about who created the app when its name is on the app's website.

CIC has passed this interim order on a complaint filed by RTI activist Saurav Das. Das had asked for the copy of the entire file related to the creation of the Aarogya Setu app, including ori-

gin of proposal, approval details, companies, people, government departments involved, file notes related to the app, comments on files by various officers among other details, but he was not provided the required information.

CIC has asked why a penalty should not be imposed for "prima facie obstruction of information" and for giving an "evasive reply" to the RTI application.

"The Commission directs the CPIO, NIC to explain... how the website... was created with the domain name gov.in, if they do not have any information about it," Sarna said in the interim order.

None of the CPIOs were able to explain anything regarding who created the App, where the files are, and the same is extremely preposterous, the CIC pointed out.

The CPIOs of MeitY, NeGD and NIC have been directed to appear on November 24.

A statement issued by MeitY said it is "taking necessary steps to comply with the orders of the CIC". It said the app has been developed in a "collaborative effort of Government and Private Sector".

House panel on personal data Bill seeks revenue model info from Twitter, Amazon, raises geo-tagging error

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE JOINT parliamentary committee on Personal Data Protection Bill on Wednesday asked Twitter and Amazon to furnish their balance sheets so that it can understand their revenue and business model and their earnings and tax payments in India. The panel also pulled up Twitter for showing Jammu and Kashmir as part of China.

It is learnt that Twitter representatives tendered an apology but the panel maintained that an oral apology was not enough and sought a written apology with an affidavit.

While Twitter representa-

tives said it respects sensitivities of India, the panel maintained it was not a question of just sensitivities but about India's sovereignty and integrity.

Panel chairman Meenakshi Lekhi said explanations provided by the Twitter representatives were inadequate, according to PTI. The PTI quoted Lekhi as saying that showing Ladakh as part of China amounts to criminal offence which attracts imprisonment of seven years.

Those who appeared on behalf of Twitter India included its senior manager public policy Shagufta Kamran. Twitter had last week responded to the controversy over the geo-tagging issue, saying it was a mistake which was swiftly resolved.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a rally in Darbhanga district's Gyaspur on Wednesday. PTI

'Polls about Bihar, not Tejashwi kin or mine'

MANOJ CG

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28:

SENIOR CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar are silent on jobs and unemployment and are instead attacking his and Tejashwi Yadav's families.

This comes after the Prime Minister referred to Tejashwi, the Opposition alliance's Chief Ministerial face, as the "prince of the jungle raj". Kumar too has been taking pot shots at RJD chief Lalu Prasad's family.

"Nitishji will talk about Tejashwi's family. He will say wrong things. Narendra Modiji

will talk about my family. But the question that is there before Bihar... of jobs, of the lives of farmers, about small traders... they will not utter a word," Rahul said at a rally in Darbhanga.

"This election is not about Laluji's family, my family or Nitishji's family. This election is about the future of Bihar. And you don't have the *tameez* (etiquette) that you are standing before the people of Bihar and you will not talk about what the people of Bihar wants to hear... about their future, jobs, factories, sugar mills... *magar uli seedhi baat aap bologe*," he said.

Rahul said the people of Bihar gave 15 years to Nitish Kumar and six years to Modi. "What did you get? Bihar is one of the poorest states. The youth of

Bihar cannot find a job in Bihar. It is another matter that... the youth cannot find jobs anywhere in India now. Not in Mumbai, Bengaluru or Delhi because Narendra Modi has finished off all jobs in the country... The farmers of Bihar can't get adequate prices. Bihar's small traders, middle-sized businessmen... they can't dream of a good future. *Bihar mein sapna dekhna mana hai*... that is the truth," he said.

At Darbhanga and Valmiki Nagar, Rahul spoke about the agitation in Punjab over the Centre's three farm laws.

"For the first time I saw that on Dussehra, the effigies of Ravan, Meghnad and Kumbhakarna were not burnt. For the first time, the effigies of Narendra Modi were burnt on Dussehra. The people of Punjab are smart," he said.

Day of drama in UP ends with wild card candidate pushed out of race

BSP MLAs' revolt briefly raises prospect of a contest for the 10 Rajya Sabha seats

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 28

A DAY OF political drama during which a rebellion by a group of BSP MLAs suggested the possibility of a surprise in the Rajya Sabha election in Uttar Pradesh, ended after the nomination of a wildcard candidate in the fray was rejected on technical grounds during scrutiny.

This candidate, one Prakash Bajaj, who filed his nomination as an Independent with the apparent backing of the Samajwadi Party (SP), could potentially have been the beneficiary of the BSP rebels' vote.

The rejection of his candidature has, however, ensured that there are only 10 candidates for as many vacancies from the state, and there will be no election. The BSP's official candidate, Ramji Gautam, is assured of a seat despite his party not having the votes to push him over the line in the event of a contest.

Bajaj had filed his nomination at the last moment on Tuesday as the 11th candidate for the 10 seats, raising the prospect of an election. It seemed as though he would get the spare SP votes — however, his nomination was cancelled on Wednesday



BSP MLAs Mujtaba Siddiqui, Aslam Raini and Hakim Lal Bind after meeting Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow. Express

evening on grounds including a wrong name mentioned by one of his SP proposers.

Earlier in the day, in what looked like a major setback to the BSP, six of its MLAs said they would not support the candidature of Gautam, the official nominee.

These MLAs met SP president Akhilesh Yadav's at the SP office in Lucknow, and alleged they had been shown no respect in the BSP despite having served that party for years.

The MLAs said they were not consulted on the candidature of the official BSP nominee, and some of them alleged that their signatures had been forged.

Ahead of the scrutiny of nominations, this allegation seemed to put the candidature of Gautam under a cloud.

While about 37 votes of MLAs are required to elect one candidate, the BSP, which has just 18 members in the state Assembly, has fielded its candidate.

The BSP's move was seen by many as having been made in coordination with the BJP, which has fielded just eight candidates for whom the party has clear votes along with its ally Apna Dal. Many believed that the BSP had fielded its candidate only after getting an assurance from the BJP. The SP, with 48 MLAs, has fielded one of-

'General Dyer, barbaric': Oppn parties slam state govt over Munger death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

AS BIHAR went to polls on Wednesday, the death of a man in a clash with the police during the immersion of Durga idols flared into a major political row, with the Opposition lashing out at the Nitish Kumar government for acting like "General Dyer".

While RJD leader and chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav demanded a High Court-monitored probe into the alleged police firing in Munger district, the Congress sought an apology from the Chief Minister.

Top leaders of the opposition alliance—Yadav, Congress's Randeep Surjewala and CPI(M)'s Kavita Krishnan—addressed a press conference in Patna. Attacking Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, Yadav sought to know who gave permission to the Munger Police to "act like General Dyer"—a reference to the infamous British soldier who ordered the gunning down of unarmed civilians in Jallianwala Bagh in 1919.

In New Delhi, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi termed the Chief Minister and his deputy "Apradh Kumar" and "Dushil Modi", respectively. The Bihar government is "barbaric, cruel, unthinking and insensitive", he said.

Taking a swipe at the Chief Minister, Yadav asked Kumar, who also holds the home portfolio, what he had done to prevent the incident. "Apart from issuing a few tweets, what did Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi do?" he added.



M Sivasankar taken into custody from Ayurveda Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram after HC rejected his bail plea. ANI

Gold smuggling: ED arrests Kerala CM's ex-principal secy, LDF govt faces heat

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 28

In what is being seen as a big setback for the ruling CPI(M) in Kerala, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday evening arrested Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's former principal secretary, suspended IAS officer M Sivasankar, in connection with the case of alleged money laundering, which emerged during the probe into smuggling of gold through diplomatic cargo to the UAE consulate here.

The arrest of Sivasankar, 57, who had been a powerful bureaucrat in the state in the last four years, came after ED officials questioned him for nearly seven hours on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, Sivasankar was taken into custody from an ayurveda centre in Thiruvananthapuram, minutes after the High Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea. He had moved two bail pleas, apprehending arrest from ED and the Customs department, which are investigating different aspects behind the alleged gold smuggling case.

Sivasankar was suspended after the gold smuggling racket was unearthed in July this year.

According to the ED, Sivasankar had allegedly helped Swapna Suresh, a key accused in the gold smuggling case, to park the proceeds from the smuggling deal. The ED has said that Sivasankar had prompted chartered accountant Venugopal Iyer

to open a joint bank locker with Swapna, who had been an executive secretary at the UAE consulate until a year ago.

While rejecting Sivasankar's anticipatory bail plea, the High Court said, "There is indication in the communications between Sivasankar and the chartered accountant regarding the IAS officer overseeing management of the finances of Swapna Suresh... Sivasankar may be a person involved in the money laundering with Swapna."

Rejecting Sivasankar's contention that his links with Swapna were only at the official level, the court said if that was so, "there is no need for him to interfere in matters concerning management of her finances. The fact that he had intervened in the management of the finances belonging to Swapna Suresh is a situation adverse to him."

According to ED officials, Sivasankar was arrested for helping Swapna launder black money to the tune of at least Rs 30 lakh — this was money she had allegedly received from the smuggling. The suspended bureaucrat, the agency says, was constantly monitoring money in the bank locker and the chartered accountant allegedly kept him informed about every transaction in the account. Besides, Sivasankar had allegedly helped Swapna convert a part of the black money to foreign currency and smuggle it to the UAE.

One such transaction involving foreign currency is to the tune of Rs 1.4 crore, according to ED.

Venugopal has been listed as a witness. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

JKNPP, PDP protest against J&K land laws

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, OCTOBER 28

THERE WERE several protests in Jammu on Wednesday over the Centre's decision to amend land laws allowing people from outside Jammu and Kashmir to buy property in the Union territory.

Workers of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP), led by party chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh, held a demonstration calling the new land laws as the BJP's betrayal and "conspiracy to enable outsiders to enslave Jammuites".

Rejecting the claim that the new laws will help boost industry in J&K, JKNPP president Balwant Mankotia said the erstwhile state already had laws empowering the government to provide land on 99-year lease to non-permanent residents to set up industry.



PDP workers protest in Jammu on Wednesday. PTI

PDP workers also held a demonstration at the party headquarters at Gandhi Nagar and accused the BJP of selling Jammu. "The Hindus in Jammu and Muslims in Kashmir are prepared to fight this black law," said PDP leader K K Sharma.

Sunil Dimple, president of the Jammu West Assembly Movement, along with his supporters, also held a demonstration accusing the BJP of "destroying the identity of Dogras".

Cong slams changes, guarded on Article 370

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

A DAY after the Centre allowed outsiders to purchase urban or non-agricultural land in Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress Wednesday slammed the move but signalled cautiously that it was not questioning the abrogation of Article 370.

At a press conference, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi sought to draw a distinction between the revocation of Article 370 and the government's decision on land.

He spoke about "three compartments" in the context of

NOT ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL: CONG

New Delhi: The Congress, which had written to Facebook raising questions on the neutrality of its India team, argued the issue will not be resolved by changing one individual. "Facebook must demonstrate its neutrality through a thorough revamp of its institutional processes and standing operating procedures, so as to ensure full proof checks and balances..." Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal said. **ENS**

WITH PTI INPUTS



Panel chairman Meenakshi Lekhi said explanations by Twitter representatives were inadequate

To a query on "targeting" for elections, it is learnt that Twitter officials said the site has banned political advertising since last year.

Twitter officials were also asked to explain its response

mechanism for hate speeches and corrective mechanisms in place for breaches like the one which showed J&K as part of China. Regarding provisions of the Bill, it is learnt that Twitter officials argued that overextension of the consent clause can affect expansion of India's digital drive.

The Amazon representatives, it is learnt, expressed reservations to cross-border restrictions on flow of data and localisation of data. Amazon was represented by its Vice President (Public Policy) Chetan Krishnaswamy and Vice President (legal) Rakesh Bakshi.

The Amazon representatives, it is learnt, told the panel that it doesn't take the revenues earned

in India out of the country. The members asked both firms why they can't store data generated in the country in India.

The panel issued a notice Wednesday, calling representatives of telecom operators Reliance Jio and Airtel and cab aggregators Ola and Uber to depose before it on the issue of data security.

According to the notice, representatives of Reliance Jio Infocomm and Jio Platforms have been called to depose November 4. Representatives of Ola and Uber have been called the next day. Representatives of Airtel and Truecaller are scheduled to depose separately on November 6.

BRIEFLY



Jayarajan



Jaleel

KERALA

Ministers get bail in Assembly ruckus case

Thiruvananthapuram: A court here on Wednesday granted bail to two Kerala ministers in a criminal case registered in connection with the ruckus inside the Assembly in 2015 during the tenure of previous Congress-led UDF government. Chief Judicial Magistrate R Jayakrishnan granted bail to Ministers E P Jayarajan and K T Jaleel, who appeared before the court, and posted the matter for further hearing on November 12. The development came a day after Kerala High Court had declined to stay the summons issued to them. **PTI**

TELANGANA

Kidnapped dentist rescued by Andhra cops

Hyderabad: Police in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh have rescued a dentist kidnapped from Hyderabad Tuesday evening. Alerted by Telangana Police that the kidnappers were going towards Bengaluru, Anantapur Police set up watch on several roads. A police team intercepted an SUV near the Rapthadu toll plaza. Two kidnappers fled then, but police nabbed the other two and rescued Dr Behjas Hussain, working at Kismatpur Dental Clinic at Hyderabad. Later, police tracked down the two who escaped and nabbed them. The dentist was kidnapped by five burkaclothed persons. The kidnappers had later sought Rs 10 crore from his family in bitcoin currency. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA

16-year-old detained for raping minor

Thane: A 16-year-old boy has been detained for allegedly raping a teenage girl in Maharashtra's Thane district, a police officer said on Wednesday. The boy called the 15-year-old girl to his house here on September 4 and allegedly raped her, the officer said. After the incident, the boy became untraceable. The police got information that he was hiding at Pratapgarh in UP, but could not find him there. Later, acting on a tip-off, police found him Tuesday and detained him, the officer said. A case was registered against him under IPC Section 376 (rape) and provisions of POCSO Act, he said. **PTI**

Pune NGO launches Give with Dignity

Pune: Pune-based NGO Mukul Madhav Foundation has launched Give with Dignity, a nationwide initiative to support more than 2.8 lakh people from 70,000 families across 24 states with grocery and hygiene kits that would sustain a family of four for 21 days, a statement issued on Wednesday said. As part of the exercise, items for the kits will be sourced from local MSMEs, small-scale producers, small and medium farmers and home-based industries. The project has received support from the states and Finolex Industries Ltd, CavinKare, Marico, Hinduja Foundation, Nestle, Indorama and Indust Ind Bank, among others. **ENS**

Uttarakhand CM moves SC against HC order for CBI probe into graft allegations

Oppn wants CM to quit, BJP says order to quash FIR against journalist who made accusations bad in law

LALMANI VERMA

DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 28

UTTARAKHAND Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat Wednesday moved the Supreme Court against Nainital High Court's direction to the CBI to probe allegations of graft made by a journalist in a video.

The journalist had accused Rawat of getting money transferred to accounts of his "relatives" in 2016 to back the appointment of a person in Jharkhand to head the state's Gau Seva Ayog. Rawat was at the time BJP's Jharkhand in-charge.

On Wednesday, the state Congress unit demanded Rawat's resignation, while ruling BJP called the HC judgment "bad in law".

Rawat filed a special leave petition against the HC order. His lawyer, Divyam Agarwal, has not yet divulged the grounds of the challenge, **PTI** reported from New Delhi.

While ordering a CBI probe into allegations against the CM,



Congress leader and former Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat (second from left) speaks at a press conference on the charges against Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat (right). **PTI**



the HC bench of Justice Ravindra Maithani had on Tuesday also ordered quashing of the FIR against the journalist, Umesh Kumar Sharma.

The HC order came while hearing separate criminal writ petitions filed by two journalists—Sharma and Shiv Prasad Semwal—who had sought quashing of an FIR lodged

against them in Dehradun in July this year under different IPC sections. The FIR was lodged after a retired professor, Harinder Singh Rawat, approached the police with a complaint against a video Umesh had uploaded on Facebook in June, making the accusations against Rawat.

Seeking the CM's resignation "on moral grounds", former CM

and senior Congress leader Harish Rawat on Wednesday told *The Indian Express*: "The court has found the allegations to be of serious nature. Once an FIR is registered by CBI, the CM will be left with only option—that of resignation. There are instances of ministers' resignations in such matters in the past."

The opposition party on Wednesday also sought an appointment with the Governor to convey the same demand for the CM's resignation. "Since the Governor did not give us time for a meeting, party leaders will take out a march to Raj Bhavan on Thursday," state Congress vice-president Suryakant Dhasmana said. Aam Aadmi Party spokesperson Uma Sisodia said the PM should remove him from the post if Rawat does not resign himself.

Accusing the Congress of politicising the HC judgment, BJP spokesperson Munna Singh Chauhan told the media, "We respect the court but we are not satisfied with the decision of quashing the FIR (lodged against

Umesh Sharma and others). We call it bad in law."

He said, "To rectify this mistake of law, a SLP has been filed in Supreme against this (HC) judgment."

Chauhan also said the CM was never issued any notice in the matter, that he was not made party (to the case), and that he was never heard before the probe was ordered (by HC).

He said Umesh had earlier alleged that complainant Harender's wife is related to the CM, and that money was transferred into certain bank accounts, but later Umesh admitted in court that Harender and his wife were not related to Rawat. "When the person has admitted before the court that he gave wrong information, then is it legally appropriate to make baseless allegations with motive to malign the CM's image? That is why I said this judgment is bad in law. The complainant (Umesh) himself admitted that he shared wrong information."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

ARMY COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE

Rajnath lauds preparedness, pays tribute to Galwan troops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

LAUDING THE Army for its high standard of operational preparedness, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday expressed confidence that while the soldiers are standing firm on the ground at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the talks for peaceful resolution of the ongoing India-China standoff will continue.

Addressing the Army Commanders' Conference, Singh also paid tribute to the 20 soldiers killed in hand-to-hand combat with Chinese troops on June 15 in Galwan Valley, in which an undeclared number of Chinese troops had also died.

The Army said in a statement that Singh, "commenting on the current situation along the Northern borders... expressed confidence that while troops are standing firm, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution of crisis will continue".

He complimented the forces "for the high standard of operational preparedness and capabil-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaks at the Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. **PTI**

ities which he experienced firsthand during his visits to forward areas" and "paid tributes to the bravehearts of Galwan, Kashmir and the North East for making the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of the motherland", the statement said.

"It is our national responsibility to ensure availability of best weapons, equipment and clothing to our troops braving extreme weather and hostile forces to defend our territorial integrity," the statement quoted him as saying.

The Defence Minister lauded the efforts of the Border Roads Organisation "working under difficult conditions to connect far-flung areas".

Regarding the Western border facing Pakistan, Singh lauded the Army's "response to cross border terrorism and ceasefire violations" and commended the "excellent synergy between" the central forces, the police and the Army "in tackling the menace of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir", the statement said.

Mumbai Police arrest one more in TRP 'scam' case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28

A MAN was arrested from Thane by the Mumbai Police on Wednesday in connection to the alleged TRP scam. With this, 11 people have been held in the case.

The police said Ashish Chaudhary (50) was involved in spiking ratings of three news channels in exchange for money.

As per the remand report submitted by the police before the magistrate court, Chaudhary's name cropped up during the interrogation of

Abhishek Kolavde, who was arrested on October 25.

"During the interrogation of Kolavde, it came to light that Chaudhary, who is a partner in Crystal Broadcast Private Limited, was involved in boosting the TRPs of three channels, including two Hindi news channels, between 2017 and 2020," the remand report stated.

It added that when Chaudhary appeared before the Crime Branch, he was questioned about Kolavde's revelations. "After Chaudhary admitted to his role, he was placed under arrest," the report said.

Was targeted as I gave Modi a clean chit: Head of 2002 riots SIT

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

FORMER CBI Director R K Raghavan, who headed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the 2002 Gujarat riots, has alleged that "false charges" were levelled against him because he gave Narendra Modi, who was then Chief Minister of Gujarat, a clean chit.

In his autobiography out this week, Raghavan has also suggested that the investigation into the Bofors scam, which he led, was sabotaged by the UPA government. Raghavan resigned as chief of the Gujarat SIT in March 2017, and was appointed High Commissioner of Cyprus by the Narendra Modi government that August.

He had found no evidence to establish that Modi's government in Gujarat was in any way part of the conspiracy behind 2002 riots.

"False charges were aired against me... I was found inconvenient because I refused to buy the argument that the state administration connived with the rioters who were targeting the Muslim community," Raghavan has written in his book *A Road Well Travelled*, published by Westland Books.

"The SIT's unequivocal stand on the chief minister's role was unpalatable to his adversaries in the state and in Delhi. They engineered petitions against me, accusing me of favouring the chief minister. The grapevine had it that they misused central agencies to monitor my telephonic conversations. They were, however, disappointed not to find anything incriminating," Raghavan has said.

His investigations into the riots had been "clinical and professional", Raghavan has said. "Looking back, I am supremely satisfied with what I did in Gujarat. Efforts to dislodge me from the SIT were because I was politically inconvenient to those who were in great danger of being permanently eliminated from the Indian polity. I held my ground much to the annoyance of those who were opposed to the chief minister."

Raghavan has also given a detailed account of Modi's "marathon" questioning in the case at the SIT office, and has marvelled at the "energy of the man".



Ex-CBI chief
R K Raghavan

Raghavan has written that when the SIT decided to question Modi, it was conveyed to the Chief Minister's staff that he would have to present himself at the SIT office in person. "He (Modi) understood the spirit of our stand and readily agreed to come to the SIT office within the government complex in Gandhinagar," Raghavan has said.

"Modi's questioning lasted nine hours in my own chamber at the SIT office. (Ashok) Malhotra (who questioned Modi) told me later that Modi kept his cool right through the marathon session which ended late at night. He never parried questions. Nor did he give the impression of padding up his responses.

"When Malhotra asked him whether he would like to break for lunch, he initially turned down the offer. He brought his own bottle of water and did not accept even a cup of tea from the SIT during the marathon questioning comprising a hundred odd questions. It required tremendous persuasion to make him agree to a short recess. This was possibly Modi's concession to the need for a respite for Malhotra rather than for himself. Such was the energy of the man," Raghavan has said.

Raghavan was CBI Director from January 1999 to April 2001. He headed the SIT between 2008 and 2017. He served in Cyprus until October 2019.

On Bofors, in which he chargesheeted Rajiv Gandhi after the former PM's death, Raghavan has said that the case faced obstacles from the government which had "deliberately sabotaged" it.

"The Bofors case will remain an example of how a genuine case can be deliberately sabotaged by a government run by a party which has a lot to hide from the public. The guilt here rested squarely on the shoulders of those who controlled the CBI in the 1990s and later during 2004-14... The judiciary at the middle level was a willing accomplice, and its holier than thou claim here was almost a charade," he said. **FULL REPORT ON**
www.indianexpress.com

TAMIL NADU OPPN LEADERS SLAM MOVE

ABVP chief booked for 'harassment' is appointed to board of Madurai AIIMS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHENNAI, OCTOBER 28

THE DECISION of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to appoint ABVP national president Dr Shanmugam Subbiah as a board member of the upcoming AIIMS in Madurai has come in for criticism from Opposition leaders, who asked if it was an "endorsement of indecent behaviour" and why not a single MP was appointed to the board.

Subbiah was booked in July for allegedly harassing a 60-year-old woman neighbour by allegedly throwing garbage and urinating at her doorstep. The woman's family had later told the media that they had decided to withdraw the complaint due to "pressure" for a settlement. Subbiah had denied the allegations.

With three positions under the MPs column left 'vacant', DMK president MK Stalin said MPs from the state must be included in the board to "show respect to people's representatives in democracy". Demanding Subbiah's removal, Stalin urged CM K Palaniswami to write to the Centre on both issues.

The notification — issued on October 15 by Joint Secretary Sunil Sharma — came out in



Dr
Shanmugam Subbiah

public domain on Wednesday. "Is this an endorsement of indecent behaviour and also an incentive for other BJP cadres to follow suit?" DMK MP Kanimozhi asked.

"Appointing an accused in a case involving women's harassment as a member of AIIMS, Madurai. Isn't this insulting women," asked VCK MP D Ravikumar.

Karur Congress MP S Jothamani wrote to Union minister Harish Vardhan to withdraw Subbiah's nomination.

MDMK founder Vaiko and Madurai CPI(M) MP Su Venkatesan also slammed Subbiah's appointment.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore tweeted, "Unbelievable action by Health Minister @drharshvardhan . Madurai Thoppur AIIMS gets Subbiah Shanmugam as member. kindly withdraw the order and remove him from the committee. How can Dr Harsh Vardhan justify when the harassment of women is still pending?"

DAY AFTER 2+2 MEET

China slams US: Old lies... exposed ideological bias, Cold War mentality

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE CHINESE embassy in New Delhi on Wednesday slammed US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper for their sharp attack on China after the Indo-US 2+2 meeting on Tuesday. It said that the two "repeated old lies, attacked and made allegations against China, violated norms of international relations and basic principles of diplomacy, (and) instigated China's relations with other countries in the region, which once again exposed their Cold War mentality and ideological bias."

The Chinese embassy said that the "Indo-Pacific strategy" proposed by the US is meant to "stir up confrontation among different groups and blocs, and to stoke geopolitical competition, in a bid to maintain the dominance of the US, organise closed and exclusive ideological cliques".

It said, "China has been advocating that development of bi-



Mike
Pompeo

lateral relations between countries should... not infringe upon the legitimate rights and interests of a third party. The boundary question is a bilateral matter between China and India. The two sides have been discussing disengagement and deescalation in the border areas through diplomatic and military channels. China and India have the wisdom and ability to handle their differences properly. There's no space for a third party to intervene."

On Tuesday, while Pompeo had said that Indian and US leaders and citizens see with "increasing clarity" that the Communist Party of China (CPC) is "no friend to democracy and rule of law", Esper flagged the "increasing aggression and destabilising activities by China".

Rhea's accusations against Sushant sisters are speculative: CBI to HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28

THE CBI told the Bombay High Court on Wednesday that actor Rhea Chakraborty's accusation that two sisters of deceased actor Sushant Singh Rajput obtained fake medical prescription for him "was presumptive and speculative" and that such speculation cannot be on the basis of an FIR.

The agency was replying to a plea filed by Sushant's sisters Priyanka Singh and Meetu Singh, seeking quashing of an FIR lodged against them after Rhea accused



Rhea
Chakraborty

them of forging and procuring a fake medical prescription for their brother. Rhea on Tuesday had sought that the plea filed by the two sisters, through advocate Madhav Thorat, be dismissed.

Facing probe by central agencies in connection with Sushant's death on June 14, Rhea had on Sept 7 filed a police complaint against Priyanka, Meetu and a doctor from Delhi's Ram Manohar

Lohia hospital for allegedly getting the late actor psychiatric drugs without consultation and by using a forged prescription.

In their plea, the sisters had said that Rhea, as per the contents of the FIR, had made "contradictory statements" about Sushant's death. Pending hearing, they had sought interim relief to stay proceedings arising out of the FIR and restrain the prosecution from taking any coercive action against them.

The court, which will hear the case on November 4, directed the Mumbai Police to respond to the plea.

Dashboard to monitor air quality of Indian cities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PUNE, OCTOBER 28

A NEW dashboard launched on Wednesday provides a comprehensive picture of India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which come under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP).

The Centre had launched the National Clean Air Programme on January 10, 2019 to address air pollution in 122 cities. These cities are referred to as non-attainment cities as they did not meet the national ambient air quality standards for the period of 2011-15 under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme.

The dashboard launched Wednesday, set up by climate and

Will help analyse effects on health

EXPERTS BELIEVE that there is a need to study health data in the country by considering air pollution as an important risk factor. Dr Arun Sharma, Director-Professor of Community Medicine at University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi, said: "A majority of health models which establish the relationship between air pollution and public health are based on western models due to a lack of health data available in Indian context. When this data can be made available, it will give a true sense of the burden of respiratory diseases in the country by geographical distribution."

energy news site CarbonCopy in association with Mumbai-based start-up Respirer Living Sciences, presents a comparative picture of particulate matter (PM) for all 122 cities since 2016. It establishes a

three-year rolling average trend for PM2.5 and PM10 levels across the cities from 2016 to 2018.

Among the key highlights it has presented are:

■ A total of 59 of 122 cities had

PM2.5 data available. Noida ranked the worst with 119, followed by Agra, Delhi, Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Muzzaffarpur, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Howrah and Kolkata.

■ Delhi ranked as the most polluted state on an average of 3 years' PM10 monitoring data, followed by Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

■ Of the 23 states listed in the NCAP with non-attainment cities, only three states or Union Territories—Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab—accounted for above average readings for all three years of PM10 monitoring

■ West Bengal and Assam were on the margin

Respirer Living Sciences CEO Ronak Sutaria said at a webinar Wednesday, "When analysing

the data, it is crucial to see the number of monitors available in each city, the increase or decrease of monitoring capacity year over year and the number of readings available per monitor every year. The dashboard gives a clear snapshot of which cities had how many monitors, what was their uptime and what is the confidence in that data."

Aarti Khosla, Director, Climate Trends and Publisher for CarbonCopy, added, "At a time when the Central government aspires to bring out a new law to address air pollution in the National Capital Region, it is important to evaluate our existing regulations as the first step towards effective crisis management. The NAMP dashboard allows us to look back and plan ahead."



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

J&K REALTY

New land laws will not help government build trust in former state. Guarantees are needed to check land alienation fears

THE CENTRE APPEARS determined to go out of its way to court anger in Jammu and Kashmir, as if to convey to the people there that they are completely incidental to its plans for the one-year-old Union Territory. The new land laws notified on October 27, like the new domicile rules notified in April, do nothing to assure the people of the former state that their concerns on demographic change are being taken into consideration. Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha telling people, as late as the morning of the notification, to “rest assured” that no land would be sold to outsiders flies in the face of the notification that opens out J&K land for sale to anyone from any other part of the country, with no protections whatsoever. There are 23 petitions in the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision, revoking the special status of J&K and bifurcating the state into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. It would have been proper for the government to wait for the court to pronounce a verdict on these petitions, last heard in March, instead of creating a *fait accompli* on the ground.

If the Centre had hoped J&K's political parties might reconcile themselves to the August 5, 2019 decisions, the changes to the land rules have made it even more difficult for them to do that. In a place where people have come to view the government's every action as an assault on their ethnic, political and religious identity, land rights take on huge significance. The sentiment was reflected in the reactions of all political parties in J&K. The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration called it a “massive assault” on the rights of the people. Fears of demographic change have haunted the people of Ladakh, too, and the J&K notification would have sent shock waves through the newly elected councillors of the Leh-Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council. But it is in BJP-dominated Jammu that the feeling of having been let down by its own is most predominant.

From August 5, 2019, the government's actions in J&K have smacked of hubris, as if to say, “we do what we do because we can”. That may win some elections for the BJP, but it is not a solution to the longstanding problems in Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured that there is no plan to change the demography of J&K and that the Centre would take all steps to protect employment and land rights of the people. These assurances have to be written into the law to prevent further alienation of the people of J&K.

SOCIAL JUSTICE PLUS

First round of Bihar polls is an endorsement of electoral democracy, campaign points to a post-Mandal phase of politics

THE 53.34 PER CENT turnout in the first round of Bihar assembly elections — polling in 2015 was 56.9 per cent — is remarkable. Political parties, except for the ruling JD(U) and BJP, had raised apprehensions that few people are likely to turn out to vote in view of the COVID-19 situation and had called for a postponement of the elections. However, electioneering has been in full swing, with political parties deploying their full armoury in the campaign — remarkable since many ministers and leaders had contracted the coronavirus. Political groups also used social media and technology to overcome the restrictions imposed by the Election Commission due to the pandemic and reach out to voters. The robust turnout and relatively peaceful voting in 71 seats is heartening, for it amounts to a celebration of the democratic process and evidence that citizens take their right to vote seriously. This being the first election since the virus outbreak in March, the Election Commission has reasons to be proud of its work.

Bihar, of course, has come a long way from the time when elections were marked by booth capturing and other such acts of violence. The last three decades have seen a deepening of electoral democracy, with a cross-section of the society getting to exercise their franchise freely and fearlessly. This process of democratisation was facilitated by the social justice politics that emerged from the Mandal revolution in the 1990s. Caste identity and empowerment of the lower castes marked the initial phase of this transformative politics and set the electoral agenda for three decades. That seems to have changed. Lalu Prasad Yadav and Nitish Kumar, faces of social justice politics, continue to be part of the conversation, but the poll narrative has become Mandal-plus. The question of economic justice has loomed large in the campaign with Lalu's heir and the RJD's CM face, Tejashwi Yadav, making unemployment a key issue. The BJP, which initially lampooned the RJD's promise of 10 lakh new jobs, has had to respond with an even larger number (19 lakh) in its manifesto. The high unemployment rate in Bihar — the second highest in the country — and poor education infrastructure are issues that resonate with the youth, a big chunk of the electorate. Voters acknowledge that Nitish Kumar improved law and order and public infrastructure such as roads, power and water. But they also see his omissions.

Whatever be the outcome of this election, politics in Bihar appears poised for a new phase. Old forms of identity politics seem set to recede as developmental concerns dominate election agendas and voters demand accountability from representatives.

VERY NICE!

Once, Kazakhstan found 'Borat' offensive enough to ban. Now, it's clear that the target of the satire is someone else

IN 2006, when *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan* (or simply Borat), was released, it was promptly banned in Kazakhstan. Sacha Baron Cohen's titular character is a Kazakh journalist, but his portrayal bears no resemblance to the country, its culture or people. Many in Kazakhstan were livid at the caricature in the mockumentary — in which Borat interviewed real people, pretending to be a journalist and revealed some of the hypocrisies of American life. The character, meant to be deliberately offensive, also portrayed the country as backward, feudal, deeply patriarchal and primitive. Cut to 2020, and the Kazakh ministry of tourism has changed its tune in line with the dictum that PR professionals and Donald Trump live by — there's no such thing as bad publicity.

The Kazakhstan government released a short video, which coincided with the release of *Borat: Subsequent Moviefilm* on October 23. In the video, tourists are seen enjoying the food, the spectacular natural beauty and sights in the country, and each of them rates their experience as “very nice!” — Borat's catchphrase. It turns out that in 2006, tourism saw a spike as a result of Borat. This time, cleverly, the Kazakh government has decided to cash in on the sequel instead of banning it.

The fact is that the people of Kazakhstan are not who the Sacha Baron Cohen films satirise. Borat's over-the-top personality is just the hook — the punchline comes from the powerful, the elite of US society and their racism and sexism. Their suits are better, the jargon more polished, but in the interviews with the “Kazakh journalist”, they reveal their bigotries and with Borat, say “very nice!” to discrimination. For the filmmakers, Kazakhstan was clearly just a remote country in which to base their character. But in the US, particularly for conservative politicians, the fictional journalist has shown that perhaps there is such a thing as bad publicity.



VIVEK KATJU

THE INDIA-US 2+2 mechanism is the primary vehicle to give meaningful content to the Bilateral Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. Its third meeting in Delhi on October 27 was held with only a week to go for the US presidential elections on November 3. The timing of this 2+2 session was most unusual especially because the election is, at best, tight for President Donald Trump — the polls indicate that Joe Biden, the Democratic Party candidate, is well ahead of him. Perhaps, the Narendra Modi government felt that it was important to seal the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) without delay and, for this purpose, disregarded the time-tested diplomatic convention of avoiding major bilateral encounters on the eve of a potential change in a partner's government.

What is more likely is the Modi government's assessment that there is bipartisan support in the US for higher and positive bilateral ties. There is merit in this view, with the caveat that, while the overall framework and direction of the relationship is conducive, it cannot be entirely insulated from extraneous factors. In India-US ties, the leading outside consideration is China. Here, again, there is little doubt that a Biden presidency, should that be the choice of the American people, would seek to ensure that China's rise is not at the cost of the US's global pre-eminence. However, the strategy and methods it employs would be different from that of its predecessor. Further, even a Trump 2 administration, with the election done, may change course in its China approach. Hence, caution and prudence are good diplomatic watchwords. They do not imply either timidity or diffidence.

India-US ties are in the framework of a partnership, not an alliance. While some elements of both structures overlap, there is a major difference between them apart from

Proceed with caution

Excessive optimism over a pact with election-bound US is premature

Alliances demand a much higher price than partnerships, through loss of autonomy if the ally is a bigger power. The crucial question Indian foreign and strategic policy makers have to ask themselves is: What would be the nature and content of India-US partnership should a Biden administration's China strategy, unlike that of the current Trump administration's, rely in part on showing concern for China's sensitivities in areas that involve India's concerns?

their legal frameworks. The former may not be based on opposition to an outside element, the latter almost always is. Alliances also demand a much higher price than partnerships, through loss of autonomy if the ally is a bigger power. The crucial question Indian foreign and strategic policy makers have to ask themselves is: What would be the nature and content of India-US partnership should a Biden administration's China strategy, unlike that of the current Trump administration's, rely in part on showing concern for China's sensitivities in areas that involve India's concerns?

Thus, it is good that the agreements for a full defence engagement with the US are in place. But it is one matter to have them done and an entirely different one insofar as the nature and intensity of cooperation that may occur is concerned — for, these are only enabling documents. Naturally, not much would be known in the public domain of what the US is really sharing with the Indian defence forces and the intelligence agencies but India's tradition of relying on its own strengths in matters of national security should not be eroded in the hope that an outside power would provide useful inputs.

There can be no quarrel with India and the US jointly calling for an observance of international norms in the Indo-Pacific region. The 2+2 joint statement does not name China but its thrust is clear. China's aggressive diplomatic postures and actions and its general conduct is also continuing to cause deep worry throughout the Indo-Pacific region. The Quad is based on a commonality of concerns on account of China's actions. The Trump administration has imparted vigour to the Quad and, in the present circumstances, India's decision to go along with a more purposive group, including through its maritime exercises, is in keeping with its interests. The real direction that the Quad

will take has to await the US's overall China strategy over the next few years. Excessive enthusiasm on the Quad front may, therefore, be premature.

India has to change the nature of its economic and commercial ties with China. This will be a difficult process but there is no alternative if it wishes to proceed to the entirely valid objective of reducing its dependence on Chinese manufactures. There is a congruence of India-US interests regarding Chinese trade practices. Thus, the joint statement's reference on the need to “enhance supply chain resilience and to seek alternatives to the current paradigm” was timely, though here, again, the future US approach is not entirely certain.

The areas where the bilateral partnership has the potential of evolving most positively for India relate to health, education and science and technology. These are non-controversial, and the time when India held back from achieving the full potential of ties in these sectors for ideological reasons is long past. There should not be any reluctance in developing ties in defence industries, too, but it cannot be forgotten that no country will part with any of its critical technologies. In the short term, it may be necessary and satisfying to acquire advanced weapon systems needed for national defence, as they are being correctly acquired now, but can there be a substitute for developing indigenous capacity for India's needs for weapon systems?

India-US ties will move positively forward but there will be imponderables ahead, principally arising out of US strategies towards China. Also, because of the lectures that a Biden administration may give the Modi government. A close embrace of another country is always problematic.

The writer is a former diplomat



DISHA NAWANI

WHAT IS ACTUALLY frightening has now turned into a joke — “It is probably easier to gain entry into heaven than admission into a prestigious Delhi University college.” Lady Shri Ram (LSR), a popular women's college in New Delhi, this year announced a cut-off of 100 per cent for three of its courses, evoking awe, surprise and even cynicism. It led to questions like: Is it possible to get such scores? Is it even desirable to numerically quantify “learning” in this manner? In a one-correct-answer format, what is the scope for valuing diverse responses or perspectives? Who are these students and where do they come from? Are these marks a fair indicator of one's ability, competence and merit? How do they gauge competence or aptitude of a student to study a particular subject in a specific college? What is the role of tuitions in escalating exam scores?

Rather than seeking answers to these questions, it's important to recognise that board exams bring together students belonging to diverse family backgrounds, with unequal social and cultural capital and those studying in starkly different schools in terms of resources, quality of teaching, etc., on the same platform, to judge, rank and award them. Ignoring fundamental differences among students in terms of their social locations, it treats everyone uniformly, giving a false impression of impartiality, thereby legitimising both success and failure while individualising structural limitations. So, a student with 99 per cent marks on being turned away by LSR may feel sad, but not enraged or cheated because she regards the system as being essentially just. In a situation where aspirants far exceed opportunities available,

ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

Conformity and inequality are wired into our education system

board exam marks are used to eliminate some students from accessing certain educational degrees and spaces, such that students themselves ungrudgingly accept their failure as a result of their own inadequacy or incompetence.

It can be safely assumed that most high-scorers are from families equipped with social and cultural capital, are highly motivated, and proactively supported (or arranged for) in their studies. Most of them study in schools with good infrastructure and qualified teachers who also recognise the importance of marks in these exams, and, most importantly, they have acquired the “smart” way of “learning and writing” exams. Debating over whether these students are academically brilliant or not is not important. But the one thing which is certain is that in an education system where all knowledge is quantified, subject to being memorised, evaluated and ranked, these students know how to learn and present their answers. Even among the socially-culturally disadvantaged groups, the better-off ones make it to this privileged category of high scorers.

Schools in our country are either affiliated to central, regional or international boards of examination. There are variations in the socio-economic backgrounds of students studying in these schools. In addition, there are discrepancies in marks allotted to students among these boards due to policies adopted by them, impacting the future trajectories available for students. For example, even the UP board topper this year, with a score as high as 97 per cent, will not be considered eligible by LSR for some of its courses.

So, a relatively homogenous group of students gets into a particular college. Differences in caste, religion and ethnicity often get submerged under the umbrella of academic excellence. The college further ensures its exclusive status, highlights its differences from others, exerts pressure on students to secure positions in university exams, hankers after awards in inter-college competitions, aspires for top rank in college ratings and abhors weakness/limitation/failure of any kind on part of either the student or college. This leads to: Blocking a heterogeneous group of students from studying together; mitigating differences, if any, and ensuring commonality; promoting a tendency among students to hide their identities; commodification of education as a brand; celebrating elitism among a select few and alienation among most others. By the time these students complete their education, most of them not just think but act alike. It won't be an exaggeration to state that even from a distance, one can actually identify the college that a group of students belong to.

It's time that we reflect on the kind of world we are creating through our system of “formal education, assessment and rewards” and its implications on young students. A pandemic like COVID-19 should have been a good opportunity to do that. Instead, we have preoccupied ourselves with adopting more exclusionary devices to teach students, ignoring the larger aims of education and its relationship with society.

Nawani is professor and dean, school of education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

OCTOBER 29, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

CLASHES IN DIGBOI

THE SECOND PHASE of the Assam agitation on the foreigners' issue, which commenced with a statewide bandh, was intensified with a gherao of MLAs and blockade of the movement of jute, timber, cane and bamboo. Though a strong police force had been deployed at the MLAs hostel in Gauhati, a large number of volunteers sneaked in at night. In an incident unrelated to the agitation but a sign of the rising tension in the state, two groups clashed in the oil town of Digboi in Upper Assam. The town has been placed under indefinite curfew. Ramamurthy, adviser to the Governor, said the trouble was sparked off by a rumour that some Bengali boys had

been detained by All Assam Students' Union volunteers. He said 13 Assamese boys and girls were kept confined as a reprisal in a local school by students of the All Assam Minorities Students' Union.

HUNT FOR REBELS

TROOPS BEGAN COMBING parts of Imphal town for insurgents in the first such operation in the state capital. The houses of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) top leaders, including N Bisheswar, are in the localities being checked. The areas were placed under an indefinite curfew. The whole Manipur Valley was declared a disturbed area on September 8.



THE IDEAS PAGE

Mirrors of Bhima Koregaon

The arrests in the case frame a transformation in India's polity and police force



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

ON OCTOBER 23, Stan Swamy, an 83-year old Jesuit priest, was sent to judicial custody in the Bhima Koregaon case. His is the latest arrest in a case that illustrates a significant transformation in India's polity and the country's police force.

Bhima Koregaon is a village in Maharashtra's Pune district where, in 1818, Dalit soldiers of the British army, mostly Mahars, trounced the troops of the local ruler, Peshwa Bajirao II, a Brahmin. On January 1, 2018, like every year, Dalits of Maharashtra, mostly Mahars, gathered to commemorate this event. On the eve of the event, an Elgar Parishad ("Congress for Speaking Aloud") in Pune, whose organisers included two retired judges, saw speakers contesting "homogenising Hindutva" and criticising the Narendra Modi government. The police allege that this was the provocation for violence at Bhima Koregaon — participants of the event were attacked by upper-caste Hindu nationalists. They retaliated, leading to the death of one person.

A Dalit activist filed a complaint against two men, Sambhaji Bhide, who had past links with the Sangh Parivar, and Milind Ekbote, a former BJP corporator who had been jailed several times — on one occasion, for participating in a communal riot. The latter went to jail briefly, but the police, in spite of the report showing both men guilty of "a well-planned conspiracy," began looking at a different angle after a disciple of Bhide, Tushar Damgude, filed a complaint.

This shift took place while the Pune-based Forum for Integrated National Security — seen as close to the RSS — was putting forth the notion of a Maoist conspiracy. Soon after, the police made new arrests — the accused were presented as "urban Naxals".

The expression "urban Naxals" designates alleged urban Maoists — in contrast with those in rural India, particularly the country's tribal areas, which are the crucible of the Indian version of Maoism, "Naxalism". This expression was coined by Arun Jaitley in 2014 to describe activists of the Aam Aadmi Party, a regular political outfit. But its current usage owes much to Bollywood film director Vivek Agnihotri, who defines an "urban Naxal as an intellectual, influencer or activist who is an invisible enemy of India".

The idea of such a conspiracy was propagated, however, by the Sangh Parivar. A 2019 booklet attributed to the RSS, to which Agnihotri also contributed, argued that "urban Naxals" had not only been "infiltrating police, armed forces, bureaucracy and civil services" but had also mounted a "campaign to overthrow the Indian government" and that "all Left-leaning professors and journalists [we]re Naxal supporters and even support[ed] violence by Naxal groups..."

In September 2018, the then Home Minister, Rajnath Singh, warned that Naxalites had "come to the cities and are trying to influence people." Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself told students in 2019 to wonder whether "urban Naxals, some people who consider themselves intellectuals, are not trying to gain political mileage by putting a gun over your shoulders [...] You will have to find out if this is not a conspiracy by



C.R.Sankumar

them to destroy your life. They cannot think of anything else but hatred for Modi."

In June 2018, the Maharashtra police — the BJP led the ruling coalition in the state at the time — in the course of its investigation in the Bhima Koregaon case, arrested five "urban Naxals" who were accused, not only of instigating violence (in spite of the fact that only two of them took part in the Elgar Parishad), but also of plotting a "Rajiv Gandhi-style" assassination of Modi. Their profile matched that described by Agnihotri: Surendra Gadling was a lawyer, Shoma Sen a retired English professor, Sudhir Dhawale a poet and publisher, and Mahesh Raut and Rona Wilson were human rights activists. Two months later, the police arrested poet-activist Varavara Rao, lawyer and trade unionist Sudha Bharadwaj and human-rights activists-cum-authors-and-columnists, Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves.

Two more "urban Naxals" were arrested in April 2020: First, Anand Teltumbde, a former Bharat Petroleum executive, regular contributor to the *Economic and Political Weekly* (EPW), professor at the Goa Institute of Management and author of a number of books, including *Republic of Caste*; and then, Gautam Navlakha, an ex-editorial consultant of the EPW and member of the People's Union for Democratic Rights. Earlier this month, Swamy, who has worked amongst the tribals of Jharkhand, was arrested also because of his alleged Maoist links.

They were all accused under the draconian anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, of a conspiracy aimed at overthrowing the government and assassinating the Prime Minister. The accusations were made on the basis of letters recovered from the computers of two of the arrested. Amnesty Tech, the Amnesty International's digital-security team, discovered subsequently that one of these computers contained malware allowing remote access and alleged that the letters could have been planted. The allegation that the letters had been manufactured cannot be dismissed given that the communication of the Naxals is always heavily coded.

While searching the houses of the accused, the Maharashtra police listed as evidence against the accused literature that is not banned — they also commented on the political ideas and social attitudes of the accused. For instance, the men in uniform who searched the house of Varavara Rao's daughter Pavana and son-in-law K. Satyanarayana,

The expression 'urban Naxals' allegedly designates urban Maoists, in contrast with those in rural India. This expression was coined by Arun Jaitley in 2014 to describe activists of the Aam Aadmi Party, a regular political outfit. But the current usage owes much to Bollywood film director Vivek Agnihotri, who defines an 'urban Naxal as an intellectual, influencer or activist who is an invisible enemy of India'. The idea of such a conspiracy was propagated, however, by the Sangh Parivar, via its support to Agnihotri.

a professor at the English and Foreign Languages University in Hyderabad, asked, "Why are you reading books on Mao and Marx? Why do you have books published in China? (...) Why are there photos of Phule and Ambedkar in your house, but no photos of gods?" To Rao's daughter, they said, "Your husband is a Dalit, so he does not follow any tradition. But you are a Brahmin, so why are you not wearing any jewellery or *sindoor*? Why are you not dressed like a traditional wife? Does the daughter have to be like the father too?" In trying to make people comply with the upper-caste version of their religion and exhorting them to reject leftist ideologies in an anti-intellectual manner, such policemen echo the discourses of the Hindu nationalist vigilantes.

The internationally renowned historian, Romila Thapar, and other scholars filed a petition in August 2018 against these arrests. But two of the three judges on the bench refused to release the accused on bail. The dissenting judge, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, observed: "A clear-cut distinction has to be made between opposition to government and attempts to overthrow government by rising up in arms." For him, the Bhima Koregaon case was "an attempt by the state to muzzle dissent... each of them is prosecuted for being a defender of persons subjected to human rights violations." In other words, the accused in the Bhima Koregaon case were victims of judicial authoritarianism and political prisoners.

A day after the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government — which had replaced the BJP-led government after the September 2019 elections — decided to review the chargesheet against the accused, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs handed over the investigation to the NIA.

On October 20, Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights "urge[d] the Government [of India] to ensure that no one [...] is detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly — and to do its utmost, in law and policy, to protect India's robust civil society". She also urged "the GoI to release people charged under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act for simply exercising basic human rights that India is obligated to protect."

The writer is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, and professor of Indian politics and sociology at King's India Institute

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Unable to take on China for obvious reasons, the US is turning on soft targets like Sri Lanka dependent on Chinese aid, and has forged alliances with other nations to shore up its diminishing power" — THE ISLAND, SRI LANKA

Alliance, arithmetic and leadership

The NDA has a slight edge in the Bihar polls, despite Nitish Kumar's dwindling popularity



SANJAY KUMAR

THE INABILITY of any one political party to win a majority on its own makes alliance formation crucial for winning an election in Bihar. This has been the story of the last seven assembly elections and continues to be the story now. Neither of the two national parties, the Congress and BJP, nor the two dominant regional parties, the JD(U) and RJD, are in a position to win a majority on their own. Smaller regional parties like the Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP), Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM) of Jitan Ram Manjhi, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) of Upendra Kushwaha or Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) of Mukesh Sahani enjoy limited support. Nitish Kumar is a popular chief minister but his capacity to win votes for his party remains limited, given its presence in only a few districts. Even at his peak, Lalu Prasad was unable to win a majority on his own. This political plurality makes alliance key to the electoral success. Any alliance which has two of the three major parties — the JD(U), BJP and RJD — enjoys a definitive lead over its rivals. The verdict of various elections in Bihar over the last few decades has never defied this trend.

The inability of any party to win a majority on its own could be explained by its support base, which remains limited. The JD(U) and RJD are popular mainly amongst castes in the OBC category — Kurmis and Yadavs, respectively. The other two regional parties, LJP and HAM, attract the Dalit vote. The RLSP enjoys support amongst one dominant OBC caste, the Koeris, while Pappu Yadav's Jan Adhikar Party is eyeing young Yadav voters besides trying to attract voters from other caste communities. Keeping in mind the sizeable number of Muslim voters in Bihar, the AIMIM has made an entry in Bihar elections in recent times.

Post-Mandal politics has inculcated a strong sense of party loyalty amongst supporters of regional parties, shaped largely by their caste identity. The sectional support base of parties, their inability to move beyond their core support base to attract new voters, has forced parties to form pre-poll alliances aimed at transferring the votes of their core supporters to each other for maximising electoral gains. The upper castes had been the core supporters of the BJP, and two upper-backward castes, Kurmis and Koeris, have been core supporters of the JD(U). The alliance of the two along with other parties has helped consolidate the votes of these castes for the NDA.

Similarly, Yadavs and Muslims have

been the core supporters of the RJD and the Congress still manages to get some votes amongst various castes. Muslims and various lower OBC castes have voted for the Congress in some constituencies. The alliance of the RJD and Congress would consolidate the Muslim and Yadav vote. The joining of three Left parties with the RJD-Congress alliance would help further consolidation of votes in favour of the Mahagathbandan.

The question is: Which formation is ahead in the electoral race?

Going by the aforementioned information, the NDA seems to be ahead at the moment. What makes the NDA's position slightly stronger is the sub-alliance the JD(U) has managed to form with HAM and the BJP with the VIP. This alliance should consolidate the upper castes, Kurmis, sections of lower OBC votes, especially from the Mallah caste and non-Dushad Dalit votes. This social coalition should result in electoral arithmetic conducive for the NDA to win these elections. Electoral arithmetic normally pays dividends, but not always. Recall what happened in UP during the 2019 Lok Sabha election — even as allies, the SP-BJP could not prevent the BJP from registering a big victory in UP.

This may not worry the NDA too much, but what may be a cause of concern for the NDA is the declining popularity of Nitish Kumar, though he remains more popular than any other leader from the opposition parties. The youth seems to be unhappy due to growing unemployment in the state and large numbers of them blame Nitish Kumar for this. While the employment scenario was not good before lockdown, it has certainly made the situation even worse. Add to this 15 years of anti-incumbency and people's dissatisfaction with the sitting MLA. The decision of Chirag Paswan to contest elections against JD(U) candidates with the sole aim of defeating JD(U) should also be a matter of concern for the Nitish camp.

Going by this picture, the going for NDA in 2020 could have been tougher than it looks like at the moment, had the opposition parties been able to form a united alliance against Nitish Kumar, led by a popular leader. But the opposition is fragmented. And this could result in a split in the anti-NDA votes.

Not only was the Mahagathbandan unable to retain its 2015 ally, the JD(U), for long, but even smaller regional parties like HAM, RLSP and VIP which were part of Mahagathbandan during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections have also deserted it. Some were unhappy with the seat-sharing arrangement while others had issues with the leadership of the alliance. Such a situation within the opposition camp will hardly enthuse even those voters who may have thought of switching from the NDA to Mahagathbandan. All in all, the NDA seems to have an edge at the moment.

The writer is professor at Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi and a political analyst. Views are personal



TAHIR MAHMOOD

Unfinished task

All states must be brought into the mainstream of family laws

DOES THE provision of Article 44 of the Constitution of India relating to uniform civil code target only inter-personal diversity in family law? Though not warranted by the wording of the provision, this has always been the general belief among the custodians of state authority, including the judiciary. Ignoring the words "throughout the territory of India" at the end of the article, they have invariably understood it as a directive only for the repeal of the traditional personal laws and their replacement by a common family law Act. The tremendous territorial diversity in the country's family law regime, existing since the pre-Independence era, has been perpetuated by executive action and has never been frowned upon in any court judgment.

The preliminary sections in all central family law Acts enacted by Parliament since Independence declare that they will apply to "the whole of India except the state of Jammu and Kashmir." To these sections, a new provision was added in 1968 in all these Acts, pronouncing that "nothing herein contained shall apply to the Renoncants in the Union Territory of Pondicherry." A third exception, not mentioned in these Acts but otherwise well known, is that none of these Acts applies in Goa, Daman and Diu. A fourth exception, relating to the north-eastern states of Nagaland and

Mizoram, emanates from Articles 371A and 371G of the Constitution, decreeing that no parliamentary legislation will replace the customary law and religion-based system for its administration in both these states unless so demanded by the local legislatures. Eating into the constitutionally ordained principle of generality of family law throughout the country, these exceptions regulate the extent of all central laws — from the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 up to the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act of 2019.

In Goa, Daman and Diu, the Portuguese rulers had recognised locally prevailing personal laws by the name "native customs and usages", which were separately compiled for the three territories and given the force of law by royal decrees issued from Lisbon. The Portuguese Civil Code of 1867 was extended to these places in 1869, with a rider that native customs and usages will be safeguarded "so far as they are not inconsistent with morality or public order." The new laws of civil marriages enacted in Portugal in 1910, and of canonical marriages enforced there in 1946, were also later extended to the three territories, but with a similar protective provision for the local customary laws. Upon the merger of these territories into the Indian union after Independence, the Goa, Daman and Diu Administration Act of 1962 main-

tained the status quo by laying down that "all laws in force" there earlier shall continue to apply until and unless amended or repealed by a competent authority.

None of the central family law Acts has been extended to the said territories till date — the Portuguese Civil Code remains in force there along with the codes of native customs and usages and the matrimonial decrees of 1910 and 1946 cited above. Formation of Goa as a state in 1987 made no change in this regard. That Goa is governed by a common civil code is, in fact, a commonly prevailing myth shared even by some learned judges. What will be the position in Daman and Diu after their merger with Dadra and Nagar Haveli in 2019 to form a single Union territory is yet uncertain.

In Puducherry, during the French rule, the native population had been given an option to choose between the personal laws then in force there and the Code Napoleon of 1804, and those who had opted for the latter were called *renoncants* (renouncers). After the gradual merger of the territory into the Union of India after independence, the Pondicherry (Laws) Act of 1968 extended all the central family law Acts, but each with a rider that they would not apply to the *renoncants*.

The exclusionary provision relating to Jammu and Kashmir found in the central family law Acts had emanated from Article 370 of

the Constitution. Last year, in 2019, the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Act and the Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Act have drastically changed the position in that part of the country. The latter Act has extended there all central family law enactments and repealed the parallel local laws — as many as 15.

Bringing Jammu and Kashmir into the country's mainstream of family laws is an exercise that needs to be undertaken also for Goa, Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Nagaland and Mizoram, where the present situation is an antithesis to the constitutional doctrine of uniformity in family law for the entire nation. There is no justification for keeping some chosen groups of Indian citizens perpetually tied down to family laws based either on outdated foreign laws or on archaic local customs. The citizens' fundamental rights to equality before law and equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Constitution call for a similar action in respect of these territories as well. So does the provision of Article 44 enjoining the state to make endeavours to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.

The writer is distinguished jurist chair and professor of eminence, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Amity University

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HOLLOW IDEAS

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Dynasty of corruption from generation to generation makes country hollow: PM Modi' (IE, October 28.) The PM addressed the challenge of "dynastic corruption" and urged citizens to fight against it. Another event took place the same day — a 21-year-old woman was shot by two men; one of the accused is the grandson of an ex-MLA. For almost seven years, the Modi government has been trumpeting hollow ideas. With cases of physical, mental and sexual harassment becoming routine, the government and public have brushed them under the carpet. The PM's speech is futile.

Ankita Sharma, Panchkula

CHANGE PATTERN

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Resist the Binary' (IE, October 28). The long-term solution to stubble burning is to change the cropping pattern. Millets and pulses can be encouraged. Unfortunately, state governments rely on rice and wheat to keep farmers happy. The Punjab legislation to ensure MSP security only for these two crops is a case in point.

Dimpy Bhatia, Delhi

IMMATURE POLITY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Give reforms a chance' (IE, October 28). The unwarranted politicisation of the issue by some state governments indicates that

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● AGRICULTURE POLICY FOR THE PEOPLE: ASHISH MITAL

● LABOUR INSECURITY: ATUL SARMA AND SHYAM SUNDER

www.indianexpress.com

Indian democracy and federalism are yet to mature. The 1991 economic reforms have established the urgency of reforms for us. But politicians invoke the welfare of the poor farmers to justify their political manoeuvring.

B Shubhada, via email

EDUCATION VISION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Make board exams irrelevant' (IE, October 27). The unfinished agenda of the last two education policies of 1968 and 1986/1992 have been completed with the reforms in NEP 2020. One hopes that this educational revolution will bring a sea change in employment opportunities as well.

Rajiv Boolchand Jain, Zirakpur

INQUIRY OR ACTION AGAINST 11 VARSITY HEADS SINCE 2016

DU V-C sixth Central varsity head appointed by Modi govt to face action

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE DECISION to suspend Delhi University Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Yogesh Tyagi on Wednesday, on the orders of President Ram Nath Kovind, over alleged dereliction of duty is the latest in a series of actions against V-Cs of central universities, and is representative of the government's complicated relationship with them.

Under the Narendra Modi government, an unprecedented 11 central university V-Cs have either been sacked or have faced an inquiry, or were forced to resign/go on leave. In six cases, the government had moved against its own appointees.

Here are the V-Cs who faced the Modi government's ire:

■ On February 15, 2016, then President Pranab Mukherjee, in an unprecedented move, approved the sacking of Visva-Bharati V-C Sushanta Dattagupta, making it the first ever removal of a central university head in the country's history. A UPA government appointee, Dattagupta was sacked on four counts, including charges of making 25 illegal appointments, drawing pension from JNU along with his salary from Visva-Bharati without getting it deducted from his pay, and getting his liquor bills reimbursed.

■ The same year, the government also removed Chandra Krishnamurthy, V-C of Pondicherry University, on charges of academic fraud. Appointed by the UPA-2, Krishnamurthy, the ministry probe found, had authored only one book against the claim of three in her CV.

■ Uttarakhand V-C Jawahar Lal Kaul's sacking in December 2017 was the first instance of the Modi government giving the axe to one of its own appointees in a central university. Kaul was dismissed on charges of allowing affiliated colleges to increase seats above the permitted limit and undercharging affiliation fee.

■ Manipur University head Aadya Prasad Pandey first came under the scanner in August 2018 when an agitation by students and teachers paralysed the university for over a month. An inquiry found that he was absent from the campus for almost 200 days out of the 583 he served as V-C from October 26, 2016, to May 30, 2018. He was sacked in February this year.

■ In two instances, central university V-Cs resigned before the end of their term anticipating government action. Allahabad University head Rattan Lal Hangloo resigned in January this year, even as the government moved a proposal

seeking President Ram Nath Kovind's approval for initiating an inquiry into financial and academic allegations against him. Arvind Agrawal, V-C of Mahatma Gandhi Central University in Bihar, quit in October 2019 amid allegations of falsifying his academic records. The resignation came within weeks of the government seeking his comments on allegations of fudging information about his PhD degree and academic performance at the undergraduate level.

■ BHU V-C G C Tripathi was asked by the government to go on leave in 2017 even as he was at the centre of a storm over his alleged mishandling of protests by women students over an incident of alleged sexual harassment on campus and several cases of alleged institutional bias against women. He finished his term while on leave. Tripathi was the fourth head of a central university appointed during Smriti Irani's stint as Education (then HRD) Minister who either quit or were sacked or sent on leave before completing their term.

■ Inquiries initiated against heads of Delhi University (Dinesh Singh), Jamia Millia Islamia (Talat Ahmad), Aligarh Muslim University (Zameeruddin Shah), IGNOU (Mohammad Aslam) were either closed or put on the backburner.

ASER survey: In Covid year, more kids in govt schools, many not enrolled

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

IN A year marred by Covid-19, deep economic distress and uncertainty over school-reopenings, the latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) underlines what could be key markers of that anguish — there are more children in government schools than two years ago, and a significant number of them are not enrolled in the current academic year.

The phone-based survey, done in September, the sixth month of national school closures, was released on Wednesday and shows a shift in enrollment from private to government schools — 69.55 per cent children in the 6-14 age group are enrolled in government schools, up from 66.42 per cent in 2018.

It's a shift that's visible across grades and among both girls and boys — the survey shows the proportion of boys enrolled in government schools has risen from 62.8 per cent in 2018 to 66.4 per cent in 2020, while for girls, that number has gone up from 70 per cent to 73 per cent in the corresponding period.

While changes in school en-



Class 9 students at a government school in Noida after the school reopened following the lockdown. File/Abhinav Saha

rollment can only be accurately measured once schools reopen and children return to their classrooms, ASER 2020 shows that 5.5 per cent children are not currently enrolled for the 2020-21 school year, up from 4 per cent in 2018. This difference is the sharpest among the youngest children (ages 6 to 10), possibly because they have not yet secured admission to school. While 1.8 per cent children in this age group were not enrolled in 2018, that has spiked to 5.3 per cent.

Yet, in an academic year

when learning has shifted almost entirely to online platforms, the survey has found that smartphones — that one device that spells access this school year — have penetrated deeply.

Among enrolled children, 61.8 per cent live in families that own at least one smartphone. Whether these were bought before the school shutdowns or after to facilitate learning, this is a big jump from two years ago, when merely 36.5 per cent children lived in families with at least one smartphone. But in a sobering reminder

that smartphone ownership alone doesn't guarantee learning — especially in households with more than one child in school and where multiple fault lines such as gender play out — the survey found that despite the high smartphone penetration, only about one-third of them reported getting some form of learning material from their teachers in the week preceding the survey.

Yet, most children (70.2 per cent) said they did some form of learning activity that week through material shared by tutors or family members themselves.

It's this parental/community involvement that's among the most heartening finds of this survey — almost 75 per cent of children said they received some form of learning support from family members, with older siblings playing a key role.

This kind of support was evident even among children whose neither parent has studied beyond primary school, though children with more educated parents received more support.

For example, 54.8 per cent of children whose parents had completed Class 5 or less received some form of family support, as compared to 89.4 per

cent of children whose parents had studied beyond Class 9. Similarly, children in lower grades get more family support than in higher ones.

Wilima Wadhwa, Director, ASER Centre, told *The Indian Express* that this role played by families is the big takeaway from the survey. "In our work in Pratham, we have always involved mothers and families. In this nationally representative sample, we see similar dynamics, where families — mothers, fathers, siblings — are supporting children regardless of their education levels. This strength needs to be leveraged by reaching out to them and reducing the distance between schools and homes," she said.

In a sign that governments cranked up their machinery to respond to the crisis, while overall more than 80 per cent children said they had textbooks for their current grade, this proportion was higher among students enrolled in government schools (84.1 per cent) than in private ones (72.2 per cent).

ASER 2020 was conducted in 26 states and four Union Territories. A total of 52,227 households and 59,251 children in the 5-16 age group were surveyed.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 06SEE20-21

The DRM (Engg.)/SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 13.11.2020 up to 13.00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-tender is available on website - www.ireps.gov.in

SI.No. 1, Name of Work with Item no.: At Hajipur : Supply and fixing of fire extinguisher, hydrant and Underground RCC tank for GM Office at Hajipur (HQ).

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 67.58,926.97, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 1,35,200/-

SI.No. 2, Name of Work with Item no.: Rain Water Harvesting (Rooftop Rain water harvesting) for recharging ground water through recharge pit at Sonpur, Hajipur, Begusarai, Khagaria, Mansi and Naugachia station of Sonpur Division.

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 01,54,67,641.09, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 2,27,300/-

SI.No. 3, Name of Work with Item no.: Dismantling and vacation of site of abandoned Panel Room, Service building and quarter at Sonpur. (Dismantling Cost to be borne by Agency).

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 46,03,312.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 92,100/-

SI.No. 4, Name of Work with Item no.: Repair of colony road by released/unserviceable PSC sleepers under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/II/SEE.

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 20,99,402.92, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 42,000/-

SI.No. 5, Name of Work with Item no.: At Hajipur : Repairs to damaged boundary wall and power house floor 35 KVA & 11KVA near GM Office.

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 27,66,175.38, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 55,300/-

SI.No. 6, Name of Work with Item no.: Samastipur-Muzaffarpur Section: TBR (Deep Screening) required to provide 300 mm clear cushion in track on UP mail line from Km. - 41.24 - 48.28 (Total = 7.04 kms).

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 56,81,532.62, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 1,13,600/-

SI.No. 7, Name of Work with Item no.: Provision of side pathway of Br. No. 77A UP & DN, 78A UP & DN, 06 UP & DN, 10 UP & DN, 13 UP & DN, 15 UP & DN, 16 UP & DN, 19 UP & DN, 20 UP & DN and 36 UP & DN in Hajipur-Chhapra Kachehri Section of Sonpur division under Dy. CE/BR/L/HJP.

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 2,96,26,643.87, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 2,98,100/-

SI.No. 8, Name of Work with Item no.: Provision of side pathway of Br. No. 02 UP & DN, 06 UP & DN, 07 UP & DN, 08 UP & DN and 16 UP in Katihar-Barauni Section of Sonpur division under Dy. CE/BR/L/HJP.

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 2,68,48,835.33, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 2,84,300/-

SI.No. 9, Name of Work with Item no.: Supplying & stacking of 3,00,000 cum of machine crushed track ballast 50 mm size conforming RDSO's specification of track ballast (June-2016 edition with up to date correction slips) at Sakarigali and loading the same into any type of Railway Wagon, F.O.R Sakarigali, for E.C. Railway.

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 39,21,00,000.00, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 21,10,500/-

SI.No. 10, Name of Work with Item no.: Construction of Track work in connection with junction arrangement work within the Railway boundary at Dinkar Gram Simariya Station of the proposed extension of Barauni Thermal Power Station on deposit basis.

Approx Cost (In Rs.): 01,66,43,158.04, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 2,33,200/-

The above tender notice is available on website www.ireps.gov.in. RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER: Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone /modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Divisional Railway Manager/Engg./Sonpur PR/0833/SEE/Engg./T/20-21/20

Stay protected from Corona

Wear your mask properly

Frequently wash your hands with soap

Maintain safe distance

NO CARELESSNESS

UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

KIDNAPPING CASE DROPPED

Back from Rajasthan, UP girl to stay with parents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 28

A GIRL, who was kept at a protection home in Bareilly after she allegedly eloped with a youth from another community and was brought back from Rajasthan, has been sent to live with her parents on the court's directives. Police have also dropped the kidnapping case against the youth after the girl showed documents that she was 19-years-old and had gone with the youth on her own.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER

BATCH No. 48/20 Date: 27.10.2020

E-Tender Notice for supply of materials - "Participation in through" web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials : The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hrs.

SI.No. 01, Tender No. 6205187, Brief Description : Supply, installation, transportation, testing, execution and commissioning of block proving by axle counter. Quantity : 11 sets, Published on time: 22/10/20/ 15:33:22, Closing on: 23.11.2020, Fund: Fund is available.

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.

Principal Chief Material Manager PR/0834/HQ/Store/T/20-21/40

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NO CARELESSNESS

UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice no. 08/MC/OTW/SDGS/2020-21 Dhanbad, dated 23/10/2020

E-Tender in Two Packet System are invited for execution of the following work by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), East Central Railway, Dhanbad.

1. Name of work with its location : On train welding repairing work of unloadable BOXN wagons at Various loading discharges of CPU, BRKA and DHM area of Dhanbad division for a period of 02 years. 2. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹ 10,20,60,606.19/- (Rupees Ten crore Twenty lakh Sixty thousand Six hundred & Nineteen paise only). 3. Earnest Money to be deposited :- ₹ 6,60,400.00/- (Rupees Six lakh Sixty thousand Four hundred only). 4. Date & Time for submission of tender : 30/10/2020 to 13/11/2020 up to 17.00 Hrs.. 5. Date & Time for opening of Tender (Technical Bid) : At 12:30 hrs. on 16/11/2020. 6. Date & time of opening of Tender (Financial Bid) : Will be informed after scrutiny of technical bid. 7. Website particulars : <http://www.ireps.gov.in> No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W), East Central Railway, Dhanbad PR/0833/DHN/Mech./T/20-21/48

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NO CARELESSNESS

UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

BJP MLA writes to Priyanka: Punjab govt shielding gangster

Lucknow: BJP MLA Alka Rai, in a letter to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, has accused the Congress government in Punjab of helping jailed gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari evade court appearances.

Rai is the wife of former BJP MLA Krishnanand Rai who was shot dead along with six others in Ghazipur in 2005. Ansari, a five-term MLA, was named key conspirator in the murder case. In July last year, a special court in Delhi acquitted him. Ansari, BSP MLA from Mau, is now at Ropar jail in Punjab in an extortion case. **ENS**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परेषण मण्डल-प्रथम, उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि., 220 केवी उपकेन्द्र, मुरादाबाद परिसर, मुरादाबाद निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 2337 दिनांक- 28.09.2020 द्वारा आमंत्रित इण्डियन एक्सप्रेस, नई दिल्ली/अमर उजाला (हिन्दी दैनिक), मुरादाबाद में दिनांक 29.09.2020 को प्रकाशित इस कार्यालय की सामान्य निविदा सं.- 83-वि.पा.मं.मु./ ई-निविदा/ 2020-21 दिनांक 28.09.2020, जो दिनांक 28.10.2020 को खोली जानी थी, के खुलने की तिथि अपरिहार्य कारणवश दिनांक 10.11.2020 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। उपरोक्त निविदाओं के सम्बन्ध में शेष नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, पत्रांक: 2668, दिनांक 28/10/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Gantantrik Janhit Party. The office of the party is located at Vedvati Devi, West Lohanipur, Kadamkuan, Patna-3 Gantantrik Janhit Party. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India. New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29/A of the Representation of People Act. 1951- Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows: President- Aashutosh Kumar Tripathi Secretary- Narbadeshwar Dubey Treasurer- Jyoti Kumar Srivastava If any one I as any objection to the registration of Gantantrik Janhit Party they may send their Objection with reasons thereof. To the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

UP to write to NEET officials, seek topper tag for state girl

Lucknow: Announcing that it would bear all expenses for the higher education of Akanksha Singh, who secured 100 per cent score in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the UP government Wednesday said CM Yogi Adityanath will write to the officials concerned, asking them to rank Akanksha as the topper.

The announcement was made on a day Adityanath felicitated Kushinagar resident Akanksha. The CM said, "Akanksha, by scoring 720 out of 720 marks, has made her town Kushinagar and the entire Uttar Pradesh proud. Not only for students of her age... Akanksha is a role model for every girl."

HARYANA'S MATA MANSI DEVI GAUDHAM

70 cattle dead in Panchkula, food poisoning suspected

HINA ROHTAKI
PANCHKULA, OCTOBER 28

AS MANY as 70 cows and bulls died while 30 others fell ill at the Mata Mansi Devi Gaudham, Haryana's state-of-the-art cattle pound located adjacent to Mansi Devi Temple in Panchkula on Wednesday. Officials of the animal husbandry department said that prime facie, food poisoning appears to be the cause of death.

Dr Anil Kumar, deputy director of the animal husbandry department, told *The Indian Express*: "We have taken samples including that of fodder. In fact, many other cattle that are ill are responding to treatment for poisoning and have recovered, which indicates that primarily, it could be a case of food poisoning. They had symptoms of asphyxia and bloating." He further said that around 30 cattle had recovered.

Asked whether there was any possibility of it being a Covid-19 infection and as a handful of cases of animals contracting the infection abroad have been reported, he said, "It doesn't seem so because only those in shed nos. 2 and 3 have been infected... It appears that they have consumed some spoiled food that came in donation. Post-mortem has been conducted and reports will be available by tomorrow."

Those managing the trust



Veterinary doctors and staff with some of the sick cattle at the cattle pound in Panchkula on Wednesday. Jaipal Singh

stated that at around 9.15 pm on Tuesday, they got to know that some cows were getting restless, following which a team of doctors was rushed to the spot.

Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta Gupta told *The Indian Express* that a three-member committee has been constituted to investigate the incident from all angles and has been asked to submit a report within three days.

"The manager of the gaushala got to know at around 9.15 pm that the cows were restless and some had even collapsed. Workers then found that those in these two sheds were falling ill and immediately a team of doctors was called. They treated the cattle almost through the night I have been told," he added.

The Speaker further said, "CCTV footage is being checked

to see who all came to offer food in the form of donations to the cattle."

Mansi Devi Complex police station SHO Inspector Yashdeep said that to rule out foul play, CCTV footage of Tuesday and Wednesday are being checked. No FIR has been lodged in connection with the deaths as of now.

To avoid security issues, huge police force including senior officers was deployed at the gaushala. The area where the cattle had died was cordoned off.

Senior officials including the DC also reached the spot.

Inaugurated in October 2013 by the then Haryana chief minister, the gaushala is run by the Panchkula Gaushala Trust whose president is Kulbhushan Goyal. The trust has over 15 members. It is spread across about six acres of land.

ABDUCTION-SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

Kerala actor moves HC for change of trial court

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 28

THE MALAYALAM woman actor who was abducted and sexually assaulted in 2017 approached Kerala High Court Wednesday, seeking a change of the trial court hearing the case.

This comes after the trial court turned down a similar demand of the prosecution.

The high court is likely to consider the petition on Friday.

Additional Sessions Judge (CBI Special Court) Honey M Varghese is currently hearing the trial. The high court had assigned the trial to this court following the actor's demand for a woman judge for in-camera proceedings.

The woman actor has alleged in her petition that the trial court is biased and hostile. The petitioner has alleged that the copy of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory report was handed over to the counsel of the eighth accused (actor Dileep) on a day when there was no posting for the trial without notice to the prosecution. She has also alleged that the

trial court remained a mute spectator when the petitioner was being examined and harassed by the counsel of the eighth accused and that the court had failed to record certain portions of the testimonials deposed by the petitioner, deliberately and without any lawful jurisdiction.

She has also alleged that the court failed to uphold the spirit of in-camera trial, without restricting the number of lawyers in the court and also made scandalous allegations against the prosecutor and the investigating agency.

Earlier this month, the prosecution moved a petition in the trial court demanding change of the court.

On October 24, the trial court dismissed the petition, saying the prosecutor was absent in the case and the lawyer representing the prosecutor was reluctant to argue the case.

Actor Dileep is one of the accused in the case. The prosecution has stated in its charge sheet that Dileep conspired to abduct and assault the woman actor and assigned the task to a gang. During the ongoing trial, a few prosecution witnesses have turned hostile.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 28

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 28

A 26-YEAR-OLD man was killed after a stray bullet hit him during a clash between two groups of different communities in Dakshin police station area of Firozabad district late on Tuesday evening. Three men were arrested Wednesday. An unidentified man was also injured in the firing.

Victim Amit Gupta was shot while he was standing outside his house. His family Wednesday protested at the Ghanta Ghar crossing, demanding compensation and action against the accused. The protest was called off after officials promised action.

“An FIR was lodged against six named and 15 unidentified people at Dakshin police station on Wednesday. Three persons, who played a vital role in the incident, have been arrested,” said Additional Superintendent of Police, City, Mukesh Chandra Mishra.

According to police, one Rizwan was unloading bangles from his bike at a godown at Badhi Chapati locality on Tuesday afternoon. Meanwhile, an e-rickshaw hit the bike, damaging some bangles. This resulted in a heated argument between e-rickshaw driver Raj Kumar and Rizwan, said Mishra.

The matter was resolved following intervention by locals, including businessman Sanjay Gupta. After some time, Rizwan and his friends carrying firearms and sticks returned to the spot and fired in the air outside Sanjay Gupta's godown. A stray bullet hit Amit Gupta, who worked at a bangle godown, in his chest. He was declared dead at a hospital.

Mother of six detained for 'selling' baby for Rs 15,000

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 28

AN ODISHA woman was Wednesday detained by the police after she allegedly sold her nine-day-old girl for Rs 15,000 to a childless couple in Sambalpur district.

The woman, in her late thirties, is a contract labourer who has been out of work since the lockdown, her father told *The Indian Express*. She already had five children and her husband, had left her a few months ago, he added.

Officials from the district child helpline raided the house of the couple who bought the child. "They told us they had adopted the child. They claimed to have all the legal documents. But none of the parties involved could furnish any document. We then approached the police," Child Helpline Officer, Sanjay Sagar told *The Indian Express*.

The baby is now in the care of the District Child Welfare Committee. The police have booked and detained the woman and the couple.

Mutilated body in Meerut: Man says victim killed by lover

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, OCTOBER 28

TWO DAYS after the mutilated body of a woman was found in Meerut, the police Wednesday said a man claiming to be her husband has come forward with the contention that she was killed by a person she had eloped with. The Meerut Police said it will carry out a DNA test to verify the identity of the woman.

"A man approached us from the district on Tuesday stating he was aware of the woman's identity. We will be matching DNA samples of the body and the man since this is a significant lead," said Arvind Kumar, CO Kotwali.

The man told the police that the victim was his wife who had eloped with another man two days before the body was found. He believed that the affair had gone wrong.

The woman's body was Monday found decapitated and chopped into multiple pieces.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/11/2020 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

ADDEL, BOHENATH NAGAR DELHI, 121570070011415, 1411, 417, 443, 1475, 149, 1541, 1552, DWARAKA SECTOR 7, 113760070012215, 2219, 2326, 2237, 2241, 2242, 2243, 11376030006900, GEETHA COLONY 07590070023930, 3942, 3943, 3947, 3948, 3951, 3952, 3955, 3975, 3984, 3992, 3999, 4000, 4001, 4002, 4008, 4012, 4017, 4018, 4019, 4020, 4021, 4022, 4023, 4024, 4025, 4026, 4027, 4028, 4029, 4030, 4031, 4032, 4033, 4034, 4035, 4036, 4037, 4038, 4039, 4040, 4041, 4042, 4043, 4044, 4045, 4046, 4047, 4048, 4049, 4050, 4051, 4052, 4053, 4054, 4055, 4056, 4057, 4058, 4059, 4060, 4061, 4062, 4063, 4064, 4065, 4066, 4067, 4068, 4069, 4070, 4071, 4072, 4073, 4074, 4075, 4076, 4077, 4078, 4079, 4080, 4081, 4082, 4083, 4084, 4085, 4086, 4087, 4088, 4089, 4090, 4091, 4092, 4093, 4094, 4095, 4096, 4097, 4098, 4099, 4100, 4101, 4102, 4103, 4104, 4105, 4106, 4107, 4108, 4109, 4110, 4111, 4112, 4113, 4114, 4115, 4116, 4117, 4118, 4119, 4120, 4121, 4122, 4123, 4124, 4125, 4126, 4127, 4128, 4129, 4130, 4131, 4132, 4133, 4134, 4135, 4136, 4137, 4138, 4139, 4140, 4141, 4142, 4143, 4144, 4145, 4146, 4147, 4148, 4149, 4150, 4151, 4152, 4153, 4154, 4155, 4156, 4157, 4158, 4159, 4160, 4161, 4162, 4163, 4164, 4165, 4166, 4167, 4168, 4169, 4170, 4171, 4172, 4173, 4174, 4175, 4176, 4177, 4178, 4179, 4180, 4181, 4182, 4183, 4184, 4185, 4186, 4187, 4188, 4189, 4190, 4191, 4192, 4193, 4194, 4195, 4196, 4197, 4198, 4199, 4200, 4201, 4202, 4203, 4204, 4205, 4206, 4207, 4208, 4209, 4210, 4211, 4212, 4213, 4214, 4215, 4216, 4217, 4218, 4219, 4220, 4221, 4222, 4223, 4224, 4225, 4226, 4227, 4228, 4229, 4230, 4231, 4232, 4233, 4234, 4235, 4236, 4237, 4238, 4239, 4240, 4241, 4242, 4243, 4244, 4245, 4246, 4247, 4248, 4249, 4250, 4251, 4252, 4253, 4254, 4255, 4256, 4257, 4258, 4259, 4260, 4261, 4262, 4263, 4264, 4265, 4266, 4267, 4268, 4269, 4270, 4271, 4272, 4273, 4274, 4275, 4276, 4277, 4278, 4279, 4280, 4281, 4282, 4283, 4284, 4285, 4286, 4287, 4288, 4289, 4290, 4291, 4292, 4293, 4294, 4295, 4296, 4297, 4298, 4299, 4300, 4301, 4302, 4303, 4304, 4305, 4306, 4307, 4308, 4309, 4310, 4311, 4312, 4313, 4314, 4315, 4316, 4317, 4318, 4319, 4320, 4321, 4322, 4323, 4324, 4325, 4326, 4327, 4328, 4329, 4330, 4331, 4332, 4333, 4334, 4335, 4336, 4337, 4338, 4339, 4340, 4341, 4342, 4343, 4344, 4345, 4346, 4347, 4348, 4349, 4350, 4351, 4352, 4353, 4354, 4355, 4356, 4357, 4358, 4359, 4360, 4361, 4362, 4363, 4364, 4365, 4366, 4367, 4368, 4369, 4370, 4371, 4372, 4373, 4374, 4375, 4376, 4377, 4378, 4379, 4380, 4381, 4382, 4383, 4384, 4385, 4386, 4387, 4388, 4389, 4390, 4391, 4392, 4393, 4394, 4395, 4396, 4397, 4398, 4399, 4400, 4401, 4402, 4403, 4404, 4405, 4406, 4407, 4408, 4409, 4410, 4411, 4412, 4413, 4414, 4415, 4416, 4417, 4418, 4419, 4420, 4421, 4422, 4423, 4424, 4425, 4426, 4427, 4428, 4429, 4430, 4431, 4432, 4433, 4434, 4435, 4436, 4437, 4438, 4439, 4440, 4441, 4442, 4443, 4444, 4445, 4446, 4447, 4448, 4449, 4450, 4451, 4452, 4453, 4454, 4455, 4456, 4457, 4458, 4459, 4460, 4461, 4462, 4463, 4464, 4465, 4466, 4467, 4468, 4469, 4470, 4471, 4472, 4473, 4474, 4475, 4476, 4477, 4478, 4479, 4480, 4481, 4482, 4483, 4484, 4485, 4486, 4487, 4488, 4489, 4490, 4491, 4492, 4493, 4494, 4495, 4496, 4497, 4498, 4499, 4500, 4501, 4502, 4503, 4504, 4505, 4506, 4507, 4508, 4509, 4510, 4511, 4512, 4513, 4514, 4515, 4516, 4517, 4518, 4519, 4520, 4521, 4522, 4523, 4524, 4525, 4526, 4527, 4528, 4529, 4530, 4531, 4532, 4533, 4534, 4535, 4536, 4537, 4538, 4539, 4540, 4541, 4542, 4543, 4544, 4545, 4546, 4547, 4548, 4549, 4550, 4551, 4552, 4553, 4554, 4555, 4556, 4557, 4558, 4559, 4560, 4561, 4562, 4563, 4564, 4565, 4566, 4567, 4568, 4569, 4570, 4571, 4572, 4573, 4574, 4575, 4576, 4577, 4578, 4579, 4580, 4581, 4582, 4583, 4584, 4585, 4586, 4587, 4588, 4589, 4590, 4591, 4592, 4593, 4594, 4595, 4596, 4597, 4598, 4599, 4600, 4601, 4602, 4603, 4604, 4605, 4606, 4607, 4608, 4609, 4610, 4611, 4612, 4613, 4614, 4615, 4616, 4617, 4618, 4619, 4620, 4621, 4622, 4623, 4624, 4625, 4626, 4627, 4628, 4629, 4630, 4631, 4632, 4633, 4634, 4635, 4636, 4637, 4638, 4639, 4640, 4641, 4642, 4643, 4644, 4645, 4646, 4647, 4648, 4649, 4650, 4651, 4652, 4653, 4654, 46

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of Cash on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 09072604049.

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TOPOF THE
WORLDSouth Korean
President Moon Jae-in

ASIA

SKorea targets
carbon neutrality
by 2050

PRESIDENT MOON Jae-in of South Korea, one of the world's most fossil-fuel-reliant economies, said on Wednesday the country will go carbon neutral by 2050. The announcement comes days after Japan said it would cut greenhouse gases to zero by 2050 and become a carbon-neutral society. "Together with the international community, we will actively respond to climate change and target carbon neutrality by 2050," Moon said in a speech. He pledged to spend 8 trillion won (\$7.10 billion) on a "Green New Deal" aimed at creating jobs and helping the economy recover from the coronavirus fall-out by replacing coal dependence with renewables. **REUTERS**

NIGERIA

Judge dismisses
cases against 47
men charged
under anti-gay law

A NIGERIAN court on Tuesday threw out a case against 47 men charged with public displays of affection with members of same sex because of what the judge called the failure of prosecutors to appear in court and call witnesses. The trial, heard in Lagos, was widely seen as a test case for a law introduced in 2014 that bans same-sex "amorous relationships." The law carries a jail term of up to 10 years. The men were arrested in a police raid on a Lagos hotel in the city's Egbeda district in 2018. Police said the men were being initiated into a gay club. **REUTERS**

THE GULF

Qatar apologises,
probes forced
examinations

QATAR APOLOGISED Wednesday after authorities forcibly examined female passengers from a Qatar Airways flight to Sydney to try to identify who might have given birth to an abandoned newborn baby, even as Australia said it was only one of 10 flights subjected to the searches. Under pressure after Australia condemned the searches, Qatar said it began an investigation into the incident. Qatar offered no explanation of how officials decided to perform invasive examinations on the women. **AP**

Final week of campaign: Biden looks to expand support, Trump rallies his base

73 million Americans have already voted, more than half the total votes in 2016 election

NEW YORK TIMES
OCTOBER 28

FORMER US Vice President Joe Biden filled Democrats with hope and fear when he announced as the week began that he would be campaigning in Iowa and Georgia, in addition to more traditional end-of-race stops in Wisconsin and Florida.

As Biden campaigned on Tuesday in a region of Georgia that is filled with signs and flags supporting President Donald Trump, nervous Democrats had unpleasant flashbacks to 2016, when Hillary Clinton famously invested resources and visited Arizona in the final days of the race, while failing to set foot in Wisconsin.

Risk-averse Democratic voters wondered: Why wasn't Biden simply spending the rest of his waking hours until Nov 3 living in Pennsylvania, with its trove of 20 electoral votes, almost as many as Georgia and Iowa put together? There was no need to spike any footballs — just a need for the campaign to avoid losing.

The Trump campaign tried to paint Biden as overly confident, just as Clinton was four years ago. "We encourage him to spend time and resources in Georgia, where the president is definitely going to win," said Tim Murtaugh, the Trump campaign communications director. "He's wasting time in states he can't win."

Meanwhile, the Trump campaign deployed Melania Trump, the first lady, to Atglen, Pennsylvania, a very rare campaign stop — the only one this year — for one of the President's most popular surrogates. Trump spent Tuesday shoring up support in states in the Midwest, with rallies in Michigan, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

Other Democrats, however, said they were encouraged that the Biden campaign felt comfortable enough to devote resources to states like Georgia and Texas, forcing Trump's campaign to use

Trump at a rally in Omaha, Nebraska, and Biden in Atlanta, Georgia. *Reuters*

EXPLAINED

Midwest's Covid surge hurts Trump

THE MIDWESTERN states of Wisconsin and Iowa, which Trump won in 2016, are crucial for him to hold on to as he seeks to overcome the substantial national lead that Biden currently holds, according to polls. But the surge in Covid cases that these two states have seen in recent days could not have come at a worse time for the President. He has repeatedly said Covid is "going away", and has consistently played down the virus. Polls show the contest in Wisconsin and Iowa are tight, but Trump's handling of the pandemic is now receiving negative ratings, and may cost him the must-win states.

some of its limited cash to pay defence in Georgia, while still spending on targeted ads in Pennsylvania and Florida.

Meanwhile, the flood of people moved to cast their ballots early has grown so strong that the early vote has already exceeded half of the number of votes that were counted during the entire 2016 presidential election, according to data compiled by the US Elections Project. More than 73 million Americans had already mailed in their ballots or voted in person, according to the project.

All eyes on this prize: Red & Blue collide in purple Pennsylvania

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
BUCKS COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, OCTOBER 28

AMERICA'S TWO worlds, Red and Blue, collide in purple Pennsylvania's geography and demography. Republicans focus on the rural middle, straddled by Democratic footholds in the eastern and western cities. And the road to the White House for both sides has to pass through here.

Sure, Democratic nominee Joe Biden is ahead, his chances to the White House — roughly 75 per cent — match his margins of winning this most pivotal state. But this is also where almost all of the limited electoral maps in President Donald Trump's favour require him to win. And he's throwing everything into the Pennsylvania ring.

If Trump wins the state, he has an 84 per cent chance of winning. If Biden does, he has a 96 per cent chance of winning, the data team at FiveThirtyEight found. "As goes Pennsylvania, so goes the Electoral College," the analysis reads.

"The President knows his road to the White House is through Pennsylvania," said Christopher Nicholas, a veteran Republican political strategist. "They are both focusing on the places here where they are strong."

Six straight Democratic presidential wins in the state have kept it more Democratic-leaning than the national popular vote since the 1950s. Suddenly, in 2016, Pennsylvania became more Republican than the nation. Trump garnered 44,292 more votes than Hillary Clinton, carrying the state with less than a percentage point.

No wonder that the candidates and their families have spent the



Both signs jostle for attention in a Pennsylvania suburb.

Karishma Mehrotra



most time and resources in this state, both sides visiting multiple areas last week alone. This election season, the state has had some of the most important voting rights court battles and registration outreach, as well as now major protests Tuesday after the police killing of a Black man.

As both urban and rural areas deepen in their political colours, the target is their frontier: the suburbs. "Suburban women, will you please like me?" Trump pleaded at a rally in a Pennsylvania town last week. "Please. I saved your damn neighbourhood, okay?"

"Our goal is to rack up votes in the Philadelphia suburbs," said Lopa Kolluri, the Pennsylvania co-chair for the campaign's South Asians for Biden. "The goal is to be focused in the areas where we

knew we had an impact." In the suburbs around the state's largest city, Philadelphia, Clinton won by smaller margins than former President Barack Obama.

Suburbs are small towns surrounding the country's major cities. They used to house mostly White Americans, who began deserting cities in the 1950s. Over recent decades, the suburbs have become more diverse, more wealthy, more educated, and more like the cities. But even in that transformation, they voted for Trump by a margin of 5 per cent in 2016, and were especially crucial in battleground states like Pennsylvania.

As the highways curve out of Philadelphia and into the suburbs, the road signs for Trump increase in a tight match with Biden's.

In Bucks County, several Democratic Party volunteers helped voters navigate the process, while a lone Trump site overseer observed from across the path silently. Jeff Arnold said he's voting Republican, but his wife is a Democrat. "I don't want Biden taking the good peoples' guns away. She says she's afraid Trump is going to take away our healthcare. There's no influencing her," the 47-year-old said.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

At Senate hearing, social media firms' CEOs scolded over 'bias'

MARCY GORDON
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 28

WITH NEXT week's election looming, the CEOs of Twitter, Facebook and Google were scolded by Republicans at a Senate hearing Wednesday for alleged anti-conservative bias in the companies' social media platforms and received a warning of coming restrictions from Congress.

The Trump administration, seizing on accusations of bias against conservative views, has asked Congress to strip some of the protections that have generally shielded the tech companies from legal responsibility for what people post on their platforms.

"The time has come for that free pass to end," said Sen. Roger Wicker, chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

He spoke at the opening of the hearing as Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Google's Sundar Pichai waited to testify via video.

Wicker cited the move this month by Facebook and Twitter to



(From left) Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai testify remotely during a Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing. *Reuters*

limit dissemination of an unverified political story from the conservative-leaning *New York Post* about Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden. The story cited unverified emails from Biden's son Hunter that were reportedly disclosed by Trump allies.

In their prepared testimony, Dorsey, Zuckerberg and Pichai addressed the proposals for changes to a provision of a 1996 law that has served as the foundation for unfettered speech on the internet. Critics in both parties say that im-

munity under Section 230 enables social media companies to abdicate their responsibility to moderate content.

Zuckerberg acknowledged that Congress "should update the law to make sure it's working as intended." Dorsey and Pichai urged caution in making any changes. "Undermining Section 230 will result in far more removal of online speech and impose severe limitations on our collective ability to address harmful content and protect people online," Dorsey said. **AP**



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Colombo on Wednesday. *AP*

Pompeo slams China in quick visits to Sri Lanka and Maldives

US set to open embassy in Maldives

MATTHEW LEE
MALE, MALDIVES, OCTOBER 28

US SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday brought the Trump administration's anti-China campaign to two Indian Ocean island nations considered particularly at risk for what American officials allege is Chinese exploitation. In one significant step, Pompeo announced that the United States would for the first time open an embassy in the Maldives.

Pompeo visited Sri Lanka and the Maldives to press the two countries to be on guard against potential predatory lending and investment by China.

Pompeo, who will also visit Indonesia, pressed each country to push back against increasing Chinese assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

US officials complain that development and infrastructure projects benefit China more than the presumed recipients — a refrain Pompeo repeated with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena. Pompeo said the country could be "a beacon" for freedom and democracy in the region as long as it retained its "full sovereignty."

"That is quite a contrast to what China seeks," Pompeo said. "The Chinese Communist Party is a predator. The United States comes in a different way. We come as a friend and a partner." The Maldives is facing major

US charges 8 in alleged Chinese surveillance bid

Washington: The Justice Department has charged eight people with participating in a covert effort on behalf of the Chinese government that aimed to locate Chinese dissidents and others in the US who were wanted by Beijing and coercing them into returning to China. Five of the eight were arrested Wednesday, accused of participating in a covert operation that officials say was built on intimidation, bullying and "very disturbing" tactics. The other three are believed to be in China. The arrests are among a series of recent US actions against China, which President Donald Trump regards as a prime adversary. **AP**

debt of more than \$1 billion for Chinese infrastructure projects.

In a nod to US concerns about Chinese influence, Pompeo announced that the US would open an embassy in the Maldives for the first time since the countries established diplomatic relations in 1966. Cooperation between the US and the Maldives has "taken on new importance as the Chinese Communist Party continues its lawless and threatening behavior," Pompeo said. **AP**

US firm bribed Indian officials for licence: Dept of Justice

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 28

AN AMERICAN spirit maker has agreed to pay \$19.5 million to settle a bribery probe in the US after the Department of Justice alleged that it paid a bribe of Rs 10 lakh to a senior Indian government official for the approval of a licence to market and sell its "ready-to-drink" products in India.

According to its admissions, from the time Chicago-based company acquired the Indian business in 2006, through to the end of the third quarter of 2012, Beam India paid bribes and made other improper payments to various Indian government officials, including corrupt payments to obtain or retain business in the Indian market.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) alleged that Beam Suntory Inc had a scheme to pay bribes to an Indian government official in exchange for the approval of a licence to bottle a line of products that Beam sought to market and sell in India.

This among others included efforts by a then-member of Beam's legal department to affirmatively avoid uncovering information related to improper activities and practices by third parties engaged by Beam in India that presented corruption risks.

According to its admissions, Beam conspired with others to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act by engaging in a scheme to pay a bribe of Rs 1 million to a senior Indian government official in exchange for that official's approval of a licence to bottle "ready-to-drink" products that Beam sought to market and sell in India through its subsidiary, Beam Global Spirits & Wine (India) Private Ltd. (Beam India).

The Department of Justice did not name the Indian official or officials who allegedly received the bribes. **PTI**

Germany, France set for new lockdowns

ANDREAS RINKE &
SUDIP KAR GUPTA
BERLIN, PARIS, OCTOBER 28

GERMANY AND France prepared to announce restrictions approaching the level of last spring's blanket lockdowns on Wednesday as Covid-19 deaths across Europe rose almost 40% in a week, sending financial markets sharply lower on fears of the likely costs.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is due to meet state premiers to discuss closing restaurants and bars but keeping schools and nurseries open, while allowing people to go out in public only with members of their own household.

In France, which has seen more than 50,000 new cases a day, President Emmanuel Macron will give a televised address on Wednesday evening when he is expected to announce further curbs on people's movements following the curfew measures introduced across much of the country last week.

The measures, following



People demonstrate in support of the events sector affected by Covid-19 curbs, in Berlin, Wednesday. *Reuters*

similar moves in Italy and Spain, are expected to leave schools and most businesses working and would be less severe than the near-total lockdowns imposed at the start of the crisis in March and April.

But the economic cost is likely to be heavy, wiping out the fragile signs of recovery seen over the summer and raising the prospect of a double-dip recession. European stock markets dived on Wednesday, hitting their lowest levels since June, while the euro fell against the dollar. **REUTERS**

Wednesday thousands of stores, cafes, restaurants and beauty salons opened their doors for the first time in months.

"That is an achievement that every single Victorian should be proud of," said the state's top official, Daniel Andrews.

The collective exit for a city of 5 million came suddenly and none too soon — Andrews had insisted on a very low threshold of cases before lifting the lockdown. It ended a dizzying and lonely experience that many in Melbourne described as an emotional roller coaster with effects on the economy, education and



In Melbourne, Australia, on Wednesday. *AP*

mental health that will linger.

The turnaround since July has been dramatic: Infections at the

time were threatening to spiral out of control, hitting a peak of more than 700 a day. Schools, businesses

and houses of worship closed. People could not travel more than 3 miles from home without a permit. They could go outside for only an hour (then two), and for weeks, they faced a nightly curfew.

Now, Victoria has subdued the virus while European countries that had similar caseloads a few months ago — and that ended their lockdowns after overcoming initial waves of infections — are struggling with an explosion of new cases. The hard-won success has allowed people in Melbourne to reenter their city, Australia's capital of coffee and culture, even if they are un-

sure how tense or loose to be.

"Is there enormous relief? Absolutely, enormous celebration, yes," said Dr Stephen Duckett, the health programme director for the Grattan Institute, a policy think tank based in Melbourne. "But none of us want to go through this again, so we also know we have to be cautious."

"I think it's hard to think of another community anywhere else — I think internationally as well — that's been so stoically accepting of the very strict restrictions they faced," said Paul Strango, a professor of politics at Monash University in Melbourne. "They've

made a decision, Victorians, that health had to be put first."

Still, if there's pride, there's little hubris. All over Melbourne on Wednesday, people crawled out of their homes to seek a version of the lives they had put on hold.

The early adopters appeared at midnight inside the handful of bars across the city that opened at the exact moment they could. At Cherry Bar, a hole-in-the-wall rock venue, 20 people (the legal limit for now) ordered drinks and swapped lockdown stories.

"It feels surreal," said Ryan Gribble, 37, who was a regular patron before the pandemic. **NYT**

AUSTRALIA'S SECOND-LARGEST CITY WAS LOCKED DOWN FOR 111 DAYS

Melbourne's lockdown that felt like it might last forever has ended

YAN ZHUANG &
DAMIEN CAVE
OCTOBER 28

AS IF from hibernation, Australia's second-largest city emerged from one of the world's longest and most severe lockdowns Wednesday, feeling both traumatized and euphoric after weeks of shared sacrifice that brought a deadly second wave of the coronavirus to heel.

It took 111 days, but Melbourne and the surrounding state of Victoria recorded no new infections Monday, and



GOLD

₹51,220



RUPEE

₹73.87



OIL

\$38.97



SILVER

₹62,712

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2345 IST

SENSEX: 39,922.46 ▼ 599.64 NIFTY: 11,729.60 ▼ 159.80 NIKKEI: 23,418.51 ▼ 67.29 HANG SENG: 24,708.80 ▼ 78.39 FTSE: 5,622.14 ▼ 106.85 DAX: 11,650.24 ▼ 413.33

International market data till 1900 IST

RUPEE CLOSES AT OVER 1-MONTH LOW

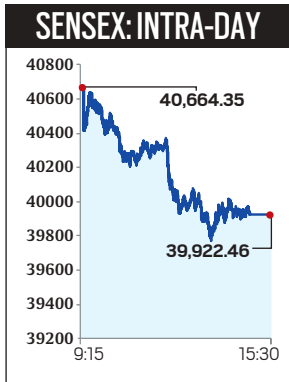
Sensex cracks 600 points: Covid cases, growth fears, US polls weigh

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28

DOMESTIC STOCK markets on Wednesday came under intense selling pressure as resurgence of Covid cases in Europe and the US, lockdowns and worries over another economic slowdown hit sentiment across major bourses. With US election uncertainties adding to the worries, the BSE Sensex fell 599.64 points to 39,922.46 and the Nifty Index declined 159.80 points to 11,729.60.

The rupee depreciated by 16 paise to settle at more than one-month low of 73.87 against the US currency.

Analysts said shares across the world plunged on Wednesday as coronavirus infections grew rapidly in Europe and the US, igniting



fears of possible strict lockdown measures that could damage already fragile economic recoveries. The uncertainty surrounding the upcoming US election also has market players hesitant to make big moves.

“European markets touched 4-

Dow resumes slide, Brent falls 5%

New York: The S&P 500 and the Dow hit their lowest levels since late-September on Wednesday as a surge in Covid cases in the US and Europe dashed hopes of a quick global economic recovery.

At 2:15 p.m. EDT, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 802.20 points, or 2.92 per cent to 26,660.99, the S&P 500 lost

100.83 points, or 2.97 per cent to 3,289.85 and the Nasdaq Composite lost 339.35 points, or 2.97 per cent, to 11,092.

Meanwhile, Brent futures fell \$2.23, or 5.41 per cent, to \$38.97 a barrel by 2:15 p.m. EDT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude fell \$2.30, or 5.81 per cent, to \$37.27. **REUTERS**

is also keenly watching the developments in the Bihar Assembly election on the domestic front.

IndusInd Bank was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, skidding 3.45 per cent, followed by HDFC, ICICI Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, UltraTech Cement and HDFC Bank.

Meanwhile, the domestic currency settled at more than one-month low due to month-end dollar demand from importers and the greenback's gains against major currencies. Losses in domestic stock markets and uncertainty ahead of expected fresh stimulus measures also weighed on the investor sentiment.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened on a positive note at 73.70 against the greenback, but soon pared gains to touch an intra-day low of 73.93.



An Air India Express flight en route from Dubai skidded off the runway while landing, in Kozhikode, on August 7. PTI file

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28

THE CRASH of Air India (AI) Express Boeing 737 plane at the Kozhikode airport in Kerala has cost global reinsurers and Indian insurers Rs 660 crore (\$89 million), the largest claim pay-out in the Indian aviation market.

Of the reinsurers' total claim provision of \$89 million, \$51 million is for the hull total loss and \$38 million for liability that may arise for passengers who died or were injured, TPL and baggage loss etc, said Atul Sahai, CMD, New India Assurance (NIA).

State-owned NIA, which has led the AI insurance account as the lead primary insurer, has paid Rs 373.83 crore as hull claim to Air India, the highest ever pay-out in the Indian aviation insurance market in this segment arising out of the crash.

On August 7, an AI Express flight from Dubai to Kozhikode overshot the runway in one of the worst aviation disasters in Indian history. The aircraft while landing in the night overshot the tabletop runway falling into a valley 35-feet below and broke into pieces, killing 21 people on board, including both the pilots, and leaving many others severely injured.

The majority of claims are funded by a few global reinsurers including GIC Re, which has paid \$7 million as its share of claim settlement.

Besides paying for the full settlement for the hull claim, NIA, the largest general insurer in the country, has also paid Rs 3.50 crore for liability as immediate relief to passengers affected. “We have paid \$51 million equivalent to Rs 373.83 crore for Air India hull claim arising out of crash landing at

Kozhikode. Besides this, we have also paid Rs 3.50 crore for liability as immediate relief to passengers affected,” Sahai said.

All liability claims will be paid after completion of profiling of each and every passenger, documentation and assessment of all other liabilities which may arise in due course, Sahai said, adding that liability claim payment may take a few months to complete the documentation process at reinsurers end. “The payment for aircraft hull has been made within two working days after receiving the necessary documents from reinsurers, setting high standards of service, reliability and always standing with our clients in the times of need and distress. It speaks volumes of our financial strength, cash liquidity and the trust bestowed on us by the entire Indian airline industry as we are writing almost all commercial airlines in India,” he said.

Air India had paid a higher premium of \$30 million for a sum assured of \$10 billion during 2020-21 renewal starting from April 1. The total liability under the liability policy taken by AI is about \$750 million.

The AI insurance account is majorly reinsured — above 95 per cent — in the London market with global re-insurers like AIG, AXA Allianz and GIC Re providing the reinsurance capacity. Leading speciality broker Global Insurance Brokers was the broker for the AI cover. The AI Express will have to pay a compensation of around Rs 1.30 crore each to the next of kin of victims of the plane crash at Kozhikode International Airport as per the Montreal Convention treaty, which imposes penalties on air carriers for the death of passengers due to negligence.

As an interim compensation, families of all 190 people onboard have been paid by the airline's insurance company, Air India had said. A consortium of four public sector insurers — New India Assurance, National Insurance Company, Oriental Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company — are the primary insurers of Air India.

The share of NIA in the premium and claims will be 40 per cent and the balance 60 per cent is shared equally by National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India.

VACCINE TRACKER
COVAXIN

Bharat Biotech aims to improve clinical results by at least 60%, above regulator cut-off mark

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

BHARAT BIOTECH, which will soon be starting late-stage human trials of its Covid-19 vaccine on over 20,000 volunteers in India, is trying to ensure its candidate can improve clinical outcomes by at least 60 per cent. If it works, this vaccine — Covaxin — would be able to prevent at least 60 per cent of those inoculated from being clinically diagnosed with Covid-19.

This would be higher than the 50 per cent efficacy cut-off that the Indian drug regulator and various international counterparts have suggested would be enough for firms to meet in order for their Covid-19 vaccine to be considered successful. “What globally has been accepted by WHO and the US FDA (American regulator), MHRA (UK regulator) and our NRA (Indian drug regulator — CDSCO) is 50 per cent as the lower-bound efficacy cutoff. We are designing our trial for a 60 per cent efficacy cut off, so we are above what the NRA wants,” said Sai Prasad, executive director, Bharat Biotech. “But, again, the trial will tell us where we are,” he added.

“We have some inklings of efficacy from our animal challenge data in primates,” said Prasad. “We have now tested the neutralising antibodies from our vaccine against three or four circulating Covid-19 strains in India, and it protects against them, so that's a good

The company plans to test 25,000-26,000 volunteers in third phase of its trials

sign,” he said. “That means, even if there are any mutations to this virus, this vaccine will hopefully protect against it,” he added.

Even on the safety front, the early- and mid-stage testing on humans so far shows that the vaccine has not thrown up cause for concern, according to him.

“Our initial reactogenic events have been in that 10 to 15 per cent range, which is the norm when we compare it to all our other vaccines. We have not seen the high amount of SAEs (Serious Adverse Events) or reactogenic events compared to some of the other published vaccines that are out there, so we are very confident,” said Prasad.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), India's top drug regulator, in September released guidelines that showed it would only approve Covid-19 vaccines that met parameters like their ability to show they could improve clinical outcomes by at least 50 per cent during human testing.

Bharat Biotech plans to test 25,000-26,000 volunteers in the third phase of its trials for Covaxin, which is expected to take place in sites across 12-14 states in India.

‘87% households have access to grid-connected power’

A majority of households (87 per cent) in India have access to grid-connect electricity, as per a survey by NITI Aayog and the Rockefeller Foundation



FINDINGS:

Overall, 87 per cent respondents said they have access to grid-based electricity. The remaining 13 per cent either use non-grid sources for electricity and lighting or don't use any electricity at all

KEY POSITIVES:

India has emerged as one of the

leaders in providing electricity access, almost doubling the access rate in the past 20 years from 59.4 per cent to extending grid connections to 100 per cent households in the country

MAJOR ISSUES:

Despite achieving 100 per cent household electrification, access

62% of users of non-grid sources are agricultural customers

4% of households today do not have access to grid-based electricity

to reliable and affordable electricity supply continues to be a challenge

66% of surveyed customers are satisfied with the overall services from their utility

Differences in satisfaction levels between urban customers (75 per cent) and rural customers (63 per cent)

Uttar Pradesh's utilities have performed far below the others', as per the survey

METHODOLOGY:

It was conducted across 10 states with a sample size of over 25,000 respondents Source: NITI Aayog and Rockefeller Foundation/PTI

International passenger flight suspension extended till Nov 30

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE SUSPENSION of scheduled international passenger flights has been extended till November 30 amid the coronavirus pandemic, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said on Wednesday.

“However, the international scheduled flights may be allowed on selected routes by the competent authority on a case-to-case basis,” the Indian aviation regulator said in a circular.

The scheduled international passenger services have been suspended in India since March 23 due to the coronavirus pandemic. But special international flights have been operating un-

Hong Kong bars AI flights for 4th time as flyers test Covid positive

New Delhi: Hong Kong has banned Air India flights from Mumbai till November 10 after five passengers on its flight earlier this week tested positive for COVID-19 post arrival, the airline said on Wednesday.

der the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under the bilateral ‘air bubble’ arrangements with selected countries since July.

India has formed air bubble pacts with around 18 countries, including the US, the UK, the UAE, Kenya, Bhutan and France. Under an air bubble pact between two countries, special in-

ternational flights can be operated by their airlines between their territories.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) circular also mentioned that the suspension does not affect the operation of international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by it. **WITH PTI**

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE TIE-UP announced by Harley-Davidson with Hero MotoCorp is part of the corporate makeover by the American cruiser bike brand, which involves exits from nearly 40 global markets.

What does the tie-up entail?

On Tuesday, Harley-Davidson said it has decided to hand over sales, service and distribution of its products to Delhi-based Hero MotoCorp. Hero will also take care of sales of parts, accessories, general merchandise, riding gear and apparels of Harley-Davidson. This arrangement is similar to revamped distribution models being piloted by Harley in 16 other markets outside the US, apart from India. While Harley-Davidson announced the shutting down of Bawal, the Haryana-based assembly factory a month ago, Hero MotoCorp

In September, Harley had announced the closure of its India operations after 11 years of poor performance, which saw the company sell only 25,000 units – way short of its annual target of selling 10,000 units annually

clarified that it won't be taking over the plant.

Speaking to analysts, Jochen Zeitz, chairman, president and CEO, Harley-Davidson, said: “Under our focussed participation model, we are exiting about

40 markets where low volumes and little profit do not warrant investments. We are establishing dealer-direct or distributor model in about 17 markets, and our 36 highest potential markets will have the leadership, resources and clearly defined op-

erating framework that we believe will derive desirable growth and profitability in the future.”

Does the deal involve equity transfer?

This, being defined as a non-equity tie-up, is a distribution-based partnership that does not involve transfer of technology from Harley. A licensing agreement allows Hero to develop and sell a range of premium motorcycles under the Harley-Davidson brand name.

“With a complete reset of our regional structure, we now have a less cumbersome and much more efficient set-up and have defined a clearer regional strategy in North America, India, Asia Pacific and Latin America,” Zeitz said.

In September, Harley had announced the closure of India operations after 11 years of poor performance, which saw the company sell only 25,000 units — way short of its annual target of selling 10,000 units annually. Harley did not offer any clarity about the future of the Haryana factory in its statement.

BRIEFLY

Sebi discusses direct listing, IPO reforms

New Delhi: Early finalisation of the direct listing scheme, development of the corporate bond market, and reforms in IPO norms were discussed between Sebi and investors from the US.

DPIIT releases next edition of FDI policy

New Delhi: The Commerce and Industry Ministry on Wednesday released the next edition of its consolidated foreign direct investment policy document, incorporating all the changes made over the past year. **PTI**

Dr Reddy's looks to complete late-stage trials of Sputnik V by mid-May next year

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

ENROLLMENT OF volunteers for mid-stage human trials of the Russian Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V is likely to begin in the next few days, said Dr Reddy's CEO Erez Israeli. The firm, which will be conducting the testing here, expects to complete late-stage trials of the vaccine candidate by mid-May next year at the latest.

“As for the timing, we start in the next few days,” said Israeli during a virtual briefing following the firm's Q2 earnings on Wednesday. The firm will be enrolling around 100 participants in the phase 2 trials. Once it receives approval it will be recruiting around 1,400 participants for the phase 3 trials.

“The phase 2, I hope, will be finished by December — not just the enrollment and the trials, but also compilations of the results and, hopefully, the relevant positive response from authorities that we can continue (with the trials)”

EREZ ISRAELI

CEO, DR REDDY'S LABORATORIES

“The phase 2, I hope, will be finished by December — not just the enrollment and the trials, but also compilations of the results and, hopefully, the relevant positive response from authorities that we can continue (with the trials),” he said. “Phase 3 should be finished somewhere around March...it can be as early

as the end of March to April or May,” he said.

Any decision to grant emergency use approval for the vaccine here will be left up to the Indian regulator, according to him. “This will be a decision of the authorities...we hope we can bring the product as soon as possible,” he said.

While Sputnik V already received approval and was registered by the Russian Ministry of Health in August, Dr Reddy's has not held any discussions on the pricing of the vaccine with the Indian government so far, said Israeli.

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), Dr Reddy's partner to supply the vaccine, is in talks with manufacturers to produce Sputnik V in India.

“The product will be produced in India with a partner,” he said.

Sputnik V uses ‘human adenoviral vector’ technology, using two different genetically modified adenoviruses to carry the spike protein. The vaccine containing the second adenovirus is given 21 days after the first one and is expected to “boost” the body's immune response and build “long-lasting immunity”.

Dr Reddy's received regulatory approval earlier this month to conduct phase 2/3 trials of the vaccine, which was developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Research Institute. Once it receives regulatory approval here, RDIF will supply around 100 million doses of the vaccine to Dr Reddy's for distribution. The vaccine is also undergoing phase 3 clinical trials in Russia with a proposed number of 40,000 subjects, as well as additional phase 3 trials in the UAE that commenced this month.

Covid crisis a clarion call to SCO to explore trade alliances: Goyal



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal attends the 19th Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting. @PiyushGoyal Twitter handle

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

THE COVID-19 crisis is a clarion call to SCO member countries to leverage their economic strength to boost trade and investment in the region, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

Addressing a meeting of trade and economy ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries, he said: “The current crisis due to Covid is a clarion call to the SCO countries to leverage the economic strength and explore partnerships that enhance trade and investment in the region.” **WITH PTI**


L&T revenue drops 12%

Wins ₹25K-cr order for Bullet train's Guj stretch

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28

LARSEN & Toubro has recorded a 12 per cent fall in consolidated gross revenue of Rs 31,035 crore for the September quarter. With labour at various sites reaching near pre-Covid levels, businesses saw a pickup in execution momentum, compared to June quarter, and achieved 46 per cent growth. The board declared a special dividend of Rs 18 per share. The net profit and share in profit and loss of joint ventures and associates from continuing operations before exceptional items for the quarter was at Rs 1,410 crore.

It added it has won a Rs 25,000-crore order to execute a portion of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project.



Superintending Engineer, Southern Irrigation Circle-I, Berhampur.
e-Procurement Notice No. SE SIC-06/2020-21
e-mail id: se_sicbmb@yahoo.com

1. Type of Work
2. Total No of Works
3. Amount put to tender
4. Period of completion


• Fixed Control works
• 02 (Two) Nos.
• Rs. 651.29 to Rs. 666.94 lakhs
• 17 Months (Seventeen) calendar months

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Superintending Engineer, Southern Irrigation Circle-I, Berhampur, Ganjam	SE, SIC, (BNID)-01/2020-21	666.94	From 03.11.2020, 10.00 A.M. to 17.11.2020, 5.00 P.M.
	SE, SIC, (BNID)-02/2020-21	651.29	

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- **18.11.2020 at 11.30 A.M.**
Further detail can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Superintending Engineer,
Southern Irrigation Circle-I, Perhampur.
OIPR-32061/11/0005/2021

Sd/-



HARYANA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
BAYS NO. 33-36, SECTOR-4, PANCHKULA-134112
PH. 0172-2572395, FAX: 2572359, E-mail: dir-trf.herc@nic.in, website: herc.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
Inviting Objections/Comments/Suggestions on the Draft Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (Fee) Regulations, 2005, 4th Amendment Regulations, 2020
The aforementioned draft amendment regulation can be downloaded, free of cost from the website of HERC. General Public/Stakeholders are hereby invited to file written Comments/Objections in the regulation, on or before 12.11.2020. The Objections/Comments may be filed personally or by post or through E-mail to secretary.herc@nic.in and dir-trf.herc@nic.in.
Sd/-
Director/Tariff,
HERC, Panchkula.

83460/HRY



भारतीय खाद्य निगम
Regional Office: Haryana, Bay No. 29 - 32, Sector - 4, Panchkula

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

E-TENDER NOTICE
Food Corporation of India, Haryana Region invites online tenders under "TWO BID SYSTEM" for appointment of
1) Regular LRT (Long Route Transport Contract from various centres of Haryana Region for a period of One Year.
2) Adhoc Road Transport Contract from various centres of Haryana Region to the centres of Uttarakhnad Region for a period of Six Months further extendable for a period of six months at the discretion of GM (R).
Detailed Tender Notice indicating Instructions, terms and conditions and critical dates can be seen at F.C.I. website (URL <http://fci.gov.in>) and Central Public Procurement Portal (URL <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>) w.e.f. 29.10.2020. Tender form can be downloaded from these websites. Sd/-
Corrigendum, if any, will be published online only. General Manager (R)
FCI - ENSURING FOOD SECURITY OF NATION

The Project Director, Implementation Unit (PIU), ADB Projects, Office of the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Development (R&B), Udaipur-799120, Gomati District, Tripura, India, **Telephone: 03821-222378, Fax No. 03821223533** E-mail: se3rdpwwd@gmail.com. Invites sealed bids under single stage two envelope system, from eligible and qualified bidders vide No 03 /PD/(SE-III)/ADB/R/ 2020-21.
For title of the proposal Project- NORTH EASTERN STATE ROADS INVESTMENT PROGRAM (NESRI) TRANCHE-2 ROADS.
Date:- 31st October, 2020.
Contract No. and Title: Procurement of Civil Works:- Country: INDIA, ADB Loan No. 3073, Completion of balance work of Improvement and Up gradation of road section of Udaipur to Melaghar (TRo2) (Tranche 2 road in the State of Tripura) (ADB Loan No. 3073)
Deadline for Submission of Bid: **29th November. 2020 on IST 1.00 PM**.
The detailed documents shall be available for sale between IST 10:30 AM on 31th October 2020 to IST 3:30 PM 21st November 2020. The detailed documents may be seen in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Development (R&B), Udaipur-799120, Gomati District, Tripura, India. The complete set of Bidding Documents can also be obtained by the interested bidders by free downloading on line from the web sites at <https://pwwd.tripura.gov.in>
For and on behalf of Governor of Tripura
(Er. Madhab Lal Banik)
Project Director (ADB Project)

ICA-C/1954/20



नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग
पत्रांक-2855
रौंवी, दिनांक-28.10.2020

झारखंड भू-संपदा अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण के एक सदस्य(तकनीकी) के रिक्त पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रण सूचना।
एतद द्वारा भू-संपदा (विनियमन और विकास) अधिनियम, 2016 में निहित प्रावधानों के आलोक में झारखंड भू-संपदा अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरणके एक सदस्य(तकनीकी) के रिक्त पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु भारतीय अहर्ताधारियों से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।
नियुक्ति से संबंधित आवेदन, विस्तृत विज्ञापन में वर्णित प्रपत्र में वांछित सूचनाओं तथा तत्संबंधी घोषणा के साथ दिनांक-02.12.2020 को अपराहन 04:00बजे तक निम्नांकित पते पर निबंधित डाक से, स्वहस्त लिखित अथवा टंकित रूप में समर्पित किया जा सकता है।
आवेदन प्राप्ति की निर्धारित तिथि के उपरान्त प्राप्त आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।
आवेदन प्राप्ति का पता—
सचिव,
नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग का कोषांग,
कमरा संख्या-413, चतुर्थ तल, प्रोजेक्ट भवन, धुर्वा, रौंवी, झारखंड पिन कोड-834004
उक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति से संबंधित विस्तृत विज्ञापन (विज्ञापन सं-2654, दिनांक-28.10.2020) विभागीय वेबसाईट-www.udhd.jharkhand.gov.in एवं झारखंड भू-संपदा नियामक प्राधिकार के वेबसाईट-www.jhara.jharkhand.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
हो/-
(चन्दन कुमार)
सरकार के अवर सचिव।
PR.NO.234949 Urban Development(20-21):D

ई - प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल
मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय
कम्पाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग
भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट नोटिस
टेंडर रेफरेंस नं०- BCD/CE/06/Ranchi Div-02/2020-21 दिनांक- 28.10.2020

क्र.सं०	विवरण	तिथि एवं समय
1	कार्य का नाम	Construction of 100 Bedded Hostel in t he campus of ITI, Hehal, Ranchi.
2	प्राक्कलित राशि (रु०)	रु० 2,97,65,500.00 (रुपये दो करोड़ सनतावे लाख सैंसठ हजार पाँच सौ) मात्र ।
3	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	11 महीने
4	वेबसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	12-11-2020
5	वेबसाइट पर बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अंतिम तिथि /समय	18-11-2020 के 11.00 AM तक
6	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	ई - प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय , कम्पाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग, भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, रांची।
7	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	9973708817
8	ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	9334994126

• किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
• अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।
Note: UCAN Registration is mandatory for the Bidders
नौडन पदाधिकारी
ई - प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल,
मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, कम्पाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, रांची
PR 234967 Building (20-21)_D

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. HSCC/AIIMS-Kalyani/Wooden wardrobe/Fur/2020 Dated: 28.10.2020
Online item rate bids are invited by HSCC (I) Ltd. as an executing agency of Moh-FW for the works: "Wooden Wardrobe and Over Head Storage for Hostel & Residential Block at AIIMS, Kalyani (W.B.)" Estimated project cost: Rs. 5.32 Cr and Completion period: 03 Months. Tender available online from 29.10.2020 and Last Date of submission of Bids is 12.11.2020. The detailed NIT will be available on e-tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC, HSCC website www.hsccltd.co.in and CPP portal. Corrigendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on said websites and not be published.
CGM (PG-I)

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, GOVT. DOON MEDICAL COLLEGE
PATEL NAGAR, DEHRADUN- 248001 UTTARAKHAND, TEL: 0135-2726020-2726021
Email: doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com, Website : www.doonmedical.org

E-Tender Notice
Online Bids are invited through E-tendering system from Original Manufacturer under two bid systems for financial year 2020-21 & 2021-22 by Principal, Govt. Doon Medical College, Dehradhas, Patel Nagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand for procurement of Surgical Items & Medicine under Rate contract. Reference detailed information specifications & tender/bid documents are available on website: uktenders.gov.in from 29.10.2020, 12.00 pm onwards
Principal
Letter No.: GDMC/Tender/2020-21 Govt. Doon Medical College, Dehradun.
Date: 28.10.2020

NPCL NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506

Notice Inviting Bids for Procurement of Hydro Power on Medium Term basis
Bids are invited by "Noida Power Company Limited having its registered office at Electric Sub-station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida – 201310 (U.P.)" for procurement of 60 MW hydro power from 01.05.2021 to 31.03.2024 in accordance with the Guidelines dated 30.01.2019 issued by Ministry of Power, Gol. Bid Document is available on DEEP Portal of www.mstcecommerce.com.
The Company reserves the right to reject all or any of the Bids or cancel the bidding process at any stage without assigning any reasons whatsoever and without any liability.
For any clarification, contact at e-mail id powertrading@noidapower.com or mobile no. 9718804966.



Mumbai International Airport Ltd.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR VARIOUS NON-AERONAUTICAL CONCESSIONS AT CSMI AIRPORT
Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") is inviting parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for various Non-Aero Concessions at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International (CSMI) Airport.
Parties are requested to visit the website: <https://csmiaero.com> → Businesses → Business Opportunities → Commercial Opportunities for downloading form of Application for purchase of Request for Proposal document(s).
Please check the website for Last date and time for submission of Application.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	Name of work	Miscellaneous work at Tilak Bridge station in the section of SSE/ W/NDLS/L under ADEN/NDLS.
2	Approx. cost of work	Rs. 25.32,891.35 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One and Thirty Five Paise only)
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 50,700/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	23.11.2020 @15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/ NIT/22/2020-21/W-3 Dated: 28.10.2020 2368/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE


DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT, HARYANA
30 Bays Building, 2nd Floor, Sector-17, Chandigarh.
Website: www.hartrans.gov.in
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
CORRIGENDUM

Online Tender No. 5/2020-21/SPO/HQ dated 31.08.2020 was invited for selection of bidder for implementation of Open Loop Ticketing System and GPS System on Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) Model for a period of Five Years with extended last date of submission of tender documents online as 27.10.2020 upto 12.00 hours. As per the request of a No. of prospective bidders, the last date of submission of RFP response online is being extended upto 18.11.2020 at 12:00 hours. The modified terms of RFP, if any, will be uploaded on the E-Tendering website of the department i.e. <https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicgep/app> only.
All prospective bidders are requested to go through the above website for further detail of RFP documents.
Sd/-
Director
State Transport, Haryana, Chandigarh.

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यालयक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल, रौंवी पूर्व, रौंवी
ई० निविदा संशोधन करने के संबंध में।
एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्य का नाम— Construction of Pump House, Supplying and Installation of Clear Water Pumping Machinery, Supplying and laying Clear Water Rising Main, Construction of Elevated Service Reservoir 9 ESR) Capacity of 1 Lakh Liters with 13mtr Staging, Boundary Wall/ Compound wall, Supplying and laying Distribution System, House Connection with 2 Year Operation and Maintenance for Rukma Rural Water Supply Scheme on Turnkey Basis under Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi for the year 2019-20. निविदा आमरण सूचना संख्या-31 (Rukma rural water supply Scheme/Ranchi East) जिसका पीआरए सं-234112 (Drinking water and sanitation)2020-21(D) है विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है को निम्नांकित संशोधन किया जाता है।
क्र.सं० विवरण तिथि एवं समय
10 निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 05.11.2020/5.00PM
11 अग्रघन की राशि /परिमाण विपत्र मूल्य प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय। 06.11.2020/5.00PM
12 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय 07.11.2020/01.00PM
निविदा का शेष अंश यथावत रहेगा। आवश्यक शर्तों के लिए देखें www.jharkhand.gov.in, Email ID- cedwsl.ranchieast@gmail.com
कार्यालयक अभियन्ता पेयजल एवं स्व० प्र० रौंवी पूर्व रौंवी
PR 234958 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)20-21#D



J&K PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.
(A J&K Govt. Undertaking)
OFFICE OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER, UNIT 9TH, DODA
CORRIGENDUM-CUM-EXTENSION NOTICE
Sub: Construction of Govt. Degree College Kastigarh Doda by way of Construction of Academic Block Cum Administrative Block (Framed structure G+2), Services (Electric/Plumbing).
Ref: E-NIT No: 12 of 2020-21 of JKPCCL Ltd. Unit 9th, Doda. Dated: 13.10.2020.
Kindly read the Note under item No. 4.6 A (ii) as
"NOTE: The requirement in respect of clause 4.6A(i) (Financial Turn over) shall be 33% of advertised cost of the work for all such works with estimated value less than 40.00 crores, while in case of works valuing 40.00 crores and above the requirement shall be 40% of advertised cost of the particular work. Similarly the requirement in respect of clause 4.6A-ii (similar nature of work) it shall be 33% of advertised cost of work for all such works valuing less than 40.00 crores and for the works with estimated value of Rs. 40.00 crores and above it shall be 40% of the advertised cost of the particular work."
Instead of:
"NOTE: The requirement in respect of clause 4.6A(i) (Financial Turn over) shall be 33% of advertised cost of the work for all such works with estimated value less than 40.00 crores, while in case of works valuing 40.00 crores and above the requirement shall be 40% of advertised cost of the particular work."
Also the critical dates are extended as under:
1) Last date for submission of tender online: 02.11.2020 upto 4:00 P.M.
2) Date of opening of technical bid- 03.11.2020 at 01.00 P.M.
All other terms & conditions shall remain the same as already advertised.
Sd/-
No.: JKPCCL/Doda/1145-49 Deputy General Manager,
DIPJ-2209 JKPCCL Ltd. Unit 9th, Doda.



BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)

Corrigendum-II NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
E-NIT No.: 2926/BBMB Dated: 14.09.2020
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Dehar Power House Circle, BBMB (PW) Slapper.
Name of Work: E-NIT for reconditioning of 2 nos. 150T/30T/5T EOT cranes installed at Dehar Power House at Slapper.

Last date & time for uploading pre-qualification documents	06.11.2020 upto 12.00 hrs.
Last date & time for download tender documents	18.11.2020 upto 12.00 hrs.
Last date & time for submission of online bid	18.11.2020 upto 14.00 hrs.
Due date & time for opening online bid	18.11.2020 upto 15.00 hrs.

For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB website www.bbmbeproc.abcpurchase.com & www.bbmb.gov.in.

746-PR-Generation-5 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today




New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.
A)

S.No.	Job no./ Workname	Amount
1.	64/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o Park Sector-110 Near Yatharth Hospital with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 44.99 Lacs
2.	130/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Green Belt in sector-82 along drain towards with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 59.72 Lacs


Which can be uploaded by date 11.11.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 12.11.2020 at 11.00 AM.
Office : Sector-39, Noida Director (Hort.), Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (UP)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from eligible firms/contractors for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.
1. 48/SM(Jal)-II/ET/20-21, M/o W/s (Repairing of Sluice Valve, Reflex Valve and M.S. Work at Network Sector-86, 87, 88), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost- Rs. 35.31 Lacs.
The above tender can be uploaded by date 05/11/2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 06/11/2020 at 11.00 AM.
2. 58/SM(Jal)-II/ET/20-21, Strengthening of W/s (Running, Maintenance and Operation Tubewells (03 Nos.) and UGR Sector-168), Noida (For Two Years). Cost- Rs. 42.47 Lacs.
The above tender can be uploaded by date 12/11/2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 13/11/2020 at 11.00 AM.
Senior Manager (JAL)-II
NOIDA
Office: Sector-37
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tel. 01972-223965, 225735 Email- hp-ham @nic.in

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
The Superintending Engineer, 8th Circle, HPPWD Hamirpur HP on behalf of Governor of H.P. re-invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.
Sr. No. Name of work Estimated Cost Starting Date for downloading Bid Earnest Money Cost of bid form (in Rs.) Deadline for submission of Bid. Date of opening of Technical Bid.
1 40.00 mtr span Pre-stressed concrete Box Girder Bridge (Double Lane) over Khari Natch on Awadhevi Tilva Gadidhar Sandhole Road at RD 18/870 (SH-13) Construction of Sub Structure and Super Structure and both side approaches (Job No. CRF/HP/2018-19/165) 2,44,99,688/- 30.10.2020 at 6.00 PM 4,90,000/- 12000 11.11.2020 at 5.00 PM 12.11.2020 at 11.30 AM
The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the website www.hptenders.gov.in
Superintending Engineer,
8th Circle, HPPWD, Hamirpur,
Pin. 177001
on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
4014/HP

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice

No. CMD/DLI/Stacking/Tender/2018 Date: 10/2020
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-tender for the contract of management of stacking of Parcels at Delhi Junction Railway Station (PF 20 outward Parcel Godown and Machchi Godown) for three years. The details are as under:
Tender Opening Date : 20.11.2020

S no.	Station Name	Station category	Type of work	Total Area (in sq. Mtr)	Advertised Value/ Reserve price for One (1) year (in Rs.)	Total Reserve price for Three (3) years (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Tender cost including GST @ 18% (in Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Delhi Junction Railway Station (PF 20 outward Parcel Godown and Machchi Godown)	A-1	Management of Stacking of Parcels at Delhi Junction Railway Station (PF 20 outward Parcel Godown and Machchi Godown).	2909.02	2,03,77,686	6,11,33,058	12,22,700	11,800	CIID-Stocking-DLI-PF20-Oct20

Interested bidders may please visit official website for E-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for further details and submitting the tender.
Important Note:
1. Bidders who wish to participate in the e-tendering will have to procure class-3 valid Digital Security Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can procure this certificate from any of the certifying authority of Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), Government of India. Details of certifying authorities can be obtained from www.cca.gov.in
2. The bidder has to register (if not registered earlier) with www.ireps.gov.in, using DSC to participate in tender process. Detailed procedure for registration, system requirements and bidding are also available on www.ireps.gov.in. 2366/2020


SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE
GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (PURCHASE-2ND)
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA (SGR)
(e-mail: ammopurchase2@skims.ac.in)

e-NIT No: SIMS 21 (P-II) OF 2020
Dated: 27.10.2020

Sub: Abbreviated Short Term Notice inviting e-tenders for Event Management and Content Creation for Multipatform Usage for Annual Day Celebration of SKIMS, Srinagar.
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir, through Director, Sher-I-Kashmir institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar, e-tenders under two bid system are invited from reputed and professionally managed registered Branding & Communication agencies having sufficient experience with creative and technical capabilities for Conceiving, Designing, Content writing, Producing and Printing as per eligibility criteria given in the detailed NIT.
The detailed tender document containing scope of service and other details, terms & conditions are available on www.jktenders.gov.in and complete bidding process will be online on said e-tender portal as per following schedule:
S.No. Description Schedule
01 Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-
02 Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 200,000/-
03. Last date for downloading & submission of tenders. From 04.11.2020 upto 4.00 p.m.
04. Date & time for opening of technical bids 05.11.2020 at 11.00 p.m.
Any clarification with regard to this tender can be obtained from the office of undersigned personally or through e-mail ammopurchase2@skims.ac.in
The tender notice is also available on SKIMS website www.skims.ac.in (for reference only).
Complete bidding process will be online at www.jktenders.gov.in Technical and Price bids shall have to be submitted in electronic format on the said tender portal.
Director SKIMS reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any tender or all tenders in full or part thereof without assigning any reason.
The tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed eNIT.
Sd/-
Asstt. Materials Management Officer
(Purchase 2nd)

रक्षा सम्पदा कार्यालय
आगरा मण्डल, आगरा छावनी
पुनः ई-निविदा सूचना
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्यालय रक्षा सम्पदा अधिकारी, आगरा मण्डल आगरा छावनी द्वारा सर्वे संख्या 321 (भाग) ग्वालियर रोड, बिजलीघर के पास आगरा छावनी स्थित रक्षा भूमि जिसका क्षेत्रफल लगभग 5000.0 वर्गफुट है, पर एक वर्ष के लिए कार, बस, स्कूटर इत्यादि पार्किंग के लिए इच्छुक व्यक्तियों/फर्म आदि द्वारा भारत सरकार के केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक खरीद फ्रेमवर्क पोर्टल (Central Public Procurement Portal of Govt. of India) www.eprocure.gov.in के माध्यम से ई- निविदा (E-Tender) आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की शर्त उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर अपलोड कर दी गई है। दस्तावेज डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ करने का दिनांक 29.10.2020 समय 09:30 बजे से तथा निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 09.11.2020 समय 15:30 बजे तक रहेगी। उक्त सूचनाई छावनी परिषद आगरा की वेबसाईट www.cbagra.org.in पर भी देखी जा सकती है।
(राजीव कुमार)
रक्षा सम्पदा अधिकारी
आगरा मण्डल, आगरा छावनी

संख्या: 4/1336/B
दिनांक: 28 अक्टूबर, 2020



नगर निगम फरीदाबाद
प्रधान कार्यालय : बी.के. चौक के पास, एनआईटी फरीदाबाद
वेबसाईट: mcfaridabad.org

नीलामी सूचना
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि फरीदाबाद नगर निगम की रोज गार्डन एन.आई.टी. फरीदाबाद में स्थित अमृत्यु चन्द्रा लाइब्रेरी के पुराने समाचार पत्र व पत्रिकाओं की रद्दी बेचने के लिए दिनांक 06.11.2020 को सुबह 11 बजे बोली लगाई जाएगी। बोली के लिए मुख्य शर्त निम्न प्रकार से हैं।
1. बोली दाता को बोली देने से पहले 15000 रुपये प्रतिमुक्ति राशि नागद जमा करानी होगी। सफल बोली दाता के अतिरिक्त बाकी बोलीदाताओं की राशी बोली समाप्त होने पर लौटा दी जाएगी।
2. सफल बोली दाता को रद्दी अपने वाहन व खचें पत्र 2 दिन के अन्दर उतानी होगी।
3. बोली 11 रुपये प्रति कि.ग्रा. से शुरू होगी।
4. पुराने समाचार पत्र व पत्रिकाओं की रद्दी को अमृत्यु चन्द्रा लाइब्रेरी रोज गार्डन में किसी भी कार्यदिवस में देखा जा सकता है।
5. बोली की पुरी राशी रद्दी का कांटे पर वजन होने पर तुरन्त निगम में जमा करानी होगी।
6. बोली की बाकी शर्त मौके पर सुनाई जाएगी।
अधिक जानकारी के लिए अमृत्यु चन्द्रा लाइब्रेरी में सहायक वास्तुकार (7015035651) से संपर्क करें।
आयुक्त नगर निगम



BAREILLY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BAREILLY
Opp: Bareilly college Bareilly Civil Lines, Bareilly (U.P)
Email- nagarayukt.bareilly@gmail.com

पत्रांक 133/पर्या.अभि./2020-21 दिनांक: 28 अक्टूबर 2020
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
Nagar Nigam Bareilly invites Tenders from experienced firm/bidder for supply & fixing of Vehicle Tracking system (VTS) for auto tipper engaged in Door to Door collection of municipal solid waste and monitoring of the same. Bidder shall be responsible for road Survey and creation of POI Layer (Road center point) and Generating Unique IDS which shall be linked with VTS module. Bidder shall be liable to develop system i.e. Mobile and Web portal to monitor all engaged vehicle and personal for Door to Door collection of municipal solid waste in Bareilly Nagar Nigam. Interested firm/bidder are required to submit the proposal through <https://etender.up.nic.in/> on before 06 November 2020 16.00 Hrs (IST). Any queries shall be contacted Mob. No. 7055519614 & 7905773377 and Email- sanjeev.pmnit@gmail.com.

सार्वजनिक सूचना
सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्राम पंचायत लोहसिंधानी के चमनपुरा गांव के जोहड़ को मछली पालन हेतु 8 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए दिनांक 19.11.2020 को सुबह 10:00 बजे ग्राम सचिवालय लोहसिंधानी में खुली बोली पर छोड़ा जाएगा। बाकि शर्त मौके पर पढ़कर सुनाई जाएगी।
कुंवर अजय कुमार सरपंच
ग्राम पंचायत लोहसिंधानी
खंड सोहना, जिला गुरुग्राम

WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION
PROVIDING LIFT AND REPAIRING OF THE PORCH
E-Tender Notice No. 16 OF 2020-21
Date :

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Viney Shandil,S/o Mishri Lal shandil,R/o J-68,1st-floor, Ashok Vihar, ph-1, Delhi-52, have changed my name, from viney shandiliya to Viney Kumar Shandil, for all the future purposes.

0040552807-7

I, Ashish S/o Ashok Kumar, H.No.25, Near Kheta Gas Agency, Housing Board Colony, Sonipat (Haryana)-131001, have changed my name to Ashish Kumar.

0040552807-1

I, Sanjeev Sehdev R/o-1/10, Flat-UG-2, Ashirwad Apartment-2, Sector-5, Rajender Nagar, Ghaziabad, have changed my daughter's name, from Shivika Sehdev to Shivika Sehdev.

0040552813-3

I, Chhoti Devi W/o Late Sedu Ram R/o-R-41, Mangolpuri, Delhi-110083, inform that Kasturi Devi and Chhoti Devi are the names of same and one person.

0040552811-4

I, Pankaj S/o-Ran Singh Mohar, H.No.346, 69, Kude Singh Namberdar Wali Gali, Kangan Heri, South West, Delhi-110071, have changed my name to Pankaj Mohar.

0040552828-5

I, PRIYA DODEJA, W/O MANISH AHUJA R/O C-6/114, GROUND-FLOOR, KESHAV PURAM, DELHI-110035, CHANGED MY NAME TO PRIYA AHUJA.

0040552828-1

I, Neha Bhati, D/o Dayanand Singh Bhati, R/O C-366(A), Gali No.-16, Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053, declare that name of my father has been written as Dayanand Bhati in my some documents. That Dayanand Bhati and Dayanand Singh Bhati both name are same and one person.

0040552813-4

I, Naresh Kumar, s/o Jagdish Rai Garg, R/o-374, Neelkanth apartment sec-13, Rohini, Delhi-85, have change my name to Naresh Kumar Garg, for all, future purposes.

0040552813-1

I, MUKHTYAR SINGH, S/O JALORA SINGH R/O HNO.3868/10, KANHAIYA NAGAR, TRINAGAR, DELHI-110035, CHANGED MY NAME TO MUKHTIAR SINGH.

0040552828-6

I, Kumari Archana, D/o Ranvir Singh Yadav, W/o Mr. Anil Kumar, H.No.123/1, Badshahpur, Gurugram (Haryana)- 122101, have changed my name to Archana.

0040552807-2

I, Jagdish Kumar, S/o Sh.Sunny R/o-5/1, Railway Colony, Sarojini-Nagar, South West Delhi, Delhi-110023, have changed my minor son name from Sharthak aged-14 years to Sarthak Chauhan, for all purposes.

0040552813-2

I, JC-769193H SUB KADAM DILIP APPA SON OF SHRI KADAM APPA TATOA-VIA & PO-AGALGAON TEH-KAVATHE MAHANKAL DISTT-SANGLI PIN-416405, MAHARASHTRA-CHANGED MY SON AND DAUGHTER NAME FROM ROHIT TO ROHIT KADAM AND SHRUTI TO SHRUTI DILIP KADAM VIDE.AFFIDAVIT DATE-23,OCT 2020 BEFORE MADAN LAL GUPTA (DELHI).

0040552828-4

I, Gurnek Singh, S/o Gurddeep Singh Singh R/o-Ward.No-1, Rundh Mehmadpur, Dhaulpur, Dholpur Rajasthan-328001, Inform That Gurnek Name And Singh Surname.

0040552811-2

I, Devinder Kumar S/o Pati Ram Singhal R/O-House No-20, Road.No-23, East Punjabi Bagh, Delhi Changed Name to Devinder Kumar Singhal.

0040552811-3

I, Devender Birla, R/O-177, C7A, Word.no.2, mererauli, South Delhi-110030, have Changed my Minor son name, from kunal bidla to kunal birla (Age-17-year), for all, future purposes.

0040552811-6

I, DAVINDER SINGH GUJRAL S/O MOHAN SINGH R/O B-329, HARI-NAGAR, MAYA PURI, DELHI-110064, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DAVINDER SINGH.

0040552807-5

I, Ashit Kumar Bagga, R/O-219-D, DDA-Lig-Flats, Jhilmil-Colony (Near-police-station) Vivek-Vihar, Delhi-110095, have changed my Minor daughter Manpreet Singh correct date-of-birth-10-04-2011, permanently.

0040552811-5

I, Arun kumar Gupta, S/o Hari Das Jain, R/O 714 Sector-8B, Chandigarh-160009, Have changed my name to Arun Kumar Jain, permanently.

0040552807-3

I, USHA RANI D/o Jagdish Prasad and W/o Sh. Yogesh Krishan (Smt. Usha Goyal) new name, Resident of 1/6216, Gali No.4, East Rohtash Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name Usha Rani and I shall hereafter be known as USHA GOYAL New Name.

0040552794-1

I Ruchi Khanna D/o Late Sh. Subhash Bajaj W/o Late Sh. Ankush Khanna R/O 24/12, Opp. School No.3, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Ruchi Bajaj Khanna for all purposes.

0040552797-1

I, Army No.JC-246931/RS Bhupendra of Unit.47, Armed Regt.C/056 APO, inform that in my service, records my son's name wrongly-written as ASHISH YADAV instead of correct-name is ASHISH YADAV.

0040552807-6

I, SANTOSH KUMAR, S/O DEVENDRA PRASAD SINGH, R/O-72, KUMHAR MOHALLA JASOLA VILLAGE, OKHLA, DELHI-110025, CHANGED MY MINOR SON'S NAME FROM MANASWI TO "MANASWI KASHYAP", FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040552748-1

I, Sharat S/o Panchena Shashidharan Nair, R/o H-3/157 First-Floor, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Sharat Nair.

0040552813-9

I, Rishav S/o Shri Raj Kumar R/O Maina Niwas, Dhobighat, Sanjauli, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh-171006, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rishav Kumar .

0070718568-1

I, Om Parkash/ Om Parkash Kalkal S/o Mukhtiar Singh R/o A-1/170 Third-Floor, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Om Prakash Kalkal Permanently

0040552779-1

I, Mukesh Kumar S/o Shyamchandra Jha R/o Ward No-12, Jhunjharpur, Madhubani, Bihar-847404, have changed my name to Prashant Kumar Jha

0070718568-1

I, Magesh alias Magesh Kanooaga alias Magesh Kanooosa S alias Magesh S alias Magesh Santihial alias Santihial Magesh alias S Magesh S/o Santhilal R/o 21/8, Dr Azhagappar Street Tindivanam, Tindivanam, Viluppuram, Tamil Nadu,-604001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Magesh.

0070718602-1

I, Herdav Singh S/o Chanan Singh r/o WZ-13C, First Floor, Sant Garh, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to HARDEV SINGH for all future purposes

0040552749-1

I, Harish Bhardwaj S/o Janardhan Prasad Raturi residing at F-69, Delta-1, Rampur Jagir, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201306, have changed the name of my minor son Shivam Raturi aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as Shivam Bhardwaj.

0070718578-1

I, Gyanendra S/o Sh. Rajpal H.No.86, Skoka Mohalla, Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi-74, inform that that my wife name has been wrongly mentioned as Rekha in my daughter, namely Tanisha, School Record. My wife Correct name is Resha, which may be amended accordingly. Resha & Rekha both are same person.

0040552751-1

I, Anita Rana W/O Ashok Kumar Rana R/O A12/1, Chet Ram Marg, Mayapuri, North East Delhi-110053 Have Changed my Name to Anita Rani.

0070718566-1

I, Renu D/o-Remesh Kumar R/O, S-1, Princess Park, Cornepnicus Marg, Delhi-110001 have changed my name to Reena, for all purposes.

0040552828-2

I, Anil Kumar S/o Om Parkash R/O A5/75, 1st Floor, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110085 changed my name to Anil Kumar Dewan for all future purposes

0070718628-1

I hitherto known as 'Mushtaq Ahmad Salik' S/O Late Nazeer Ahmad residing at C-35/B, Abul Fazal Enclave-I, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-25, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as 'Salik Dhampur'.

0040552511-1

IThriveni Raj W/O Rangaraju N R/O Door No-156, 2nd Cross Nimishambha Layout, Kuvempunagara, Mysore, Karnataka-570023 have changed my name to Thriveni C for future all purposes.

0040552820-1

ISuman Devi W/O, Raj Kumar R/O 241- Deepak Vihar, Naya Bazar, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Suman Sharma for all purposes.

0040552817-1

IShama Kapoor W/o Ramesh Kumar Kapoor R/O Q-57, Sector-12, Noida have changed my name from Shama Devi to Shama Kapoor for all future purposes.

0040552789-1

IRamesh Kumar Kapoor S/o Sain Das Kapoor R/O Q-57, Sector-12, Noida have changed my name from Ramesh Kapoor to Ramesh Kumar Kapoor for all future purposes.

0040552789-2

INazia Fatima w/o Naushad Khan r/o 629 Patnar Vihar Nyay Khand I Indrapuram Ghaziabad-201014 U.P. Have Changed my name to NAZIA KHAN.

0040552772-1

IKamal Jyoti Dhamija S/o Sh. J.J. Dhamija R/O F-77, Second Floor, Lajpat Nagar-II, New Delhi-110024 have changed my name to Kamal Dhamija for all purposes.

0040552797-3

IHemanshi D/o Sh.Sanjeet R/o House No.53-E, Narela Road, Bawana, Delhi-110039 have changed my name to Himanshi for all purposes.

0040552797-2

I, Praveen Kumar Sharma S/o Shivkumar Sharma R/o House No-263/A Gali No-15 Balbir Nagar Ext Balbir Nagar Shahda, North East Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Praveen Sharma.

0070718609-1

I, D Debankan S/o Tapan Kumar Dey R/o 204, Kailash Dham, Dimna Road Near Siroman Nagar Mangro M.g.m Medical College Jamshedpur East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-831018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Debankan Dey.

0070718612-1

I, Kulwant Kaur D/O-Swarn Singh R/O, B-162, First-Floor, Tagore Garden Extn., Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Sukhwant Kaur, for all purposes.

0040552828-3

I, Anukriti Jain, D/O Vikas Jain, R/O B-11, 2nd-floor, swasthya-vihar, vikas-marg Delhi-110092, & (my Date-of-birth 02/07/1999) Have changed my name to Ishika, permanently.

0040552807-4

I, Satnarayan S/o Bhika Ram Sharma R/o RZE-38A, Gali, No.16F, Palam Colony Sadh-Nagar Part-2, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Sat Narayan Sharma.

0040552811-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Azad Singh Tushir, S/o-Ram Jivan, have lost my original-property-documents, in the address, of KH.No-8&9 and 23/7-Block-Q, New-Roshan-Pura, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043 and Flat.No-515, Pocket-1, Sector-A6, Narela, Delhi-110040. Finder contact-7838080396.

0040552813-6

I, Tanishque shandilya, s/o viney shandilya R/o-J-68, phase-1, ashok-vihar, N-D-52, have lost my original-certificate class-10th(2015) Rollno-8160107 class-12th(2017) Rollno-9138697 CBSE-DELHI.

0040552807-10

I, Kamlesh Jain, S/o M.L.Gupta, R/O-116, Arihant-Nagar, Punjab, Bagh West, New Delhi-110026, have lost my original Building Buyer-Agreement & Allotment-Letter of property bearing No.C-704, Solera Group Housing, Sector-107A, Gurgaon. Finder contact me at above said Address.

0040552813-5

I, ARUNITA Gupta, D/O Prabhat Gupta, R/O D-2502, the jewel of, Noida, sec-75, Noida-201301, have lost my original-certificate class-10th(2015) Rollno-5363704 Class-12th(2017) Rollno-5850833 CBSE DEHRADUN-9871277070.

0040552807-9

IVINOD KUMAR SINGH RESIDENCE OF G-3 GF LIG PLOT NO-5/773 VAISHALI HAS LOST ONE SALE DEED DATE-9/01/04 OF MY PROPERTY CHAIN OF PROPERTY G-5/736 SEC-5 VAISHALI GHAZIABAD WHICH IS SALE DEED DOCUMENTS NO-538 EXECUTE BY M.P.SINGH IN FAVOUR OF RAJESH KUMAR SINGH AND FIR POLICY STATION KAUSHAMBI COMPLAIN NO-31681078072000014

0040552783-1

I, Jasvinder Singh, S/o Late, Sh.Gurbachan Singh R/O A-2/124, Third-Floor, Rajouri-Garden, New Delhi, 110027, have lost my Original Property-Documents of Registration number-1629, Additional book.no.9199, page-98 to 104, Dated, 11-03-1999 of free hold property, A-2/124, Third-Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, with roof rights, Finder-Please Contact-Jasvinder Singh-9810107818.

0040552813-7

मैं जेडु सहानी सुप्रन्न श्री फुगुनी सहानी मेरे प्लाट ए-1,2,24, खसरा नं. 16/20, 33 वर्ग गज सरूप नगर एकपट्टेशन समग्रपुर दिल्ली के ओरिजनल कागजात गुम हो गए हैं। किसी ने उनका दुरुपयोग किया खरीदो बेचा तो स्वयं जिम्मेदार होंगे। मिलने पर कॉल करें 8512022716

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby notified that my client Sh. Ramesh Kumar Batra S/o Sh. Fateh Chand Batra and his wife Smt. Indu Batra both R/O A2020, 1st Floor, Model Town, Delhi-9 have two sons (Varun Batra & Kshitiz Batra) besides their daughter in law namely Ms. Chandra & Ms. Gunjan. My clients have disclosed their Son Varun Batra and his wife Ms. Chandra from all their moveable and immovable properties due to their continuous misbehavior and disobedience. My clients heretofore have no connection or concern with their above named Son Varun Batra and his wife Ms. Chandra. They and their legal heirs will also have no connection or concern or any right in the moveable and immovable property of my clients.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform public at large that my Clients namely Sh. Shyam Babu S/O Late Sh. Sunehar Lal and Smt. Ram Wali who Sh. Shyam Babu both R/o H. No. 4&5, Gali No. 5, Near Som Bazar Road Mukandpur Part-II, Delhi-110042 have disclosed their son Namely Chamander D Vind and his wife namely Smt. Sita from their moveable and immovable properties and severed all the relations from them as they have become disobedient and out of their control and they have joined laid society, any person deals with her, he shall do the same on his own risk and responsibility.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform public at large that my Clients namely Sh. Shyam Babu S/O Late Sh. Sunehar Lal and Smt. Ram Wali who Sh. Shyam Babu both R/o H. No. 4&5, Gali No. 5, Near Som Bazar Road Mukandpur Part-II, Delhi-110042 have disclosed their son Namely Chamander D Vind and his wife namely Smt. Sita from their moveable and immovable properties and severed all the relations from them as they have become disobedient and out of their control and they have joined laid society, any person deals with her, he shall do the same on his own risk and responsibility.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for the information of general public that my client Sh. A.C. CHAWLA S/O Late Sh. J.C. CHAWLA R/O A-37A, SANIK NAGAR, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 has disclosed and debarred his elder daughter namely REEMA SETHI and her son SATINDER SETHI, her husband SH. SATINDER SETHI S/O R.N. SETHI and their daughter SOMYA SETHI, her husband HANSHI SETHI & their son NAMAN SETHI from all his moveable and immovable properties and also break all relations from them with immediate effect both because of their negligent and rude nature and loss of my client merited respect, harassment, torture, cruelty, atrocities committed by them against my client. My client Sh. A.C. CHAWLA, his son, MANISH CHAWLA, his daughter-in-law SUMITA, CHAWLA, and his grandson DEV CHAWLA have no relation with REEMA SETHI and her husband and children.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for the information of general public that my client Sh. A.C. CHAWLA S/O Late Sh. J.C. CHAWLA R/O A-37A, SANIK NAGAR, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 has disclosed and debarred his elder daughter namely REEMA SETHI and her son SATINDER SETHI, her husband SH. SATINDER SETHI S/O R.N. SETHI and their daughter SOMYA SETHI, her husband HANSHI SETHI & their son NAMAN SETHI from all his moveable and immovable properties and also break all relations from them with immediate effect both because of their negligent and rude nature and loss of my client merited respect, harassment, torture, cruelty, atrocities committed by them against my client. My client Sh. A.C. CHAWLA, his son, MANISH CHAWLA, his daughter-in-law SUMITA, CHAWLA, and his grandson DEV CHAWLA have no relation with REEMA SETHI and her husband and children.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, NEELAM NARANG wife of Sh. Kishan Narang, residing of D-13/6, Model Town, Delhi, am the owner and in possession of Property No.6, Block No.D-13, Model Town, Delhi. The Previous original two separate Sale Deeds dated 26.05.1953 & 19.11.1959 respectively and one original WILL executed on 11.08.1956 pertaining to above said property has been lost/ misplaced and not traceable till date against which the Complaint has been lodged vide LR No.85263/2020 on 28.10.2020. If any body found, the same may be submitted or contact to me.

NEELAM NARANG
9981005003

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform public at large that my Clients namely Sh. Shyam Babu S/O Late Sh. Sunehar Lal and Smt. Ram Wali who Sh. Shyam Babu both R/o H. No. 4&5, Gali No. 5, Near Som Bazar Road Mukandpur Part-II, Delhi-110042 have disclosed their son Namely Chamander D Vind and his wife namely Smt. Sita from their moveable and immovable properties and severed all the relations from them as they have become disobedient and out of their control and they have joined laid society, any person deals with her, he shall do the same on his own risk and responsibility.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to public that my client Sh. Arjun Singh and his wife Smt. Sunita Devi R/o H.No.-1056, Street No.15, Near Samuday Bhawan, Mandoli Extn., North East Delhi, Delhi-110093, have severed all relations and debarred their son namely Yogennder, his wife Sunita and their legal heirs, from their all moveable-immovable properties for their misconduct. My clients shall not be liable/responsible for any acts of their son and daughter-in-law.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for the information of general public that my client Sh. A.C. CHAWLA S/O Late Sh. J.C. CHAWLA R/O A-37A, SANIK NAGAR, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 has disclosed and debarred his elder daughter namely REEMA SETHI and her son SATINDER SETHI, her husband SH. SATINDER SETHI S/O R.N. SETHI and their daughter SOMYA SETHI, her husband HANSHI SETHI & their son NAMAN SETHI from all his moveable and immovable properties and also break all relations from them with immediate effect both because of their negligent and rude nature and loss of my client merited respect, harassment, torture, cruelty, atrocities committed by them against my client. My client Sh. A.C. CHAWLA, his son, MANISH CHAWLA, his daughter-in-law SUMITA, CHAWLA, and his grandson DEV CHAWLA have no relation with REEMA SETHI and her husband and children.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk and responsibility thereto. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that the property situated at Second Floor without roofrights rights of the property bearing No.-A, area measuring 153.23 Sq.yards, or 12123 Sq. Mtrs, Mahuva Nagar, New Delhi is owned by my client (Sh. Vinod Kumar & Smt. Meena by virtue of Sale Deed duly registered vide Regd. No. 4848, dated 2-12-2020 having purchased from Sh. Parmod Jain alias Shri Parmod Kumar Jain S/o Sh. Khajanchi Lal.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that any person or entity firm / company, Bank, HUF / Member of HUF, Financial institution having claim any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of documents mentioned above are genuine and / or objectionable to them of Her / (She / they may lodge / notify the same to the undersigned with documentary / proof / court judgment within 15 days from the day of publication, failing which in the future, they are restrained to make any claim of my client(s) Sh. Vinod Kumar & Smt. Meena shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrances, flaw and Impediment.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the public at large that My clients Yuvdhir Singh Yadav, son of Late Sh. Gaur Singh Yadav and his wife Smt. Archana Yadav, both resident of WZ-249, Madpur Village, New Delhi-110085 have disclosed their son Shri Akshansh Yadav and his family members namely Smt. Suresha Yadav (w/o) and their daughter presently residing at WZ-249, First Floor, Shri Madpur Village, New Delhi-110085 from their all moveable and immovable assets and severed all relations with them due to their desecrated, quarrelsome, abusive, physical and mental cruelties and unfaithful behavior towards my clients. My clients shall have no relations with them in future. They are restrained to make any claim of my client(s) Sh. Vinod Kumar & Smt. Meena shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrances, flaw and Impediment.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHAMBER NO. 43A, CIVIL WING, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
This Notice is hereby given to General public that Mrs. Beena to be owner and in possession of Upper Ground Floor (without roof rights) "said roof" Part of Property Bearing Municipal No.-L-18, (Old No.8), area measuring 63.3 Sq. Yards, situated at Shastri Nagar, New Delhi, by virtue of Sale Deed dated-18.09.2012, Doc No.106, duly Regd. SRO-4, Delhi. And now Mrs. Beena wishes to Sell aforesaid property to Sh. Hira Lal Jain & Smt. Priya Jain and Sh. Hira Lal Jain & Smt. Priya Jain have approached to IDFC First Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. All person's having any claim regarding in respect of the said property/floor or any part, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence and the advertisement below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claim, if any, of such persons shall be deemed to have been waived and/or, abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sunil Prasad (Advocate)
For Juts NextGen Law Offices
E-60, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-I
New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concerned that Mrs. Deepika Das w/o Mr. Abhinav Das r/o 328, Sec-A, POC-C, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070 is only legal heir of Late Shri PK Bank and Late Smt. Tripti Datta. That Mrs. Deepika Das and Late Shri PK Bank who are joint owners of property No A2107, GF, Greenfield Colony, Sector 42, Faridabad, Deepika Das intends to apply for the transfer of the said property in her favour being the legal heir. Deepika Das has also agreed to sell above property to Mrs. Sunita Pabreja r/o 285, Sector 45, Faridabad - 121001 as on 22 Oct 2020. The property shall be transferred in name of Mrs. Sunita Pabreja, if anyone has/have any objection please submit his/her objection not later than 14 days to 328, Sector-A, Pocket-C, Vasant Kunj, Delhi 110070.

PUBLIC NOTICE
R. P. Singh (Advocate)
Chamber No 540-541,
Lawyers Chamber, Patla
House Court, New Delhi,
Mobile : 956844099

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to public at large that my clients Manisha Wahie W/o late Rajesh Wahie R/o 64, Janta Flat Site-2, Vikasपुरi, New Delhi-110018 do hereby disown and debar her unnamed son AnuJ Wahie from all her moveable and immovable properties with immediate effect because he is out of control of my clients.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Anybody dealing with him in any manner whatsoever will be doing so at his/her/his own cost, risk and responsibility thereto and my clients and her unnamed daughter Aditi Wahie shall be in no way responsible for any act, deed and things done by him.

Sd/-B.B.N. Deo, ADVOCATE
S.R.II, B Campus, Janakpuri, NO-58

COURT NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
In the COURT OF Mr. Shafiqul Basmata Tandon, Admn. Civil Judge-Cum-Addl. Rent Controller, (Central), Room No. 323, 1st Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi.
Petition No. 5C/312020
MR.WAHD ALI KHAN VS. THE STATE & ORS
Mr.Wahid Ali Khan, S/o Late Mr.Amjad Ali Khan, S/o Late, Bagh Diwar, Fatehpuri, Chanderi Chowk, Delhi-110056
Petitioner
FOR SUCCESSION
CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT, 1925.
To, All Concerned
Whereas in the above noted petition the petitioner has been applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs. 500,000/- (Five Lacs) standing in the name of Late Mst Zubeda Begum deceased.
Whereas the 16-12-2020 at

CROSSWORD 4262



ACROSS


1 All being well, it should be empty (8)
5 and 11 Across: Harsh and fleeting reigns? (4,3,4,5)
9 Pulls back the grass (5)
10 Inspires ten others perhaps (7)
11 See 5 Across
13 Gave encores naturally (6)
14 Figure it's all round (6)
17 Fighting man audibly the worse for shouting (5,7)
20 It's essential to reform a cad and a liar (7)
21 A bad time to sell wild plums (5)
22 Thread of the story (4)
23 A way to show the emblem of the Turks (8)

DOWN

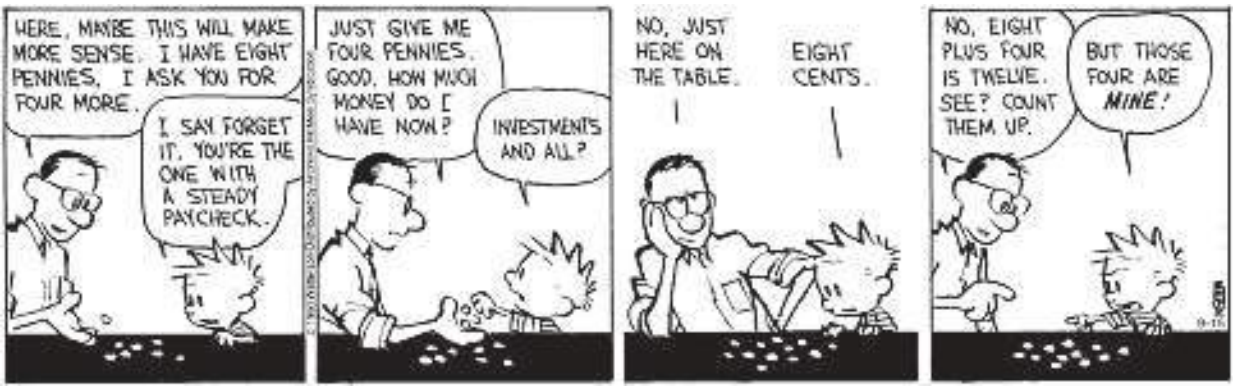
1 It may be played on the lawn in summer (4)
2 Dam loyal (7)
3 Lack of interest in contrast (12)
4 Reluctant as ever perhaps (6)
6 Leading lady of the year? (5)
7 Diana's bloomer will result in catastrophe (8)
8 Qualified comdealers? (12)
12 Hothead greatly put out by state of apathy (8)
15 Finish off the job? (7)
16 A wave that makes a wave (6)
18 Yet it may be quite a pedestrian cause (5)
19 Notice in awkward situation (4)

Solutions Crossword 4261: Across: 1 Panoplied, 8 Igloo, 9 Tropics, 10 Tinsel, 11 Reason, 12 Sergeant, 15 Nota bene, 18 Lead on, 20 Supple, 21 October, 22 Opera, 23 Dissenter. Down: 2 Agree, 3 Oppose, 4 Licensee, 5 Dining, 6 All-star, 7 Pollution, 11 Round shot, 13 Re-elects, 14 Stapher, 16 Ballad, 17 Raccoon, 19 Obese.

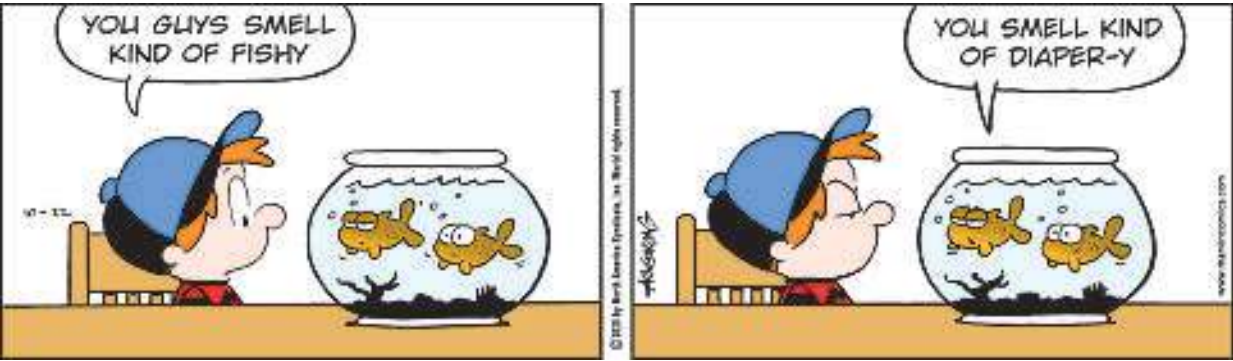
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Love is not to be _____, and affection has no _____, Jerome (9,...,5)

DAER

AORCCD

NIRSU

ISUHPP

SOLUTION: FARED, RUINS, ACCORD, UPSIDE

Answer: Love is not to be purchased, and affection has no price. - Jerome

SUDOKU 4277

Difficulty Level 2s


Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius


SOLUTION SUDOKU 4276



DAY TODAY


BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)




You should spare yourself some time for quiet contemplation. Reflection on your past, present and future will be vital if you are to get a current partnership into perspective. And don't worry if a partner is behaving out of character. It should pass in time.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)




Let's face it, you're not inclined to compromise if you're not in the wrong. You can be courteous, sensitive and willing to help some of the time, but sometimes other people have to recognise that they can't sit on you without facing the consequences! Mind you, you do need to consider other people's feelings.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)




The most positive area of your life should be work, even though there is a serious danger of emotional explosions. You may also be inclined to worry about your physical fitness and energy levels, in which case you should seek reassurance and get the best advice.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)




A series of planets places the spotlight clearly on passion, adventure and romance. The conclusion seems to be fairly clear: everything that happens will be reflected through your deep-seated desire for emotional ecstasy. That's the theory. The real outcome might be different.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)




It's difficult to see whether you will be vowing to leave home, evict a partner or merely spend your time shifting the furniture around. One way or another, you should indulge the pressure for emotional change. And confide in the people who understand you.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)




You may devote whatever spare time you have to making sure that, even if a partnership is coming to an end, at least you have your memories. On a purely material level, you may allow financial and business plans to drift, unless you're facing an immovable deadline.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct 23)




Your daily stars indicate the need to get on with work, but your weekly and monthly cycles reveal that this may be well-nigh impossible. Life, as usual, is complicated. Your colleagues, partners and loved ones are all likely to create an emergency which throws you off course.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)




One of your major strengths is your ability to stick to a particular course of action. Some people call it stubbornness but, at the moment, it's what you need if you're to achieve your romantic goal. And if other people laugh at your dreams, that's their problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)




You are bound to be irritated by a close friend or relation, whether you get what you want or not. You'll be troubled by the thought that the grass is greener on the other side, convinced that a partner is having an easy ride. But the truth is that you might have got the best of a deal. Be a bit more tolerant.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)




You may take decisions and hold discussions. It's important to have an exchange of views, because there's a slim chance that a little intelligent dialogue could help break through the day's general emotional turmoil. All you have to do is make the effort.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)



You must know that you are secure, and in this knowledge you can afford to take a few risks here and there. At work the positive angle is provided by the possibility that old wounds may now be healed. Build bridges, mend fences, and make the world a better place.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



Your talent for survival is based on your ability to swim in and out of difficult situations before partners even notice you've arrived, or left. This is one of those moments when you can, if you wish, make yourself invisible. Mind you, don't take chances.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-42
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.3 /2020-2021/SDO /Dt. 27.10.2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Item Rate tender through online only will be received upto 30.11.2020, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Chennai for One Bridge work Sanctioned in G.O. (Ms.) No.80 / Highways and Minor Ports (HP1) Department, dated 18.06.2020 in respect of Cuddalore (H) Projects Division under Announcement made by Hon'ble Chief Minister during Budget Demand (2017-2018).

Details of Name of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 30.10.2020 onwards in the Government website <https://tntenders.gov.in> If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc. to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER(H)
PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-42
DIPR/4018/TENDER/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
TRICHY (H) NABARD AND RURAL ROADS, CIRCLE
TENDER NOTICE (Online only)
Tender Notice No.20/2020-21/ SDO /Dated:27.10.2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu Percentage Tender (Two Cover System) will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle, Trichy for one bridge work under NABARD RIDF - XXV / 2019-2020 / 40 BRIDGE WORKS loan assistance scheme and one Road work under UPGRADATION OF PANCHAYAT UNION ROADS / PANCHAYAT ROADS/ 2020-21 for PACKAGE No.21 in respect of Trichy & Nagapattinam (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division respectively upto 14.00 hours on 17.11.2020 through online only.

Details of works, approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 03.11.2020 onwards in the Government website <http://tntenders.gov.in> If any Changes / Corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H),
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, TRICHY
DIPR/4035/TENDER/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
CHENNAI KANYAKUMARI INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR PROJECT
BID NOTICE NO. OCB/CKICP/MC-3/EPC-15/01, Dated. 28.10.2020

1. The Superintending Engineer (H), PIU, CKICP for and on behalf of Governor of State of Tamil Nadu invites bids for "Upgrading of Omalur - Sankari - Tiruchengode - Paramathy Road (SH 86) from km 0/000 to Km 9/225 & Km 12/150 to Km.43+900 to Two/Four lane with paved shoulders including construction of new 4 lane with paved shoulders bypasses at Konganapuram town from Km 25/530 to Km 29/160 of 3.630 Km, Sankari town from Km 37/800 to Km 42/380 of 4.580 Km and new 2 lane with paved shoulders bypass for Tiruchengode town from Km 0+000 to Km 10+740 of 10.740 Km and maintenance of entire project stretch of 51.715 km for a period of 7 years"

2. The bid document will be available online in the website, www.tntenders.gov.in from 03.11.2020 at 16.00 hours (IST).

3. Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 17.11.2020 at 11.30 hours (IST). Kindly refer the Invitation For Bid (IFB) uploaded in www.tntenders.gov.in for further details.

4. A non-refundable fee of Rs.20,000/- (inclusive of tax) is required to be paid towards Bid Document Fee.

5. Deadline for online submission of bids: on or before 15.00 hours (IST) on 14.12.2020.

6. Online Technical Bid opening at 16.00 hours (IST) on 14.12.2020.

7. Further Addendum in this regard will be available only in e-procurement portal www.tntenders.gov.in, if any.

Superintending Engineer (H),
PIU, Chennai Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor Project
CKICP Complex, HRS Campus, 76 Sardar Patel Road, Guindy,
Chennai- 600 025. Tamil Nadu, India. Telephone No: +91 44 2235 0610
Email: sepiuckicp@gmail.com / Website: www.ckicp.tnhighways.gov.in
DIPR/4051/Tender/2020

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

No: AGRA/ELE/OP/TD/05/2020 E-Tender Notice Dated: 26.10.2020

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), North Central Railway, Agra, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender on prescribed form the details of the tenders are as under:

S. N.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate Cost (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)
1.	AGRA/ELE/OP/TD/05/2020	Mechanized washing and pressing of linen of Running Room Agra Cantt. Idgah & Mathura Jn. for Two years	₹ 38,86,660.57	₹ 77,700.00

Cost of Tender Document (in ₹): 3,540.00; Completion Period (in months): 24 Months; Date of opening of tender: 18.11.2020. Note-1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders will be available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on 16.11.2020 the due date of tender opening.

2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act -2000.

3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered.

4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body.

5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.

7. In case of any difficulty helpline available on the website of IREPS may be approached.

1149/2020 V

North Central Railways

@CPRONCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Chief Engineer /Const.-I/ Northern Railway, State Entry road, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender (Single packet) for the following work:

1	Name of work & location	Supply and maintenance of Indoor well developed Ornamental potted plants for the office complex of CAO/Const / N. Rly. & Rest House at Kashmere gate Delhi. (IInd Invitation)
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 53.63 lakh (Rupees fifty three lakh sixty three thousand only)
3	Earnest Money Amount to be deposited Online.	Rs. 1,07,300.00(Rupees One lakh seven thousand three hundred only)
4	Completion period of work	12 (twelve) Months
5	Sale/ availability of tender document on Railway website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 29.10.2020 to 19.11.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
6	Last date and time for uploading of tenders.	19.11.2020 up to 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 05.11.2020 to 19.11.2020
7	Date and time of opening of tender.	19.11.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2).

No. 51A-G-C-K.GATE-DLI Dated 28.10.2020

2369/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Chief Engineer/Const./Northern Railway Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under One- Packet System for the following work:

1.	Name of work and location	"Design and drawing of test piles, foundation (open/piles), substructure & super structure (PSC/Steel) in connection with construction of 07 nos. Road over Bridges on Jind-Panipat, Jind-Sonepat, Rohtak-Panipat and Delhi-Ambala section of Northern Railway".
2.	Completion period of works:	12 (Twelve) Months
3.	Approx. Cost of work:	Rs. 33.21 lakh
4.	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 6,66,00/- only
5.	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tenders	Tender may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs. on 19.11.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 19.11.2020
6.	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document:	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in from 29.10.2020 to 19.11.2020. Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.11.2020 to 19.11.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 476-Acs-Design & Drawing-ROBs/RUBS-CSB Dated: 28.10.2020

2363/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
VELLORE CORPORATION
Corporation Office, Vellore
TENDER NOTICE

Roc.No.6209 /2018/S1 Date : 27.10.2020

The Commissioner, Vellore Corporation invites tenders in two cover system for the following works as per the conditions laid down in the tender notice published in website <https://tntenders.gov.in>.

1.	Name of the work (Smart City Mission)	Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs	EMD Cost Rs.	Period for Completion
1	Implementation of System Integrated Command and Control Centre at Vellore Corporation under Smart Cities Mission	1025.30	10,25,300/-	12 Months
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	13.11.2020 at 11.00am at The Chamber of City Engineer Vellore Corporation.		
3.	Date and time and venue of Tender	01.12.2020 Tuesday 3.00 pm at Vellore Corporation		
4.	Date, Time and Venue of opening	01.12.2020 Tuesday 3.30pm at Vellore Corporation Office		
5.	Tender document availability and other details	Other Details can be obtained from the tender notice published in website https://tntenders.gov.in or from Vellore Corporation Office, Engineering section during working hours on working days.		

For contact : 0416 - 2220578

DIPR/4041/TENDER/2020

Commissioner, Vellore Corporation

For All Advertisement Booking

Call : 0120-6651214



SPORT

BRIEFLY

India's first match of tour to Aus on Nov 27

The Indian cricket team will get an additional Day/Night warm-up game in Sydney as a tune-up to the series-opening Pink Ball Test against Australia in Adelaide from December 17, the host board announced on Wednesday unveiling the full schedule of the 69-day engagement. The tour will include a 14-day quarantine-cum-training period in Sydney starting November 12 for the Indians who will fly in after the IPL final on November 10.

ODI SERIES: Nov 27: 1st ODI, SCG (D/N); **Nov 29:** 2nd ODI, SCG (D/N) **Dec 2:** 3rd ODI, Canberra (D/N) **T20I: Dec 4:** 1st T20, Canberra (Night); **Dec 6:** 2nd T20, SCG (Night); **Dec 8:** 3rd T20, SCG (Night) **TEST SERIES: Dec 17-21:** 1st Test, Adelaide (Day/Night); **Dec 26-30:** 2nd Test, Melbourne; **Jan 7-11:** 3rd Test, Sydney; **Jan 15-19:** 4th Test, Brisbane

CL: Real snatch a point, Atleti win

With one point from its opening two games, Real Madrid is facing another fight to preserve its proud record of qualifying for the knockout stage in all of its seasons in the Champions League. It could have been a whole lot worse for the record 13-time European champions on Tuesday, though. Heading into the 87th minute against Borussia Mönchengladbach, Madrid was losing 2-0 and on course for four straight losses in the Champions League for the first time. However, goals by Karim Benzema and then Casemiro - in the third minute of stoppage time - rescued a 2-2 draw for the Spanish champions, whose city rivals Atletico Madrid beat Salzburg 3-2 at home. Next up for Madrid is a double-header against Inter Milan, the team which was supposed to be its toughest rival in Group B but which is also still without a win. Defending champion Bayern Munich beat Lokomotiv Moscow 2-1 while Man City defeated Marseille 3-0.

NADA panel lets off junior judoka

The National Anti-Doping Agency's Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) has exonerated junior judoka Jitesh Dagar of the charge that he evaded a dope test during a selection trial last year after NADA's Dope Control Officer failed to produce any clinching evidence against him. The event in question was the open selection trial for the Asia Oceania and Junior Judo Championship held in Bhopal on June 13, 2019. Dagar was provisionally suspended on charges that he left the venue without providing his urine sample for mandatory dope testing after finishing third in the +100 kg category following a semi-final loss.

National TT camp gets underway

With focus firmly on qualifying for next year's Tokyo Olympics, the Indian table tennis players on Wednesday resumed their training after almost seven months at the national camp, which got underway at Sonapat with nine padlers. A total of 11 players and three coaches have given their consent for the 42-day-long camp which will conclude on December 9. Four-time Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Achanti Sharath Kamal and Anusha Kutumbale will be joining the camp on Thursday. Senior players G Sathiyan and Harmeet Desai are expected to join once they return from abroad, where they are competing.

PTV/AP



MS Dhoni was all spunk and bounce at the start of the season. BCCI/IPL

SANDIP G
OCTOBER 28

MS DHONI made his and Chennai Super Kings fans go through a whole gamut of emotions in this largely disappointing edition. He has been known to be inscrutable as he plots his team's progress on the field, but betrayed his emotions on several occasions this season.

SMILING START

September 19, beat MI by five wickets

Despite the pre-series turbulence — ranging from Suresh Raina's withdrawal to support staff testing positive, and truncated practice sessions, they avenged their defeat in last year's final in crushing manner. Dhoni was all spunk and bounce, as if he were youthful again. Rubbing his stubble at the presentation ceremony, he emphasised the balance of youth and experience in his side.

"What really helps youngsters in the IPL is the fact that there are lots of senior players from different countries for 60-70 days," he stressed. It was the perfect advertisement for his philosophy too: two men in their early 20s, Lungi Ngidi and Sam Curran, set the tempo with their crafty bowling before two batsmen riding their mid-30s, Ambati Rayudu and Faf du Plessis, completed the victory.

The many moods of MS Dhoni

As his empire crumbled around him, Chennai Super Kings captain hasn't always been his composed self



The first sign of muddled thinking came in the loss to RR. BCCI/IPL

RUSTY STILL!

September 22, lost to RR by 16 runs

The first sign of muddled thinking. Chasing 217, Dhoni bizarrely strode out at No 7. He struck a fluent unbeaten 29 off 17 balls, explained his rationale of coming down the order thus: "Oh! I haven't batted for a very long time, you know, and the 14-day quarantine doesn't really help. I'm slowly trying to get into the tournament." It was so unusual for Dhoni to not sense the game drifting away from him.

TIRED AND TESTED

October 2, lost to SRH by seven runs

It was the night Dhoni's body rebelled against his mind. On the hottest October

night in the Emirates, Dhoni was calmly shepherding a chase, when fatigue seized him. He sank to his knees, poured bottles of water over his head, and staggered back to his feet. For once in his sturdy career, Dhoni seemed knackered. In the end, he seemed a defeated man. A smirk replaced the smile, before he tore into the lack of professionalism that resulted in the third straight defeat of the season: "It's the professionalism - dropping catches, bowling no-balls. We're making the same mistakes again." But he remained hopeful: "We'll come back stronger."

FLYING DHONI

October 7, lost to KKR by 10 runs

He was spectacular, lunging and leaping, daring and determined. He showed his reflexes are still intact, as he flung sideways to snaffle a thick outside edge off Shivam Mavi's swipe. No win though, Dhoni himself struggling to play booming strokes. He blamed it on the batsmen's "lack of innovation," with a deadpan expression. Only that innovativeness had deserted him too.

UMPIRING THE UMPIRE

October 14, beat SRH by 20 runs

Dhoni's stone-eyed glare and waving hands intimidated umpire Paul Reiffel into changing his decision regarding a wide ball.



Dhoni's glare 'forced' Paul Reiffel to change his decision once. BCCI/IPL

Reiffel was about to signal a wide, when Dhoni's spontaneous reaction, apparently, forced a rethink. CSK were extra spirited that day and the win seemed a preface to a famous comeback. Dhoni emphasised on "processes", a buzzword during his tenure as India captain: "I think we need to think more about the process. You keep winning the games, the points table will take care of itself. No point looking at the table, but we'll still look at what we can improve. What's important is to not brush anything under the carpet just because you've won the game."

WORDS THAT SPARKED

October 19, lost to RR by seven wickets

Suffering the seventh loss in 10 games, their season curtailed for all practical purpose, Dhoni let his dismay evident, and uncharacteristically pinned the blame on the youngsters. "This season, we were not really there. There were a few chances to the youngsters and maybe we didn't see the kind of spark that they could have given us to say, 'okay, push out the experienced guy and maybe make some space for the youngsters,'" he said. It seemed he was defending himself — the tirade that CSK were a team of has-beens, including himself.

He regained his fabled cool and said: "Today, the result, what it really does is give those guys whatever is left in our league stages, they will get a chance and they will

have no real pressure on them. They can go out and express themselves." In fairness, barring Sam Curran no other youngster really stood up under pressure — but the point was lost in the reality of the team's elderly hands making negligible impact.

APOCALYPSE NOW

October 23, lost to MI by 10 wickets

The symbolic end to a catastrophic campaign. CSK batted like zombies and bowled like ghosts. There was a sense of resignation in the end. Dhoni, without shedding a drop of emotion, expressed his precise feeling at that moment. "It hurts." The words rolled out of his mouth without any perceptible obstructions. Then he said most filmy of all lines: "Even when you're hurting, you try to smile and take it on the chin."



There was a sense of resignation after the 10-wicket loss to MI. BCCI/IPL

RENEWAL AND HOPE

October 25, beat RCB by eight wickets

The perfect game, the perfect pitch, the perfect riposte. Dhoni later explained the mindset: "It does hurt when you don't do well so you try to amplify certain emotions. So that the guys just don't drop the game. That can leave with 12 painful hours of the remaining time in the tournament. You have to enjoy the game no matter where you are on the table. If you are not enjoying the cricket, it can become cruel and painful."

Surya rises to the challenge

Yadav's classy innings against Royal Challengers Bangalore all but seals Mumbai Indians's spot in playoffs

SYNOPSIS

Surya's sharp reply after Bumrah thwarts RCB

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
OCTOBER 28

A SUBLIME half-century from Suryakumar Yadav (73 not out, 43 balls) helped Mumbai Indians secure a five-wicket win over Royals Challengers Bangalore in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. Chasing 165 for victory, MI got there with five balls to spare, effectively becoming the first team to reach the playoffs. With 16 points from 12 matches and a net run rate of +1.18, a top-four berth for MI is all but sealed. As for RCB, with 14 points from 12 matches, they would back themselves to qualify.

Surya's sharp reply

With Rohit Sharma still nursing a hamstring injury, MI were once again bereft of their captain. RCB had posted a challenging total and the defending champions lost the in-form Quinton de Kock early in their chase. Ishan Kishan departed close on his heels. But Yadav, like he has done on many an occasion, stood up to be counted.

The maverick of Mumbai cricket revelled in his elegance. He hit a back-foot cover drive for a four. He hit a six over cover. He swept with arrogance. He played a ramp and then lap - swept a 140kph-plus delivery from Dale Steyn for a six. He flicked a Mohammed Siraj delivery to the deep backward square-leg boundary, with the fielder barely being able to move. Yadav was displaying 360 degrees batting with a touch of sheer class, something which former West Indies fast bowler-turned-commentator Ian Bishop compared with 'an oil painting'.

In 12 matches so far this season, Yadav



Surya Kumar Yadav's unbeaten 79 helped Mumbai cross the finish line. BCCI/IPL

POINTS TABLE

Team	Matches	Won	Lost	NR	Points
MI	12	8	4	0	16
RCB	12	7	5	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

has scored 362 runs at a strike rate north of 155. Last season, he had scored 424 runs in 16 games during MI's title-winning campaign. His first-class average is 44. The 30-year-old, however, hasn't played for India in any format.

On Monday, when the Sunil Joshi-led national selection committee announced the

Indian squads for the upcoming tour of Australia, they didn't consider Yadav to be good enough. Today, in front of India captain Virat Kohli — there had been a bit of banter between the two during MI's chase — Yadav gave a befitting reply to his omission.

Bumrah thwarts RCB

Jasprit Bumrah forced the Royal Challengers Bangalore innings to go into a tailspin. After a 71-run opening partnership, RCB were looking good to post a 180-plus total, before the Mumbai Indians fast bowler intervened.

More than Bumrah's figures — an outstanding 3/14 in four overs — it was the impact he made by taking those wickets at important moments. Virat Kohli didn't have a smooth start but was playing himself in. Bumrah in his second spell — he bowled just one over inside the Powerplay — dismissed the RCB captain with a short ball. The delivery

was well directed. Kohli attempted a pull but got a top edge. Saurabh Tiwary took a smart catch moving backwards from mid-wicket.

Another bounce accounted for Shivam Dube. The left-hander went after it, but was a little late. The catch went to Suryakumar Yadav at deep mid-wicket. Two balls later, a well-set Devdutt Padikkal was gone — a back-of-a-length ball cramped the left-hander for room and the flick went to Trent Boult at long leg. It was the 17th over of the RCB innings and Bumrah had a double-wicket maiden. Before that, Kohli's wicket took him to 100 scalps in the IPL. After 11 overs, RCB were 93/1. After the 17th, they had limped to 134/5. Thanks to Bumrah, MI wrested the initiative. Kieron Pollard removing AB de Villiers with a full-toss also played a part.

On a day when RCB's batting superstars got out cheaply, Padikkal was anchoring the innings. The youngster is having a successful IPL. He doesn't have a decisive trigger movement, which in a way allows him extra time to effectively manoeuvre spin in white-ball cricket. As a left-hander, he doesn't have the grace of a Sourav Ganguly, but Padikkal has the gift of timing and the ability to pick the gaps. He punished the MI spinners. He targeted the cover region and bisected the fielders for his boundaries.

Padikkal, however, has a tendency to slow down in the middle overs, an aspect he would like to work on. His 45-ball 74 was still a very good effort.

Josh Philippe, in for Aaron Finch, too, played well for his 24-ball 33. A smart stumping from Quinton de Kock off Rahul Chahar ended his innings, but the Aussie and Padikkal ensured that RCB had an excellent Powerplay — 54/0 — after losing the toss.

BRIEF SCORES: RCB 164/6 in 20 overs (D Padikkal 74, J Philippe 33, J Bumrah 3/14) lost to MI 166/5 in 19.1 overs (S Yadav 79*, I Kishan 25; M Siraj 2/28) by 5 wickets

Playing tonight: CSK vs KKR, 7.30pm

How 'X'mas shopping' cost Coleman a shot at Tokyo gold

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28

REIGNING 100M world champion and the fastest man on the planet at the moment, Christian Coleman was handed a two-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) on Tuesday for breaching its whereabouts clause. The ban effectively rules him out of next year's Tokyo Games. The 24-year-old American sprinter was suspended provisionally in June for "whereabouts failure", including missed tests.

What was Coleman's offence?

Coleman, who is part of the Registered Testing Pool (RTP), had failed to present himself twice for sample collection and provided incorrect details on another occasion, all in 2019. As per WADA rules, an athlete can face a two-year ban if he/she commits three such violations within a period of 12 months.

Christmas shopping or intentional evasion?

The 100m specialist admitted to missing out on a dope test on December 9 last year — the third and the most crucial miss. Coleman claimed he was out for a quick Christmas shopping stint and would have reached home for the test if the officials had just given him a call. Sample-collecting officials testified before a disciplinary tribunal that they were present outside Coleman's house during the entire time allotted (7:15 pm to 8:15 pm) on December 9. Coleman had submitted shopping bills in his defence but the AIU found that the receipts showed that he had purchased 16 items from a store at 8:22 pm, seven minutes beyond the allotted time.

What did AIU's disciplinary report say?

The 22-page report, available on AIU's website, dismisses Coleman's Christmas shopping claim. It says if Coleman had arrived five minutes before the allotted time, as he had claimed, he could have not missed



Christian Coleman has been handed a two-year suspension. Reuters

the two officials waiting at the door. The shopping receipts also punctured his claims. "We see this case as involving behaviour by the athlete as very careless at best and reckless at worst," the AIU's three-member judging panel said in its report.

Who is required to file whereabouts?

Athletes who are part of the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) created by the national anti-doping agency or an international federation will have to submit details. The details of these athletes will be made available to the World Anti-Doping Agency via the ADAMS (Anti-Doping Administration and Management System) database. Athletes included in the RTP are those 'highest-priority athletes', including medal winners at major games.

What details does an athlete have to provide?

Whereabouts filings have to include the address where an athlete is living and also additional information as to where they will be while competing and training for the upcoming quarter. But the athlete is also encouraged to give details about her/his whereabouts outside the 60-minute slot.

What will the Coleman camp do now?

The sprinter's manager Emanuel Hudson said they will knock at the door of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) for a reprieve. Coleman is not expected to comment on the issue until the case is heard by CAS. "The decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal established under World Athletics Rules is unfortunate and will be immediately appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport," Hudson tweeted from the account of his HSI company.

With Coleman out, who is favourite to triumph at Tokyo?

Noah Lyles and Canadian star Andre De Grasse are two runners who have it in them to take the top spot on the podium in Coleman's absence. Lyles' 9.86s run at Shanghai last year is the second-best timing in the world this Olympic cycle, behind Coleman's mark.

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