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THE WORLD

IMRAN AIDE ADMITS TO PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN PULWAMA TERROR ATTACK [PAGE 14](#)

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY

**3 BJP workers killed in J&K militant attack****BASHAARAT MASOOD**
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29

THREE BJP members, including the district general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), were killed by suspected militants in Kulgam district on Thursday evening.

Police sources said militants opened fire at Fida Hussain Yatoo, district general secretary of the BJYM, the BJP's youth wing, and two party workers, Umar Ramzan Hajam and Umar Rashid Beig, at Y K Pora village in Kulgam, South Kashmir. While Yatoo died immediately, the other two died on the way to hospital.

"Today, at about 2020 hours, Kulgam police received information about a terror crime incident at Y K Pora, where terrorists had fired upon three BJP workers," police said in an official statement. "Preliminary investigations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**DAYS AFTER BEHEADING OF SCHOOLTEACHER**

Three killed in French church; Islamist terror attack: Macron

Guard injured in attack at French Consulate in Jeddah; man with knife held in Lyon**AURELIEN BREEDEN & ELIAN PELTIER**
PARIS, OCTOBER 29

LESS THAN two weeks after the beheading of a French schoolteacher, an assailant carrying a knife entered the towering neo-Gothic basilica in the southern city of Nice early Thursday and killed three people, further inflaming tensions in a country already on edge and leading the authorities to increase the terrorism threat level.

Officials in Nice described the attack as Islamist terrorism, and it was quickly followed by a flurry of reports of other incidents

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Notre Dame church in Nice, after the attack Thursday. Reuters

PM underlines India's support; between lines a key message**SHUBHAJIT ROY**
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

A DAY after becoming the first "non-Western country" — as a senior diplomat put it — to come out in support of French President Emmanuel Macron, New Delhi Thursday underlined its solidarity with a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself after the second set of attacks in Nice and Jeddah. "I strongly condemn the recent terrorist attacks in France, including today's heinous attack in Nice inside a church. Our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and the people of France."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Key change in Air India disinvestment: Bidders can decide debt burden level

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

INTRODUCING A key change in the Air India disinvestment process, the Government has taken a call to allow prospective bidders the flexibility to decide the level of debt they wish to take on along with the loss-laden airline.

This decision marks a shift from the exercise of combining a fixed level of debt with the carrier after the Centre froze the long-term liabilities to be bundled with the sale at Rs 23,286.50 crore while launching its second attempt to sell its stake on January 27.

The Government has also extended the last date for submission of expressions of interest from October 30 to December 14, thereby giving time for potential investors to review the

EXPLAINED Gives more flexibility

THE NEW offer means the Government will not pre-determine the level of debt that AI will carry. It gives greater flexibility to structure bids, and is a marked departure from earlier divestment attempts.

sion of expressions of interest from October 30 to December 14, thereby giving time for potential investors to review the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Recovery is 'two-speed'; stressed sectors, people need a safety net: Kotak

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE COVID-19 pandemic has brought about a deep structural change in the economy, leading to a "two-speed" recovery, where some sectors are benefitting immensely while others face enormous challenges and need sup-



Uday Kotak at the Adda

port, Uday Kotak, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), said on Thursday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Spared by Govt, Tatas got vendor word on penalty too

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 29

THE Chhattisgarh government, as reported in *The Indian Express* Thursday, decided not to deduct the Rs 200-crore penalty it had imposed on Tata Projects twice for not meeting its deadline in the

PART-2

Rs 3,057-crore rural broadband project.

Interestingly, in September 2019, two months after the stipulated 12-month deadline had passed, Tata Projects engaged a Raipur-based sub-vendor Galaxy Synergy Private Ltd (GSPL), amongst other sub-vendors, to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

To fight NCR pollution, a new body under law

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE CENTRAL government on Wednesday notified an Ordinance to constitute a Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region (NCR) and

Adjoining Areas.

The Commission, which will monitor and check air pollution levels in the region, will supersede all existing bodies, including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), as well as state governments in matters of air pollution mitigation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**MARUTI SUZUKI****NEXA****NEXA**
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WEB EXCLUSIVE



ASSAM'S CENTURY-OLD LITERARY BODY TURNS A NEW PAGE, WILL DIGITISE ARCHIVE

From the first Assamese language magazine to an ancient treatise on elephantology—publications of yore, some handwritten, some tattered and torn, some considered lost, will soon find a home online, courtesy a mammoth digitising project undertaken by Assam's oldest literary and cultural body, the Asam Sahitya Sabha.

EXPLAINED



WHY ARE NURSES AT HIGHER COVID RISK?

Frequent, close contact with patients leads to extended exposure

FULL COVERAGE



WOMAN BEHEADED IN NICE

Stabbing at French consulate in Saudi Arabia

EXPRESS AUDIO

Any Indian can now buy land in J&K, but what does it mean for the region?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

We discuss the amendments made by the Centre to J&K's land laws.

FROM PAGE ONE

PM support

India stands with France in the fight against terrorism," the PM tweeted.

Indian officials were assessing the threat perception with security officials from the French embassy Thursday evening along with the four French consulates in Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata and Pondicherry. Security for these missions and staff will be beefed up after this assessment, sources said, adding that the French foreign ministry has issued an advisory calling French citizens abroad to be vigilant amid an increased risk of terrorist attacks.

In the shadow of the attacks, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla reached Paris Thursday on a scheduled visit and met Macron's diplomatic advisor Emmanuel Bonne.

Speaking at the Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI) in Paris, Shringla said: "India and France face similar non-traditional security threats in the form of radicalism and terrorism... The fight today is not against specific communities or individuals but against a radical politico-religious ideology that attempts to negate the progress made by secular democracies, particularly when it involves the equality of all citizens, regardless of religion or ethnicity, and the rights of women... Such forces seek to destabilize pluralist societies," he said.

"It was horrifying to hear about the two recent terrorist incidents in France, one of which, as is very often the case, had its origins in our western neighbourhood – Pakistan. The civilised world needs to act together and act with firmness to address this threat to our cherished democratic value systems," he said.

So far, according to French officials, only EU countries and Canada had supported Macron, even as Turkey and Pakistan led the attack against Macron. Diplomats point out that even the US, the UK or Australia have not spoken out in Macron's support so far. In this context, Paris saw New Delhi's reaction as "very meaningful."

India had Wednesday come out in support of Macron, whom Pakistan and Turkey have targeted for insulting the Islamic faith in the name of defending the French people's right to freedom of expression.

South Block sources said there was a lot of deliberation within before the statement which had four key elements.

First, was the condemnation of the attack against Macron. "We

strongly deplore the personal attacks in unacceptable language on President Emmanuel Macron in violation of the most basic standards of international discourse," MEA had said.

The second element was the condemnation of the terrorist attack which echoed what Paris has done after Pulwama, Uri, Pathankot attacks in recent years, and after the 26/11 attack in the past.

The third element was the India's universal position on terrorism – "There is no justification for terrorism for any reason or under any circumstance."

The fourth element, an official said, is what has not been said – the statement did not condone the cartoons and made no reference to France's free-speech stand.

By confirming its criticism to the tragedy of the teacher's death, New Delhi, source said, is mindful of the sensitivities of not just the 170-million Indian Muslims and the wider Islamic world – where Delhi has vital stakes and close ties with Saudi Arabia or Iran or Indonesia.

NCR pollution

Through the Ordinance, the Centre has dissolved the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) for the NCR. Officials of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that the new Commission would have more powers than the EPCA – in terms of penal provisions as well as in its constitution and scope.

"We are setting up a Commission to look specifically at air pollution mitigation for the Delhi NCR and its adjoining areas. This is because for air pollution to be controlled in the region, we need to look holistically at the air shed which does not adhere to geographical boundaries. It will also facilitate more effective implementation as the permanent Commission envisages a multi-sectoral, public participatory, multi-state dynamic body for combating pollution," Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said. He added that a regulatory mechanism for stubble burning is being put into place for the first time.

Sources in the Ministry said it will now be binding on state governments to follow the directions of the Commission regarding air quality management.

"There have been some practical problems in dealing with air pollution. While we do have the CPCB, the organisation's mandate is to serve the whole country. This Commission will specifically look at the Delhi NCR and adjoining areas only. The problem with the air pollution in Delhi is that the

3 killed in knife attack at Nice church, France on high alert

— including one that involved a knife-wielding assailant outside a French consulate in Saudi Arabia – though it was not immediately clear whether the events were coordinated.

"Very clearly it is France that is attacked," President Emmanuel Macron said from Nice, calling the act an "Islamist terrorist attack" and adding that "at the same time, one of our consular sites in Jeddah was attacked."

The mayor of Nice, Christian Estrosi, told reporters that a suspect, who has not been identified, was arrested after being shot and wounded by the police. The suspect "kept repeating Allahu Akbar in front of us even though he was sedated," Estrosi said, adding this left "no doubt" about the motivation behind the attack.

"There is a woman who quite clearly was attacked with the same modus operandi as Samuel Paty," Estrosi told BFM TV, referring to the teacher who was killed, suggesting that the victim might have also been decapitated.

Prime Minister Jean Castex quickly announced that the authorities were placing France on its highest terrorism threat level, with heightened security at places of worship, and Macron said that military patrols would

be more than doubled from 3,000 troops to 7,000.

Officials across the political spectrum condemned the attack, as did French Muslim representatives.

Since the teacher's killing by a young Muslim man offended that he had shown cartoons of the Prophet in a class on free speech, the authorities have undertaken a broad crackdown against Muslim extremists in France, conducting dozens of raids, temporarily closing a major mosque and disbanding a Muslim aid group that the authorities have accused of "advocating radical Islam" and hate speech.

"If we are attacked once more it is because of the values that are ours," Macron said, including freedom of worship and freedom of expression. "We will not yield anything."

On Thursday, French officials were particularly outraged by comments made after the attack on Twitter by Mahathir Mohamad, a former Malaysian prime minister, who argued that Muslims had a right to "kill millions of French people for the massacres of the past." The French government quickly asked Twitter to suspend Mahathir's account for inciting

hatred and violence. The post was later removed.

Macron has vowed to crack down on what he called "Islamist separatism" with a range of measures aimed at countering extremism in the Muslim community, including stringent limits on home-schooling and increasing scrutiny of religious schools.

After the attack in Nice, at the city's largest church, Notre-Dame de L'Assomption, France's anti-terrorism prosecutor said that the office had opened an investigation into terrorism-related offences.

Two of the victims were killed in the church, while a third died after taking refuge in a nearby bar, the mayor said. Officials did not identify the victims, but Estrosi said one was the sacristan of the church. Church bells around France rang out on Thursday afternoon to honour the victims.

Mohammed Moussaoui, the president of the French Council of Muslim Faith, asked in a Twitter post that French Muslims cancel all festivities celebrating the birthday of the Prophet, "as a sign of mourning and solidarity with the victims and their loved ones."

At the French consulate in

the Saudi city of Jeddah, a suspect was quickly arrested after a separate knife attack that wounded a security guard, who was hospitalised.

In Sartrouville, a town northwest of Paris, a man was arrested near a church after being flagged by local residents, according to the police. The local authorities said the man's father had called the police after his son left wanting to "do the same as in Nice."

It was not immediately clear whether the other incidents were connected to the attack in Nice.

In the southern city of Avignon, a man who had threatened bystanders with a handgun was shot and killed by the police. He had a psychiatric history and was incoherent, according to AFP.

In the central city of Lyon, a man carrying a long knife was arrested at a train station, according to the local authorities. Pierre Oliver, the mayor of the Second Arrondissement in Lyon, said the police had "prevented a new tragedy." According to the newspaper Le Figaro, the man, an Afghan born in 1994, was known to French intelligence services for "radical Islamism."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

source of the pollution lies elsewhere – that is why it is important to tackle the whole region. The SPCBs also report to state governments, and therefore, there are some practical problems there that needed to be resolved," a senior MoEF official said.

The new 18-member Commission brings together the Centre, states, and other stakeholders on one collaborative platform. It will have a full-time chairperson "who is or has been Secretary to the Government of India or Chief Secretary to the Government of a state", and a representative of the Secretary of the Environment Ministry "who shall be an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary, ex officio".

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Thursday said it would take a look at the Ordinance before passing any directions on it.

J&K attack

revealed that terrorists fired upon three BJP workers at Eidgah Y K Pora, due to which they got injured. They were shifted to nearby hospital... where they were declared as brought dead," the statement said.

Police said a case has been registered. A joint team of J&K Police, Army and paramilitary forces have cordoned off the area

and started search operations.

Condemning the killings, L-G Manoj Sinha said the "perpetrators of violence are the enemies of humanity and such cowardly acts cannot be justified".

Official sources said at least nine BJP leaders and workers have been killed in militant attacks across Kashmir this year. Most of the attacks took place in South Kashmir.

Tatas

expedite work.

While subcontracting is a norm given the scale of such projects, and Tata Projects engaged sub-vendors as per the recommendation of the Chief Secretary-led State Level Implementation Committee (SLIC), what has raised eyebrows is the work order issued by Tata Projects to GSPL.

It states that the "contractor (GSPL) shall actively assist and ensure that EOT (Extension Of Timeline) is granted... without any penalty/LD (Late Deduction)," GSPL, incorporated on March 27, 2019, was in existence for just over six months when it bagged the contract from Tata Projects Ltd on September 19, 2019.

A private firm headquartered in Raipur, the scope of work of the contractor, who were essentially providing manual skilled workers, included end-to-end connectivity digging trenches, laying down the infrastructure and "testing and establishing connectivity at GP (Gram Panchayat) and Block level."

Asked to explain the penalty clause, GSPL's Director Dheeraj Dubey said: "When we joined, Tata was already delayed and had been penalised. We

were told that we had to work fast, or we would face a penalty too." He said he did not remember the clause about ensuring EOT without any penalty.

One of the many sub-contractors, GSPL, according to Dubey, was given work on 27 blocks of 85 in Chhattisgarh and their work is close to 50 per cent near completion, he said.

While Tata Projects received a conditional 12-month extension of timeline on June 7, 2019, to be reviewed after three months, the SLIC confirmed it only at its meeting on October 21, 2019.

Unable to complete the project after the expiry of the first extension on June 17, 2020, Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (ChIPS) CEO Sameer Vishnoi, following a request by Tata Projects, extended the timeline by another six months to December 2020. ChIPS is the state's nodal agency to monitor the progress of IT projects including BharatNet Phase II.

As on September 25, 2020, Tata Projects could ensure broadband-ready infrastructure in only 1,394 gram panchayats (24 per cent of the target).

When contacted, ChIPS CEO Sameer Vishnoi told *The Indian Express* that ChIPS was not aware of any such contract. "As ChIPS is not holding any such document or details of matter, so it would not be possible to comment whether it is proper or valid."

Responding to questions, a spokesperson for Tata Projects said "the promoters of the sub-contractor (which is set up as a special purpose vehicle) are long established local contractor companies with considerable relevant experience." About the particular clause in its agreement with GSPL, Tata Projects said it related to "contracted work being completed in an accelerated manner so as to ensure no punitive action arises."

Tata Projects as well as ChIPS, in a separate statement, also said the government had more than Rs 332 crore as Performance Bank Guarantee and as Additional Bank Guarantee, which could be used for penalty at the end of the project.

In the statement, ChIPS said the newspaper's report on

Thursday that the penalty levied earlier was ratified by a Chief Secretary-led committee was misleading and erroneous. "CEO Sameer Vishnoi has started formal procedure of imposing of proposed penalty of 12 per cent of the project cost on contractor M/s Tata Projects Ltd. The show cause notice to Tata Projects Ltd has already been issued on 29/8/2020 and further action is under process," it said.

The Indian Express has, however, seen the contents of the letter of ChIPS under earlier CEO KC Devasenapathi in February 2019 and the minutes of the SLIC meetings in June 2019 and October 2019 chaired by then Chief Secretary, which clearly mention that the penalty was levied and ratified. Further, those who worked on this project earlier said, that while the performance bank guarantee of Tata is with the state, it is only 10 per cent of the actual cost as opposed to 12 per cent penalty.

An officer requesting anonymity said, "TPL had been paid 100 per cent money as advance capital against the Additional Bank Guarantee. Moreover, without information to all parties involved a proportionate deduction can't be changed into a deduction at completion. The ABG and PBG are standard practices which should not be confused with penalty."

Issuing the work order to GSPL, Tata Projects described GSPL as "having expertise in delay analysis and assessment" in the specific conditions of contract.

The Raipur-based company, with a paid-up capital of Rs 8 lakh, has three directors Dubey, Dinesh Patel and KB Varsani. Varsani owns a construction and civil engineering firm that has been in existence since 2006, in which Dubey became a partner in 2020.

Dubey is one of the founders of Dee Vee Projects Ltd, an infrastructure firm incorporated in 2012 and co-owned by Vivek Ranjan Mahto, son of late BJP leader Banshilal Mahto, where Patel is also a co-director.

Even before the first penalty was levied on Tata Projects in November 2018, two out of the three firms Tata had sub-con

tracted initially had no experience and even shared a director, an official involved in the project said. "Before levying the first penalty, we had raised the issue about their sub-vendors. But since Tata Projects had complete freedom, it went ahead with those contractors, but didn't deliver as per the timeline," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Payments to Tata Projects also gained momentum in 2020. Red flags were raised internally in ChIPS about discrepancy in information on the quantum of work completed based on which funds were released.

For instance, one letter dated June 21, 2020, states work was completed in 604 villages, and another one issued on the same date states work was completed in 134 villages.

Records accessed by *The Indian Express* how that a junior officer in ChIPS had pointed this out. The officer said that the first letter was for release of funds and the second one ("was") not in alignment with the information forwarded to BBNL (Bharat Broadband Network Ltd.). Despite this, ChIPS CEO Vishnoi, signed the note-sheet without any comments or action.

Air India

new bid conditions.

On Thursday, the Centre announced that potential bidders will be allowed to place their bids on the basis of enterprise value, which accounts for both equity as well as debt of the company. "The potential bidders have been showing interest for some time so I am reasonably done following suggestions that have come from all the stakeholders in the game," Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said at a press conference.

"With passage of time and due to COVID impact, the losses have increased and hence fixing the debt at any level could have reduced the universe of bidders," he said.

In January, the Government had set March 17 as the deadline to sell its 100 per cent shareholding in Air India along with Air India's 100 per cent holding in Air India Express and 50 per cent share in Air India-SATS, a joint venture with Singapore Airport Terminal Services. However, on account of the Covid outbreak, the deadline was extended multiple times.

The significant level of debt was one of the key concerns raised by industry participants during Air India's first disinvestment attempt in 2017, when no bids were placed. The Government subsequently reduced the bundled amount in the second attempt.

Kotak

Speaking at the Express e-Adda organised by *The Indian Express*, Kotak said sectors including consumer goods, e-commerce, IT, digital, telecom, and pharmaceuticals were doing much better, while aviation, tourism, hospitality, and some general services were facing challenges.

"We are seeing a two-speed world as we go forward. What we have to be clear about is the organised sector in general is in a better position than the unorganised sector," Kotak said. Stressed sectors and people who were facing challenges should be offered financial support and safety nets, he said.

The government should use the funds that are left out of the Rs 3 lakh crore MSME lending scheme to support stressed sectors like aviation and real estate, Kotak said. Banks have sanctioned 62.52 per cent of the targeted Rs 3 lakh crore under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for stressed MSMEs as of October 5.

"This is as deep and dramatic a change as probably the industrial revolution was. It really changed the way humanity worked. It did lead to a lot of dis-

placement but also led to a lot of opportunities. At the same time, we have to find a safety net for the people who will be left out of this," Kotak said. Many people in the country will require training, re-skilling and financial support, he said.

Kotak said the "broader financial sector is in good shape" to support the recovery process that is taking hold, even though there may be pockets of pain, especially in the Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) space.

In response to questions on risk aversion among banks, he noted that even corporate borrowers were risk averse, prepaying loans and not fully using existing credit lines. Within the financial sector, he said, banks would need to utilise technology at a much bigger scale – with technology moving from being an enabler of business to something that drives business in the post-Covid era.

Kotak was in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, *The Indian Express*, and P Vaidyanathan Iyer, Executive Editor-National Affairs, *The Indian Express*.

In response to a query on strong companies gaining market share after the pandemic, Kotak argued that typically at such turning points in history, the classic Darwinian principle of "survival of the fittest" works, normally leading to "the strong becoming stronger".

However, he cautioned that "even the so-called successes better be on their toes... because the speed of disruption is going to be much faster in sector after sector."

This is also reflected in rising stock market valuations, which usually reflect the strong organised business, while many unorganised, informal, and smaller businesses that are shrinking may not be captured in the benchmark stock indices. Very low interest rates globally, and a massive injection of liquidity have led to a premium for risk assets like stocks, Kotak said.

The Express Adda is a series of informal interactions organised by The Indian Express Group, featuring 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 have been guests at the E-Adda this year, as these discussions moved online during the pandemic.

CIC, ICs

and goal of transparency and accountability that the RTI Act envisages."

Chowdhury is learnt to have argued that the CIC should have more "on-ground" domestic experience in the field of service delivery, law, science, human rights and issues that concerns the general public. And an IFS officer didn't have that experience. He pointed out that Information Commissioner Vanaja N Sarna was senior to him and fits the bill.

Chowdhury is also learnt to have said that Mahurkar's name was "skydropped" since he had not even been applied for the post of Information Commissioner and his name does not figure in the list of 355 applicants.

Referring to Mahurkar's articles, comments and social media profile, Chowdhury, sources said, argued that he was "an open supporter of the ruling political party and its ideology".

Mahurkar, a senior Deputy Editor with *India Today*, is the author of books on the Modi government and his "mantra of governance." When contacted, Mahurkar told *The Indian Express*: "Yes, I have accepted the offer letter that I got."

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N.I.T. No.	10(A)/2020-21 dated 29.10.2020
Name of work with its location	A AMC of 3 Nos. RO system with 1000 litre per hr capacity for 3 years in the S/O SSE/WRB under ADEN/E-V
Approx. Cost of work	A 1930855.24
Earnest Money	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/ICE- I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). A 38600.00
Completion period of work	A 36 Months
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 27.11.2020 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 27.11.2020.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

128-W/269/OET/20-21/WE/NIT 11(A) Dated : 29.10.2020 2390/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TOTAL CASES		HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
3,75,753				15,751	9,790
		VENTILATORS		1,239	462
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Oct 28	5,673	4,128	39	60,571	
Oct 29	5,739	4,138	27	60,124	
Total	30,952*	3,38,378	6,423	45,76,724	

*Total active cases

Health staff may be roped in for Covaxin Ph-III trials

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

HEALTHCARE WORKERS from hospitals in Delhi may soon be part of Phase III human trials of India's first indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin. Developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology (NIV) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the vaccine recently received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to conduct Phase III trials subject to certain conditions.

According to senior health department officials, Bharat Biotech has reached out to the Delhi government. Confirming the development, a statement from Health Minister Satyendar Jain's office said: "We have received the proposal and sent it to the Secretary, Health, for in-principle approval."

Senior officials said around 3,000-4,000 healthcare workers from both government and private hospitals will participate in the trials, once the proposal is approved. Senior officials from the health department said the proposal is being examined thoroughly before it gets final approval. "We need to have clarity on the entire proposal. The vaccine makers have sought permission from us before selecting participants for the trials," said a senior health official.

After completion of the first and second phase of the trial, with demonstrable safety profile and immunogenicity, a large-scale efficacy trial involving thou-



Covid testing underway at a dispensary in Darya Ganj Thursday. Amit Mehra

sands of volunteers has been planned now.

On October 2, the vaccine maker had applied to the DCGI seeking permission to conduct the phase III randomised double-blind placebo-controlled multicentre trial of its Covid-19 vaccine.

Like previous phases, in the third phase, half the volunteers would receive a placebo and the remaining half would be administered Covaxin. It will cover around 28,500 subjects, aged 18 years and above, and will be conducted in 21 sites across 10 states, including Delhi, Mumbai, Patna and Lucknow.

IMS & SUM Hospital is among 21 medical institutes selected across the country by ICMR where the third phase trials would be conducted. Recently, Dr E Venkata Rao, Principal Investigator and Professor in the department of Community

Medicine at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, had said healthcare workers would be recruited for the trial.

Volunteers would be followed up over a considerable period of time to look at the efficacy of the vaccine in preventing development of Covid-19. Anyone above the age of 18 years can participate in the human trials.

DCGI had given permission to Bharat Biotech to conduct phase 1 and 2 clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccine in July. According to experts, the vaccine may be ready by June 2021.

Other vaccine candidates are those of Zydyus Cadila, which is close to completing Phase II trials of ZyCoV-D, and Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute, which will soon begin phase II and III trials of Sputnik V in collaboration with Dr Reddy's.

5,739 Covid cases push positivity rate close to 10%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

FOR THE second day in a row, Delhi saw over 5,000 daily cases of Covid-19 while the positivity rate — percentage of people who test positive for the disease versus those who were tested — neared 10% on Thursday.

As per the daily health bulletin, 5,739 fresh cases were reported — the highest single-day spike so far — taking the total number of infections to 3,75,753. The positivity rate touched 9.55% with 60,124 people tested in the last 24 hours. With 27 more fatalities, the death toll rose to 6,423.

With the city witnessing an uptick in the number of cases, Health Minister Satyendar Jain said the government has changed its strategy and is carrying out "aggressive tracing and testing" of people who have come in contact with positive patients.

"Entire families, close contacts of positive cases, even asymptomatic ones, are being tested. RT-PCR tests have also been scaled up," said Jain on Thursday. He also said it would be too early to say if the surge corresponded to a "third wave".

A high-level expert committee led by NITI Aayog member Dr V K Paul had suggested that Delhi may see 15,000 daily cases as a result of winter illnesses and festival season in the coming

months. On this projection, Jain said, "Figures have been projected by experts on surge in daily Covid-19 cases, but it may not reach that level. However, we want to be full prepared."

Meanwhile, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan reviewed the status of Covid-19 cases in West Bengal, Kerala and Delhi. During the meeting with senior Delhi officials, it was stated that there has been a nearly 46% increase in new cases over the past four weeks, while the positivity rate in the same period has shot up by nearly 9%.

The rising cases were attributed by the Delhi team to social gatherings during festivities, deteriorating air quality, increasing incidences of respiratory disorders, and clusters of positive cases at work places. Fatigue among frontline workers was also discussed.

"The UT (union territory) was advised to aggressively ramp up testing, increase RT-PCR tests, focus on contact tracing and effectively enforce isolation of traced contacts within the first 72 hours. It was advised to focus on containment zones and implement strict perimeter control, as per MHA guidelines. Health authorities were advised to give additional thrust to IEC practices and proactively promote wearing of masks and other Covid appropriate behaviours," a statement from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated.

COURT CLOSES DEFAMATION CASE

Mishra apologises to Jain for bribery claim

Allegations politically motivated, wrong: Kapil Mishra to court

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

BJP LEADER Kapil Mishra has tendered his unconditional apology to Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain before a Delhi court, stating that his allegations of graft against Jain following his ouster from the Aam Aadmi Party were "politically motivated and wrong".

Jain had filed a criminal defamation case against Mishra and submitted that on May 7, 2017, the latter had made a statement accusing him of giving a bribe to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on May 5. Mishra, who was a minister in the Delhi government and was removed from the cabinet a few days before he made the allegations, was summoned in the case and charges framed against him under IPC Section 500 (defamation).

Mishra Wednesday told a Special MP/MLA court, presided by Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja, that he is "ready to make the statement before the court tendering unconditional apology". "I am the accused in the present case. I state that the statements made by me against the complainant were politically motivated and wrong. I tender my unconditional apology to the complainant and the same will never be repeated. I under-



Satyendar Jain had filed the case against Mishra in 2017

take to publish the above statement on social media through my official handles," Mishra's statement to the court read.

Jain told the court that if Mishra "makes the statement before court, he shall withdraw the present complaint". "I have gone through the statement made by the accused before the court today. In view of the statement..., I do not wish to proceed with the present complaint further," Jain told the court.

After separate statements of Mishra and Jain were recorded by the court, the complaint was disposed of after it was withdrawn.

As per court documents, Jain had submitted extracts of statements made by Mishra to various newspapers, which read, "Day before yesterday, at Kejriwal's house I saw Satyendar Jain give Kejriwal Rs 2 crore in cash. I asked him 'What is this?' He (Kejriwal) refused to answer. And then he said, 'In politics,

things like this happen that can only be talked about later'."

Jain had told the court that "the accused did not stop here and further went on to maliciously link the complainant with allegations of corruption and illegitimate multi crores deals".

During arguments on framing of charges, Mishra's lawyers had argued the "statement made by the accused was in public good".

In a statement, Jain said "the unconditional apology exposes the reality that Mishra had no ground to such allegations and did that with a political purpose". "... upon interrogation, Mishra failed to provide facts supporting his claim as he was never present at CM's house. Yesterday, he submitted a written apology stating the accusations he made were politically motivated and wrong. He has tendered an unconditional public apology and assured non-repetition of the same," he said.

Woman 'raped' in ICU of private hospital in Gurgaon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, OCTOBER 29

A WOMAN was allegedly raped while undergoing treatment at the ICU of Fortis Hospital in Gurgaon, police said Thursday.

According to officials, the alleged incident is suspected to have taken place between October 21 and October 27 though it came to light only on Tuesday after the woman, who is in her 20s, confided in her father when he visited her in the ICU.

Police said the woman has been admitted to the hospital since October 21, and has been in a semi-conscious state on ventilator support.

"A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered regarding the matter under IPC Section 376 (punishment for rape). She has accused a person named Vikas of the crime, so we are questioning all those employed at the hospital with that name," said inspector Bijender

Police said they are looking for the accused. Fortis Hospital, in a statement, said that they are "extending full cooperation" to the investigation

Singh, SHO of Sushant Lok police station, where the FIR has been lodged.

"We are also scanning CCTV footage from cameras installed at the hospital but are yet to find anything suspicious. The accused has not been identified, and we have not been able to take the victim's statement since she is unfit to give one. She alerted her father to the incident through signs and by writing the name of the accused. We are investigating the matter," he said.

Fortis Hospital, in a state-

ment released Thursday, said they are "extending full cooperation" to the investigation.

"The patient came to the hospital on October 21 with severe respiratory symptoms and pulmonary tuberculosis. She was admitted to the ICU and from the second day of her admission, she has been on ventilator support. Six days after admission, the patient alleged she had been violated on the day of admission. Post her complaint, we immediately informed the police.

"Fortis has been fully cooperating with investigating authorities. The entire CCTV footage and all other relevant information were shared with police. We understand that police is questioning two persons, who are outsourced non-medical staff. As per established protocol, they were hired after requisite verification. We have a zero tolerance policy against such situations and are committed to ensure that justice prevails," said the statement.

Sisodia claims civic bodies owe Delhi govt Rs 6,000 crore

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia Thursday claimed that the BJP-led municipal corporations owe the Delhi government over Rs 6,000 crore in the form of outstanding loans.

Sisodia raised the issue with the mayors of the three civic bodies who had staged a dharna outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence earlier this week demanding release of funds for the corporations.

Sisodia also claimed that the three MCDs collectively owe Rs 2,596 crore in arrears to the Delhi Jal Board. The cash crunch has crippled the finances of the corporations, rendering them unable to pay even health workers employed with its hospitals. "From your actions, it is clear that... you are only interested in peddling lies and indulging in shameful politics...", Sisodia wrote to the mayors.

"As for the amount owed by Government of Delhi to MCDs..., as per the Fifth Delhi Finance



Manish Sisodia

Commission calculations, a total of Rs 1,965.91 crore is due until October 26, 2020, of which Rs 1,752.61 crore has been already paid... any other figure that the mayors of MCDs are demanding is fictional...", he added.

North MCD Mayor Jai Prakash, however, said the Delhi government owes the corporations Rs 13,000 crore.

"According to the recommendations of the third, fourth and fifth Delhi finance commissions, the government owes Rs 6,000 crore to North MCD alone. Instead of writing letters, the Deputy CM should clear our dues so that this issue can be solved," he added.

BRIEFLY

Court stays order for FIR

New Delhi: A Delhi court stayed an order directing the Delhi Police to register an FIR in a case in which a man suffered a gunshot injury in his eye when rioters allegedly attacked him during the Northeast Delhi riots in February this year. It said a case is already registered in Bhajanpura police station. The court directed the victim to file by November 6 his reply on the revision petition filed by the police.

Man killed for objecting to outsiders in locality

New Delhi: A 21-year-old man was allegedly killed by two men after he raised objections over outsiders visiting their locality in South Delhi's Tigris Ext. The victim, Satish Kumar, was allegedly stabbed multiple times. Police arrested accused Vivek (19). **ENS**





STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

(Rupees in Crores)

S.No	PARTICULARS	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED			
		QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 UN-AUDITED	QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 UN-AUDITED	HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 UN-AUDITED	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020 AUDITED	QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 UN-AUDITED	QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 UN-AUDITED	HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 UN-AUDITED	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020 AUDITED
1	Total income	9,508.67	7,778.53	12,628.67	29,614.43	9,607.25	7,825.16	12,726.47	29,985.88
2	Net Profit for the period before tax (before Exceptional Items)	1,249.95	1,097.85	1,329.44	3,896.32	1,260.99	1,099.33	1,338.86	3,933.71
3	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional Items)	1,249.95	1,037.74	1,329.44	4,573.69	1,260.99	1,039.22	1,338.86	4,611.08
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional Items)	953.45	874.80	1,014.76	3,633.26	963.82	883.78	1,021.60	3,859.41
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	945.11	864.59	998.08	3,601.48	948.74	879.64	1,002.01	3,641.12
6	Equity Share Capital (face value Rs. 2/- per share)	39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95	39.95
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	-	14,096.45	-	-	-	14,366.33
8	Earnings per share on net profit after tax - face value Rs. 2/- each (In Rupees)	47.73	43.80	50.80	181.91	47.98	44.25	50.95	182.15
	a) Basic	47.73	43.80	50.80	181.91	47.98	44.25	50.95	182.15
	b) Diluted								

Notes:-

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Company's website www.heromotocorp.com and also on stock exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com
- Based on the guiding principles given in Ind AS-108 on 'Operating Segments', the Company's business activity fall within a single operating segment, namely automotive segment. Accordingly, the disclosure requirements of Ind AS 108 are not applicable.
- The Company's operations and financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 have been adversely impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent lockdown announced by the Government of India. The operations have gradually resumed during the quarter with requisite precautions in place. Since the situation is continuously evolving, the impact assessed may be different from the estimates made as at the date of approval of these financial results and management will continue to monitor any material changes arising due to the impact of this pandemic on financial and operational performance of the Company and take necessary measures to address the situation.
- The above results for the quarter ended September 30, 2020 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee meeting held on October 28, 2020 and approved by Board of Directors in their meeting held on October 28, 2020

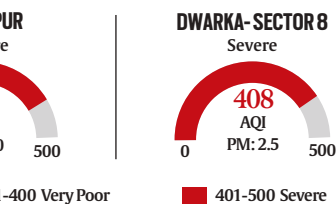
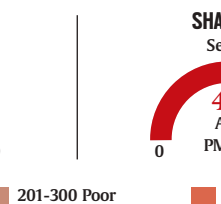
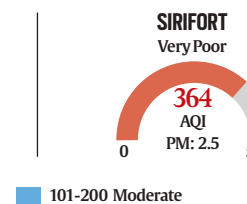
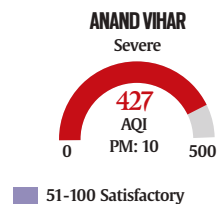
New Delhi, 28/10/2020

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For and on behalf of Board of Directors
PAWAN MUNJAL
Chairman, Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 00004223



0-50 Good



51-100 Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

201-300 Poor

301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

SITUATION LIKELY TO IMPROVE BY OCT 31

Toxic haze envelops capital as air quality plummets to severe range

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

STUBBLE BURNING, local emissions and unfavourable weather conditions pushed Delhi's overall air quality index into the severe category (AQI more than 400) for a few hours on Thursday — the first time it has entered this range this season.

The 24-hour average AQI settled at 395 in the very poor category, five points below the severe range, as per data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

A Delhi government official said, "Poor weather conditions, mainly low wind speed near the surface, started Wednesday afternoon and improved by noon Thursday. We were experiencing very low surface-level wind speed, but at the same time, wind speed in the upper levels was enough to bring pollutants from stubble burning states. Since wind speed near the surface was low, pollutants were not getting dispersed."

At 36%, pollutants emitted from stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and UP had the highest share in Delhi's air Thursday ever since the count began October 8 onwards, as per the Centre's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

Delhi chief secretary also held a meeting Thursday afternoon, officials said, in which directions were given to district magistrates, MCDs and other departments concerned to take all



At NH 24 near Anand Vihar on Thursday. AQI in Anand Vihar was recorded at 427, in the severe category. Amit Mehra

possible steps to control local emissions within the city. Officials said measures including mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads have been intensified in air pollution hotspots and across the city.

The AQI remained in the severe range between 11 am and 2 pm in at least 14-17 of 35 air quality monitoring stations. The worst affected areas as of 2 pm were Bawana (449), Jahangirpuri (439), Wazirpur

(436) and Alipur (433). Severe air quality affects healthy population and also seriously impacts those with pre-existing medical conditions, as per the CPCB.

Concentration of PM 10 and PM 2.5 peaked at 420 and 230 µg/m³ at 10 am in Delhi-NCR, nearly four times above their 24-hour exposure limit of 100 and 60 µg/m³, as per CPCB data.

The rise in stubble burning's contribution to PM 2.5 to Delhi's air was recorded a day after air

quality forecasting agencies noted close to 3,000 fire counts in Haryana, Punjab and UP.

Haryana recorded 114 fire counts Wednesday, as per data from the state pollution control board, while Punjab recorded 2,989 fire counts, as per data from the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre. So far, Haryana has recorded 4,837 fire counts since September 25 and Punjab has recorded 21,636 since September 21.

A bulletin from SAFAR Thursday said, "Increased surface wind speed and better ventilation conditions are likely to significantly improve the (air quality) situation of Delhi by October 31."

A forecast from the Ministry of Earth Science's Air Quality Early Warning System (EWS) for Delhi said the AQI is likely to remain very poor Friday and improve within the very poor category by Saturday in Delhi-NCR.

On way out, EPCA lists what remains — starting with curbing crop burning

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

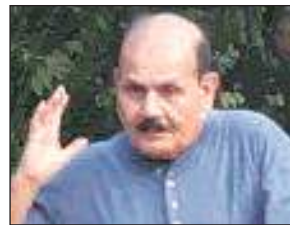
MORE THAN 22 years after it was set up on the orders of the Supreme Court, the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) has been superseded by a bigger, more powerful, and more representative body.

In a letter written to Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday, members of the outgoing EPCA listed the achievements of the authority over the years — early phase-in of BS VI emission norms, and the Graded Action Response Plan (GRAP) — and mentioned the tasks that lay ahead for the new Commission for Air Quality Management in the NCR: action on stubble burning and bio-medical waste management in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic, among others.

"In the next phase of the agenda for clean air, fourth generation reforms need to be deliberated upon and implemented. That will necessitate the massive augmentation of intra-city public transport and move industries, power plants and other users away from polluting fuels, like coal, to natural gas, electricity and renewables to ensure clean combustion," the letter said.

The two-member EPCA, which was tasked with monitoring air pollution over the National Capital Region (NCR), was chaired by retired IAS officer Bhure Lal, and included environmentalist Sunita Narain, director general of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

Set up by the central government on January 29, 1998, EPCA has played a crucial role in the drafting of the long-term Comprehensive Action Plan



EPCA was chaired by retired IAS officer Bhure Lal

(CAP) for combating air pollution, and the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), a set of emergency measures that kick in as the air quality in the NCR deteriorates.

One of EPCA's biggest achievements was the phase-wise replacement of Delhi's public transport fleet from diesel to CNG, starting in 1998. In recent times, the early rollout of the BS VI grade fuel and emission standards has been an action with far reaching impact.

After EPCA's recommendations to the Union government and Supreme Court, the country skipped the BSV stage and rolled out the BS VI fuel by April 2020. BS VI fuel is estimated to have 80% less sulphur content than BS IV — from 50 parts per million (ppm) to 10 ppm.

EPCA had also recommended building two bypasses to move traffic not destined for Delhi away from the city in 2004. These roads, now known as the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways, were commissioned in 2019, and were credited by Javadekar for preventing thousands of vehicles from entering Delhi per day.

A number of other measures, including a ban on pet coke and furnace oil in NCR states, setting up standards for sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and closure of the coal-

based Badarpur power plant in Delhi, were taken by EPCA.

Lal told *The Indian Express*, "We were satisfied with the work we did, and the government gave us space and means to do it... We share the government's concern on air pollution, and the creation of the new Commission will be a good step, which will make work happen on a big scale."

In the letter to Javadekar, EPCA has listed the work that remains to be done — and this includes action to control stubble burning.

"EPCA had endorsed the Union government's plan for management of stubble in Haryana, Punjab and UP... Report number 117 details the current steps taken and what needs to be done for in-situ and ex-situ management of crop residue. This needs to be monitored closely..."

Other pending work includes implementation of the parking policy in Delhi-NCR, augmentation of buses in Delhi, pollution control in hotspots of Delhi-NCR, and bio-medical waste management in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We believe that the Commission... with its increased participation from different Ministries and much more enhanced role and powers, will be able to make a huge difference and bring us, citizens, the much needed relief from breathing toxins," the letter said.

Over the past few years, the authority has faced criticism for failing to get its orders and recommendations implemented on the ground, especially in the case of stubble burning and use of diesel generators. Problems also arose because unlike the new Commission, EPCA did not have complete authority over states and their bodies, sources said.

Min temp in city drops to 12.5°C, lowest since 1994

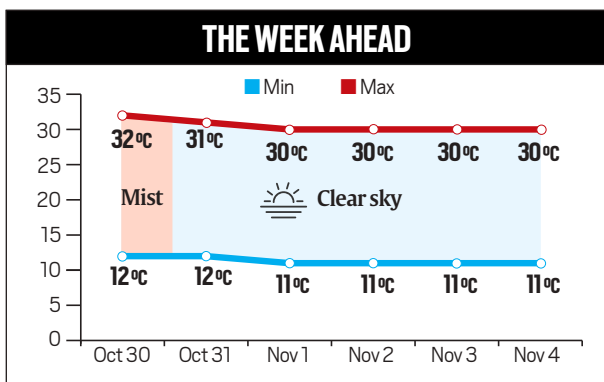
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE in the city dropped to 12.5 degrees Celsius Thursday, three degrees below normal, and the lowest for the month of October in 26 years, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The last time the minimum or night time temperature dropped below this mark at the IMD's Safdarjung observatory, which is representative of Delhi, was on October 31, 1994, when it touched 12.3 degrees Celsius.

Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the IMD's regional weather forecasting centre in Delhi, said, "The reason behind this is the absence of cloud cover over the city for most part of this month and also calm wind speed. The temperature rises during the day, and at night the heat is radiated back into the atmosphere. A cloud cover acts as a barrier at night time and increases the temperature near the earth's surface. In the absence of cloud cover, there is rapid cooling at night."

Minimum temperature in the city has remained between 13.8 and 15 degrees Celsius over



the last seven days.

Last year, the withdrawal of monsoon happened on October 10, which meant the city still had some cloud cover until around that date, Srivastava said.

This year, the withdrawal happened on September 30, as a result of which there was little or no cloud cover for most part of October, Srivastava said.

Wind speed also drops significantly after the withdrawal of monsoon. In Delhi, over the last few days, wind speed has remained below 3 kmph between 8 pm and 8 am, which is also helping reduce temperature, Srivastava said.

Maximum or day time tem-

perature also dipped to 30.9 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, but rose to 32.2 degrees Celsius on Thursday.

Srivastava said the drop in day time temperature on Wednesday was because of the haze-like conditions created due to accumulation of pollutants in the air, which impacts solar radiation and reduces temperature near the surface.

The IMD has forecast a drop in temperature in the coming days in Delhi, with minimum temperature expected to be 11-12 degrees Celsius until November 4 and maximum temperature expected to touch 30-32 degrees Celsius.

Register complaints on 'Green Delhi' app

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

DELHI CM Arvind Kejriwal Thursday launched a 'Green Delhi' mobile application for residents to help control air pollution activities in the city. The app lets people register complaints against activities such as waste burning, dust emissions from construction work, polluting vehicles and industrial pollution, among others. It is available only on Android smartphones at present but the government is trying to expand it to iOS as well, Kejriwal said.

The app was launched even as Delhi's overall air quality index (AQI) entered the 'severe' category, with a reading of 402 as of 12 pm, on Thursday.

"The Delhi government is taking several steps to control pollution in the city. In the last five years, a number of steps have been taken which have reduced air pollution by 25%," said Kejriwal. He added that 95% of industrial units in the city have made the switch to non-polluting fuels and that the government has also shut down thermal power plants in Delhi.

The application lets users up-

load videos, audio clips and photographs along with the complaints, which is then sent to the department concerned — including of the MCDs and the Central and Delhi governments. The location from where the complaint is made will also be automatically uploaded and sent to the departments.

"We have set timelines for redressal of each type of complaint. After the complaint is solved, the department concerned will also upload a photograph. If the person who made the complaint is not satisfied, they can reopen it," Kejriwal said.

Redressal of complaints made through the app will be monitored in a 'green war room' set up by the government at the Delhi Secretariat.

Later in the day, around 6 pm, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said about 228 complaints were registered on the application. He said around 21 departments, both of the Centre and Delhi government, are attached with the app and have nodal officers and coordinators for resolution of complaints.

Kejriwal said 70 'green marshals' will also be deployed to help address the complaints made through the app.

Need political will to fight pollution, says Delhi govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

LACK OF political will, not the absence of an overarching body looking at issues of air pollution, is what plagues the region's fight against bad air, the Delhi government said Thursday.

Reacting to the passage of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020, the Delhi government said it was hardly any different from existing bodies and action on the ground is more important.

"Political will is what is required to combat air pollution, which has been lacking. We don't see how the new commission is any different from existing bodies like EPCA, CBCB. What is needed is actually a body to be headed by the Union Environment Minister with representation of all state CMs. This body should meet regularly and agree on a measurable, time-bound action plan. We need to fix targets and accountability,



AQI worsens every winter in the capital. Amit Mehra

else we will keep passing the buck from one commission to the next and the result will be the same," a Delhi government spokesperson said.

Field experts, meanwhile, have cautioned against hope for immediate results as well as the dynamic that the composition of the Commission might throw up. "This is a very welcome step and much needed as the key problem was how to coordinate among these states. There was no single body, authority, min-

istry or state which was empowered or dedicated to do that. This ordinance is an excellent example of learning from what the US did in California. While the US Environment Protection Agency was an autonomous and empowered body set up to manage air pollution across the country, California posed a singular challenge as a hotspot. That's when the California Air Resource Board was set up to tackle that particular airshed," said SN Tripathi, member of the steering committee, National Clean Air Programme.

"The new Commission could bring focussed and sustained attention to air quality, and help solve inter-departmental coordination problems. But equally, without clear benchmarks of progress and ways of devising creative solutions, it could reproduce old deadlocks. The new Commission is a bureaucratic vessel. Its effects will depend on its contents and how the pot is stirred," said Navroz Dubash, Professor, Centre for Policy Research.

Water supply in South, NE Delhi to be hit

New Delhi: Water will not be supplied in parts of Delhi on Friday morning due to rise in ammonia levels in raw Yamuna water, which has affected treatment capacity of Bhagirathi and Sonia Vihar water treatment plants.

The morning supply will not be available in parts of south, east, north east and New Delhi areas, including Laxmi Nagar, Mayur Vihar, Shahdara, Dilshad Garden, Lodi Road, Okhla, Vasant Kunj, Mehrauli and Greater Kailash, a statement from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said on Thursday.

As of 7 pm, the level of ammonia in raw Yamuna water was 3 parts per million (ppm) against safe levels of 0.5 ppm, a DJB official said. Ammonia levels rose as raw water from the Upper Ganga canal has been stopped due to its annual maintenance, which otherwise helps in dilution when ammonia level rises, the official said. **ENS**

Protesters block DND over man's suicide



Hundreds gathered at the DND, Thursday. Gajendra Yadav

New Delhi: Almost a month after a 22-year-old man committed suicide, his family and members of the Gujjar community protested at the DND flyway for a few hours Thursday. Hundreds held placards that said "Justice for Aman Baisla" and raised slogans.

Delhi Police Additional PRO Anil Mittal said, "Around 1,500-2,000 people gathered at 11 am and proceeded towards Delhi to go to the police HQ. Police negoti-

ated with the protesters, who dispersed peacefully." Baisla, a businessman, allegedly committed suicide at his Rohini Sector-11 home on September 30. DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma had said, "His father Ram Niwas gave a complaint alleging a woman and two men are responsible. Baisla had put up a video on Facebook in this regard. An FIR for abetment to suicide has been filed. No arrests have been made. **ENS**

Dyal Singh college's GB chairperson, who initiated probe against principal, removed

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

DYAL SINGH (EVENING) College Governing Body (GB) chairperson Rajiv Nayan, who had initiated an enquiry against the principal and found him guilty of plagiarism, was Thursday removed from the body by Delhi University administration.

On Thursday, Nayan received a letter from the DU Joint Registrar saying, "In continuation to the letter... dated June 15, I am directed to inform you that the competent authority of the University of Delhi has withdrawn your appointment as chairperson and member on the Governing Body of Dyal Singh College with immediate effect."

Nayan alleged the decision was taken as he had publicly come out in support of suspended DU V-C Yogesh Tyagi in



The DU administration removed Governing Body chairperson Rajiv Nayan

the recent power struggle at the university, claiming that principal Pawan Sharma was backed by the anti-Tyagi camp.

Incidentally, Sharma was granted a second term as principal on October 23. A letter to Nayan from Assistant Registrar (Colleges) said, "On the basis of application submitted by Dr Pawan Kumar Sharma for the second

term as principal, Dyal Singh (Evening) College, and on recommendations of external peer review committee, Dr Sharma is granted extension for the remaining period of second term as principal... As per University rules, the second term will be for five years or till the age of 65, w.e.f. July 27, 2020, whichever will be earlier."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Nayan said the decision was "expected". "This has happened because I couldn't be part of their irregularities and corruption, and spoke in favour of Tyagi... because I took on the principal when matters of plagiarism were raised. Despite GB's objection, a plagiarist principal was given a second term," he said.

On Nayan's removal, Registrar Vikas Gupta and Director South Campus Suman Kundu asked that questions to be directed to Dean of Colleges Balaram Pani, who did not respond to repeated

calls and messages.

Principal Sharma, however, said Nayan's removal was due to other reasons: "It is because he has not given timely approval for various works. He approved rejoining of ad-hocs after four months, did not invest employees' PF and didn't approve appointments of SC/ST teachers. The university expects that chairperson will ensure smooth functioning of the college, not create problems."

Nayan dismissed the allegations. He said he was waiting for the university's approval for rejoining of ad-hocs, and added that the decision to not invest was taken by the PF committee set up by the GB. On the issue of SC/ST appointments, he said, "I had not approved it because other candidates, who had PhDs, were not selected and an MA pass was recommended. I had written to authorities to probe this."

DU to take action against appointees of suspended V-C

New Delhi: DU's Executive Council Thursday decided to initiate action against appointees of suspended V-C Yogesh Tyagi and institute a fact-finding committee to probe the events that led to administrative breakdown in the university after October 21.

In a meeting held Thursday, the Education Ministry's order issued Wednesday was tabled, which mentioned the visitatorial inquiry against the V-C. "It was decided by the EC that a fact-finding committee will be constituted and Prof Geeta Bhatt will be issued a memorandum. It was also decided that Prof P C Jha will not be given any administrative posts," said EC member Rajesh Jha.

Bhatt was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor and Jha Acting Registrar by Tyagi. They did not respond to calls and texts. **ENS**

Centre nod to Rs 10,000-cr project to strengthen dams

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE CENTRE Thursday approved a Rs 10,211-crore project—to be funded mostly via external sources—to strengthen around 700 dams across the country over a period of ten years.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

After the meeting, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat told the media: “Almost 80 per cent of these dams are over 25 years of age... a scientific approach is needed for the maintenance and operation of these dams at present.”

The major chunk of financing for the project will come from external agencies such as the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

“The share of external funding is Rs 7,000 crore of the total project cost, and balance Rs 3,211 crore is to be borne by the concerned Implementing Agencies (IAs). The contribution of Central



Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Prakash Javadekar at a press conference in New Delhi, Thursday.

Government is Rs 1,024 crore as loan liability and Rs 285 crore as counterpart funding for Central Component,” said the statement.

The “comprehensive rehabilitation of 736 existing dams” across the country will be carried out under two phases.

“The project will be implemented over a period of 10 years duration in two phases, each of six years duration with two years overlapping from April, 2021 to March, 2031,” said a statement on the Dam Rehabilitation and

Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II and Phase III. The first phase of the programme was started in 2012; 223 dams were covered under this phase.

Ethanol prices hiked

The Union Cabinet Thursday also raised ethanol procurement prices for state-owned oil marketing companies by 4.4%-6.1% depending on the raw material they use for ethanol production. Ethanol is blended with petrol to reduce carbon emissions and im-

port dependence.

The CCEA raised prices of ethanol from sugar from Rs 59.48 per litre to Rs 62.25/litre. The price of ethanol derived from ‘C’ heavy molasses was increased by Rs 1.94 to Rs 45.69 and that of ‘B’ heavy molasses was raised by Rs 3.34/litre to Rs 57.61/litre. These revised prices will apply to the supply of ethanol to public sector oil marketing companies for 2020-21 Ethanol Supply Year from Dec 2020 -Nov 2021.

“This move will benefit farmers and sugar mills” said Javadekar. Higher ethanol prices will help farmers get their arrears from sugar mills sooner, he said.

Move to boost jute demand

The CCEA decided that 100% of foodgrains and 20% of sugar produced in the country must be packed in diversified jute bags.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said: “This is a big decision to boost the demand of jute in years to come... with this guarantee of the government and with rising import duties on the imported jute, the farmers will benefit.”

India conveys concern over map in Saudi banknote

New Delhi: India has conveyed its “serious concern” to Saudi Arabia for a recently issued banknote with an “incorrect depiction of India’s external territorial boundaries”, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. The note had appeared to exclude Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from India. “The note was issued by Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority on October 24 to mark the occasion of Saudi presidency of the G20,” MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said at a briefing.

“We have conveyed our serious concern to Saudi Arabia for this gross misrepresentation...” Srivastava said.

Bill yet to get nod, TN issues order on medical quota

Chennai: With a month-long delay in the Governor giving assent to a Bill passed by the Assembly to provide 7.5 per cent reservation to government school students in MBBS admissions, the Tamil Nadu government Thursday chose to take an executive route to implement the legislation and issued an order.

After delay in clearing the Bill, unanimously passed in September, the AIADMK and DMK had been urging Governor Banwarilal Purohit for an immediate decision. On Thursday evening, the government issued an order to implement 7.5 per cent horizontal reservation within the existing reservation system.

Govt to act against officials who denied Aarogya Setu info

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology has issued directions to initiate “suitable” action against officials who had allegedly denied information about the Aarogya Setu app to a Right to Information (RTI) applicant, senior government officials said Thursday.

The Ministry has also directed the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to take appropriate action against these officials.

“We are committed to furnish all the information sought

under the RTI Act to the applicant and comply with the directions of Central Information Commission,” a ministry official said.

The action by the IT ministry comes a day after the Central Information Commission (CIC) pulled up the Ministry, NIC, and NeGD for providing an evasive reply on Aarogya Setu app.

The CIC had passed an 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 origin of proposal, approval details, companies, involved, but he was not provided the information.

NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Head Office : Plot No. C-24, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E) Mumbai 400051, Website : www.nabard.org

Financial Results (Unaudited) for half year ended September 30, 2020 (₹ crore)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Half year ended 30 September 2020 Unaudited	Half year ended 30 September 2019 Unaudited	Year ended 31 March 2020 Audited
1	Interest earned (a) + (b) + (c) + (d)	17,319.40	16,498.82	32,611.26
(a)	Interest on loans and advances	15,308.93	14,574.39	28,744.66
(b)	Income on investments	2,010.47	1,924.43	3,866.60
(c)	Interest on balances with Reserve Bank of India and other inter bank funds	0.00	0.00	0.00
(d)	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Other Income	18.28	19.10	81.04
3	Total Income (1 + 2)	17,337.68	16,517.92	32,692.30
4	Interest Expended	12,018.06	12,209.48	23,782.98
5	Operating Expenses (i) + (ii)	1,320.46	1,306.77	2,275.07
(i)	Employees cost	1,152.23	1,125.67	1,814.81
(ii)	Other operating expenses	168.23	181.10	460.26
6	Total Expenditure (4 + 5) excluding provisions and contingencies	13,338.52	13,516.26	26,058.05
7	Operating Profit before Provisions and Contingencies (3-6)	3,999.16	3,001.66	6,634.25
8	Provisions (other than tax) and Contingencies	833.85	150.43	1,399.93
9	Exceptional Items	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Profit (+)/Loss (-) from Ordinary Activities before tax (7-8-9)	3,165.31	2,851.24	5,234.32
11	Tax expenses	803.99	670.04	1,375.09
12	Net Profit (+)/Loss (-) from Ordinary Activities after tax (10-11)	2,361.32	2,181.20	3,859.23
13	Extraordinary items (net of tax expense)	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Net Profit (+) / Loss (-) for the period (12-13)	2,361.32	2,181.20	3,859.23
15	Paid-up capital	15,080.00	13,580.00	14,080.00
16	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves (as per balance sheet of previous accounting year)			34,410.99
17	Analytical Ratios			
(i)	Capital Adequacy Ratio	21.46%	21.98%	21.20%
(ii)	Earnings Per Share (EPS)	NA	NA	NA
18	NPA Ratios			
(a)	Gross NPA	1,238.30	154.23	1,236.99
(b)	Net NPA	332.25	0.00	719.88
(c)	% of Gross NPA to Gross loans & advances	0.2496	0.0376	0.2565
(d)	% of Net NPA to Net loans & advances	0.0671	0.0000	0.1494
19	Return on Assets	0.87%	0.90%	0.79%

NA = Not Applicable

Return on Assets = Net Profit (after tax) divided by total average assets

Notes:

- The financial results were taken on record by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on October 29, 2020 at Mumbai and are subjected to ‘Limited Review’ by our Statutory Auditors.
- During the half-year ended September 30, 2020 GOI contributed ₹1,000 crore towards the capital of NABARD.
- The management of the Bank assessed the impact of the COVID19 considering its internal and external inputs for ascertaining the same on the financial reporting numbers. In the opinion of the management of the Bank, such impact on the reported numbers would not be significant.
- Previous period figures have been regrouped / rearranged wherever necessary.

Place : Mumbai
Date : October 29, 2020

Govinda Rajulu Chintala
Chairman

Taking Rural India >> Forward

Serving Humanity with Humility!

A brainchild of Dr. Ajit Gupta, Park Group of Hospitals & The Signature Hospital offers affordable, super-speciality medical facilities to people from all economic backgrounds

IT IS often said that nothing great is achieved in life without a proper vision coupled with an honest effort to turn your thought into a resounding success. Something similar goes behind the success story of Park Group of Hospitals. With the vision of delivering high-quality, patient-centric healthcare services in and around Delhi, Dr. Ajit Gupta, Chairman, Park Group of Hospitals, set out on his journey of social responsibility to establish his group – Park Group of Hospitals. Founded in 1982, Park Group of Hospitals started its first, 50-bed hospital at Malviya Nagar, South Delhi. Back in 1982, Dr. Ajit Gupta envisaged his group to be a collection of medical services and facilities with a commitment towards delivering high-quality healthcare services. Given the time, it can be said that he had an ambitious vision and, consequently, he left no stone unturned to turn it into a reality.

With time and word-of-mouth publicity, the relentless efforts of Dr. Gupta spread far and wide and his services started getting acknowledged by the masses. This is reflected from the fact that the number of patients grew exponentially at his hospital. The demand for new medical facilities grew significantly and this led to the expansion of the hospital in 1984, with additional beds and multi-super specialities. In fact, the overwhelming response from people was an inspiration for Dr. Gupta to focus on establishing a chain of healthcare entities that can deliver high-end services in line with the international standards in quality and services. There has been no looking back since then.

An avid thinker with a philanthropic heart, Dr. Ajit Gupta is a pioneering healthcare professional in every sense of the word who has made Park as one of the largest healthcare service providers in Delhi NCR and Haryana with a large network of 8 hospitals along with many leading and reputed doctors in its fold. No wonder, Park Group of Hospitals has achieved phenomenal success and growth over the years under his experienced leadership.

Equipped with world-class facilities, Park Group of Hospitals has witnessed incredible growth since its inception to become one of the most recognised, advanced and comprehensive healthcare institutions in the region today. His son, Dr. Ankit Gupta, Managing Director, Park Group of Hospitals, is currently carrying forward the rich legacy of his father. Being savvy about the current trends in the Healthcare sector, Dr. Ankit Gupta believes in maintaining the great reputation of Park Group of Hospitals with his sharp business acumen for viability while sustaining the legacy of providing world-class medical services to people from all economic backgrounds.

Under his dynamic leadership, the Park Group of Hospital has experienced remarkable growth, making Park among the fastest growing chain of Super Speciality affordable hospitals in Delhi NCR and Haryana. Dr. Ankit Gupta looks after the key functions of the group, including revenue planning, corporate strategy, business development, human resources and corporate affairs. Passionate about introducing the latest technologies for enabling complex surgical interventions through various super specialities, Dr. Ankit Gupta’s visionary zeal was recognized with the ‘Future Leader of Healthcare’ Award conferred on him by the Vice-President of India.



As a doctor and business leader, how do you balance between the two roles and tackle the challenges that come with them?

I think it is a balancing act! My endeavour is to bridge the gap between the clinical and business components. To run a hospital is to run an intensely complex business, but one where the bottom line is not solely profit, and one where the stakes have a human face. Being Managing Director of a hospital means being a business leader requiring a blend of diplomacy, advocacy, business management and financial sense. In addition to being a business leader and a Managing Director, I am responsible for maintaining the overall health and effectiveness of the facilities as well as internal and external customers. To achieve that, I divide my day judiciously to personally oversee the back-end operations, data analytics, latest integrations in the system which are providing new, complex ways to deliver top-quality care at our chain of 10 NABH-accredited hospitals.

I am very passionate about Healthcare, given I was brought in the system from day one under the able guidance of my father, Dr. Ajit Gupta, Chairman, Park Group of Hospitals. I strive to understand my patient’s problems and arrive at concrete solutions with my medical expertise and knowledge. The role is very challenging because you are bestowed with a responsibility to manage and deliver a very high standard of quality care and patient safety. A compassionate and hardworking team is our backbone. We have amazing people doing amazing things and it always takes me back, no matter how difficult and consuming some



of the challenges | may be dealing with, to the fact that we are making a big difference in people’s lives and helping them through significant life events. Every day is challenging, but that is what keeps me going.

When and how did you join the group? How challenging it was for you to step into the shoes of your father, who is credited with establishing the group?

I formally joined the group after completing my studies. If you talk about the transition, it was smooth. Under the guidance of my father, I have initiated some new initiatives to take the brand of Park Group of Hospitals to newer heights, and this further motivates me to put more efforts in making Park Group of Hospitals as one of the most admired group of hospital chains across the globe.

What are some of the recent changes that you have implemented at Park Hospitals to elevate the treatment and other caregiving processes?

Currently, we are focussing on Digital transformation. We are moving towards this speedily, especially after the Government announced National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which has the potential to radically transform the healthcare system of the country. The NDHM lays out broad objectives of establishing and managing core health data in a standard-

Focussing on elevating the healthcare services to fight the pandemic efficiently, Dr. Ankit Gupta, Managing Director, Park Group of Hospitals & The Signature Hospital, says, “Being a Doctor and Managing Director are way two different things. To run a hospital is to run an intensely complex business, but one where the bottom line is not solely profit, and one where the stakes have a human face. Performing this critical balancing act is never an easy task. At Park Group of Hospitals, our focus has always been on serving the middle class by providing them with the quality treatment at affordable prices. Our group is empanelled by all Governments panels such as CGHS, ECHS, and it is recognized by all major TPAs of our country. On top of it, Park Group of Hospitals is NABH Accredited.”



ized form, and the infrastructure for its exchange along with a Health ID (HID) designed for all Indians, a personal health record (PHR) system with a federated architecture for sharing health data within the ecosystem, and a citizen Health Locker with complete individual health records shareable only with the citizen’s consent. We are currently readying ourselves for this transformation. The impact of COVID-19 pandemic has also facilitated the adoption of technology to solve major healthcare issues. So, Tele-Medicine would be one such bigger initiative, for which we are preparing by partnering with different Tele Medicine providers.

What kinds of challenges is the group experiencing during the pandemic? Do you have any separate wing for COVID-19 patients at your hospitals?

Initially, when the pandemic hit the country, private as well as government healthcare systems were not prepared to deal with it, but with the phase-wise lockdown imposed by the Government of India, we got time to prepare and allocate resources, draw strategic plans for every unit, and ensure that the screening, sanitisation and disinfection procedures were in place. Yes, all of our units have separate wings / floors for the COVID-19 patients and that actually allows us to treat the patients of other diseases safely and effectively. Every unit has different number of dedicated Beds for COVID-

19 patients. An entire wing was allocated exclusively for COVID-19 cases at our Delhi/NCR and Haryana hospitals.

How can private hospitals in India contribute more to the fight against the pandemic?

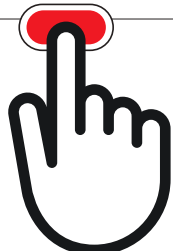
COVID-19 has triggered the fear factor. We are witnessing an advanced health system stretched beyond its capacity. The need of the hour is for hospitals to be well-equipped with extra beds, ventilators, drug supply, respiratory support and an unwavering mindset to defeat this disease. It should be our constant effort to help the general public understand what they can do well in time. At the Park hospitals, we have our best team of doctors and nurses, who, with the support of our state-of-the-art technology, have been able to help recover 500+ patients.

What are some of the measures that are in place to ensure the safety of your medical staff and doctors at your hospitals?

We are following all the Government of India mandated guidelines for the safety of our medical staff and undertaking all the precautionary measures for their safety.

What are your future plans for Park Hospitals?

We are planning to add another 1000 Beds in the next few years. Currently, our group has more than 2500 operating beds across 10 Hospitals. We are expecting to increase the number of beds by 40% in the coming years.



HASHTAG POLITICS



● AIMIM's Hyderabad vs Bihar poster

@aimim_national tweeted a poster pointing out how AIMIM representatives in Hyderabad had ensured flood relief for residents through the state government, while "lakhs of crops, life and property gets destroyed in Seemanchal, and yet the representative government extends no help."

895 Likes, 175 Retweets in 5 Hours

I HEREBY DECLARE



BRAJESH KUMAR
INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, Govindganj (Purvi Champaran)

TOTAL ASSETS

₹5.24 CRORE (WITH SPOUSE)

219% rise from 2015 (₹1.6 crore)

MOVABLE ASSETS

₹57.04 LAKH

Assets	2015	2020
Cash in hand	60,000	7 lakh
Bank balance	4.51 lakh	6.69 lakh
Stocks & bonds	NIL	NIL
Other investment	3.56 lakh	6.35 lakh
Jewellery	14.05 lakh	23 lakh
Vehicle	10 lakh	14 lakh
Other	NIL	NIL
Total	32.73 lakh	57.04 lakh

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹4.67 CRORE

Assets	2015	2020
Agri land	58 lakh	70 lakh
Non-agri land	16 lakh	52 lakh
Commercial	7.50 lakh	45 lakh
Residential	50 lakh	3 crore
Other	NIL	NIL
Total	1.31 crore	4.67 crore

LIABILITIES

₹9.48 LAKH (BANK LOANS)

CRIMINAL CASES

Three pending, including under Sections 228A (bar on disclosure of identity of the victim) and 120B (punishment for criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



BSP supremo Mayawati with RLPSP chief Upendra Kushwaha at an Oct 23 rally in Rohtas, where the latter holds influence. PTI

'THIRD FRONT'

The 10%

In a fight that increasingly seems tighter, Kushwaha-fronted GDSF of six disparate parties, from AIMIM to BSP and smaller UP fronts, could prove crucial

SANTOSH SINGH & WALIAHMAD
PATNA, KISHANGANJ, OCTOBER 29

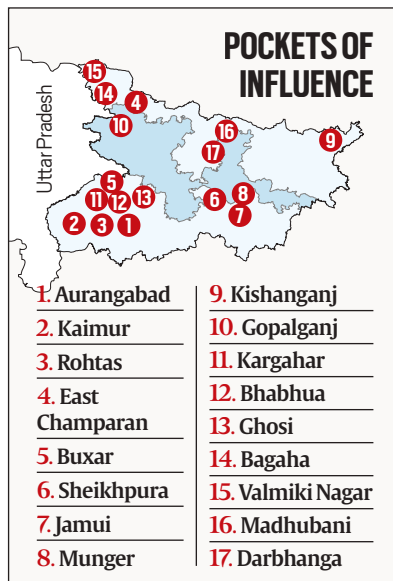
AT 60, time could be running out for Upendra Kushwaha. Once seen as Nitish Kumar's blue-eyed man, the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) chief is now being called a "spoiler" for fronting a platform of six rejects who could not find place in the two main Bihar alliances and who may in the process cut into the Opposition vote.

However, as the first phase of the Assembly polls ends, with the two legs where his chances are brighter beginning now, the Kushwaha-led and ambitiously named Grand Democratic Secular Front (GDSF) is giving it its best shot. Of the 71 seats that voted in the first phase, the six parties that make up the Front — the RLSP, AIMIM, BSP, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), former RJD MP Devendra Yadav's Samajwadi Janata Dal Democratic and Janatantrik Party (Socialist) of Uttar Pradesh — between them campaigned in 62.

The six parties are believed to have the potential to win around 10% of the votes together and may prove kingmaker if the contest is tight. In the 2015 Assembly polls, the RLSP had got over 3.6% of the votes, winning two seats, and the BSP a little over 2%, without winning any.

While the RLSP is contesting on 104 of the 243 seats, the BSP is fighting 80 and the AIMIM 20. The RLSP's pockets of influence are Aurangabad, Kaimur, Rohtas, East Champaran, Buxar, Sheikhpura, Jamui and Munger. The AIMIM could win a few seats in Seemanchal, where it is the strongest, and end up hurting not just the RJD and Congress but also the JD(U). The BSP, that has a good presence in over half-a-dozen seats in Rohtas, Kaimur and Gopalganj bordering UP, might do the same.

BSP chief Mayawati and Kushwaha have held two rallies in the BSP strongholds of Karahgar and Bhabhua. Kushwaha and Owaisi have held 18 joint election meetings. RLSP state president (campaign) Jitendra Nath said: "The crowd connect has been very good. We are asking why the RJD and NDA governments did not provide the jobs they are promising now."



Said RLSP national general secretary Rahul Kumar, "In at least 40-45 seats, we will get over 5,000 to 35,000 votes." He added that they are "definitely targeting the JD(U)", with focus on seats with sizeable Koeri-Kurmi-Dhanuk population. CM Nitish Kumar is a Kurmi.

The AIMIM, that has been long trying to carve out space in the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal area comprising Kishanganj, Purnea, Araria and Katihar districts, has got a fresh wind due to Owaisi's popularity. Last year, it had made its electoral debut in Bihar winning the bypolls to Kishanganj Assembly seat.

AIMIM Bihar chief Akhlat-ul Iman is contesting from Amour. The party also fancies its chances in Kochadhaman and Bahadurganj.

Owaisi has been promising an "alternative platform" to Bihar, saying, "The RJD-Congress alliance has failed in defeating JD(U) and BJP." His supporters say he is the only leader talking on Muslim issues, including the NRC.

Addressing a rally in Amour on Thursday before a sizeable crowd, Owaisi said he is not ruffled by charges that he splits votes, to the benefit of the BJP. He asked if he shouldn't talk of the CAA, and the crowd replied with a "no".

That charge, however, is set to grow louder with the BSP declaring on Thursday that its leaders could vote for any candidate, including the BJP, in the UP Legislative Council polls, to defeat the Samajwadi Party. Asked about this, Owaisi told *The Indian Express*, that "last I checked, they had not decided yet".

The BSP has been a presence in Bihar for some time. In the February 2005 Assembly polls, it had won six seats. In 2015, it fielded candidates in 228 seats but got none.

The Janatantrik Party (Socialist)'s Sanjay Singh Chouhan is also essentially a UP leader, with influence in Ghosi area. He fought the 2012 and 2017 Assembly polls as well as the 2014 Lok Sabha polls in UP in alliance with the BJP. In the 2019 polls, Chouhan contested unsuccessfully as a Samajwadi Party nominee from Chandauli in UP. In Bihar, the party cadre is active in Bagaha, Valmiki Nagar and Kaimur.

The SBSP of Omprakash Rajbhar, another UP leader, has held rallies in Rohtas and Kaimur where there are sizeable SC Rajbhar votes.

Devendra Yadav of the Samajwadi Janata Dal Democratic, the ex-Jharkhand RJD MP, has a vote base in Madhubani and Darbhanga.

But the leader with the most at stake remains Kushwaha, a lesser known product of the Jayaprakash Narayan and Karpoori Thakur movements who first met Nitish in 1985, when he was a youth leader of the Lok Dal. The senior leader's "method politics", meticulous file-work and even dress sense are said to have impressed Upendra deeply. It was on Nitish's suggestion that he added Kushwaha to his name, the caste identity helping bolster his political standing. Kushwahas or Koeris comprise about 7% of the state population. He was a Union minister in the first Modi government.

This time, the RJD kept him hanging, the BJP offered him no more than six seats, while several aides have left him.



GUEST APPEARANCE

BJP Gorakhpur MP and Bollywood and Bhojpuri cinema actor Ravi Kishan greets crowd before campaigning in Madhubani and Samastipur on Thursday. ANI

'Big crowds at Grand Alliance rallies in 2019 LS polls too. What happened?'

Union Minister and BJP MP from Patna Sahib **RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD** speaks to **SANTOSH SINGH** about why he believes Nitish Kumar-led NDA will return to power, asserts the BJP is clear on Chirag, and says the RJD and Congress will fall out after the polls:



What makes you confident that the Nitish-led NDA will win again?

One is the performance of the state government, and the commitment of the Prime Minister to the state — without development of Bihar, India cannot grow... From Araria to Supaul, there is absence of fear... I ask one question during my campaign. Could people have moved freely with their smartphones during Lalu's rule? Most people say that their phones would get snatched.

But does anti-incumbency make the NDA nervous?

Not the least. I am ready to acknowledge that there is some fatigue factor. But while campaigning, I see people connecting very well with us.

Tejashwi Yadav appears to be banking more on development politics than his father's plank of social justice...

With populist posturing can you disown your legacy? Why do RJD posters not carry pictures of his (Tejashwi's) father and mother, who ruled Bihar for 15 years. He is apprehensive that if he puts up their pictures, all those fears... would return to people's memory.

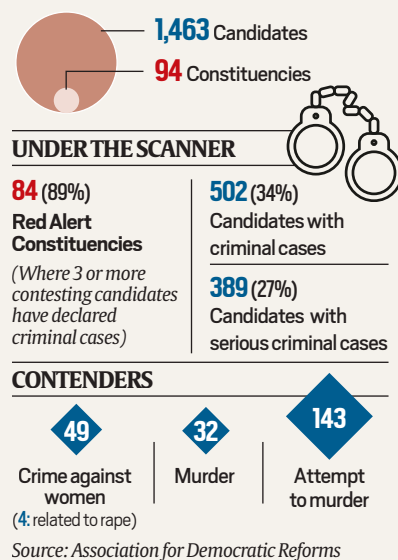
What do you make of Tejashwi's promise of 10 lakh jobs for residents of Bihar?

During 15 years of Lalu-Rabri rule, only 95,000 jobs were given. Nitish Kumar's government gave jobs to six lakh people and also appointed three lakh teachers. We have 1.5 crore Jeevika workers, and we are planning to add another crore. As we are laying optical fibres across the state, it would create more jobs.

But Tejashwi's rallies have been drawing large crowds.

There were similar crowds (for the Grand Alliance) in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls as well.

PHASE II CRIME PATROL



RACE TO THE TOP

Party	Candidates analysed
RJD	56
36 (64%)	28 (50%)
BJP	46
29 (63%)	20 (44%)
INC	24
14 (58%)	10 (42%)
LJP	52
28 (54%)	24 (46%)
BSP	33
16 (49%)	14 (42%)
JD(U)	43
20 (47%)	15 (35%)

■ Candidates with criminal cases
■ Candidates with serious criminal cases

FOR MORE LOG ON TO
INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS

● WHO'S WHERE TODAY

BJP PRESIDENT
J P NADDA
in Begusarai and Siwan

AIMIM CHIEF
ASADUDDIN OWAISI
in Bhagalpur, Benipur,
Cheria Bariarpur

EXPRESS explained.

THE CASTE COLOURS: WHAT IS 'BHURABAL'?

● POLL PITCH

NITISH KUMAR'S PATNA SPEECH; TEJASHWI YADAV'S HAJIPUR ADDRESS

When makka cheaper than bhusa: Lockdown effect on state's biggest crop

HARISH DAMODARAN

KHAGARIA, BEGUSARAI, OCTOBER 29

MAKKA HAI das rupiah aur bhusa chaudah (maize is selling for Rs 10 and wheat straw for Rs 14)," says Chandrasekhar Kumar, a 15-bigha farmer from Sapaha village in Khagaria district, summing up the situation of Bihar's most profitable, if not the biggest, crop.

Kumar grows maize on 10, wheat on 3, mustard on 1, and fodder sorgham and barley on the remaining 1 bigha for his 10 buffaloes. The 45-year-old harvested 480 quintals of maize in May-June, more than last year's 400. But the price he got from selling to a "vyapari (village-level aggregator)" was just Rs 950-Rs 1,000/quintal, as against Rs 1,700 in 2019.

Kumar is every inch a progressive farmer, as good as his counterparts in Punjab. His corn yield, at 48 quintals per bigha or 55/acre, is even

higher than 50 quintals/acre levels of farmers in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana in the US. He mainly plants hybrids of Bayer Crop Science — including one with better plant strength and more uniform cobs — and also uses the German multinational's 'Gaucho' (a seed treatment chemical) and 'Laudis' (a herbicide). In wheat, he sows DCM Shriram Ltd's 'Super 303' that gives up to 23 quintals/acre, compared to the 16-17 quintals from normal varieties.

"What's the point if the price isn't good?" asks Kumar.

That is a sentiment voiced by every maize farmer in Bihar. The feed grain is cultivated across much of the state north of the Ganga — the Kosi belt (Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Saharsa, Madhepura, Supaul, Araria, Kishanganj, Purnea and Katihar), and westwards from Begusarai, Samastipur and Darbhanga to Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Saran, Siwan, Gopalganj, East and West Champaran. All these areas vote in the



Anil Kumar says his unsold maize cobs won't fetch more than Rs 1,050 per quintal due to *keeda*. Harish Damodaran

second and third phases of the Assembly elections, on November 3 and 7.

Bihar has an estimated 14,000-15,000-tonne market for hybrid maize seeds during the rabi season, with sowing from mid-October to December and harvesting mid-April to June. At about 8 kg seeds per acre and the average rabi maize yield of 36 quintal/acre, that translates into 17.5-18.5 lakh acres and 6.5 million tonnes (mt), respectively. The value of this produce, at normal farm gate price of Rs 1,200/quintal, is well over Rs 7,500 crore.

But farmers now aren't getting even that, forget MSP of Rs 1,760/quintal declared by Modi government for the 2019-20 crop.

"Last May, my crop fetched Rs 1,800/quintal. This May, they ruled at Rs 1,000 and I sold only 11 out of my 92 quintals, thinking that prices will improve. Instead, they fell to Rs 900-950 in June-July, when I sold another 40 quintals. The balance I disposed of early this month

at Rs 1,050/quintal," says Ramashankar Yadav (65) of Rariauna village in Begusarai.

Even worse off is Anil Kumar Yadav, 55, of Tulsitol in the district. He harvested 15 tractor-trolley loads of maize cobs, each 40 quintals, in April-May. He sold the threshed grain from five of these loads in May at Rs 1,200/quintal. "I waited in vain for prices to rise, and still have 10 unsold loads, which won't fetch more than Rs 1,050 due to *keeda*," he says.

For Bihar, which produces nearly a quarter of India's maize and three-fourths of the rabi season crop, corn has been nothing short of a revolution. It was triggered by multinationals led by Cargill and Pioneer (which became DuPont Pioneer and then Corteva Agriscience). They introduced single-cross hybrid corn cultivation to India, including Bihar, in 1992-93.

Bihar's farmers were the ones who took naturally to growing maize — particularly in rabi, when mild temperatures with clear skies,

absence of flooding and low pest/disease incidence enabled yields twice that of the post-monsoon kharif season. In Kosi belt, with bigger landholdings, rabi maize is a commercial crop. Farmers spend over Rs 20,000 per acre.

The returns from these investments, however, diminished post lockdown. Almost 50% of maize demand is for poultry feed. Chicken and egg consumption is yet to recover, as restaurants haven't fully resumed operations.

"Given my yield (50 quintals/acre), I'm not losing money even at Rs 1,000/quintal. But those with lower yields will switch to wheat, whose cultivation cost is Rs 11,000-12,000 per acre," explains Chandrasekhar Kumar. His demand: Why can't the government ensure an MSP of at least Rs 1,500/quintal?

For now, nobody's promising anything. The BJP's Bihar poll manifesto has assured MSP-based procurement in pulses, but not in maize. The RJD's document barely mentions the grain.

Govt & Politics7

Telangana to assign geographical coordinates to land

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 29

THE TELANGANA government will very soon undertake a survey to allot geographical coordinates — longitudes and latitudes — to land to make them tamper proof, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao said on Thursday.

Rao, after launching Dharani portal, an integrated land record management system, at Moodu Chintalapally village in the neighbouring Medchal-Malkajgiri dis-

trict, said Telangana is the first state in the country which has been using Information Technology in a massive way to digitise land records.

“Very soon, the state government is going to issue orders so that every inch of land in Telangana will be measured digitally. Total survey of lands will be done and geographical coordinates — longitudes and latitudes — allotted to them. Once the co-ordinates are assigned, the land records will become tamper proof,” he said, addressing a pub-

lic meeting at Moodu Chintalapally. He said all public representatives need to coordinate with officials concerned to ensure that the survey is done flawlessly in their respective areas.

On the Dharani portal, Rao said, records of about 1.46 crore acres of land have been uploaded and people can access them any time with just a click.

According to him, former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao was the first reformer of land when he served as Chief Minister of (undivided) Andhra Pradesh in

the 1970s.

Later, NT Rama Rao abolished Patel/Patwari (land records officers in villages) system in the 1980s, he said. “After that no chief minister undertook any revenue reforms in the state,” the Chief Minister said.

With the help of the Dharani portal, registrations and mutations can be done at the same time with minimum human interface, he said.

Rao claimed that as far as land reforms are concerned, the portal is a trendsetter in the country.

DATA PROTECTION BILL

Google says India should avoid data localisation requirements, riles panel members

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

TECH GIANT Google on Thursday told the joint parliamentary committee on Personal Data Protection Bill that India should avoid data localisation requirements, a submission which riled some panel members, it is learnt.

Digital financial services platform Paytm too appeared before the Meenakshi Lekhi-headed panel Thursday. It is learnt that Paytm representatives were asked about the quantum of Chinese investment in the company and told that the servers on which customer data is stored should be in India.

It is learnt that Paytm vice-presidents Narendra Singh Yadav and Dharmender Jhamb told the panel that the company was of the view that the data generated in India should be parked in the country. They were candid about the 35 per cent Chinese investment, it is learnt.

Both Google and Patym were asked about the recent Google Play Store controversy, it is learnt. Google had last month removed Paytm from its Play Store, citing violations of the app store's gambling policies, but restored it hours later.

It is learnt that some committee members asked Google representatives — Director Gitanjali Duggal, head government affairs and public policy Aman Jain and Rahul Jain — about its control over mobile phone makers through the android system, pointing out that it doesn't leave any choice for the user.

But it was Google's submission that India should avoid data localisation requirements, which it said are ill-suited to protecting privacy and security, that surprised and riled some panel members, it is learnt. The submission was part of a 25-page document it circulated to the panel, it is learnt. Google representatives were confronted by some members, who asked whether the company believes India doesn't have the capacity to localise its data and cannot protect privacy and security of its citizens, it is learnt.

The Google representatives were asked whether it has taken this view specifically for India and some members reminded them that the company is adhering to the US laws and is fighting a legal battle with the European Union, it is learnt.

The panel will hear telecom operators Reliance Jio and Airtel and cab aggregators Ola and Uber from November 4 to 6.

SC asks Bombay HC to take up Varavara Rao's bail petition

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Bombay High Court to take up the bail plea of writer and activist P Varavara Rao, who is facing charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the Bhima Koregaon case.

A bench headed by Justice U U Lalit, which took up a writ petition filed by Rao's wife Pendency Hemalatha, observed that the matter raises questions regarding human rights of a prisoner.

The bench noted that the bail plea had not been listed for hearing for over a month after a judge recused. “This is bothering us,” it said.

ENS

OP Jindal University gets Institution of Eminence tag

New Delhi: The OP Jindal Global University Thursday signed an MoU with the Ministry of Education which officially recognised the varsity as an 'Institution of Eminence'. The university was selected by the UGC, along with 13 other higher education institutions, for IoE status last year. However, for official confirmation, the institution had to fulfil certain legislative and procedural requirements.

“With the conferment of the status of an 'Institution of Eminence' to JGU, we have entered into India's own 'Ivy League' equivalent of top 10 public and top 10 private institutions,” Vice-Chancellor C Raj Kumar said in a statement.

ENS



PETRONET LNG LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR MENTIONED SERVICES AT PETRONET LNG LIMITED, DAHEJ

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for following services at Petronet LNG Ltd., Dahej (Gujarat).

1. Painting of exhaust ducts, associated structures and piping of Gas Turbine Generators & Diesel Engines

2. Painting at North Jetty Area

3. Design, engineering, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of controller based open path gas detection system

4. AMC for Assistance in Maintenance Activities

Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetlng.com for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of Tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and / or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and / or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification shall be issued in press. Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated.

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FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020						
In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-						
LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY						
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
04998	Bathinda	20:50	Varanasi Junction	16:30	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04997	Varanasi Junction	21:20	Bathinda	16:50	MON	Up to 30.11.20
04612	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	Varanasi Junction	23:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04611	Varanasi Junction	06:35	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:50	TUE	Up to 01.12.20
04422	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:20	Lucknow	04:20	WED, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04421	Lucknow	21:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:45	MON, THU, SAT,	Up to 30.11.20
04924	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	16:00	THU	Up to 26.11.20
04923	Gorakhpur	22:10	Chandigarh	14:15	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04090	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:55	Bhagalpur	11:00	MON, WED, FRI	Up to 30.11.20
04089	Bhagalpur	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	TUE, THU, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
04012	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:30	Jogbani	08:30	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04011	Jogbani	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	21:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02237	Varanasi Junction	12:40	Jammu Tawi	11:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02238	Jammu Tawi	14:00	Varanasi Junction	12:30		Up to 01.12.20
02231	Lucknow	22:25	Chandigarh	10:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02232	Chandigarh	21:05	Lucknow	08:30		Up to 01.12.20
04092	New Delhi	09:20	Jaynagar	11:15	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04091	Jaynagar	15:30	New Delhi	19:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04030	Delhi Junction	13:45	Muzaffarpur Junction	08:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04029	Muzaffarpur Junction	15:30	Delhi Junction	10:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04624	Amritsar Junction	05:45	Saharsa Junction	10:30	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04623	Saharsa Junction	14:30	Amritsar Junction	19:45	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04656	Firozpur Cantt	19:00	Patna Junction	21:25	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04655	Patna Junction	23:25	Firozpur Cantt	23:55	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04084	Delhi Junction	23:00	Katihar Junction	22:00	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04083	Katihar Junction	23:50	Delhi Junction	22:50	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04401	New Delhi	23:50	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:35	MON, THU	Up to 30.11.20
04402	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	New Delhi	11:15	TUE, FRI	Up to 01.12.20
04418	H. Nizamuddin	21:35	Pune	21:25	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
04417	Pune	05:15	H. Nizamuddin	05:35	THU	Up to 26.11.20
02422	Jammu Tawi	18:10	Ajmer Junction	12:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02421	Ajmer Junction	14:05	Jammu Tawi	08:15		Up to 01.12.20
04041	Delhi Junction	22:25	Dehradun	08:25	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04042	Dehradun	21:20	Delhi Junction	07:25		Up to 01.12.20
02448	H. Nizamuddin	20:10	Manikpur Junction	08:45	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02447	Manikpur Junction	17:05	H. Nizamuddin	05:25		Up to 01.12.20
04515	Kalka	12:10	Shimla	17:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04516	Shimla	10:40	Kalka	16:10		Up to 01.12.20
04854	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	10:30	MON, THU, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04853	Varanasi Junction	17:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04864	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:45	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04863	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 01.12.20
04866	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
04865	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05115	Chhapra	11:15	Delhi Junction	11:20	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05116	Delhi Junction	14:00	Chhapra	13:20	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02581	Manduadih	22:30	New Delhi	12:15	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10		Up to 01.12.20
06229	Mysore Junction	07:20	Varanasi Junction	12:00	TUE, THU	Up to 26.11.20
06230	Varanasi Junction	21:05	Mysore Junction	02:35	THU, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
07323	Hubballi Junction	17:50	Varanasi Junction	12:00	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
07324	Varanasi Junction	21:05	Hubballi Junction	13:00	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02587	Gorakhpur	14:20	Jammu Tawi	13:10	MON	Up to 23.11.20
02588	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Gorakhpur	20:30	SAT	31.10.20 to 28.11.20
05097	Bhagalpur	23:50	Jammu Tawi	13:10	THU	29.10.20 to 26.11.20
05098	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Bhagalpur	10:15	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
05251	Darbhanga Junction	03:25	Jalandhar City	05:10	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05252	Jalandhar City	09:50	Darbhanga Junction	11:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02397	Gaya	14:15	New Delhi	04:30	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02398	New Delhi	12:10	Gaya	03:20		Up to 01.12.20
03255	Patliputra	20:35	Chandigarh	17:35	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
03256	Chandigarh	21:30	Patliputra	18:50	MON, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02355	Patna Junction	07:25	Jammu Tawi	10:37	TUE, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02356	Jammu Tawi	17:45	Patna Junction	20:55	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02595	Gorakhpur	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	MON, TUE, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02596	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:00	Gorakhpur	07:50	TUE, WED, FRI	Up to 01.12.20
02331	Howrah Junction	23:55	Jammu Tawi	13:10	TUE, FRI, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02332	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Howrah Junction	11:30	MON, THU, SUN	Up to 30.11.20
02819	Bhubaneswar	15:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:50	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02820	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:05	Bhubaneswar	12:20	TUE, FRI	Up to 01.12.20
02549	Kamakhya	10:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02550	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:45	Kamakhya	16:35		Up to 02.12.20
02530	Lucknow	05:00	Patliputra Junction	14:50	Except-SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02529	Patliputra Junction	15:50	Lucknow	02:35	Except-SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02033	Kanpur Central	06:00	New Delhi	11:20	Except-SUN	Up to 30.11.20
02034	New Delhi	15:50	Kanpur Central	20:45	Except-SUN	Up to 30.11.20
08215	Durg	09:00	Jammu Tawi	21:40	WED	Up to 25.11.20
08216	Jammu Tawi	05:00	Durg	19:10	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02458	Bikaner Junction	22:30	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	06:10	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02457	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	23:35	Bikaner Junction	07:30		Up to 30.11.20
02485	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	07:05	Jodhpur Junction	18:05	Daily	Up to 01.12.20
02486	Jodhpur Junction	11:00	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	22:10		Up to 30.11.20
09027	Bandra Terminus	12:15	Jammu Tawi	01:25	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
09028	Jammu Tawi	09:30	Bandra Terminus	22:25	MON	Up to 30.11.20
02887	Visakhapatnam	06:25	Hazrat Nizamuddin	16:45	Except-Mon, Fri	Up to 29.11.20
02888	Hazrat Nizamuddin	08:35	Visakhapatnam	18:10	Except-Sun, Wed	Up to 01.12.20
08237	Korba	11:35	Amritsar Junction	08:10	TUE, WED, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
08238	Amritsar Junction	16:10	Blaspur	12:15	THU, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04887	Rishikesh	18:05	Barmer	20:30	Daily	Up to 01.12.20
04888	Barmer	06:45	Rishikesh	10:30		Up to 30.11.20
04519	Delhi Junction	14:00	Bathinda Jn	21:15	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04520	Bathinda Jn	05:00	Delhi Junction	12:15		Up to 30.11.20
02471	Shri Ganganagar	05:55	Delhi Junction	13:35	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02472	Delhi Junction	13:05	Shri Ganganagar	20:35		Up to 30.11.20
09611	Ajmer Junction	17:55	Amritsar Junction	14:45	THU, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
09612	Amritsar Junction	14:30	Ajmer Junction	10:00	TUE, THU	Up to 01.12.20

09613	Ajmer Junction	17:55	Amritsar Junction	10:45	MON, WED	Up to 30.11.20
09614	Amritsar Junction	17:50	Ajmer Junction	10:00	FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02683	Yesvantpur Jn	23:40	Lucknow	18:40	MON	Up to 30.11.20
02684	Lucknow	18:30	Yesvantpur Jn	13:30	THU	29.10.20 to 03.12.20
02539	Yesvantpur Jn	10:50	Lucknow	08:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
02540	Lucknow	20:00	Yesvantpur Jn	16:40	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02851	Visakhapatnam	08:20	Hazrat Nizamuddin	17:10	MON, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02852	Hazrat Nizamuddin	05:50	Visakhapatnam	17:30	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
01407	Pune Junction	22:00	Lucknow	02:40	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
01408	Lucknow	06:30	Pune Junction	11:05	THU	Up to 26.11.20
02883	Durg	12:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	09:05	MON, THU, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02884	Hazrat Nizamuddin	17:25	Durg	15:10	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04404	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:35	Bhagalpur	15:00	MON, FRI	Up to 30.11.20
04403	Bhagalpur	18:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:25	TUE, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
04406	New Delhi	19:25	Barauni	15:00	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04405	Barauni	19:30	New Delhi	14:50	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04408	New Delhi	19:25	Darbhanga	17:00	MON, THU	Up to 26.11.20
04407	Darbhanga	20:45	New Delhi	17:30	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04410	New Delhi	14:55	Patna Junction	09:00	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04409	Patna Junction	12:00	New Delhi	05:00	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04412	Delhi Junction	23:00	Saharsa	19:45	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04411	Saharsa	22:05	Delhi Junction	19:20	MON, THU	Up to 30.11.20
09717	Jaipur	19:30	Daulatpur Chowk	12:15	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
09718	Daulatpur Chowk	14:05	Jaipur	06:40	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04131	Prayagraj Junction	16:20	Udhampur	13:45	TUE, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04132	Udhampur	16:05	Prayagraj Junction	13:10	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
09017	Bandra Terminus	13:05	Haridwar Junction	15:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
09018	Haridwar Junction	18:30	Bandra Terminus	22:00	THU	Up to 26.11.20
02191	Jabalpur	18:55	Haridwar Junction	14:05	WED	Up to 25.11.20
02192	Haridwar Junction	16:20	Jabalpur	11:40	THU	Up to 26.11.20
09803	Kota	14:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	14:55	SAT	From 24.10.20
09804	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:55	Kota	23:50	SUN	From 25.10.20
09805	Kota	14:30	Udhampur	12:15	WED	From 28.10.20
09806	Udhampur	14:20	Kota	11:10	THU	From 29.10.20
02183	Bhopal	19:15	Pratapgarh	09:00	TUE, FRI, SUN	From 25.10.20
02184	Pratapgarh	19:10	Bhopal	08:50	MON, WED, SAT	From 26.10.20
01449	Jabalpur	07:10	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	14:55	TUE	From 27.10.20
01450	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:55	Jabalpur	07:15	WED	From 28.10.20
04321	Bareilly	06:35	Bhuj	09:30	MON, WED, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04322	Bhuj	17:05	Bareilly	20:35	WED, FRI, SAT, SUN	Up to 02.12.20
04311	Bareilly	06:35	Bhuj	12:05	TUE, THU, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
04312	Bhuj	14:05	Bareilly	20:35	MON, TUE, THU	Up to 30.11.20

8 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



VIRUS BOOKED

UTTAR PRADESH Governor Anandiben Patel on Thursday released what she called is the "world's first scientoon book" — that is, a cartoon book on science. The book, which has detailed information on coronavirus, is, incidentally, titled 'Bye Bye Corona'. The cover image shows a hand emerging from a grave, and the epitaph on the tombstone has the words "RIP Corona", and "2019—go back Corona, 2020—bye...bye".

GUESSING GAME

WITH THE Centre having brought in an Ordinance to set up a commission to monitor air quality and mitigate air pollution in Delhi-NCR, speculation has begun on who will be appointed in the 17-member panel. While many members will belong to different ministries — such as Agriculture and Commerce and Industry — the name of the chairperson is a hot topic for discussion among bureaucrats. On whether EPCA chairman Bhure Lal, who has been involved in monitoring air pollution for nearly 20 years, would find a place in the commission, officials in the Environment Ministry were quick to point out that the age limit for chairman has been set at 70 years, thereby eliminating the octogenarian's chances.

NEW NUMBERS ON PLATE

VEHICLES USED by foreign diplomats usually carry CD on their number plate. With the government amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, diplomats from the United Nations and its agencies will now have to use 'UN' on number plates, while others from international organisations will have to write 'IoD' on their plates.

Before Gadkari, CAG flagged delay in NHAI office construction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

LONG BEFORE Union Minister Nitin Gadkari expressed his displeasure on the matter, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had been drawing flak for the delayed project of its own office building in Delhi.

In November 2019, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), in its report to Parliament, flagged that NHAI had blocked funds of around Rs 43.60 crore and paid "avoidable rent" of Rs 11.79 crore in past three years due to the delay in the construction of its office building in Dwarka. The report then said the project was five years behind the scheduled date of completion and over a decade since the release of land for the project.

Speaking at the inauguration of the eight-floor building Monday, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways said, "The project was decided in 2008. Twelve years, two governments and eight NHAI chairmen came and went before this building could be completed. I am ashamed." Gadkari, who was addressing the event virtually, said photographs of officials overseeing the project in NHAI should be hung on the walls of the building to mark the delay. "The delay by NHAI should be studied. Let there be a research paper on this. We need to reform NHAI," he said.



Nitin Gadkari

Sources in NHAI told *The Indian Express* that the project was delayed because the contractor took the matter to litigation and it went to the National Company Law Tribunal. Gadkari has been apprised of reasons for the delay in the past, sources said.

Gadkari said, "I know that if I seek a report (on the delay), it will be said in the report that the delay was on account of the contractor going to the NCLT. But there are people in NHAI with a deranged mentality, who don't take decisions and who create hurdles in decision-making."

"Whoever comes as chairman in NHAI, they use these people. Even today such people are being used as the guide and philosopher from top to bottom," he said, adding that the practice of getting projects overseen by Chief General Manager and General Manager was the reason behind the delay.

While ministry sources said that in several review meetings with NHAI, Gadkari has verbally directed that some bureaucrats who cause delays be punished, NHAI sources said there is so far no proposal for disciplinary action against any official.

EC shunts out Munger SP, DM; protests continue over death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, OCTOBER 29

ON A day the Election Commission of India shifted out Munger District Magistrate Rajesh Meena and Superintendent of Police Lipi Singh over the October 26 violence in which one person was killed and over three dozen people were injured during a Durga procession, fresh protests broke out in the town on Thursday.

Manavjit Singh Dhillion has been named the new Munger SP and Rachna Patil the new DM.

The crowd, shouting slogans against Singh, torched two police vehicles and ransacked the Mufassil police station in town. A policeman was injured while trying to control the mob.

Prohibitory orders have been imposed under Section 144 of the CrP.

Meanwhile, the EC has ordered a probe into the Munger incidents by Magadh



The crowd torched two police vehicles and ransacked the Mufassil police station. One policeman was injured. PTI

Commissioner Asangha Chuba Ao and asked him to submit his report in a week. Sources in the administration said the new DM and SP are likely to be posted in Munger in a day or two.

Police said that around 10.30 am on Thursday some 50 people gathered at Bata Chowk in

Munger town to carry out a protest against the local administration.

As the protestors left Bata Chowk and marched towards the DM Office and kotwali, more people joined, with some of them damaging vehicles parked by the roadside.

Chopper mobbed, RJD says not enough security for Tejashwi, writes to EC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE RJD on Thursday accused the Bihar Police of making inadequate security arrangements for Tejashwi Yadav,

putting him under threat, after his helicopter was mobbed at a rally. Later in the day, the JD(U) tweeted a video,

tagged 'Jungle Raj ke yuvraj par haar ki baukhlaahat dikhne lagi hai', ostensibly showing Tejashwi



Tejashwi Yadav in Patna. PTI

pushing aside a person in a crowd.

RJD leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha released on Twitter a letter he wrote to the Election Commission and Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar on October 21, seeking they look into the "inadequate security arrangements" at the "dais or space

around helipad" for Tejashwi. Jha said even the pilot of the RJD leader's helicopter had complained of "pathetic crowd management", and lack of police personnel. Jha said there had been no action "in spite of repeated requests", as a result of which "anti-social elements cause immense trouble and ugly scenes".

Sanjay Yadav, political adviser of Tejashwi, posted a video of crowds mobbing the RJD leader's helicopter, pressing against it. "Despite repeated requests to @ECISVEEP (Election Commission), situation remains the same. It appears to be a deliberate attempt to jeopardise campaign and is a threat to his life."

Final turnout for first phase higher than 2015

New Delhi: The final voter turnout for the first phase of the Bihar elections was 55.69 %, the Election Commission announced Thursday. This is higher than the turnout (54.94%) for the same seats in the last Assembly elections in 2015 and during the Lok Sabha elections (53.54%) in 2019. **ENS**

Mayawati suspends 7 rebels, says will even back BJP to defeat SP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 29

A DAY after a group of BSP MLAs rebelled against the party's candidature for the Rajya Sabha election and met Samajwadi Party (SP) leadership, BSP chief Mayawati on Thursday hit out at Akhilesh Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav, saying the 2019 alliance with the SP and the withdrawal of the June 2, 1995 guest house case, when an alleged attempt was made on her life, had been "a big mistake".

She also said that her party would back anyone, including the BJP, to ensure the defeat of SP candidates in the upcoming MLC elections in the state.

"Our party would like to announce in advance that when elections for choosing MLCs are held, then we will give a tit-for-tat response to yesterday's incident. Our party will use all its strength to defeat the second MLC candidate of the SP. To defeat the SP, BSP MLAs will vote for BJP or any other Opposition party likely to defeat the second SP candidate," Mayawati said.

The BSP, meanwhile, suspended seven MLAs from the party's membership for rebelling against the party's candidature for Rajya Sabha election and said that it will seek cancellation of the membership of the seven

Understanding with BJP exposed: SP hits back

Lucknow: As seven BSP MLAs, who were suspended by party president Mayawati on Thursday, said they have no plans to join any other party, the Samajwadi Party (SP) hit back at the BSP chief, saying she has confessed to siding with the BJP. SP spokesman Rajendra Chaudhury said, "Her statement proves that the BSP had a prior understanding with the BJP. Mayawati's statement is a confession of this... The BSP chief has exposed herself." **ENS**

MLAs from the Assembly under the anti-defection law if and when they join another party.

The seven MLAs are Choudhary Aslam Ali (Dhaultana in Hapur), Hargovind Bhargava (Sidhauli reserved seat), Mohd Mujtaba Siddiqui (Pratapnagar in Prayagraj), Hakim Lal Bind (Handiya in Prayagraj), Mohd Aslam Raini (Bhina in Shravasti), Sushma Patel (Mugra Badshahpur in Jaunpur) and Vandana Singh (Sagdi in Azamgarh).



Rebel BSP MLAs outside the SP office in Lucknow. Express

Covid vaccine to be given free in state: UP health minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 29

THE UTTAR Pradesh government has said that it will provide the Covid-19 vaccine to people free of cost. UP Minister of Medical,

Health and Family Welfare, Jai Pratap Singh, said preparation for storage and transportation facilities is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

"The Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) had already hinted long ago that the vaccine... will be given free of cost to the people. Union Health Minister (Harsh Vardhan) and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have also said the same... people started talking about different things in states like Bihar and Odisha. There should be no confusion. The Centre has decided that it will be made available free of cost," Singh told *The Indian Express*.

As Kevadia prepares for PM's visit, 2 dozen cops test positive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, OCTOBER 29

A DAY ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Kevadia Colony in Narmada, where he will inaugurate several projects around the Statue of Unity, preparations are on in full swing along with Covid-19 precautionary measures.

On Thursday, as many as two dozen police personnel tested positive for coronavirus during mandatory tests and were quarantined.

Modi, who will arrive in Kevadia on Friday afternoon, is scheduled to make a night halt at the circuit house before participating in the Rashtriya Ekta Divas celebrations on October 31 to mark the 145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Ekta Parade on October 31 will see representation from as many as 12 police commissionerates from across the country.

One of the major highlights of Modi's visit to Kevadia — his fifth after being elected as Prime Minister — will be the inauguration of the seaplane project that



Preparations on in Kevadia in Narmada district ahead of PM's two-day visit. Express

will connect Statue of Unity to the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad via a 45-minute flight. Modi will also inaugurate the jetty service for tourists visiting the Statue of Unity to cruise along the six-kilometre stretch downstream from the statue towards the Garudeshwar weir.

A release from the state government on Thursday said that Modi will inaugurate 17 projects, including an administrative building for the Statue of Unity Area Development and Tourism Governance Authority, Navigation channel and New Gora bridge that has been constructed to facilitate the movement of the jetty.

LAW TO FIGHT AIR POLLUTION

Give solution instead of ordinance: Farmers' outfits slam Centre move

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 29

FARMERS' OUTFITS in Punjab and Haryana have slammed the Centre's move to constitute a commission to monitor air quality management in NCR and the stringent penalties introduced for violation of pollution norms.

Officials of Punjab agriculture department and state pollution control board have said they are still studying the ordinance notified by the Centre.

Sukhdev Singh Kokri Kalan, general secretary of BKU (Ugrahan), said, "Give us a solution to paddy stubble instead of passing ordinances. Farmers were not burning stubble before they were introduced to intensive farming of wheat and paddy. Now every paddy season, they are talking about air pollution even though air quality in NCR is bad throughout the year. We will see how they take action against farmers."

Dr Darshan Pal, coordinator of 30 farmer unions of Punjab and president of Kirti Kisan Union, said, "We are already protesting against farm laws and condemn this too.

E. Farmers, politicians point to other causes

THE ORDINANCE states that any non-compliance or contravention of any of its provisions, or any direction of the commission, will be an offence punishable with up to 5-year jail term, or with fine that may extend up to Rs 1 crore, or both. Farmers' and political leaders in Punjab and Haryana say this is aimed at agriculturalists from these states and contend that stubble burning is just one reason for poor air quality in the capital region. Delhi-NCR and Punjab's AQI levels indicate that Delhi has other reasons for pollution as well, they argue and seek other solutions than firming up penal provisions against farmers.

Over the years, stubble burning cases are reducing. If MSP is provided for other grains, farmers will shift to those crops and the problem of stubble burning will be reduced. The people in their think-tanks need to be replaced with those who know ground realities."

In Haryana, Leader of Opposition in Assembly Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "I am yet to study what exactly the Centre has said, but prima-facie it appears it is another burden on the farmer. Stubble burning is not the only reason for air pollution.

There are various factors, be it industrial pollution, petroleum pollution and various other factors. Why punish only the poor farmer? Punish everybody else too with the same penalties."

Haryana BKU president Gurnam Singh Chaduni said, "Almost 90 per cent farmers in Punjab and Haryana have land holding worth less than Rs 1 crore. It means that if some farmer is caught engaging in stubble burning, he will not only lose his entire land but will also have to go to jail."

BJP's first Gujarat CM, 'knew geography, topography and culture' of state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 29

"THE MAN who built this banyan tree called BJP, from the Jana Sangh." With these words, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, perhaps, best summed up the life of Keshubhai Patel (92), the BJP's first chief minister in Gujarat, who died on Thursday.

While Patel had recovered from Covid-19 last month, his son, Bharat, told *The Indian Express*, that "some damage had been done to his health, as he also suffered from prostate cancer". He was taken to hospital on Thursday morning, where he died.

An RSS karyakarta, Patel was

among the founder members of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), and was its president from 1972-75. He began his journey in electoral politics with the Rajkot municipality, said Kirit Pathak, BJP leader and former deputy registrar of Saurashtra University.

Patel fought his first assembly elections from Wankaner (then in Rajkot district) in 1972, as a BJS candidate, but lost to the Congress. In 1975, he won the Rajkot-1 (now Rajkot West) seat and was appointed irrigation minister in the BJS-backed government of the Indian National Congress (Organisation), led by then chief minister, Babubhai Patel.

Among those jailed during the Emergency, Patel was elected

to the Lok Sabha from the Bharatiya Lok Dal, a front formed by parties opposed to late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in 1977.

In the BJP, Patel, popularly known as Keshubapa (father) in Gujarat, is credited with mentoring several party leaders. "Keshubhai mentored and groomed many younger karyakartas including me. Everyone loved his affable nature. His demise is an irreparable loss," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

Patel's own political career, however, is marked with the distinction of having never completed a term — whether it was as state cabinet minister in the Babubhai Patel government (1975), the Chimanbhai Patel



KESHUBHAI PATEL
1928-2020

Janta Dal (G) government (1990), or his own chief ministership (1995 and 1998).

As a BJP candidate, Patel won the Assembly elections five times — from Gondal in Rajkot district (1980), Kalavad in Jamnagar dis-

trict (1985), Tankara then in Rajkot district (1990), and Visavadar in Junagadh district (1995 and 1998).

In 1995, under his leadership, the BJP won 121 of the 182 seats. Patel became chief minister, but, by the end of the year, his government faced a challenge from Shankersinh Vaghela, who defected with about 40 MLAs and went on to form the government with the support of the Congress.

Vaghela's government was dissolved in 1998, and fresh elections were held. The BJP returned to power with 117 seats, and Patel became chief minister again. But in October 2001, the party replaced him with Modi.

While Patel was the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP from 2003-2009,

he did not contest the Assembly elections on a BJP ticket again.

In the run-up to the 2012 Assembly polls, Patel alleged injustice to Patidars, and challenged the BJP by launching the Gujarat Parivartan Party (GPP). The party, however, won only two seats, including Patel's own seat of Visavadar.

Two years later, the GPP merged with the BJP, and Patel resigned as MLA. In the ensuing by-poll, the BJP fielded Patel's son, Bharat, but he lost to Harshad Ribadiya of the Congress.

As chief minister, Patel is credited with developing the village as the central unit. Jaynarayan Vyas, who was minister in his cabinet, hailed his "robust common sense and understanding of

rural issues". His Gokul Gram Yojana encouraged the development of villages through private participation.

"He never went to university, but his was an experience in governance that few politicians have today. I would say he was the only leader who knew the geography, topography and culture of Gujarat," said Gordhan Zadafia, vice-president of the state BJP unit.

Patel went to Alfred high school in Rajkot, also Mahatma Gandhi's alma mater, but could not complete his education. "After Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, he took out a rally to protest against the ban on RSS, and was jailed for six months, because of which he could not ap-

pear for his SSC exam," said Vyas.

A Leuva Patidar, he was born Keshubhai Desai in 1928. "Many Patels from Amreli and Junagadh are Desais — clerks who collected taxes from land owners. Through my school years, I was Keshubhai Desai, till our Junagadh leader, Suryakant Acharya, (former BJP MP), began to refer to me as Keshubhai Patel, and the name stuck," Patel had told *The Indian Express* in an interview in 2015.

Patel is known to have played a key role in organising BJP leader L.K. Advani's rath yatra in 1990. In 1994, he was appointed trustee of the Shree Somnath Trust, which manages the Somnath temple. In 2004, he was first elected president of the Trust, and was re-elected every year after that.

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Kerala CPM secy’s son held in drugs PMLA case

SHAJU PHILIP & JOHNSON TA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, BENGALURU, OCTOBER 29

THE ARREST of Bineesh Kodyeri,

son of CPI(M) state secretary Kodyeri Balakrishnan, in a drug-related money laundering case has served a double whammy to the ruling party and the LDF government as it came a day after the arrest of Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan’s former principal secretary, M Sivasankar, in the gold smuggling case—ahead of the local body and Assembly polls within six months.

Bineesh was Thursday arrested by the ED in connection with alleged financial transactions—to the tune of Rs 50 lakh—with a man from Kerala who was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau in August for allegedly selling drugs on the party circuit in Bengaluru. The NCB probe revealed that Mohammed Anoop (38) was given funds by Bineesh to help him start a hotel in Bengaluru, and that the former

ED GETS 4-DAY CUSTODY

Sivasankar colluded with smuggling accused: ED

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 29

Former principal secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister, M Sivasankar, had allegedly intervened to get a diplomatic cargo released from the Customs at the behest of Swapna Suresh, a key accused in the gold smuggling case, the ED on Thursday stated in its petition seeking custody of the suspended IAS officer.

The agency Wednesday arrested Sivasankar on charges of alleged money laundering in the smuggling case.

On Thursday, the Principal Sessions Court in Kochi allowed the ED four-day custody of Sivasankar, who has been listed as the fifth accused in the alleged money laundering case the agency is probing in the gold smuggling scam.

According to ED, Sivasankar helped Swapna park proceeds



Bineesh Kodyeri.
File

was allegedly actively involved in organising rave parties in Bengaluru. Sources said the extent of financial transactions between Kodyeri and Anoop went beyond the amount claimed by the duo.

Bineesh was earlier questioned by the ED in Kerala over alleged links to those arrested in the gold smuggling case. The ED is now probing whether his Bengaluru-based associates were involved in helping some of the accused in the gold smuggling case find shelter in Bengaluru, where they were eventually arrested.

Balakrishnan and Pinarayi Vijayan are yet to respond to Bineesh’s arrest. While Vijayan tried to distance himself from Sivasankar, he did not even respond to queries about the scandal involving the party state secretary’s son.

from the smuggling deal in a bank locker. He was suspended after the smuggling scandal was exposed in July this year.

In its affidavit to the court, ED said Sivasankar had “admitted” that he spoke to a Customs official in April 2019, allegedly seeking clearance of diplomatic baggage that was to be examined by the Customs, at the behest of Swapna. “Sivasankar has denied this in the statement, but ED is in possession of WhatsApp messages exchanged between Swapna and Sivasankar, which indicate Sivasankar intervened in the clearance of diplomatic baggage...,” the affidavit stated.

The ED said the smuggling racket had conspired to send two dummy diplomatic bags in July 2019, two months after Sivasankar’s alleged intervention with Customs, which could also be a dummy diplomatic baggage or could have contained smuggled gold that was cleared without undergoing Customs check.

SC stays ‘drastic’ HC order for CBI probe against Uttarakhand CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday stayed the Uttarakhand High Court order for a CBI probe into allegations of corruption levelled by a journalist against Chief Minister Trivendra Singh in a Facebook video.

Issuing notice on a plea by Rawat, a bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah said the matter requires consideration. “The CM was not even a party and such a drastic order has been passed,” observed Justice Bhushan.

The High Court, said Justice Shah, had exercised suo motu powers under Article 226 when there was no issue raised by the petitioner. “Everyone was taken by surprise,” he remarked.

Seeking an immediate stay on the October 27 order, Attorney General K K Venugopal told the bench that it is a matter in which the police had registered an FIR and investigation is on.

The HC had mixed up all grounds, he said, adding that the



Trivendra Singh Rawat

CM was not a party in this case and yet the probe has been ordered without hearing him. This is contrary to SC rulings against destabilising governments, he said. “Look at the consequence and surely HC knows what will happen thereafter. HC is not competent to do this.” Venugopal said the parties in the case had not demanded that an FIR be registered against the CM.

The HC ordered the CBI probe while deciding writ petitions filed by two journalists — Umesh Kumar Sharma and Shiv Prasad Semwal — who had sought quashing of an FIR lodged in July this year at Nehru Colony police station of Dehradun under different IPC sections.

The FIR was lodged following a complaint by a retired professor against a video uploaded by Shamma on Facebook levelling corruption allegations against Rawat.

MONTH AFTER HATHRAS WOMAN'S DEATH

‘This time last year, she was making rangoli, decorating puja room for Diwali’

JIGNASA SINHA

HATHRAS, OCTOBER 29

“LAST YEAR, around this time, she was decorating the house with rangoli (ahead of Diwali) for pooja. There’s no one to do that this time. We are trying to go back to the fields and resume work. But it is difficult to work, now that she’s not here... we miss her every day,” said the mother, exactly a month after her 19-year-old daughter, who was allegedly raped and assaulted by four upper-caste men in Hathras on September 14, died at Delhi’s Safdarjung Hospital on September 29.

Admitted to AMU hospital for two weeks, she had regained consciousness after a week of the incident and recorded her state-

ment, saying she had been raped.

A month after on, UP Police has stepped up the security outside the family’s home. Police sources said more than 50 police personnel guard the house, and CRPF personnel will soon join the local police. The family had earlier requested for police protection after a few Thakur families staged protests outside the village.

The family was promised compensation of Rs 25 lakh, a new house, and a job for a member. They said the full amount has not been transferred to their bank account yet. “The house and a job are yet to be given,” the victim’s brother said.

District officials said that a day after compensation was announced, Rs 15 lakh was transferred. “Some more money was transferred later. We are also helping the family with gro-

BJP welcomes SC stay, alleges Cong conspiracy

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 29

THE BJP’S Uttarakhand unit has welcomed the Supreme Court’s order staying the High Court order for a CBI probe into allegations of corruption against Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. The ruling party has accused the Congress of hatching a conspiracy against the Chief Minister.

BJP MLA and spokesperson Munna Singh Chauhan told reporters that the way Congress leaders, including former CM Harish Rawat, made “irresponsible” remarks against the CM, it “compelled the BJP to launch fact-finding” in the matter.

“After fact-finding, we have reached the conclusion that Congress leaders compromised with Umesh Sharma in an old matter of his sting against Harish Rawat and used him to malign the image of CM Trivendra Singh Rawat and conspired to take un-

due political advantage,” Chauhan said.

Chauhan said when Umesh had done a sting operation on Harish Rawat (in 2016), Congress’s lawyers in the High Court called him a “blackmailer” and pointed to criminal cases against him.

Congress state vice-president Suryakant Dhasmana termed BJP’s allegations baseless. “The judgment of CBI inquiry and observations in that order were made by the High Court and not by the Congress.”

Harendra Rawat, who was accused by journalist Umesh Sharma in a video of having received money from one Amratesh Singh Chauhan in Jharkhand for Chief Minister Rawat, said he is considering filing a defamation case against the journalist.

Harender said allegations made against him and his wife by Umesh are “false” and that he suspects a “political conspiracy”.



NIA officials officials leave after a raid at the premises of Human Welfare Foundation in Jamia Nagar. *PTI*

NIA raids in J&K ‘funds diversion’ case on for 2nd day; 9 places searched

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 29

CONTINUING ITS search operations in Kashmir for the second consecutive day, the NIA on Thursday conducted raids at seven locations in Kashmir, and two in New Delhi.

According to the agency, the search operations were carried out in connection with a case of funds being raised from “India and abroad in the name of charitable activities” and allegedly used for “secessionist and separatist activities in J&K”.

On Wednesday, NIA had raided at least 10 locations, including residences of human rights activists, journalists and offices of NGOs.

“In continuation of yesterday’s search operations, NIA conducted searches at 7 locations in Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag & Kulgam (J&K) and 2 locations in Delhi in connection with the case pertaining to certain NGOs and Trusts raising funds in the name of charitable activities and then using those funds for carrying out secessionist and separatist activities in J&K,” NIA said in a release. The case, it stated, was registered on October 8 this year under different Sections of IPC and Section 40 of UAPA “as per directions of MHA on receipt of credible information that certain NGOs and Trusts are collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations and business contributions etc, in the name of various welfare activities.”

The organisations raided on Thursday include the Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT). Set up in 1972, FAT is the largest private educational society in J&K and runs 350

middle and high schools in the Union Territory – 300 in Kashmir Valley and 50 in Jammu region.

Srinagar and Kulgam offices of J&K Yateem Foundation, one of the largest charity organisations in the Valley, was also raided. The NIA searched Anantnag and New Delhi offices of Human Welfare Foundation (HWF) – a Delhi-based NGO working in the healthcare sector, sanitation, and relief and rehabilitation.

The NIA stated that the office of Charity Alliance, run by Zafar-ul-Islam, was raided in Delhi. The office of Voice of Victims – a human rights defender group – in Baramulla and residence of separatist leader Zafar Akbar Bhat, who heads J&K Salvation Movement, were also searched.

Zafar-ul-Islam, former Delhi Minorities Commission chairperson, tweeted: “My home and offices were raided by NIA this morning.... They took many papers, all laptops, hard disks of all desktops, cash found etc. They showed me an order on their mobile, issued by one Yadav of NIA, to conduct the raid linking me and my NGO with Kashmiri terror although I have no relationship or even contacts with Kashmiri militants and have not even visited Kashmir for many years. It seems an attempt to implicate me in some terror or riot case...”

HWF said: “The foundation’s activities are totally transparent and its records are properly audited and submitted to Income Tax Department and Charity Commissioner annually. The foundation is ready to help NIA and all government agencies in investigation.”

INPUTS FROM

ENS DELHI

FULL REPORT ON

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कार्यालय प्राचार्य, शासकीय श्याम सुरन्द अग्रवाल स्नातकोत्तर महाविद्यालय, सिहोरा जिला-जबलपुर म.प्र.

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क्रमांक. स्था./2020 **GeM Portal पर Bid की सूचना** दिनांक 21.10.2020

राष्ट्रीय उच्चतर शिक्षा अधिनियम के अंतर्गत आवंटित अनुदान की राशि से महाविद्यालय में डेस्कटॉप कंप्यूटर (All in One PC) का क्रय प्रस्तावित है। उक्त सामग्री क्रय हेतु GeM Portal पर निम्नांकित Bid आमंत्रित की गई है। GeM Portal पर पंजीकृत विक्रेता Bid की ऑफ़र तिथि - 14.11.2020 सायं 05.00 बजे तक प्रक्रिया में भाग ले सकते हैं।

क्र.	सामग्री का नाम	संख्या	GeM Bid No.
1	Desktop (All in One PC)	65	Gem/2020/B/843619 Dated 20/10/2020

यों प्राप्त की पूरी, धारक है ज्ञानी ।
जब तक कोशिश की दुआई नहीं, तब तक विचार नहीं ।

G-15196/2020 प्रभारी प्राचार्य

उ.प्र. आवास एवं विकास परिषद
बनारस अधिवारसी अधिनियम, निम्न कक्षा-मुम्बई
अधिस. कानूनसं. ६, २०१७, बी-२०१७, दिनांक २०, नवम्बर, २०१७, नम्बर-२०८०१७
E-Mail: uapvp@uapvp.com

पत्र सं. : 1228/वि.उ.-३, बनारस/६-६/३१ दिनांक : 29.10.2020

अल्पकालीन इ-निविदा सूचना

अगोचरस्थानीय द्वारा निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु निम्न विषयानुसार इ-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है जो कि इ-प्रोक्चरमेंट पोर्टल पर प्राचार्य द्वारा पोस्ट की जाएगी।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का विवरण	बिड की राशि	बिड की राशि (रु.)	बिड की राशि (रु.)	बिड की राशि (रु.)	बिड की राशि (रु.)	बिड की राशि (रु.)
1.	बनारस जिला (बिनाम) योजना सं. 13, सेक्टर-३, नं. निम्न 33/11 के.बी. विद्युत उपकरण (हस्ता प्रोक्त) का कार्य।	90.00	1.80	3000.00	+ 15% GST	04 मही	05.11.2020 13.11.2020
2.	बनारस जिला (बिनाम) योजना सं. 31, सेक्टर-२ व 4 में निर्माण कार्य (सी+3 मकानों की) अगोचरस्थानीय योजना के क्षेत्र में बांध विद्युतकरण का कार्य।	105.00	2.10	4500.00	+ 15% GST	04 मही	05.11.2020 13.11.2020

निम्न सूचना: 1. निविदा रखने एवं निविदा में होने की प्रतिकृति का ब्यवहार www.upvp.com की निविदा निम्न पर उ.प्र. इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स कोषों के वेबसाइट bids.upvp.com पर देखे जा सकते हैं। इच्छुक उम्मेदवारों को अनुरोध है कि वे निविदा रखने के लिए वेबसाइट पर देखें एवं निविदा रखने के लिए वेबसाइट पर देखें।

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR TENDER

Tender Notice No. 116 Year 2019-20 (Second Call)

Sr.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost
1	PROVIDING WATERPROOFING TREATMENT TO W.C. & BATH, BALCONY SIDE RENOVATION OF DOWN TAKE DRAINAGE, RAINWATER PIPE, WATER SUPPLY LINE, DOORS & WINDOWS TO POLICE TOWN (SURYA, ADITYA, ARUN AND RAVI) AT COURT NAKA, THANE.	56568680/-

Date of E-Tender Downloading 29.10.2020 to 12.11.2020 Time 10.30 to 17.30 PM.

Date of E-Tender Opening 17.11.2020 Time 12.30 PM (If Possible).

1. Tender form Condition of Contract Specification and Contract drawing can be downloaded from e-tendering portal of Public Work Department of Maharashtra i.e. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

2. Tender Notice can be seen also on web site <https://mahatenders.gov.in> & www.Mahapwd.com

Sd/-
Executive Engineer P.W. Division No. 1 Thane

DGIPR/2020-2021/C1066

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Palakkad Division invites e-Tenders against Tender notice no.RE/PGT/ELEC/TDGL/27/OT-1 closing time and date 15.00 hrs on 26.11.2020. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offers received shall be ignored.

1. e-Tender Notice no. : e-Tender no.RE/PGT/ELEC/TDGL/27/OT-1

2. Name of the work with its location : Electrification of Salem-Vidhichalam and Podanur-Kinattukadavu section of Salem division of Southern Railway-calling of open tender for SCADA works-Tamilnadu

3. Approximate cost of the work : Rs.4,40,71,095.00/-

4. Cost of tender document : Rs.10,000/- through online payment

5. Earnest Money : Rs.3,70,400.00/- through online payment

6. Completion period of the work : 06 months

7. Date of Commencement of Tender Document : Uploaded on 28.10.2020

8. Tender Closing date & time : 26.11.2020 at 15.00 hrs

9. Validity of the offer : 45 days

10. Website particulars where complete details of tender can be seen / downloaded : www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Palakkad Division, Kerala - 678 002.

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(ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)

Visheshwariya Bhawan Gontli Nagar, Lucknow

Notice No. 1924 / GM/EZ/E-Tender/ RNN/2020 Dated 29.10.2020

E-Tender Press Notice

The Project Manager, Suda Unit Mathura invited for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd., Online percentage rate bids in two bid system for the Work Construction of Govt. Degree College Vrindavan at Mathura. The bid forms and other details can be obtained/downloaded from the website : <https://etender.up.nic.in> The NIT is also available on <http://www.uprnn.co.in>.

Project Manager

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division No. II, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, I&FC Wing, Vikas Bhawan-II, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054. Invites on behalf of the president of India, online tender from specialized agencies or eligible contractors of I&FC, M.E.S., Railways, CPWD & Deptt. of Central/State Govt. (whose registration details have been verified by the I&FC Deptt.) dealing with similar nature of work for the following works:

N.O.W:- R/M of Dozer D 80 A12 for the year 2020-21.

Sub Work:- Repairing of D80 A12 Dozer No. BD-8 including Overhauling of Engine etc. **H.O.A:-** MH 2711 NON PLAN (Maintenance Drainage).

Estimated Cost: Rs. 6,84,818/- **Earnest Money:** Rs. 13,696/- **Period of completion:** (30) Days, **Last date & time of submission of tender:** upto 3:00 p.m on 04.11.2020. (Tender I.D 2020_IFC_196038-1)

Note: 1) The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

DIP/Shabdarth/0396/20-21

SC slams Bengal police for summons to Delhi resident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

CAUTIONING AGAINST misuse of the police’s summoning power to harass people critical of government policies on social media, the Supreme Court has slammed West Bengal police for its notice to a Delhi resident over Facebook posts questioning enforcement of Covid lockdown in Kolkata’s Raja Bazar area. Ordering an ad-interim stay of the Calcutta High Court order asking petitioner Roshni Biswas to appear before the investigating officer of Ballygunge police station, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Indira Banerjee observed Wednesday that it “cannot have citizens hauled from one corner of the country to another for a social media post criticising the government”.

The stay, the court said, is subject to the condition that the petitioner “undertakes to respond to any queries that may be addressed to her by the Investigating Officer”. The bench allowed the state’s plea to let the investigating officer

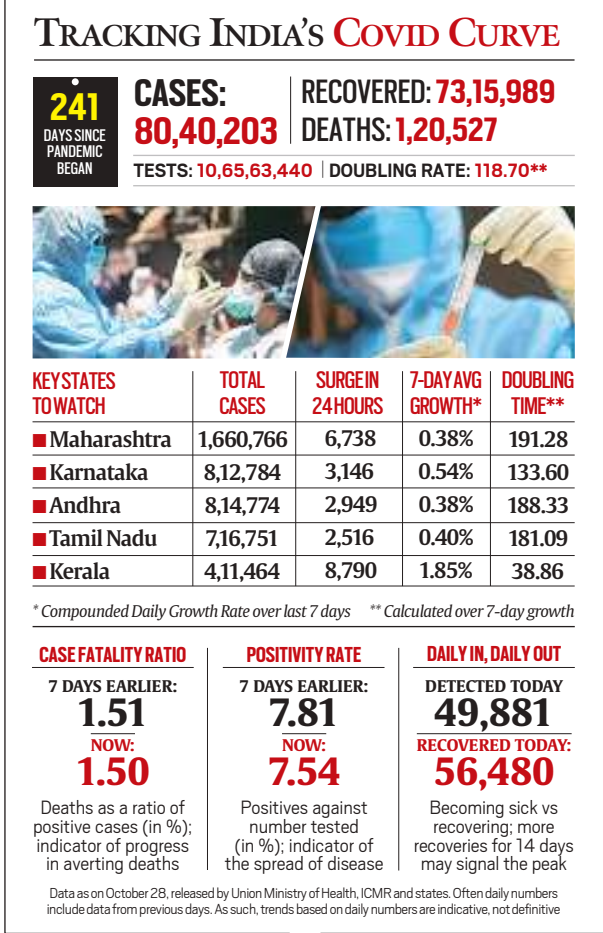
travel to Delhi for questioning.

Justice Chandrachud said, “Do not cross the line. Let India remain a free country. The Supreme Court is here to protect free speech... The police should concern themselves with the major issues of law and order where their presence is required and not over what a citizen said on social media.”

The court said summoning the petitioner to Kolkata is “sheer harassment”.

Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani said the woman had stated on oath that she disclaims any association with the Facebook post and that she does not operate the web page which forms the subject matter of the FIR. Jethmalani questioned the notice issued under Section 41A of CrPc.

Section 41A deals with power of a police officer to issue notice to a person “against whom a reasonable complaint has been made, or credible information has been received, or a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed a cognizable offence...”





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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

How masks made of T-shirts, jeans and other fabrics block particles at coughing speed

A NUMBER of studies so far have looked into the efficacy of masks made of various materials in keeping out airborne particles that may be carrying the novel coronavirus. Most of them, however, have only looked at a small selection of fabrics — and when the wearer is breathing normally, when particles are expelled at lower speed.

Now, a new study has now tested a wider range of materials — from T-shirts and socks to jeans and vacuum bags — and looked at their effectiveness in filtering out virus-sized particles (0.02-0.1 micrometres) at high speeds, comparable to coughing or heavy breathing. It also tested N95 and surgical masks.

The study, by researchers from the University of Cambridge and Northwestern University, is published in *BMJ Open*.

The broad finding: most of the fabrics commonly used for non-clinical masks are effective at filtering ultra-fine particles. N95 masks were highly effective. A reusable HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) vacuum bag, in fact, exceeded the N95 performance in some respects.

Homemade masks are more effective when made of multiple layers of fabric. When they incorporated interfacing (normally used to stiffen collars), their performance improved significantly, but this improvement also made them more difficult to breathe through.

The researchers also studied the performance of different fabrics when

damp, and after they had gone through a washing and drying cycle. The fabrics worked well while damp and worked sufficiently after one laundry cycle. But previous studies have shown that repeated washing degrades the fabrics, and the new study cautions that masks should not be reused indefinitely.

Eugenia O'Kelly, from Cambridge's Department of Engineering, and her colleagues built an apparatus with a

fabric sample in the middle. Aerosolised particles were generated at one end of the apparatus, and made to pass through the fabric sample at a speed similar to coughing. Their levels were measured before and after.

"A mask which blocks particles really well but restricts your breathing isn't an effective mask. Denim, for

example, was quite effective at blocking particles, but it's difficult to breathe through, so it's probably not a good idea to make a mask out of an old pair of jeans. N95 masks are much easier to breathe through than any fabric combinations with similar levels of filtration," O'Reilly said in a statement.

The researchers acknowledge several limitations: they did not look at the role which fit plays in filtering particles. In addition, many viruses are carried on droplets larger than those looked at in the current study. However, O'Kelly said the results may be useful for mask makers.

Source: University of Cambridge

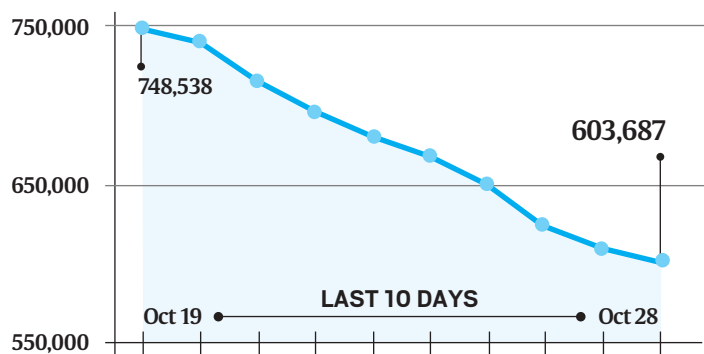


PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

603,687



Note: The Oct 28 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Oct 29

INDIA TOTAL CASES
8,040,203

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Oct 29

WORLD TOTAL CASES
44,684,011

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Oct 29



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EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

Should you buy gold this Diwali?

A fresh spike in global Covid numbers and continuing uncertainty reinforce the case for investing in gold, whose prices are expected to firm up. The investment should be in gold bonds, periodically



SANDEEP SINGH & GEORGE MATHEW

ON WEDNESDAY, the number of new Covid-19 cases around the world crossed 5 lakh in a day for the first time. The fresh spike in cases and deaths and growing uncertainty about controlling Covid-19 has not only brought equities back under pressure but also reinforced the case for investment in gold. If hopes of a vaccine have now spilled over to the second half of 2021, there is also anxiety over the time it may take to vaccinate the entire world population. While this is ample cause to worry investors, low interest rates and high inflation are other factors that would keep gold prices firm until a vaccine is in sight.

With the Diwali festive season round the corner, many feel the high prices should not come in the way of gold purchase, and one should continue with periodic gold investment as part of asset allocation.

How have gold prices moved?

As the Covid numbers surged sharply over the last week and several European countries announced fresh lockdown measures, gold prices, which had retreated from over \$2,050 an ounce in August to \$1880 an ounce in October, may witness a fresh spike going forward.

In India, prices are down from levels of over Rs 56,000 per 10 grams in August to around Rs 51,000. On Thursday, gold prices closed at Rs 50,630 per 10 grams in Delhi. In the meantime, the rising Covid numbers and continuing uncertainty have led to volatility and a fall in the stock markets. The BSE Sensex closed at 39,749.85 on Thursday, down from the index value of 40,707 on October 21.

Gold prices started their upward march since May 2019 and have jumped over 50% in a little over a year, from \$1,225 an ounce to around \$1,880 now. They peaked around \$2,080 an ounce on August 7, while the



Unless gold is being bought for jewellery consumption, the investment should be through sovereign gold bonds, experts advise. Pavan Khengre

Indian price in market touched Rs 58,000 per 10 grams.

Are they expected to rise further?

If news about a Russian vaccine in August led to a decline in gold prices after they hit a high, prices are expected to firm up on the back of rising cases, fresh lockdown restrictions in several countries and uncertainty around economic recovery and geopolitical developments.

Historically, a rise in uncertainty and fear is the single biggest factor that leads to a jump in prices of gold as central banks increase the pace of their gold purchase. And the US-China trade tensions and the India-China border stand-off only add to the uncertainties. The US Federal Reserve signalling that interest rates will be kept near zero until 2023, too, is expected to keep the dollar index weak and may, in turn, result in keeping gold prices firm.

So, should you invest in gold?

Investors should look to invest in gold keeping in mind that it is a long-term generational asset, which should not be bought for short-term gains. Gold at Rs 50,000 per 10 grams may seem expensive today but may prove to be a worthwhile decision two decades later. Over the last 15 years, it has risen from levels of around Rs 7,000 per 10 grams. While future gains may not be quite what we have seen in

the past, investors must invest anywhere between 5-10% of their portfolio in gold.

So, irrespective of Diwali, investors should continue accumulating gold on a periodic basis — monthly or quarterly. One must, however, avoid making a lump-sum investment in gold.

Should you buy coins or bonds?

Unless gold is being bought for jewellery consumption, the investment must be through sovereign gold bonds. While they offer capital appreciation in line with gold price movement, they also offer a fixed 2.5% coupon per year. Since they are issued in the name of the investor in a paper form, it takes care of safety concerns. The bonds have a maturity period of eight years, and investors have the option to exit after the fifth year.

As for taxation, while the interest earned on these gold bonds is added to the holders' income and taxed at a marginal tax rate, any capital gains on these bonds at maturity is tax-free, making them a far more attractive option than owning physical gold.

Another option is gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) floated by mutual funds. Gold ETFs have given good returns to investors this year. The total assets under gold ETFs now amount to Rs 13,589 crore, as per AMFI data.

In case of coins, making charges can vary between 8% and 15%. While the price of 24-

Panel for Delhi air: role, powers, what's new

MALLICA JOSHI

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

WITH THE President signing the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020 on Wednesday, a statutory authority to track and combat air pollution in and around the National Capital Region has come into existence.

The Commission, the Ordinance says, will supersede bodies such as the central and state pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan and will have the powers to issue directions to these state governments on issues pertaining to air pollution.

What does it change on the ground?

The one body with powers similar to the new Commission's was the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), experts say. It was not a statutory body but drew legitimacy from the Supreme Court, which has been looking at cases of air pollution as part of the judgment in *M C Mehta vs Union of India* (1988).

The EPCA was not, however, supported by a legal framework in the form of a law. It did have the authority to issue fines or directions and guidelines to the governments in other states. It had no state representatives, just two permanent members. The Commission, on the other hand, will have representation from the state.

What is the role of the Commission vis-à-vis states?

The ordinance makes it clear that state as well as central bodies will not have jurisdiction over matters related to air pollution: "No other individual, or body, or authority, constituted either under the law enacted by Parliament or by state government or nominated in terms of judicial order shall act upon or have jurisdiction in relation to the matters covered by this ordinance."

The ordinance says the Commission will look at coordination between states, planning and execution of policy and interventions, operations of industry, inspections, research into the causes of pollution etc. Experts say the ordinance means that the power to issue fines may also lie with the new Commission.

Officials in the Delhi Environment Department said the Commission will, in a way, erase the relevance of start pollution control bodies since they do not have the powers to make any autonomous decisions anymore.

"The Ordinance seems to have taken the power away from us when it comes to issues of air pollution. We still have a role to play when it comes to water and sound pollution, but over the last few years most of our work has been concentrated on air pollution. What role we can play alongside the Commission will be decided by the body once constituted. It seems our roles have been made redundant," said a senior Environment Department official.

In case the directions issued by a state and the Commission clash, the decision of the Commission will be implemented.

How does it help?

Experts say the move doesn't automatically guarantee action on the ground. Environment activist Vimlendu Jha said that by forming a new commission, the government has taken the issue of air pollution out of the purview of the judiciary.

carat 10-gram gold today is around Rs 51,500, the MMTC-PAMP 24 carat 10-gram gold bar was priced at Rs 56,400 (almost 8.8% higher).

Why did gold demand fall in the September quarter?

Demand for gold in India for the quarter ended September 2020 was at 86.6 tonnes, down 30% compared to 123.9 tonnes in the same period last year. The value of the gold demand for the quarter was Rs 39,510 crore, down 4% from Rs 41,300 crore a year ago.

Total jewellery demand in India for the September quarter decreased by 48% to 52.8 tonnes from 101.6 tonnes last year. However, total investment demand at 33.8 tonnes rose by 52% from 22.3 tonnes in September 2019.

Somasundaram P R, Managing Director, World Gold Council, said: "India's September quarter gold demand fell by 30% to 86.6 tonnes on the back of Covid-related disruptions, bleak consumer sentiment and high prices accompanied by volatility. This is, however, higher than in Q2 which at 64 tonnes was a 70% drop and the second lowest in our quarterly series. This has been partially due to easing of lockdown and some low prices in August that provided a small window of buying opportunities for the discerning."

Shouldn't RBI's investment in gold boost consumer confidence?

The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 provides the legal framework for deployment of reserves in foreign currency assets and gold. As at end-March 2020, the RBI held 653.01 tonnes of gold — 360.71 tonnes overseas with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements, and the remaining gold domestically. In value terms (dollars), the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased from about 6.14% at end-September 2019 to about 6.40% at end-March 2020. The actual value of the RBI's gold holdings has increased to \$36.685 billion as of October 16, 2020 from \$30.578 billion, a rise of over \$6 billion in 7 months.

The RBI has deployed the foreign exchange reserves in various avenues like gold, fixed deposits and US treasury bills to minimise capital risk. In fact, most central banks around the world hold huge gold reserves as a strategy to widen their investment basket and minimise risk.

"The central government has got itself out of the clutch of Supreme Court and closed down SC-appointed EPCA, but is it just strategy to self-empower and stay relevant or truly address the crisis? New law is needed when the old one fails. They have not even tried implementing old laws," Jha said.

As per the Ordinance, only NGT, and not civil courts, is authorised to hear cases where the commission is involved.

What are the challenges?

According to the Ordinance, the committee has been formed to do away with "ad-hoc measures" and to replace them to "streamline participation" from states and experts.

The Commission has a large number of members from the central government, which has not gone down well with the states. "It is full of officials from the central government. How will states get a say with just one member each? Taking away any say from the state government is not the way to go further. Also, political differences will also now play a part in the functioning of the Commission because states are not happy with the overarching powers being vested in it," a Delhi government official said.

In Pompeo's Indo-Pacific tour, a message to China, takeaways for India

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

IN WHAT might turn out to be the Trump Administration's last week in office, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo swung through three Indian Ocean countries after the 2+2 US-India talks in New Delhi earlier this week, bringing the China-US spat to India's doorstep. From New Delhi, where he and Defence Secretary Mark Esper held talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Pompeo peeled off on an openly anti-China tour of the Indian Ocean, now geographically part of the larger Indo-Pacific region.

Why Indo-Pacific matters

It is a vast area where the US and China have competed for influence for years, and where, more recently, Indian and Chinese interests have come up against each other, specifically in Sri Lanka and Maldives.

After years of trying to regain a slipping foothold in these countries by itself without taking sides in the larger geopolitical rivalry, at times even pushing back on US at-

tempts to expand its footprint in its immediate Indian Ocean neighbourhood, New Delhi now appears not to mind the playing out of the superpower rivalry close home, hoping it will help to reduce Chinese influence in the region.

With its military eyeballing Chinese soldiers at the Line of Actual Control, India has embraced a closer relationship with the US, as well as stepped up US engagement in the region. At the recent meeting of the Quad foreign ministers, Jaishankar, like the Australian and Japanese foreign ministers, was careful not to join the anti-China tirade that Pompeo unleashed. But the US-India joint statement took several shots at China, besides Pakistan, in stressing a "rules-based international order" and a "free, open, inclusive, peaceful" Indo-Pacific.

All three countries Pompeo visited — Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia — are strategically vital to Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative. China's appears strongest in Sri Lanka, where it has control of the Hambantota port, is making a terminal at the Colombo port and a new city off the Colombo seafloor, and is involved in a slew of other infrastructure projects.



Pompeo in Colombo with Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. AP

3 visits, 1 theme

In all three countries, Pompeo's message was that China and the Chinese Communist Party are "lawless", do not respect interna-

tional rules, ensnare small countries into debt traps, and make irredentist claims on territory that fall within the boundaries of other nations, and that the Trump administration was there to prevent that.

SRI LANKA: In Colombo, he said the Chinese Communist Party was a "predator" while "the US comes in a different way, we come as a friend, as a partner". The Chinese Embassy hit back with a tweet: "Sorry Secretary@SecPompeo, we're buys promoting #China-#Sri Lanka friendship and co-operation, not interested in your AlienvsPredator game at your invitation. The US can play two roles at the same time as always". Even before Pompeo's arrival, the Chinese embassy said in a statement that the US was trying to interfere in China-Sri Lanka relations and "coerce and bully" Colombo.

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa also refuted Pompeo's assertion that Sri Lanka was caught in a debt trap with the Chinese. In a statement, President Gotabaya's office said Beijing had provided crucial assistance to Colombo in the last 10 years, while welcoming "more American investment". Rajapaksa told Pompeo that Sri Lanka's foreign policy was not aligned to any power.

MALDIVES: In the Maldives, which signed a "framework defence and security agreement" with the US in September, Pompeo repeated that the "Chinese Communist Party continues its lawless and threatening behaviour" and announced the opening of an embassy in Male. Earlier, the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka had concurrent charge of Maldives. India, which had prevented a US-Maldives defence treaty back in 2013, welcomed the new agreement saying it was in line with India's interests and regional stability.

Since 2018, when Ibrahim Solih became President, the country has scrapped an earlier tilt toward Beijing, and recast its foreign policy to reflect other long-standing ties, including with India.

There have been some voices in the Maldives against striking too close a friendship with the US, and India. In recent days, after rumours that Indian soldiers would be stationed in the Maldives, a local news outlet had wanted information under the Maldives' Right to Information Act about the number of Indian defence personnel in the country, but the Maldives National Defence Force said it could not disclose this

information for reasons of security. On Tuesday, the Maldivian Information Commissioner ruled in favour of the MNDF.

During Pompeo's visit, former Maldivian Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon, who backs the Solih government, struck a cautionary note: "We all want a peaceful Indian Ocean. I urge the US to respect the independence of Maldives. Please respect the right of Maldives to keep its friendship with all countries that benefit our development. We do not want to engage in power struggles & rivalries in the Indo-Pacific."

INDONESIA: In Jakarta, which is also the headquarters of ASEAN, some of whose members are faced with Chinese claims on their territory, Pompeo lauded both Indonesia and ASEAN for standing up to China.

"Our law-abiding nations reject the unlawful claims by Chinese Communist Party in the South China Sea as is clear from Indonesia's courageous leadership on this subject within ASEAN and at the United Nations," he said. He was scheduled to meet the Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Thursday before flying out to Vietnam on the last leg of this unusual trip.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LAST CHILD MATTERS

ASER report flags burden of digital inequality on children, and opportunity for government schools

THE DIGITAL PIVOT in India's schooling system risks pushing it into deeper inequality, seven months after schools shut down across the country to tackle the pandemic. A majority of children without access to internet has been thrown into distress — a handful to the point of self-harm, as several reports in this newspaper attest — by an exclusionary mode of learning. What reportage has indicated so far is confirmed by the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2020, a phone survey of 60,000-odd students across rural India. Only about one-third of the surveyed children had access to online learning; only 11 per cent had access to live online classes. That the burden of digital inequality has fallen on children shows up in the data. As many as 24.3 per cent of the children said they had not received any learning material from the school in the week the survey was held because they had no smartphone — almost 75 per cent of interaction with schools was over WhatsApp.

Parents also appear to be acutely aware that the smartphone is the new English-medium education in the way it overlays and deepens age-old hierarchies. The survey reports that 11 per cent of parents bought a phone during the lockdown to prevent an interruption in their child's learning. A surge in the use of smartphones (as compared to 2018) has not been accompanied by greater access, which itself shows that technological solutions on their own cannot be enough to address this unforeseen crisis. What schools — both private and public — have done well in is in reaching textbooks and worksheets to 80 per cent of students. The ASER report offers a snapshot of the churn in the education system, and also how inherited disadvantages continue to affect quality of learning. For instance, children with parents educated till Class X had a markedly better access to learning in these months than the children of parents with fewer years spent in school.

The report maps a crisis, but also holds out possibilities. For the private schools, it is a prod to rethink an online-only mode of learning. For government schools, the growth in footfall is an opportunity to improve the quality of teaching and retain students — it is possible, as has been shown by government schools in Karnataka and Kerala, among others, during lockdown. The experience of southern states in the past decades proves that investment in a public school system multiplies opportunities manifold. The AAP government in Delhi has shown that it makes for good politics. Till a vaccine is found, a resumption of classes is still a far way off. In the interim, all stakeholders have to come together to minimise both loss of learning and the emotional turmoil that comes from being left behind.

TRUST IN DATA

With COVID-19 testing capacity at an all-time high, onus is on authorities to ensure accuracy, integrity of information

ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS during the pandemic, epidemiologists, public health experts and academics have raised concerns about India's COVID-19 data. A lot of these problems could be ascribed to the enormous public health challenge. In the early months, the Centre and the West Bengal government bickered over the state's death count, the toll at the national capital's hospitals was far more than that claimed by the Delhi government and, for weeks, the mortality data released by the government of the country's worst-affected state, Maharashtra, did not match the ICMR figures. To their credit, the erring agencies identified the glitches and, by September, it seemed that they had put their house in order. Now, with the pandemic showing early signs of abating, questions over data have been raised again. The charge, this time, is far more serious than that of administrative ineptitude. The managing director of one of the country's top diagnostic laboratories has told this paper that authorities in some districts are trying to control testing processes in order to show a "better scorecard". The Centre and state governments must investigate the use of such devious tactics and take corrective action.

On Thursday, the Union Health Ministry informed that on an average, nearly 11 lakh tests were conducted daily in the past six weeks. According to the ministry, the country now has the resources to conduct more than 15 lakh daily tests. The steady expansion of testing is one of the recent successes in the country's battle against the coronavirus. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged in his address to the nation last week, "we should improve upon the situation, not allow it to deteriorate". An accurate picture of the case count is crucial to containment strategies such as drawing up hotspots and keeping medical infrastructure in a state of readiness. With most containment work being increasingly devolved to state and district-level officials, the onus of credible information gathering is also on these authorities. With the country's testing capacity at an all-time high — and consistently on the uptick — data accuracy should be the mantra of agencies and officials at all levels.

Barely a week after PM Modi's warning, there has been a spurt in infections in Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal and Karnataka. The recent surge of the virus in Europe also shows that the virus remains an unpredictable adversary. However, we know much more about it compared to 10 months ago. Doctoring data, hiding the true picture, would be doing disservice to the country's achievements and learnings in this period.

A PUBLICAN'S IRE

A Yorkshire pub has barred Conservative MPs who voted against meals for children. The move is understandable

WHAT IS A Yorkshire publican to do when politics doesn't stop at the water's edge? He refuses to serve the offending politicians a pint. Earlier this month, UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak and two of his Conservative colleagues in parliament were among those who voted against extending a programme that would have provided school meals to children from low-income households even during school holidays. The proprietors of the Mill pub and Il Mulino restaurant, which is attached to it, took exception to their vote in the House. The pub is located in Sunak's constituency — Richmond (Yorks).

"The government voted against extending free school meals. This is disgusting... What's worse Matt Vickers MP, Simon Clarke MP & Jacob Young MP, Rishi Sunak all voted against the scheme. DISGUSTING! All 4 are now barred from The Mill & Il Mulino for life. I don't want their business," wrote Alex Cook, owner of the establishment, in a Facebook post. The good people at Mill's pub are also donating meals to local food banks, trying to make up in some small measure for the way their MPs have voted.

Cook's outburst and the ban go somewhat against the stereotypical image of the pub and those who run it. The friendly barman is, after all, seen in popular culture as the man who lends an ear to all comers and the pub itself is the space for political debate. Yet, the frustration at the Mill pub is understandable. And their logic is pretty tight, too. A pub and restaurant feeds and waters people. If the government, in a pandemic that has devastated families, refuses to do the same for children, the smallest consequence its members can face is to be refused service. There is, of course, much that is debatable about this notion. It should be discussed over a drink.



ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY

HAVING LIVED IN the US for long, I have watched all US presidential elections since 1988. I don't recall any election being viewed as more important than this one, though 2008 must surely be counted as matching in significance, when America elected Barack Obama as the nation's first Black president. Indeed, 2020 can be viewed as 2008's possible other.

If 2008 showed that America could live up to its political creed of equality, we now have grave threats to that foundational principle. Given Donald Trump's barely disguised racism, his victory will be viewed as America's regress into White primacy, an unfortunate historical reality which began to lose its sting after the mid-1960s. And his defeat will be welcomed by those who want Blacks and other racial minorities to reclaim the push for equality. The results will be viewed through a racial lens even if Trump's handling of the pandemic, rather than his treatment of race relations, causes his defeat.

The international significance of this election is also unmistakable. If Joe Biden wins, the US will return to its international alliances, dictators will be embraced less ardently, and human rights will play a role in American foreign policy.

Trump will lose the popular vote, as he did in 2016, and as three other presidents did in 1876, 1888 and 2000. But we know that it is the electoral college, not the popular vote, which determines the outcome. The electoral college has 538 state-based votes (plus Washington DC). To emerge victorious, a candidate has to win 270 electoral votes.

The electoral college is simultaneously mystifying and simple. A state's electoral votes depend on its representation in the two houses of US Congress, founded on two different principles. The House of Representatives is based on population size, but each state, regardless of its population size, also has two members in the US Senate. Thus, the electoral votes of a state are its seats in the House, plus two. The smallest seven states have three votes each (one House seat plus two senators). And following the same principle, the largest states are California (55 votes), Texas (38), New York (29), Florida (29), Illinois (20) and Pennsylvania (20). Other states have less

Unless Joe Biden wins big, America stares at a constitutional crisis

If Trump is ahead on election night, he is likely to claim victory and also legally challenge the validity of mailed ballots in the US Supreme Court, which has a new judge nominated by Trump, giving the court a conservative majority. Election results can thus get mired in legal battles for weeks. And if the highest court, agreeing with Trump's claim of fraudulence, nullifies mailed ballots, whereas states certify their election results after the full count, the US will have a full-blown constitutional crisis on its hands.

than 20 votes each. In 2016, one electoral vote in Wyoming, a tiny state, represented 190,000 people, whereas California, the largest state, had one electoral vote per 680,000 citizens.

The gap between popular and electoral votes is a historically charged matter. It will suffice to note that American states are powerful. In a well-known conceptual formulation, Alfred Stepan called the US a "coming together federation", as distinct from a "holding together federation," like India. Compared to the former, states are weaker in the latter. Unlike most federations, 13 former British colonies, as states, came together to form the US in the 1780s, keeping considerable powers as a basis for joining the union.

So, how will Trump and Biden fare in the electoral college? This customary question now has a new twist: How will early voting, expanded in most states due to the pandemic, influence the final count? As of writing this, 72 million votes have already been cast, a historical record. Before Election Day, November 3, this number could touch 85-90 million. That would be more than half of the total votes, expected to be somewhere between 150-160 million.

Early votes are of two types: In person and mailed in. How many thus far fall in which category is not obvious. But two things are clear. First, early votes are expected to be disproportionately Democratic, whereas voters on election day will be disproportionately Republican. Second, some states accept mailed-in ballots only till election day, but others can wait until days after so long as the ballots have an election day postmark. Many states won't have their final tally of votes on the night of November 3.

Trump has been denouncing mailed-in votes as fraudulent for months, though no systematic evidence supporting this claim exists. However, his castigation of postal ballots, likely to be in tens of millions, does have serious implications.

Consider three scenarios: 1) Trump ahead on election night, but losing days later when mailed ballots are fully counted; 2) Biden slightly ahead on November 3, his lead becoming decisive as mailed ballots are counted; and 3) Trump routed on election

night, making postal ballots irrelevant to the outcome.

Unlike so many countries, the US does not have an independent national election commission. States have the responsibility to announce results, and, based on them, it is left to the presidential candidates to claim victory and concede defeat. Without a sense of political ethics, such voluntary expectations can go awry. Nobody associates Trump with ethical conduct.

If Trump is ahead on election night, he is likely to claim victory and also legally challenge the validity of mailed ballots in the US Supreme Court, which has a new judge nominated by Trump, giving the court a conservative majority. Election results can thus get mired in legal battles for weeks. And if the highest court, agreeing with Trump's claim of fraudulence, nullifies mailed ballots, whereas states certify their election results after the full count, the US will have a full-blown constitutional crisis on its hands.

This outcome can be ruled out if Trump is decisively defeated on November 3. He won 306 electoral college votes in 2016, 36 more than required, coming primarily from his victory in three traditionally Democratic states: Pennsylvania (20), Michigan (16) and Wisconsin (10). Most polls show Biden ahead in all three. In addition, some of the states Trump won in 2016 — Florida (29), North Carolina (15), Arizona (11) and Iowa (6) — are looking uncertain for him. Any combination of these states will generate a Biden victory.

But the polls may be wrong. Moreover, they are predictions about the total votes in a state, both votes cast on November 3 and earlier. We don't know what will happen on the night of November 3, when many states will not have counted their mailed ballots. If Trump is ahead on November 3, legal and political manoeuvres are quite possible. Only a Biden victory that night, not one after the full count, can preempt such possibilities.

The world will carefully watch the night of November 3. There is no doubt that America's foundational principles are at stake.

The writer is Sol Goldman professor of international studies and professor of political science at Brown University



MILIND MURUGKAR

THE RECENTLY ENACTED farm bills have triggered debate on the desirability of the MSP regime. It is a strange outcome. The bills do not facilitate a policy to do away with Minimum Support Prices (MSPs). All it does is allow free entry to agents who wish to set up markets — whether they be private individuals, producer collectives or cooperatives. This means that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other associated agencies can procure in the traditional mandis, or in a new market established under this law — or in their own backyard. So, the argument that if the mandis cease to exist, the procurement will also cease is, in fact, flawed. But the staunch defenders of the bills, instead of making this point and stopping at that, are questioning the MSP regime in the same breath. (For instance, Ashok Gulati, "MSP in the age of surplus" IE, October 12).

Elsewhere, supporters of the bills have quoted the Shanta Kumar committee's figures to argue that MSPs are anyway irrelevant for most of the farmers in the country. This linkage of the farm bills with the MSP only adds to the apprehension that farmers have about the bills. Instead of allaying their fears, if they are asked to choose between the MSP system and the market, the debate on farm bills becomes unnecessarily ideological.

It is true that the procurement has remained confined to only a few crops. But as

THE WRONG LINK

Farm bill advocates should not ask farmers to choose between MSP and market

an analysis in this paper (IE, October 6) shows, the benefits to the farmers even beyond Punjab and Haryana are certainly not negligible. It is true that only a small fraction benefits directly from the procurement. But one cannot ignore the indirect benefit of this to all foodgrain producers in the country. Procurement of wheat and rice is from a fraction of the grain producers, but it is around 35 per cent of the total grain production in the country. As the procurement significantly exceeds the PDS requirement, this creates additional demand in the foodgrain market, pushing up the prices. This has been a great help for all the grain producers in the country, especially when the international prices have remained low for a long time now.

The RBI's annual report of 2017-18 analyses the impact of MSP-based procurement on the food prices. It conclusively shows that MSP is a leading factor influencing the output prices of the farm produce in the entire country. Gulati is offering an either-or choice to the farmers. They should either embrace the "inefficient" and "costly" MSP system or opt for open markets. This is problematic.

During a three-year period of UPA II, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) — headed incidentally by Gulati — recommended a steep increase in MSPs. In fact, the commission was criticised by some for its inflation-inducing policy.

What has changed so much between then and now for the MSPs to become irrelevant for the welfare of the farmers? Why should the farmers believe that the enactment of the farm bills will offer them remunerative prices, making MSPs redundant? After all, the process of emergence of a new market has just begun.

The period from 2004 to 2012 was the period of high commodity prices, high government procurement and rapid reduction in rural poverty. Can we deny the probable causal link between the high prices and decrease in poverty?

The issue of MSP is all the more important for rain-fed agriculturists. Being deprived of irrigation, they don't derive benefit from subsidies on electricity and fertiliser as their use is limited. So, at the moment, the only state support these farmers (primarily cotton and pulse producers) have is that of MSPs. This, though far from adequate, is crucial.

Above all, the debate on whom and how the state should support is an issue that should be addressed independent of the farm acts. Presenting these acts as an alternative to MSPs will not persuade farmers. And they cannot be blamed for that.

The writer is a policy analyst with Pragati Abhiyan

OCTOBER 30, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM MLAS GHERAO SEVEN LEGISLATORS UNDER *gherao* by Assam agitators over the foreigners' issue were freed after they gave written statements supporting the movement's objectives, according to sources. Seven other MLAs were under *gherao* for the second day in different parts of the state, resisting pressure by AASU and AAGSP volunteers to accept the agitators' line on the foreigners' issue. The AASU and AAGSP said in a joint statement that they have decided to exempt legislators from the indefinite *gherao* programme, if they resigned from their respective parties. However, the governor's adviser, K Ramamurthy, told journalists that the police

had broken *gheraos* at the residences of some legislators who had sought their assistance.

MORADABAD TENSE UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF Minister VP Singh directed the Moradabad administration to take "firm" action against elements disturbing peace. He told newsmen that the "civil police" was being reinforced in Moradabad and said that the government at this stage was not considering steps like the imposition of the curfew or calling out the army. PTI, UNI report: Tension gripped the town again with three more deaths reported in fresh incidents in the last 48 hours. The Civil Lines police sent one headless body for post-

mortem. The body was found in the compound of the local collectorate.

BAGHDAD BOMBED IRANIAN PLANES BOMBED Iraq's biggest oil refineries in Baghdad and the southern port city of Basra as ground forces held desperately to a key bridge that blocked an Iraqi tank assault on the oil refining centre of Abadan, Iran said. Iraq said fighting tapered off along its 300-mile invasion front with only 15 Iranian and eight Iraqi soldiers killed in combat. An Iranian communique said the planes raided the Doura refinery on the south-eastern edge of Baghdad and the Shuaiba refinery near Basra, causing heavy damage to both.



Lost in Paris

Do not fight for this idea or that idea, if it is at the cost of the body. Stand by the body. Let it be free to live, and not suffer



TABISH KHAIR

YOU CANNOT KILL an idea with another idea. But you can always kill a human being with an idea.

Let us talk of two ideas that often come to blows with one another: The idea of freedom of expression and the idea of the sacredness of your religious symbol. Someone makes cartoons of this religious symbol — in this case, the prophet of Islam, Mohammad. A dedicated teacher in Paris shows these cartoons to his students in good faith. He believes it is necessary for the sake of the first idea, that of freedom of expression. I have no problem with that. Neither do all the Muslims I know.

But there are some Muslims, some custodians of the religious symbol in France, who get outraged. They post intemperate things on social media. They later claim that it was simply protest and criticism, not a provocation to violence. But they do end up provoking an angry, confused young man, who beheads the teacher that had shown the cartoons to his students, and is dutifully shot down by police officers.

Two bodies. Two deaths. Death is a physical matter. So is suffering: Even mental afflictions have physical consequences. All pain is felt in the body. The body that is not immortal.

The two ideas do not die. Their conflict does not die. They have no body that can be beheaded or shot. They cannot be threatened, imprisoned, abused, tortured, killed. All this can only happen to the bodies that espouse either, and more, of the ideas. It does not matter whether the ideas are good or bad, or, as is often the case, both good-bad. What matters is that ideas do not have a body.

Hence, these two ideas continue to be at loggerheads. France believes constitutionally in secularism and freedom of expression and inevitably feels the need to buttress these ideas. Its president makes a strong speech reiterating such values. The fact that elections are just a year away adds urgency to the speech. Some French towns project the cartoons on buildings. Some Muslim countries, where the rulers use the idea of sacredness rather than freedom of expression to rule, decide to boycott French goods. These are countries whose autocratic governments do not trust freedom of expression in any field. The lines are drawn.

I am told that, in retaliation, the French government is considering asking school-teachers to show the cartoons in class. Schools are closed right now. But they will open soon. Will they be instructed to show the cartoons to all their students? What do teachers think of this proposal?

I call a couple of teachers I know in France. They are French-French. This means that they are White and Catholic. But they teach in schools where many students are from immigrant and Muslim backgrounds. Both these teachers believe in freedom of expression. Just as strongly as I do. But both say that this proposal, and all such proposals, leave them feeling uneasy.

“Why?” I ask them.



C R Sasikumar

They cannot pinpoint the reasons for their unease. Then one says: “How do I get across to students who feel that I am just insulting their culture? I am sure they won't say anything to me, but I might lose them forever. They will just bracket away everything I could teach them. I will fail as a teacher.”

Then the other one says: “And what happens if they listen to me and go out and get into the wrong crowd, or into fights? What happens if they, or I, become vulnerable to violence by extremists on their side or my side?”

I can hear what they are trying to express. I know why they cannot express it. Because we have a huge vocabulary for ideas, religious or secular, in all languages. But we have so few words to utter the body. The body that eats and touches, laughs and weeps, hears and sees, believes and doubts. The body that is always different from other bodies in its looks and attire and movements and hopes and fears — and, hence, needs full freedom to be what it is. The body that shares mortality with other bodies. The body that can be beheaded, or shot. The body that can be manipulated by ideas — religious or secular — to make itself vulnerable.

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That precarious body.

Even as I write all this down, I hear more: Arabs beaten up, people knifed in a church in Nice. Bodies.

How does one ensure that this body, the body that suffers and dies, has the freedom to live as it wants? After all, that is why people like me believe in freedom of expression. It is not the idea that matters, but its necessity for the body to live. The body needs to be able to express itself without retribution. But, say those who object to absolute freedom of expression, what if the body expresses hatred for others, hatred that can induce some angry, confused man, on the other side this time, to take a gun and shoot down Muslims?

Yes, that danger is always there. It exists on all sides. There are laws to prevent it. But note: It is a danger to the body. Finally, this idea or that can be used to threaten, imprison, abuse, torture, kill the body. Do not fight for this idea or that idea, if it is at the cost of the body. Stand by the body. Let it be free to live, and not suffer.

Khair is an Indian-English author and associate professor in the Department of English, University of Aarhus, Denmark

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The authorities in Myanmar cannot claim to be transitioning to democracy while conflict continues to escalate, minorities continue to be disenfranchised and dissent continues to be silenced within its borders”

— DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

Jacinda's way

Jacinda Ardern's career has created a more robust template for the New Political Woman in the 21st century



MRINAL PANDE

IN OUR generation, the late Aruna Asaf Ali once told me, even emancipated women were secretly conformist. They took a certain righteous pleasure in saying they were in the political movement for freedom to support their father, brother or husband. Such indifference to the power differential between males and females within their families meant, she said, that women continued to accept male-defined hierarchies in mainstream politics after Independence. One now realises they were not the only ones.

Up until the new millennium, globally, democratic politics saw men inheriting the top post either through a politically-powerful family or the party. In 2020, a collective dream of women of several generations — leading with their own agenda from the front — has begun to take shape. It is most clearly visible in the rise of a leader like Jacinda Kate Laurell Ardern, voted in for a second term as the Prime Minister of New Zealand, with a landslide 64-seat victory for her Labour Party.

Mentoring matters a great deal in politics. The earlier it begins, the better. Today's young women need not wait in the wings for their turn. Ardern began early. As president of the International Union of Socialist Youth, she gathered political wisdom, travelling extensively, meeting other youth leaders from the US, Jordan, Israel, China and Algeria. She was mentored by two strong women. In 2008, she was introduced to her country's mainstream politics by her aunt, Marie Ardern, a long-time member of the Labour Party. She began as a researcher for PM Helen Clark. Ardern describes Clark as her “political hero”. And she describes herself as a social democrat, progressive, republican and feminist.

Women in Indian politics have mostly adhered to unwritten rules. Even the fiery ones, like Indira Gandhi, with her covered head and long-sleeved blouses, and Sushma Swaraj, with her vermilion-streaked hair tied in a bun. In this way, both were able to defend themselves against the twin bogeymen of promiscuity and/or utter domesticity unleashed against female politicians during elections.

Ardern's career has created a more robust template for the New Political Woman in the 21st century. She has unflinchingly faced challenges that male politicians seldom do but all young women encounter: How will marital partnership and parenthood mesh with political work? Ardern chose partnership outside of traditional matrimony for herself and is today, after Benazir Bhutto, the second head of state to have had a baby in office. In her political decision-making, she has espoused causes that acknowledge her own trajectories. The empathy she thus gained has helped her take all women along, with all pro-women, pro-democracy and progressive men around her. Her landslide victory is proof that in 2020, there are many in her tiny nation who, like her (or even us Indians), have inherited complex, mixed racial histories and

multiple family narratives, and seek a healthy synthesis between disparate things.

It is important for us to see Ardern as a representative of a post-racial, developed world. She confirms that even for a developing democracy like ours, the old-style blind casteist arithmetic has been relegated to the background. What young leaders and voters must focus on is the cold facts on the ground — *rozgar, shiksha* and universal healthcare. Another lesson is a quality women possess much more than men — tolerance and the capacity to be inclusive. After her election, PM Ardern extended a hand of friendship to the opposition Green Party. She did not need their numbers. But she recognised that they were valuable allies in the fight for environmental protection. Our young leaders could take a leaf out of her book for creating future alliances with pro-democracy, liberal feminists across genders and repudiate the misogynist, casteist and communal rhetoric of their opponents.

Ardern's success proves that democracies today need politicians, male or female, who can represent a host of races, castes and tribes that live together as a nation. Even as the incumbent PM facing elections, Ardern was able to keep her nation united in the fight against COVID-19. Unlike the Delhi Durbar, which quietly watched the Delhi riots after the rabble-rousing rhetoric of young BJP leaders, Ardern rushed to the spot after the anti-Islamic Christchurch shootings. With her appeals for peace and swift punishments for the accused, she was able to not just douse the fires but also unite the nation.

The Oedipal violence behind rape threats to female relatives of outspoken critics of the Hindutva doctrine, of minorities, even cricketers playing badly in a season, is not just indicative of a clash between generations. It goes deeper — it is a clash between promoters of national integration and the isolationists who now come in all ages. And in politics, they fear and hate all who are liberal and gender-neutral in their political agendas.

Ardern shows that it is possible to contest and win elections without “Howdys” and “*Abki-baars*”. Demanding environmental protection is to her “my generation's nuclear-free moment”. She quips bluntly, “I do not tend to have communications with Donald Trump.” Her landslide victory is proof of her large support base. Encouraged by that, she has since been frankly speaking truth to power, supporting minority rights everywhere from Israel-Palestine, to China's Uyghurs and has offered to mediate and help Myanmar resolve the Rohingya problem.

Today, in India, we all look for ideological heroism such as this, even while we are being taught to see pragmatic women politicians demanding compassion, inclusion and balance as weak and foolish, or removed from the grassroots. Memorably, Ardern carried her baby to the ultra-sedate UN General Assembly Session, so she could feed it on time. A brilliant gesture that put all potential critics of breastfeeding for infants and mothers' human rights immediately on the defensive. With this, she turned an age-old negative into positive and she did not need to use a jumla like “*aapda se avasar*” (opportunity in adversity”).

What *aapda*? You get the drift.

The writer is a senior journalist and former chairperson, Prasara Bharati



M R NARAYAN SWAMY

Caught out by spin

Stalling film on Muralitharan will not help Tamils in Sri Lanka

TAMIL FILMSTAR Vijay Sethupathi's decision to opt out of a biopic on legendary Sri Lankan Tamil cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan is another tragedy to befall Tamil Nadu's love-hate relations with the island nation. Tamil nationalists, sections of Tamil Nadu politicians, and personalities from the Tamil film world can claim victory, but it is doubtful if the axing of the movie (for now) will do any good to Tamils in Sri Lanka.

On the contrary, this movie, about a Tamil who arguably has more fans today in Tamil Nadu than LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran ever did, will be certainly made one day. It may be made by Bollywood if not in Kodambakkam, and a Farhan Akhtar might star in it, if not a Vijay Sethupathi. The loss would be of Tamil cinema — an opportunity lost to tell a unique Tamil tale.

Muralitharan, one of the finest bowlers ever (800 wickets in Tests and 534 in ODIs), has a compelling personal story. If identity is so crucial to Tamils, they should be celebrating his storied life. Here's a Tamil with a contribution to cricket that is inspirational. He earned his spurs in what was a landscape of bloodshed and violence in Sri Lanka, particularly for the Tamil community in the island.

The charge against Muralitharan is that he supported then defence secretary and now President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who

presided over the military destruction of the LTTE in 2009. The cricketer has been accused of describing 2009 as the best year in his life, which was read as supporting the killing of the many innocent Tamils in the war. Muralitharan's refutation that he never supported the killings has made no difference to his critics.

Will Sri Lankan Tamil political aspirations and post-war reconciliation advance now that the movie has been axed? If anything, it was LTTE's obduracy, no less than of the Sinhalese leadership, Prabhakaran's dogged refusal to turn politically and his determination to turn the LTTE into an all-out war machine and fight to the end, that took down the Sri Lankan Tamil community. After a quarter of a century of blood-bath, what did the LTTE achieve for the Tamils? Even Sri Lankan Tamils, including former Tigers, are asking this question. One ex-LTTE fighter who left Sri Lanka after the war told me: “In 1983, we didn't have much but we stood on our legs. Today, we have lost whatever little we had and are on our knees.”

Muralitharan, in any case, does not belong to the North or East of Sri Lanka, which formed the geographical territory of Eelam. He belongs to the Hill Tamil community (also known as Indian-origin Tamils) which also suffered at the hands of Sinhalese chauvinists even though it had no role in the Eelam campaign. Muralitharan has spoken

about how his father was attacked in the 1977 anti-Tamil riots. In any case, Eelam champions had little interest in the privations of this community, which mostly works in the tea plantations of the central hills in conditions that were subhuman until a few years ago.

The Tamil nationalists in Tamil Nadu remain in thrall of the LTTE, even though Sri Lankan Tamils have had mixed feelings about them. There is only one Sri Lankan Tamil hero for them. The danger, in the eyes of Tamil nationalists, is this: The biopic, *800*, would have shown up a different Tamil hero. Is this why he had to be called a traitor? The same Muralitharan was a star when he played for the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK). By his own admission, he loved being in a Tamil crowd while in India. No one asked him then which side of the war he was on.

Tamil Nadu has not painted itself in glory on the Sri Lankan Tamil issue. The state's political leaders encouraged Sri Lankan Tamil “boys” to wage war in Sri Lanka. Backing violent nationalism in another country was easier, especially as it reaped political rewards at home, until, of course, the boys grew up and started biting back. By then, most of the same politicians were either too much in with them, or too scared to defy them. By 2005, LTTE literature had started describing Prabhakaran as the “leader of world Tamils”, the honorific

that always belonged to DMK leader, M Karunanidhi.

It is arguable if Tamil Nadu's influential politicians could have scripted a less bloody ending to the war. Compromise is not a dirty word; it only means taking a careful middle road after balancing the interests of rival sides. It is tempting to think that 30 years ago, Tamil Nadu politicians could have become a bridge between Colombo and the Tamil militants, and even, perhaps, between Delhi and Colombo.

Before the war ended, Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was then the president, urged Tamil Nadu politicians to visit Sri Lanka. The invitation was spurned. After the war ended, when agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan was to visit Colombo, pressure was brought on him not to go. Had he shared better farm technology with Sri Lanka, would it not have helped Tamil farmers too?

There is still time for Tamil nationalists to rethink their position on Sri Lankan Tamil nationalism. The more they shout from Chennai, the less it is going to help the Tamils in Sri Lanka. What Tamils want today from the Sri Lankan government is accountability, justice, equality. Nixing a movie on a Tamil cricketer is not going to get them that.

The writer, a historian of the LTTE, reported from Sri Lanka for many years

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CONSULT PEOPLE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘J&K reality’ (IE, October 29). One wonders whether the Centre's unilateral action in notifying new land laws, without taking Kashmiris into confidence, has been a well-thought-out one. There are likely to be more hurdles for the trouble-torn area to cross before it can experience peace, progress and prosperity. For the successful implementation of any government initiative, it is quite essential to ensure the cooperation of the people.

SS Paul, Nadia

KEEP AUTONOMY

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Proceed with caution’ (IE, October 29). India and the US recently concluded the modalities for signing the last of the key foundational agreements that would pave the way for closer defence and strategic cooperation. India's geopolitical aspirations are no longer limited by its geography. As a proponent of the rules-based world order, India needs to engage with multiple powers. It shouldn't compromise on its strategic autonomy while entering into any such partnership.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Proceed with caution’ (IE, October 29). Apart from the timing of 2+2 session between the biggest arms exporter and importer on the eve of US presidential election, India can't afford to wholly join any military

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● TOWARDS
ATMANIRBHAR BIHAR:
GURU PRAKASH

● BEHIND BJP'S TARGET
RESERVATION:
K K RAGESH

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or economic camp. Disregarding the time-tested convention of avoiding agreements for full defence engagement (read “dependence”) should not prove the biggest blunder of 2020, and beyond.

Varin Dhir, Ahmedabad

KEEP TESTING

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Some districts trying to control the testing for Covid: top pvt lab’ (IE, October 29). It is disturbing that restrictions have been imposed in certain districts for collecting samples for COVID-19 tests. Testing and tracing are the only available means to contain the spread of the disease until a vaccine is developed.

Rethesh Balakrishnan, Delhi

TOPOF THE WORLD



Imran Khan

PAKISTAN
Court acquits
Imran in 2014
Parliament
attack case

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was acquitted by an anti-terrorism court on Thursday in the 2014 Parliament attack case but other senior ministers, including Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, were summoned on November 12 for the indictment. Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan, however, halted proceedings against President Arif Alvi due to the presidential immunity granted to him, *The Express Tribune* reported. On August 31, 2014, workers of the now ruling PTI and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) tried to enter Parliament and go towards the Prime Minister's House and clashed with police. Police had invoked sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act against Khan and other PTI leaders, according to the *Dawn* newspaper. **PTI**

SOUTH KOREA
Court upholds
17-year jail term
to ex-leader

Seoul: South Korea's top court upheld a 17-year sentence imposed on former President Lee Myung-bak for a range of corruption crimes in a final ruling Thursday that will send him back to prison. Lee has been convicted of taking bribes worth millions of dollars from big companies including Samsung, embezzling corporate funds of a company that he owned and misusing official funds of South Korea's spy agency. **REUTERS**

THE PHILIPPINES
Rooster kills police
officer in Covid-19
lockdown raid

Manila: A police officer in the Philippines was killed this week after a fighting rooster slashed him during a raid on an illegal cockfighting den to stop the spread of the coronavirus. The officer, Lt. Christian Bolok, 38, was part of a team that descended on an arena in the province of Northern Samar on Monday, after it was suspecting of violating lockdown rules against mass gatherings. "He was wounded in his femoral artery on the left leg and lost a lot of blood," provincial police chief, Col. Arnel Apud, said. "Within minutes, he died. It was a freak accident." **NYT**

AFGHANISTAN
8 inmates dead
after prison riot
in Herat

Kabul: Rioting at a prison in western Afghanistan has left at least eight inmates dead, provincial officials said Thursday. The violence erupted Wednesday at the prison in the city of Herat, the capital of Herat province, according to Mohammad Rafiq Shirzai, a spokesman for the provincial health department. He said 12 others — eight inmates and four prison guards — were wounded in the outbreak at the facility, which holds about 2,000 prisoners. **AP**

‘Ghus ke maara’: Minister admits Pak role in Pulwama terror

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 29

IN A sensational admission, a senior Pakistani minister on Thursday admitted that Pakistan was responsible for the deadly Pulwama terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 that brought the two countries to the brink of a war.

"*Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara* (We hit India in their home). Our success in Pulwama, is a success of this nation under the leadership of Imran Khan. You and us are all part of that

success," Science & Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry said in the National Assembly during a debate.

When some of his fellow lawmakers objected to his mention of "success in Pulwama", the minister said that "after the Pulwama incident, the way Pakistan went inside the Indian territory to target it, the entire media in India was ashamed of it." However, he didn't retract his statement about "success in Pulwama" under Prime Minister Khan's leadership.

Chaudhry, a close aide of Prime Minister Imran Khan,



Pakistan Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry and opposition leader Ayaz Sadiq



made the remarks a day after Opposition PML(N) leader Ayaz Sadiq said that Foreign Minister

Shah Mahmood Qureshi in an important meeting pleaded to release Indian Air Force Wing

Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who was captured by the Pakistani Army on February 27, 2019 after his MiG-21 Bison jet was shot down in a dogfight with Pakistani jets.

In the early hours of February 26, 2019, the IAF jets bombed the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror camps in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan and avenged the Pulwama terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel.

In a speech in the National Assembly Wednesday, Sadiq said that Prime Minister Imran Khan skipped the high-level

meeting, which was attended by top leadership, including Army chief Gen Bajwa and Foreign Minister Qureshi.

"Legs were shaking and forehead perspiring, and the foreign minister (Qureshi) told us, 'For God's sake, let him (Varthaman) go back now because India is attacking Pakistan at 9 PM in the night'," Sadiq said. "India was not planning to attack... They just wanted to kneel before India and send back Abhinandan."

It was not very clear whether Sadiq was referring to Gen. Bajwa or foreign minister Qureshi whose legs were shak-

ing and forehead perspiring.

He also did not mention the date of the meeting, but indicated that it was held before the release of Varthaman.

Chaudhry, who was the information and broadcasting minister at the time of the Pulwama attack, criticised Sadiq's remarks and termed them as "inappropriate".

He said Sadiq lied with a lot of confidence regarding his statements and asserted that everyone has the right to disagree with the government but the state should not be subjected to criticism.

US Supreme Court allows absentee ballot extensions in 2 key states

THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 29

IN A pair of decisions welcomed by Democrats, the Supreme Court on Wednesday let election officials in two key battleground states, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, accept absentee ballots for several days after Election Day.

In the Pennsylvania case, the court refused a plea from Republicans in the state that it decide before Election Day whether election officials can continue receiving absentee ballots for three days after Nov. 3.

In the North Carolina case, the court let stand lower court rulings that allowed the state's board of elections to extend the deadline to nine days after Election Day, up from the three days called for by the state legislature.

The court's brief orders in the two cases were unsigned. The Pennsylvania order appeared to be unanimous, while the North Carolina one was issued over three noted dissents.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who joined the court on Tuesday, did not take part in either case.

The Pennsylvania and North Carolina cases were the latest examples of the complications that Covid-19 has presented to officials preparing for next week's election and facing a record-setting number of absentee and mail-in ballots cast by voters eager to avoid voting in person during a pandemic.

Democrats have consistently pushed for more lenient rules when it comes to mail-in ballots and how and when they are counted. Republicans have resisted such changes, with many arguing the relaxed rules could open the process to abuse and fraud.

Pennsylvania likely to be tipping point in presidential race

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 29

PEACEFUL DAY demonstrations turned violent Wednesday night in a historical Black business corridor in Philadelphia, two days after police killed a Black man in the largest city in the state of Pennsylvania. Scattered amongst signs urging people to vote, various posters expressed support either for African Americans or for the police as police helicopters circled the skies.

"Last night Philadelphia was torn up by Biden-supporting radicals... Biden stands with the rioters. And I stand with the heroes of law enforcement," President Donald Trump said at a rally in Wisconsin.

Democratic nominee Joe Biden, however, was quick to condemn the looting. "I think to be able to protest is totally legitimate, totally reasonable. But there's no excuse for the looting," he said in Delaware.

Pennsylvania is most likely to the tipping factor for the presi-



More than 3.5 million eligible voters in Pennsylvania didn't send in a 2016 ballot, and Trump won the state. Reuters/File

dent: "By the way, we win Pennsylvania, we win the whole thing. Big deal, right," he said in Allentown, Pennsylvania on Monday. In keen awareness of the state's importance, the Democrats have inundated Pennsylvania with key speakers and the most television ad spending per voter.

Even more importantly, campaigns are looking at turning out new voters in their strongholds. More than 3.5 million eligible voters in Pennsylvania didn't send in a 2016 ballot, and Trump won the state by 44,292 votes.

The death of a Black man in Philadelphia -- the latest in a string of similar incidents this year -- comes as Pennsylvanians return a record number of early ballots: two million of the three million ballots sent to them. With less than a week to go till Election Day, US citizens have submitted more than half of the total ballots in 2016 - 74 million.

"This is not going to be a normal election in any way, shape, or form. We're letting voters know we are in this together," said Pennsylvania Democratic Party's executive director Jason Henry. Adding to the disruptions, since the pandemic, Pennsylvania has had the highest number of counties in the top 20 per cent nationally for increased unemployment rates and Covid-19 deaths per capita, a Wall Street Journal analysis found. This week, national Covid-19 case counts have reached an average of 70,000 daily, the highest on record so far.

With unprecedented mail-in ballots, many anticipate a pushed back release of the results. Many pivotal states, like Pennsylvania, will begin processing these tens of millions of ballots only on Tuesday.

FULL REPORT ON
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AGENCIES

KUALA LUMPUR, OCTOBER 29

MALAYSIA'S FORMER premier Mahathir Mohamad said on Thursday Muslims have a right to "kill millions of French people for the massacres of the past" but he did not approve of the killing of a French teacher over his use of cartoons of the Prophet.

In a blog post Mahathir, 95, a respected leader in the Muslim world, said he believed in freedom of expression but that it should not be used to insult others.

"Muslims have a right to be angry and to kill millions of French people for the massacres of the past. But by and large the Muslims have not applied the 'eye for an eye' law. Muslims don't. The French shouldn't," Mahathir said in a blog post, which he also posted on Twitter.

Mahathir, who served as Malaysian premier twice for a total of 24 years, said that French President Emmanuel Macron was "not showing that he is civilised", adding he was "very primitive".

"Since you have blamed all Muslims and the Muslims' religion for what was done by one angry person, the Muslims have

OTHER WORLD LEADERS ON FRANCE ATTACKS

HEIKO MAAS,
GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Radical Islamism kills and has no place in our society.

DONALD TRUMP,
US PRESIDENT

These Radical Islamic terrorist attacks must stop immediately.

BORIS JOHNSON,
UK PRIME MINISTERVLADIMIR PUTIN,
RUSSIA PRESIDENT

...terrorists are completely devoid of human morals.

a right to punish the French," he said.

Twitter said the message violated its rules about glorifying violence, but it determined that it may be in the public's interest for the post to remain.

Several Muslim-majority countries have denounced remarks by French officials, including President Emmanuel Macron, defending the use of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad in a French school classroom. The caricatures are seen as blasphemous by

Muslims.

The dispute flared after a French teacher who showed his pupils satirical cartoons of the Prophet during a civics lesson was later beheaded in the street by an attacker of Chechen origin.

French officials said the killing was an attack on the core French value of freedom of expression and defended the right to publish the cartoons. Macron has also said he would redouble efforts to stop conservative Islamic beliefs subverting French values.

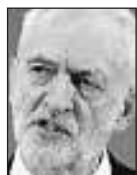
UK's Labour Party suspends
Corbyn in anti-Semitism rowBENJAMIN MUELLER
LONDON, OCTOBER 29

BRITAIN'S MAIN opposition party, Labour, suspended its former leader Jeremy Corbyn on Thursday after he tried to deflect blame for the party's handling of anti-Semitism allegations.

Mr. Corbyn made his comments after a human rights watchdog in Britain said in the findings of a formal investigation that the party bore responsibility for "unlawful acts of harassment and discrimination" against Jewish members, reinforcing complaints that long clouded Mr. Corbyn's tenure as party leader from 2015 to 2020.

A few hours after Mr. Corbyn posted a statement on Facebook blaming "opponents inside and outside the party" and the media for overstating Labour's failures on anti-Semitism, the party said that Mr. Corbyn had been suspended.

Before it moved west to Vietnam, the typhoon killed 16 people in the Philippines over the weekend, according to local news reports.

Jeremy
Corbyn
resigned as
Labour chief
in April

the party, responded to the watchdog report by apologizing.

"I found this report hard to read and it is a day of shame for the Labour Party," he said, standing behind a lectern bearing the slogan "A New Leadership" — an unsentimental signal of his effort to turn the party away from the hard-left policies and the sometimes divisive leadership of Mr. Corbyn. "We have failed the Jewish people, our members, our supporters and the British public."

The watchdog, the Equalities and Human Rights Commission — an independent official body whose recommendations are legally enforceable — said it had investigated complaints of anti-Semitism and found that Labour's political leadership had interfered in the party's own investigations of anti-Semitic incidents.

Typhoon slams into Vietnam, 60 killed

THE NEW YORK TIMES
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 29

A TYPHOON that slammed into central Vietnam has set off a series of landslides that buried villages and towns, left more than 60 people dead or missing and compounded the misery of a country already struggling with catastrophic floods.

Typhoon Molave was one of the biggest storms to hit the country in two decades, bringing a second round of deadly landslides there this month. Torrential rains and flooding unleashed a mudslide on October 18 that leveled soldiers' barracks in Huong Phung Commune, in the central coastal province of Quang Tri.

Officials said the deaths could be the country's largest military loss in peacetime.

The typhoon, packing 85-



Soldiers and villagers dig through mud after a landslide swamps a village in Phuoc Loc district. VNA via AP

mile-per-hour winds, cut power to millions of people and damaged 56,000 houses, the Vietnamese government said.

By Thursday afternoon, 19 bodies had been pulled from the rubble, according to local media and the Red Cross, citing infor-

mation from officials on the ground.

The storm set off landslides in two districts in Quang Nam Province on Wednesday afternoon, the state-run news outlet VnExpress reported. At least 11 households were buried by

rocks, including that of a government official, and 53 people were feared dead or missing. Twelve people were treated for injuries.

By Thursday afternoon, reports emerged that a third landslide had occurred the previous afternoon in a nearby district, burying an additional 11 people. About 200 workers at a hydro-electricity plant were trapped by the landslides, and the authorities were attempting to get supplies to them.

Two fishing boats sank in Binh Dinh Province on Tuesday night while trying to seek shelter from the storm, and 26 fishermen remain missing. Two navy vessels mobilized to find them, *Reuters* reported.

Before it moved west to Vietnam, the typhoon killed 16 people in the Philippines over the weekend, according to local news reports.

As West stumbles, 'Helmsman' Xi pushes an ambitious plan for China

THE NEW YORK TIMES
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 29

THE UNITED States is embroiled in a bitter presidential race and a surge in coronavirus infections. Europe is locking down again. In Beijing, by contrast, Xi Jinping is exuding confidence that he and China can emerge from the pandemic stronger and unbowed.

A Communist Party conclave concluded Thursday with a rousing statement lauding Mr. Xi as the party's helmsman, affirming his broad mandate as the leader who will steer China through perilous waters for years to come. The

meeting of the Central Committee, a council of senior officials, laid out ambitions for China to mature as an economic, military and cultural power despite rising uncertainty abroad.

With Mr. Xi as "the core navigator and helmsman," an official summary from the meeting read, "we will certainly be able to conquer the range of hardships and dangers that lie on the path forward."

Mr. Xi has used the meeting to show that he remains unchallenged and resurgent nine months after the coronavirus plunged China into its worst crisis in decades. Without mentioning the



Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. AP

missteps that marred China's initial response to the virus outbreak, the committee's 200 or so voting

members praised the country's "major strategic achievement" in largely stifling the outbreak

The party elite's show of unity behind Mr. Xi shored up his political dominance and will help him as he pushes for technological, social and economic advances to make China and its ruling party more resilient in a post-pandemic world. China, the party officials said, faces "new tensions and challenges engendered by intricately complicated international conditions."

"He is trying to convince the party that only he, Xi Jinping, has the political resources, the experience and the determination to pull China through," said Willy Wo-Lap Lam, an adjunct professor at the Chinese University of

Hong Kong who has long studied Chinese politics.

As other leaders and nations turn inward, consumed by crises, Mr. Xi appears keen to press the message that the party's grip on power is secure and the country can play a greater role internationally. Party propaganda has asserted that China's success in extinguishing Covid-19 infections shows its overall "institutional superiority," and Beijing has promised to share a potential vaccine for the coronavirus.

Even so, Mr. Xi must tackle some of the most serious economic and geopolitical challenges China has faced in many years.

"China has done a pretty good job by itself in putting together a loose, global anti-China coalition," said Bilahari Kausikan, a former diplomat from Singapore. "I cannot think of any serious country - with a big economy or even some with small economies - that does not have some concerns about China and Chinese behaviour."

With Mr. Xi's position secure, a dramatic shift in Chinese policy seems unlikely. He is expected to push for another five-year term as the Communist Party's leader, beginning in 2022, meaning his highly personalized rule could last another decade or more.

15 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 39,749.85 ▼ 172.61 NIFTY: 11,670.80 ▼ 58.80 NIKKEI: 23,331.94 ▼ 86.57 HANG SENG: 24,586.60 ▼ 122.20 FTSE: 5,551.27 ▼ 31.53 DAX: 11,489.80 ▼ 70.71

International market data till 1900 IST

INCOME-TAX EXEMPTIONS UNDER LEAVE TRAVEL CONCESSION VOUCHER SCHEME

State govt, pvt sector staff benefit too

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

TWO WEEKS after it announced the Leave Travel Concession (LTC) voucher scheme as part of its consumption-boosting measures, the government on Thursday extended the income-tax exemption available under the LTC cash voucher scheme to non-central government employees which include employees of state governments, state-owned enterprises and the private sector.

The income tax exemption shall not be applicable for those opting for the concessional income tax regime introduced last year and employees will have to refund the unspent LTC fare received from the employer.

The payment of cash allowance, subject to maximum of Rs 36,000 per person as deemed LTC fare per person (Round Trip)

to non-central government employees will be allowed income-tax exemption subject to fulfilment of conditions, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

"In order to provide the benefits to other employees (i.e. non-Central Government employees) ... it has been decided to provide similar income-tax exemption for the payment of cash equivalent of LTC fare to the non-Central Government employees also," the CBDT said.

Tax exemption under the LTC cash voucher scheme requires the employees to spend a sum equal to three times of the value of the deemed LTC fare on purchase of goods/services carrying a GST rate of 12 per cent or more from GST registered vendors/service providers through digital mode between October 12, 2020 to March 31, 2021 and obtain a voucher indicating the GST num-

EXPLAINED
Aim is to boost growth

THE AIM of the scheme is to stimulate growth in the economy. The payment of cash allowance, subject to maximum of Rs 36,000 per person as deemed LTC fare per person (Round Trip) to non-central government employees will be allowed income-tax exemption subject to fulfilment of conditions.

ber and the amount of GST paid. The employees have to exercise an option for the deemed LTC fare in lieu of the applicable LTC in the Block year 2018-21.

Also, an employee who

spends less than three times of the deemed LTC fare under the cash voucher scheme shall not be entitled to receive full amount of deemed LTC fare and the related income-tax exemption and the amount of both shall be reduced proportionately, it said.

To stimulate growth in the economy, the government had on October 12 announced a twin set of measures to boost consumption demand: LTC voucher scheme and a festival advance for government employees. The scheme had provided that since the cash allowance of LTC fare is in lieu of deemed actual travel, the same shall be eligible for income-tax exemption on the lines of existing income-tax exemption available for LTC fare.

CBDT said that since this exemption is in lieu of the exemption provided for LTC fare, an employee who has exercised an option to pay income tax under

concessional tax regime shall not be entitled for this exemption. A legislative amendment to provide for the changes shall be brought in due course, it said.

Explaining further the CBDT said if the deemed LTC Fare is Rs 20,000 x 4 = Rs 80,000, then the amount to be spent under the scheme is Rs 80,000 x 3 = Rs 2,40,000. Thus, if an employee spends Rs 2,40,000 or above on specified expenditure, he shall be entitled for full deemed LTC fare and the related income-tax exemption. However, if the employee spends Rs. 1,80,000 only, then he shall be entitled for 75 per cent (i.e. Rs. 60,000) of deemed LTC fare and the related income-tax exemption. In case the employee already received Rs. 80,000 from the employer in advance, he has to refund Rs. 20,000 to the employer as he could spend only 75 per cent of the required amount.

FUTURE RETAIL-RELIANCE RETAIL VENTURES AGREEMENT

Amazon India writes to Sebi, bourses, asks not to okay deal

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

GLOBAL E-COMMERCE giant Amazon's Indian arm has written to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the BSE and the National Stock Exchange (NSE), asking them not to approve the Future Retail-Reliance Retail Ventures deal, three people aware of the development told *The Indian Express*.

In its letter to the markets regulator and the two benchmark stock exchanges, Amazon India has said that they must take cognisance of the interim order passed by an emergency arbitrator of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), barring Future Retail and its promoters from executing its deal with Reliance Retail. The letter also mentions that the interim order passed by an emer-

'INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS'

■ "The letter has also said that Sebi, BSE and NSE should be aware of the international repercussions that Indian businesses may face if an order passed by a tribunal such as SIAC is not followed in India," another person said.

agency arbitrator of the SIAC had, apart from asking Future Group companies not to execute the deal announced on August 29, also said that these companies should not move any tribunal or courts in India or anywhere else, one of the persons said.

"The letter has also said that

Sebi, BSE and NSE should be aware of the international repercussions that Indian businesses may face if an order passed by a tribunal such as SIAC is not followed in India," another person said. A detailed questionnaire sent to Amazon India and the Future Group did not elicit any response.

On October 25, an emergency arbitrator of the SIAC had passed an interim order restraining Future Group and Reliance Industries Limited from proceeding with the Rs 24,713-crore deal signed in August for Future Retail to sell its retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing units to Reliance Retail and Fashionstyle, until a permanent arbitration tribunal was constituted 90 days later.

While the order was welcomed by Amazon India, Future Retail and Reliance Retail Ventures said they intended to go ahead with the deal as planned.

'Growth in agri GVA unlikely to offset urban demand plunge'

The expected incremental growth in agricultural gross value added (GVA) to 17.3 per cent of the economy this fiscal and the resultant spike in rural demand may not compensate for the massive plunge in urban demand, India Ratings said

SHARE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE GVA OF ECONOMY: Likely to be 17.3% in FY21; over the years

14.6% to 17.8% during FY13-FY20

14.6% in FY20

SHARE OF AGRICULTURE TO GVA GROWTH: Likely to be 14.4% in FY21; over the years

4.8% to 11.2% during FY13-FY20

8.6% in FY20



06 States, which accounted for 32.7% to real GVA in FY20, that would see a spurt in overall demand this fiscal, namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal

Source: India Ratings/PTI

Oct-Dec '19: Urban joblessness eases, labour activity rises

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE in urban areas continued to ease to 7.9 per cent in October-December 2019 from 8.4 per cent in July-September 2019, 8.9 per cent in April-June 2019 and 9.9 per cent in October-December 2018, the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) showed. Urban unemployment in the age group 15-29 years was 19.2

UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS IN 15-29 AGE GROUP

■ As per the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey, urban joblessness in the 15-29 age group was 19.2% in October-December, below 20.6% in July-September 2019

■ This dataset differs from the Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey, released by MoSPI, which covers both rural and urban areas

per cent in October-December 2019, below 20.6 per cent in July-September and 23.7 per cent in the same period the previous year. Female unemployment rate marginally inched up to 9.8 per

cent in October-December 2019 from 9.7 per cent in July-September the same year, but lower than 11.3 per cent in April-June 2019 and 12.3 per cent in October-December 2018. Unemployment

rate for males moderated to 7.3 per cent in October-December last year from 8.0 per cent in July-September, as against 8.3 per cent in the previous quarter and 9.2 per cent in October-December 2018.

Labour force participation rate rose to 37.2 per cent in October-December 2019 from 36.8 per cent in the previous quarter and 36.3 per cent in the same period the previous year, the data showed. State-wise breakup showed that urban unemployment rate was higher than the national average in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Kerala, Madhya

Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Andhra Pradesh.

Unemployment data for urban areas is released quarterly. This dataset differs from the Annual Report of Periodic Labour Force Survey, which covers both rural and urban areas and gives estimates of employment and unemployment in both usual status (ps+ss) and CVWS. The sample size for this survey was lower covering 1.79 lakh people and 45,555 households in October-December 2019 as against 44,471 households in July-September 2019 covering 1.79 lakh people.

SP Group files separation plan from Tata in SC

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 29

THE SHAPOORJI Pallonji (SP) Group has sought a pro rata stake division of all assets of Tata Sons, including a direct 13.22 per cent shareholding of TCS valued at Rs 1,35,000 crore at the current market capitalisation of IT company. Further, in its filing in the Supreme Court on Thursday, the SP Group said the value of its 18.37 per cent stake in Tata Sons is more than Rs 1,75,000 crore.

While formally seeking sepa-

The Shapoorji Pallonji Group said the value of its 18.37 per cent stake in Tata Sons is more than ₹1,75,000 crore

ration from Tata in the apex court, SP Group said Tata Sons is effectively a two-group company, with the Tata group comprising Tata Trusts, Tata family members and Tata companies holding 81.6 per cent stake in the share capital on the one side and the Mistry family

owning the balance 18.37 per cent on the other side.

Tata Sons is a core investment company and is the holding company for the Tata group, and its value arises from its stake in listed equities, non-listed equities, the brand, cash balances and immovable assets, SP Group said.

The SP Group disputes over valuation can be eliminated by doing a pro-rata split of listed assets (share price value is known) and pro-rata share of the brand (brand valuation already done by Tata and published). A neutral third-party valuation can be done for the un-

listed assets adjusted for net debt (i.e. debt less cash), it said.

According to the Mistry group, as a non-cash settlement, SP Group should be given pro-rata shares in listed entities of the Tata group where Tata Sons currently owns a stake. "For example, 72 per cent of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is owned by Tata Sons. SP Group's ownership of 18.37 per cent translates to 13.22 per cent shareholding of TCS (valued at Rs 135,000 crore at present market capitalisation of TCS)."

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE NITI Aayog on Thursday released the draft model Act and rules for states for regulation on conclusive land titling, providing for a state government to order establishment of title registration for all or any type of immovable properties.

The move towards a land titling framework is aimed at reducing land-related litigations and improved land acquisition for infrastructure projects.

In a conclusive titling system, the government provides guaranteed titles for the land, and compensation in case of any ownership disputes.

The draft Act—as released by the government think tank—provides that any person aggrieved by an entry in the Record of Titles may file an objection before the Title Registration Officer within three years from the date of such notification, following which the Title Registration Officer make an entry in Register of Titles and in the Register of Disputes and refer the

case to the Land Dispute Resolution Officer.

A party aggrieved with an order of Land Dispute Resolution Officer may file an appeal before the Land Titling Appellate Tribunal within 30 days of passing of such an order, according to the draft by NITI Aayog.

A special bench of the high court shall be designated to deal with appeals against the orders passed by the Land Titling Appellate Tribunal, with the Act providing for a 30-day window to appeal before the High Court, the draft.

Online dispute resolution: Views sought on policy

New Delhi: The NITI Aayog on Thursday floated a draft paper seeking comments from experts on a national policy for online dispute resolution mechanism, while arguing that a dedicated legislation for mediation could effectively address related concerns. **ENS**

No immediate need for GST rate cut: Maruti

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

MARUTI SUZUKI chairman RC Bhargava said Thursday demand for cars is reasonably robust on the back of pent-up appetite and good purchasing power in rural India. Consequently, he believes there is no need for a cut in Goods and Services Tax rates just yet.

Bhargava was quoted by *PTI* as saying: "... if I was in the government at this time when there is no lack of demand, giving relief at this stage would be quite unnecessary." In case demand falls and if it looks like that it is not a temporary thing but sustained dip in demand that is when the government will need to step in, he added.

"If the GST went down and demand increased by another 30 per cent I won't have cars to sell," he said, as per *PTI*.

RC BHARGAVA
MARUTI SUZUKI CHAIRMAN

"I am selling everything I am producing. If the GST went down and demand increased by another 30 per cent I won't have cars to sell," he said, as per *PTI*.

The automaker's rural sales in Q2FY21 were strong in the wake of a good rabi crop and now accounts for 41 per cent of total sales from 38.6 per cent a year back. For the September quarter, Maruti posted a net profit of Rs 1,372 crore, up 1 per cent year-on-year. Net sales rose 10.4 per cent y-o-y to Rs 18,744.5 crore. **FE & PTI**

SC transfers to self all cases challenging IBC proceedings against personal guarantors

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday transferred to itself all the petitions challenging the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) provisions relating to initiation of insolvency proceedings against personal guarantors.

A Bench led by Justice LN Rao while transferring the cases pending before the high courts of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana also restrained all HCs from entertaining fresh cases on the issue.

Last month, the apex court had dismissed SBI's appeal seeking vacation of the stay granted by the

Delhi High Court on personal bankruptcy proceedings initiated against Reliance group chairman Anil Ambani. The HC while staying the order of the NCLT, Mumbai, had allowed the proceedings against corporate debtors to continue.

"The IBC is at a nascent stage and it is better that the interpretation of the provisions of the Code is taken up by this court to avoid any confusion, and to authoritatively settle the law. Considering the importance of the issues raised in the writ petitions which need finality of judicial determination at the earliest, it is just and proper that the petitions are transferred from the HCs to this court," the apex court said. **FE**

AT ANNUALISED RATE US GDP grows at 33.1% in Q3

Washington/New York: The US economy grew at a record 33.1 per cent annual rate in the July-September quarter. Growth was powered by a record 40.7 per cent annual increase in consumer spending. It fell at a rate of 31.4 per cent in the June quarter.

The Commerce Department's estimate on Thursday of third-quarter growth showed that the nation has regained only about two-thirds of the output that was lost early this year when the eruption of the virus closed businesses.

US crude fell 3 per cent to \$36.27 per barrel and Brent was at \$37.77, down 3.45 per cent as of 2:19 p.m. EDT. **AP & REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

Cap on airfares

New Delhi: The Civil Aviation Ministry has extended limits on domestic airfares till February 24, 2021, from the last sunset of November 24. **ENS**

Latest PLI norms

New Delhi: The Department of Pharmaceuticals revised norms of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for drugs and medical devices.

Deal for Sputnik

New Delhi: Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd said Thursday it will partner with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, Department of Biotechnology, for advisory support on clinical trials of Sputnik V. **PTI**

CEMENT CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified A Govt. of India Enterprise)
Rajban Cement Factory, Distt. Sirmour (HP)-173029.
Ph.: 01704-266227, CIN : U74699DL1965G01004322

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is invited for supply of Clinker by Road/Rail at our site at Rajban (Poonb Sahlu, HP) with due date of opening as 09-11-2020. For details please visit our website www.cciit.in, www.eprocure.gov.in, www.cci-otender.com. Any correspondence to this effect shall also be available on this site only.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders are invited for the supply of following items.

(1) 69029 - New Tubeless Radial Tyre size 295-80 R 22.5-16 PR

RE-INVITED E-TENDERS

(2) 68607, (3) 67643, (4) 68425.

Note : For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

PRO/AAM(M)/65/2020. GENERAL MANAGER

KARNATAKA STATE DRUG LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING SOCIETY (R)
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560079
Phone: +91-80-23283218 Fax: +91-80-23281477, Email: ad.kdlws@gmail.com

No: KDL/Covid/Inj-Remdesivir/Quotation/65/2020-21 Date: 29.10.2020

QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

Ref: Quotation Notification No. KDL/Covid/Inj-Remdesivir/Quotation/ 65/2020-21 Dated: 29.10.2020. Nationwide Quotation is invited through KSDLWS website under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 under 4(a) exemption for the following quotation: 1. Quotation for supply of Injection Remdesivir. Details regarding specification, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the website www.kdlws.kar.nic.in from 29.10.2020 to 03.11.2020 the eligible firms shall Mail the KSDLWS quotations in password protected PDF to E-mail ID: kdlwscovid-19.procurement@gmail.com before 5:00 pm on 03.11.2020. Further information if any may be obtained from this office during working hours.

Sd/- Commissioner, Food Safety and Standards Authority & Director, Karnataka State Drug Logistics and Warehousing Society, Bangalore.

DIPR/DDU/JA/1502/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

टीएचडीसी इंडिया लिमिटेड
THDC INDIA LIMITED
(श्री-क निगी रत्न, सरकार की उद्यम)
(SCHEDULE - A Mini Ratna, Government (PSU))

COAL, LIMESTONE AND GYPSUM HANDLING PLANT PACKAGE FOR KHURJA SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT (2x660 MW) LOCATED AT VILLAGE DUSHAHARA, TEHSIL KHURJA, DISTT. BULANDSHEHR, STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT) (Domestic Competitive Bidding)

IFB Number : 2020_THDC_592842 Date : 23/10/2020
Bidding Document no (if any) : THDC/RKSH/CC-9915-404
Name of Package/Work: Coal, Limestone and Gypsum Handling Plant Package. Type of Bidding: E-Tendering/ Single Stage Two Envelope. Bidding document download : From 23/10/2020 (date) at 18:00 hrs to 24/11/2020 (date) upto 15:00 hrs (IST). Receipt of Techno-Commercial and Price Bids : 24/11/2020 (date) upto 15:00 hrs (IST). Date and Time of opening of Techno-Commercial Bids: 25/11/2020 (date) at 15:00 hrs (IST). Date and Time of opening of Price Bids: Shall be intimated separately.

Contact details: GM (Corporate Contracts), THDC INDIA LIMITED Pragati Bhawan, By-Pass Road, Pragatipuram, Rishikesh - 249 201
Tel: 0135-2431461/2473229/2473407, Email: corpcontract@thdc.co.in
Website: <https://www.eprocure.gov.in> or www.thdc.co.in

Registered Office: Bhagirathi Bhawan, (Top Terrace), Bhagirathipuram, Tehri Garhwal-249001, CIN: U45203UR1988G01009822

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, जल संसाधन संभाग कोटा

क्रमांक:-निविदा/01/2020-21/6549 दिनांक:- 26.10.2020

:-नवम् संशोधन:-

इस कार्यालय से Rehabilitation Improvement & Basic Facility of Chhapi Dam in Jhalawar District Jhalawar कार्य को निविदा आमन्त्रित की गई थी एवं प्रि-बिड निविदा दिनांक 02.06.2020 को आयोजित की गई थी जिसमें उपस्थित फर्मों ने बिड के सम्बन्ध में सवाल/सुवाल/स्पष्टीकरण प्रस्तुत किये थे, जिनका अनुमोदन मुख्य अभियन्ता, एल.डब्ल्यू.आर.पी.डी डीएसओ एंड नोडल अधिकारी, डिवा II, जयपुर से प्राप्त हो गया है। अनुमोदन अनुसार इस कार्य के टेंडर डॉक्यूमेंट में आवश्यक संशोधन किये जाकर दि. 28.10.2020 को sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड कर दिये हैं, इसके साथ ही प्रथम संशोधन से उर्वर तक के सभी संशोधन इन साइट्स पर अपलोड किये जा चुके हैं, जिन्हें विद्युत रूप से जानने/ समझने/देखने हेतु उक्त वर्गित वेबसाइट्स पर जाकर अवलोकन/अध्ययन किया जा सकता है। अतः इस निविदा में भाग लेने वाले समस्त संवेदक इन सभी संशोधनों को, जो कि अन्तिम एवं प्रभावी हैं, भलीभाँति अवलोकन कर ही निविदा में भाग लें। शेष अन्य बातें यथावत् रहेंगी।

हस्ता./- (राजीव चौधरी)
मुख्य अभियन्ता, जल संसाधन संभाग, कोटा

NIB NO WRD2021/A0102
UBN NO WRD2021/WLOB00383
DIPR/C/8653/2020

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
NORTH EASTERN RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KEONJHAR
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
Identification No. Road Online NCB No. 279
NO. 1906 / Date: 2020-10-20
Improvement of Road Works under DMF & Inter District Inter Block Connectivity.

1. Name of the Work	2. Total no. of work	3. Estimated Cost	4. Class of Contractor	5. Period of Completion	6. Other details
Improvement of Road Works under DMF & Inter District Inter Block Connectivity.	02 (Two) Nos.	As per Annexure	As per Annexure	As per Annexure	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in OIO S.E. N.E.R.W. Circle, Keonjhar
1	2	From To	5	6
1	2	From To	5	6
Supervising Engineer, North Eastern Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar.	Road Online NCB No. 279	01.10.20 at 11.00 A.M. to 03.10.20 at 3.00 P.M.	01.10.20 at 3.00 P.M.	01.10.20 at 11.00 A.M.

Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tenderssissa.gov.in

Sd/- P.K. Misra
Superintending Engineer, N.E.R.W. Circle, Keonjhar
OIPR-25048/11/0096/2021

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online tender for Two Part Open Tender (DCB) for the work : **Tender No.720R220201**: Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66 kV GIS sub station at 220 kV BTPS sub-station (Package "A"), 66 kV GIS sub-station at 400/220/66 kV GIS sub-station Dwarka Sector-5 (Package "B") and 06 Nos. 66 kV GIS Feeder Bays (extension of existing GIS) at 400/220/66 kV sub-station Harsh Vihar (Package "C"), Delhi with complete civil works & automation on Turnkey basis. **Last date for bid submission: 02.12.2020 at 1.30 p.m.** For downloading of tender documents and further details please visit website Delhi Govt. website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> Tender ID No.2020_DTL_193191_1, No.2020_DTL_193268_1 & No.2020_DTL_193270_1 respectively and DTL website www.dtl.gov.in Unique No. DTL-7940-291020.

PR/20-21/27

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/Clarifications, if any, to the above tender/e-tenders will appear only on the above mentioned websites.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR
Department of Materials Management (Imports Section)
E-mail: ammoimports@skims.ac.in Fax: 0194-2403404

EXTENSION

Subject: Extension to the eNIT No. SIMS -324-NIT 11 (Imports) 2020 dated 24.09.2020 (Tender ID 2020_SKIMS_105231_1) to 2020_SKIMS_105231_9) regarding Supply/ Installation, Testing & Commissioning of various Bio-Medical Equipments for the department of Surgical Oncology SKIMS.

The NIT is hereby extended as per following schedule:

Last Date of Submission of Online Bids	11.11.2020 upto 4.00 P.M.
Date of Opening of Technical Bids	13.11.2020 at 12.30 P.M.

Further amendments if any, shall be uploaded separately.

Sd/-
Asstt. Materials Management Officer, SKIMS

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative officer/Const.-III/Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work :-

Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Two Packet)
Tender Notice No.	74-W/3/2434/WA/LKO Dated 29.10.2020
Full name of work	Pratapgah-Amethi Section (Zone-I):- Supply and Stacking of 65mm gauge machine crushed hard stone ballast as per RDSO specification for track ballast IRS-GE-4 (June 2016) (with update correction slips) in between Pratapgah (Excluding) to Amethi (Excluding) in connection with "Proposed Doubling of Janghai-Pratapgah of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway
Approx. cost	Rs.26.87 crores
Completion period	15(Fifteen) months
Earnest money amount	Rs.14,93,700/-only
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 03.11.2020 to 24.11.2020 up to 11:30 hrs.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	24.11.2020 up to 11:30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 10.11.2020 to 24.11.2020.
Date and time of opening of tender	24.11.2020 at 11:30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenderers would be opened subsequently on the date & time to be notified later on

2377/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. IV, Irrigation & Flood Control Department Govt. of NCT of Delhi, L.M. Bund Office Complex, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-31 invites on behalf of President of India online Item rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation & Flood Control Department up to 3.00 PM dated on 02.11.2020 for the works:

H.O.A.: 701 REVENUE RECEIPT

1. NIT No. 17/ RE3/CD-IV/FC/2020-21 (ID No. 2020_IFC_195948_1)

Name of work: Car and Scooter Parking site at L.M. Bund Office Complex, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031 for the period of 12 months. **Estimated Cost of Rs.6,12,000/- Earnest Money Rs 20000/- period of completion 365 days.**

Note:

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tender. In case only the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- The following Scanned copies are required to be uploaded:- (i) The contractor/firm registered in I&FC Deptt. with appropriate class and any other Registered firm/contractor from any Government Department of Govt. of India or Govt. of NCT of Delhi. (ii) Documents satisfying eligibility criteria at para 1.2 (iii) Employee EPF registration certificate issued by concerned Govt. Organization. (iv) Employee ESI registration certificate issued by concerned Govt. Organization (V) The agency should produce PAN No. (Copy to be attached) (vi) GST registration certificate issued by Govt. (copy to be attached) (vii) The firm/agency must enclose certificate that its firm/agency not blacklisted in any Govt/Semi Govt./PUC/other departments etc. (viii) Scanned copy of EMD (Earnest Money Deposited). (ix) Valid Mobile Number, WhatsApp Number and E-mail ID. (3) EMD's in the form of DD/FDR in favour of EE, CD-IV may be submitted in the O/o of EE, CD-IV physically upto 3.00 PM. in the date of opening tender. If the same shall not be deposited physically, the tender shall be treated as cancelled. The Detail of above mentioned work can be seen and downloaded from website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- No manual tender shall be accepted; only tender submitted through e-procurement portal shall be considered.

Sd/-
DIP/Shabdarth/0394/20-21 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-III, AMARGARH, SOPORE
Tele No: 01954-225010 Fax: 01954-225010
E-mail: t1md3rdarmargarh@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-I

E-NIT No. EE/TLMDA/05 of 2020 DATED: 07.10.2020

Due to Poor response the dates for E-bidding for above referred E-NIT are extended as under, all the terms and conditions will remain the same.

The Standard Bidding Document is available on website <http://jtenders.gov.in>.

The information regarding schedule of downloading of the tender document and submission of dates thereof is as per the table given below:

CRITICAL DATES	
1	Downloading of bidding Documents (End)
2	OnlineTechno-Commercial e-Bid Opening Date and Time
3	Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids
	Office of the Executive Engineer, TLMD-III, Amargarh

- Only the bidders possessing the qualifying criteria as mentioned in the SBD should participate in the bidding process.
- Clarifications can also be sought from the office of the under signed on E-mail t1md3rdarmargarh@gmail.com or fax 01954-225010.
- Before participating in the bids, the bidder shall acquaint himself with the site of work and local conditions.
- The department reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer JKPTCL, TLMD-III, Amargarh Sopore

No: EE/TLMDA/1280-82
Dated: 28.10.2020
DIPK-NB-3353

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sushil Agnihotri @ Sonu S/o Yogesh Chand R/o L-3/902, Gulmohar Garden Society, Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad, U.P.** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 322/2020 Dated 09.08.2020 u/s 20/29 NDPS Act., P.S. Dwarka South, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sushil Agnihotri @ Sonu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sushil Agnihotri @ Sonu** absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sushil Agnihotri @ Sonu** accused of FIR No. 322/2020 Dated 09.08.2020 u/s 20/29 NDPS Act., P.S. Dwarka South, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.12.2020**.

By Order: Sh. Deepak Vasan
Ld. Addl. Session Judge (NDPS)
Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

DP/336/DW/20

झारखण्ड सरकार
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, सरायकेला

“शुद्धि पत्र”

P.R. No-234420 Drinking water & sanitation 2020-21 (D)

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या- DWSD/SKL/RPWSS/02/2020-21 दिनांक-13.10.2020 को निम्नवत् हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय।

	पूर्व में	संशोधित
प्राक्कलित राशि	रु0 1948.97 लाख	रु0 1968.93 लाख
अग्रघन की राशि	रु0 19.50 लाख	रु0 19.69 लाख

पढ़ा जाय। शेष यथावत रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल
सरायकेला

PR 234987 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 20-21 (D)

भारतीय खाद्य निगम
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, हरियाणा, बेंग न. 29-32, सेक्टर-04, पंचकुला

जी.11/अग्रघन/सरायकेला/र/सकी/2020-21 दिनांक: 30.10.2020

ई-नीतिपूर्व द्वारा भारतीय खाद्य निगम (फ.कॉ.नि.) हरियाणा क्षेत्र में औपचारिक रूप से निविदा (कोटिफिक) (अग्रघन, एन.एन.सी) को अग्रघन में जोड़ दिया है।

ई-नीतिपूर्व को बंद में सारी जानकारी के लिए & Dedicated Tenders चेंबर में जोड़ दिया है जो कि मास्टर की वेबसाइट fcil.gov.in और ई. एन.एन.सी (M-Junction) वेबसाइट www.mjunction.com पर उपलब्ध है।

गुप्तकर 2020 माह में मंजू की प्रतीति के सम्बन्ध में ई-नीतिपूर्व मलिनियों की निविदा निम्नानुसार है:-

निविदा अपलोड करने और स्वीकृति जमा करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि	ई-नीतिपूर्व जमा करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि	आगमनाह गोती हेतु अंतिम तिथि व समय
30.10.2020	03.11.2020	04.11.2020 को 11:00 से 14:00 बजे तक
06.11.2020	10.11.2020	11.11.2020 को 11:00 से 14:00 बजे तक
13.11.2020	17.11.2020	18.11.2020 को 11:00 से 14:00 बजे तक
20.11.2020	24.11.2020	25.11.2020 को 11:00 से 14:00 बजे तक

किसी भी गुप्तकर हेतु एन-एन.सी के टेंडर प्री नं. 1601027136 व ई-नीति fcil.gov.in पर मास्टर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय पंचकुला के द्वारा प्री नं. 0172-2567450 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

हस्ता/माध्यमक (अग्रघन)

एकसीआई-राष्ट्र की यात्रा सुरक्षा को सुनिश्चित करते हुए

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/E-Tender/19/0162 Date:27/10/2020. The following E-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in-login->E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any. Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. SL.No./Tender No./Brief Description of Items; Qty.; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees);Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 11/81200251: Silicon Impregnating Resin SILRES 1162C: 18239 Kg; 14.43.200; 26/11/20 at 11:00 am. 13/81200623: (1)Top Coating Paint.(2)Hardner for Top Coating Paint.(3)Primer Paint (4)Thinner for Top Coating Paints; (1) 4349 Kg.(2)208 Kg.(3)1379 Kg. (4)2638 Kg; 4.37.930; 26/11/20 at 11:00 am. 17/81200252: Auxiliary Material-38; 438 kg; 4.51.320; 26/11/20 at 11:00 am. 14/83200365: Cylindrical Roller Bearing DE & NDE for WAG-9/WAP-7; 2020 Set; 20.00.000; 02/12/20 at 11:00 am. 15/83200051: Set of Roller Bearing to be used on 3-Phase Traction Motor Type 6ERA-6068; 1850 Set; 20.00.000; 04/12/20 at 11:00 am. 16/83200366: Motor Suspension Unit for WAG-9 & WAP-7 Loco; 640 Nos.; 20.00.000; 07/12/20 at 11:00 am. 17/83200413: Cubicle F-Drivers Cab; 516 Nos.; 99.400; 07/12/20 at 11:00 am. OFFICE ADDRESS: Dy.CMM-HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or SMM/HQ, 9163340704 Principal Chief Materials Manager CLW/Chittaranjan RDS-151 Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

प्राप्त संख्या-1
Government of Jharkhand
Office of Executive Engineer
Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.

e-Procurement

T. Reference No- Bansiya and Adjoining Villages RWSS-22/2020-21, Dt.-

Sl.	Name of the Work	Name of work :- Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, 2.50 MLD capacity Unconventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir - 3 nos., RCC Ground Service Reservoir - 1 no. Staff Quarter, Compound wall, Infiltration Gallery, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection-3005 nos., Supplying and Installation of VT and Centrifugal pump motor, Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Bansiya and Adjoining villages Ranchi Water Supply Scheme on turnkey basis.
1.	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lakh)	1710.26 Lakh only.
2.	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs.)	17.11 Lakh only
3.	Cost of BOQ (In Rs.)	10,00,000
4.	Time of Completion	24 months+3months (trial and run)
5.	Date of Tender uploading on website	07.11.2020/2.00PM
6.	Document down load / Sale start date	07.11.2020/3.00PM
7.	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	09.11.2020 (Time-12.30AM) in the Office of Engineer-in- Chief, Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
8.	Bid Submission start date	09.11.2020 /3.00PM
9.	Document down load / Sale End date	17.11.2020 /5.00PM
10.	Bid Submission End date	17.11.2020 /5.00PM
11.	Last date of Submission of cost of BOQ and EMD (in hard Copy)	18.11.2020 /5.00PM In the office of Executive Engineer, D.W.&S.Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.
12.	Date of Opening of Tender	19.11.2020 /2.00PM
13.	Name & address of office inviting Tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.
14.	Name & address of Opening Officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.
15.	Procurement Office	0651-2480155
16.	Helpline No. of e-procurement cell	0651-2480345

आवश्यक शर्तों के लिए देखें www.jharkhandtender.gov.in
Email ID-eedwsd.ranchieast@gmail.com

Executive Engineer
D.W.&S.Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.
PR 235016 (Drinking Water and Sanitation)20-21#D

झारखंड सरकार
कार्यालय-वन संरक्षक एवं रॉय वन-वृक्ष विज्ञानी, झारखंड, राँची
वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग, झारखंड, राँची

सीसल रेशा बिक्री हेतु अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना शुद्धि-पत्र
Ref.: Advt No.- PR. 233510 dated: 30.09.2020

वन संरक्षक एवं राज्य वन-वृक्ष विज्ञानी, झारखंड, राँची द्वारा पूर्व में 50 मेग टन सीसल रेशा बिक्री हेतु केलाओं से निविदा दिनांक-03.11.2020 को अपराह्न 03:30 बजे तक मुख्यालय लिफाफे में आमंत्रित किया गया था। अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्नवत् संशोधन किया जाता है।

कार्यक्रम सूची:

निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-10.11.2020 को अपराह्न 03:00 बजे
निविदा जमा करने का पता	कार्यालय-वन संरक्षक एवं राज्य वन-वृक्ष विज्ञानी, झारखंड, राँची। वन भवन, ब्लॉक-ई, गो-डोरगा, राँची-834002
निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-10.11.2020 को अपराह्न 03:30 बजे
निविदा खोलने का स्थान	कार्यालय-वन संरक्षक एवं राज्य वन-वृक्ष विज्ञानी, झारखंड, राँची। वन भवन, ब्लॉक-ई, गो-डोरगा, राँची-834002

पूर्व में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन की नियम एवं शर्तों पूर्व की भांति यथावत् रहेगी।

मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं राज्य वन-वृक्ष विज्ञानी, झारखंड, राँची

PR 235048 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes)20-21#D

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one woman namely **Usha @ Uma, W/o Surender Rathore, R/o: H.No. B-2/264, Nand Nagri, Delhi, Age: Approx 29 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, wearing Yellow colour Saree and Black Chappal in feet, has been missing along with her daughter Sakshi, Age 18 Months, from the area of P.S. Nand Nagri, since 09.09.2020. In this regard a DD No. 74-A dated 11.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the woman and her daughter but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about them please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
DP/320/NE/2020 Ph. No.: 011-22585985, 22583307

पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.
ई-निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरकों द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य को निविदा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से कराने हेतु अनुभवों एवं प्रतिष्ठित टेन्डरों से मुहूर्तवर्द्ध निविदाओं को अलग-अलग भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा शुल्क व धरोहर राशि इस कार्यालय के खाता सं. 10880224116 आई.एफ.ए.सी. कोड SBIN0000685 भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, रेलवे रोड, मुजफ्फरनगर में आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एफ.टी. के माध्यम से जमा कराया जायेगी एवं निविदा का प्रथम भाग में निविदा शुल्क व धरोहर राशि जमा का साक्ष्य यथोक्त यू.टी.आर. पे-इन-स्लिप मूल की प्रति, बैंक गारंटी मूल की प्रति (इश्यूईंग बैंक के कन्फर्मेशन मेल की प्रति) बैंक कार्ड, जी.एस.टी., टेक्नोकामर्सलिग शर्त ई-टेंडर प्रपत्र के साथ आगमनाह ई-निविदा दिनांक 19.11.2020 को 12:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जायेगी तथा निविदा का द्वितीय भाग(प्राइस बिड) आगमनाह दिनांक 19.11.2020 को समय 12:00 बजे तक वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर भरी जा सकेगी। निविदाका प्रथम भाग दिनांक 19.11.2020 को समय 02:00 बजे के उपरान्त इस कार्यालय में सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। यदि किसी भी कारण उक्त दिनांक को अवकाश होता है तो निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरी को किसी भी एक अथवा सभी निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये, किसी भी समय निरस्त/संशोधन करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित है। कृपया निविदाओं की विस्तृत जानकारी/निविदा संशोधन/विस्तारण तिथि/निराकरण के लिये वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर www.pvnl.org पर लॉगआन करें। 1- ई-निविदा संख्या 86/2020-21- अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम, मुजफ्फरनगर के कार्यक्षेत्र में 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्र मखियाली पर स्थापित 33 केवी सीमेंस मेक 02 नं० वी.सी.बी. एवं कन्ट्रोल पैनेल के क्षतिग्रस्त समान के स्थान पर नया समान उपलब्ध कराते हुये मरम्मत का कार्य बहाय एजेन्सी के माध्यम से कराये जाने हेतु कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु.-2000/मात्र। निविदा शुल्क रु.-1180.00 मात्र। 2- ई-निविदा संख्या 87/2020-21- अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम, मुजफ्फरनगर के कार्य क्षेत्र में 33/11 केवी उपकेन्द्र मखियाली पर स्थापित 11 केवी क्रोम्टन मेक इनकर्मिंग नं० 02 वी.सी.बी., 11 केवी घघेडा पोषक वी.सी.बी., 11 केवी मखियाली पोषक वी.सी.बी. एवं 11 केवी जटमुझेडा पोषक वी.सी.बी. कुल 04 नं० वी.सी.बी. के सही प्रकार से कार्य नहीं करने पर 04 नं० 11 केवी वी.सी.बी. के क्षतिग्रस्त समान के स्थान पर नया समान उपलब्ध कराते हुये मरम्मत का कार्य बहाय एजेन्सी के माध्यम से कराये जाने हेतु कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु.-2000/मात्र। निविदा शुल्क रु.-1180.00 मात्र। हस्ता./ अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-प्रथम मुजफ्फरनगर पत्रांक 4269/ वि.वि.म.प्र. मु. नगर/ कैम्प दिनांक 29.10.20

National Institute of Fashion Technology
(Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
NIFT Campus, Chheb Kangra, Himachal Pradesh-176001
Phone No.: 01892-260874 Fax No. 01892-260872
NIFT-KGR/Building/100/2020 30 October 2020

Tender Notice

Sealed Tender is invited for procurement of **Interlocking Tiles and Rubble Masonry Work at NIFT Kangra Campus from Contractors empanelled/Registered with PWD/CPWD.** Last date and time for submission of tenders as mentioned in the tender documents is as under.

Date of publication of Tender notification	30.10.2020
Sale of Tender document commences from	30.10.2020
Last date for sale of Tender document	30.11.2020 AT 2 PM
Last date for receipt of Duly filled Tenders	30.11.2020 AT 2.30 PM
Date and time of the opening of Tenders	30.11.2020 AT 3 PM

The interested contractors may visit NIFT Campus on any working day during office hours and contact Administration or NIFT Website <https://www.nift.ac.in/kangra/tenders>, for tender details. The detail of cost of the tender form is given in each tender document

The Tender is to be filled and submitted in the Tender box at NIFT Kangra Campus.

Joint Director (I/C)

DONATION TO NIFT ARE EXEMPTED UNDER SECTION 80G OF INCOME TAX

CHITARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/E-Tender/19/0162 Date:27/10/2020. The following E-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in-login->E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any. Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. SL.No./Tender No./Brief Description of Items; Qty.; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees);Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 11/81200251: Silicon Impregnating Resin SILRES 1162C: 18239 Kg; 14.43.200; 26/11/20 at 11:00 am. 13/81200623: (1)Top Coating Paint.(2)Hardner for Top Coating Paint.(3)Primer Paint (4)Thinner for Top Coating Paints; (1) 4349 Kg.(2)208 Kg.(3)1379 Kg. (4)2638 Kg; 4.37.930; 26/11/20 at 11:00 am. 17/81200252: Auxiliary Material-38; 438 kg; 4.51.320; 26/11/20 at 11:00 am. 14/83200365: Cylindrical Roller Bearing DE & NDE for WAG-9/WAP-7; 2020 Set; 20.00.000; 02/12/20 at 11:00 am. 15/83200051: Set of Roller Bearing to be used on 3-Phase Traction Motor Type 6ERA-6068; 1850 Set; 20.00.000; 04/12/20 at 11:00 am. 16/83200366: Motor Suspension Unit for WAG-9 & WAP-7 Loco; 640 Nos.; 20.00.000; 07/12/20 at 11:00 am. 17/83200413: Cubicle F-Drivers Cab; 516 Nos.; 99.400; 07/12/20 at 11:00 am. OFFICE ADDRESS: Dy.CMM-HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or SMM/HQ, 9163340704 Principal Chief Materials Manager CLW/Chittaranjan RDS-151 Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

प्राप्त संख्या-1
Government of Jharkhand
Office of Executive Engineer
Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Ranchi East, Ranchi.

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN: U40108JH2003SGC001704
Office of the General Manager, Transmission Zone-V, Hazaribag, Office At - Srirangar Complex, Canary Hill Road, Hazaribag, Pin - 825301, JH eMail ID:- gmtzone5hzb@gmail.com

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender in two parts Technical part-I and price part - 2 are invited from reputed, financially sound & experienced contractors for the work mentioned below:-

Sl. No.	N.I.T. No.	Description of Materials	Cost of B.O.Q.	E/M to be deposited
01	115/PR/JUSNL/2020-21	Requirement of MLDB for switchyard PTFS.	Rs. 1250+18% GST = 1476/-	Rs. 16400/-

- Start Date and Time for sale of Tender Documents - 03/11/2020 upto 1:00PM
- Last Date and Time for sale of Tender Documents- 18/11/2020 upto 2:00PM
- Last Date and Time for receipt of BID - 19/11/2020 upto 2:00PM
- BID Opening date for Technical part - I - 19/11/2020 upto 4:00PM
- BID Opening date for Price Part - 2- Will be communicated Later on

Tender document with detailed terms and condition may be obtained from office of the General Manager, Transmission Zone-V, Srirangar Complex, Canary Hill Road, Hazaribag - 825301. For any clarification please contact Phone No.: 06546-270375.

स्वीकृत एवं प्राप्त/हस्त में ऊर्जा संचार। कृपया अपनी शिकयों को टेंडर की नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करावें।

PR 235037 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(20-21)D

OSBI
Platform Engineering-I Department, State Bank Global IT Centre, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.

CORRIGENDUM-II

Please refer RFP for procurement, implementation and maintenance of Enterprise Bulk Email Solution on Opex Basis, dated 25th September 2020, **Corrigendum-II** and Bank's Response to Pre-Bid Queries are uploaded and can be accessed under **Procurement News** on the Bank's website <https://www.sbi.co.in>.

Last date and time for submission of bids: 6th November 2020 up to 16:00 hrs

Place: Navi Mumbai Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Platform Engineering-II)
Date: 30.10.2020

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, ADITYA RAJ SINGH S/O NO 14670880M HAV DHANA- JAY KUMAR VILL-POTHAHI POST-BASHUARG DIST-PATNA, STATE-BIHAR, PIN-804453 CHANGED MY NAME FROM ADITAY RAJ SINGH TO ADITYA RAJ SINGH VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATE 07-10-2020 BEFORE MANDAN LAL GUPTA (DELHI). 0040550797-7

I, Army No.JC-246931M,N/RIS Bhupendra of Unit-47, Armed Regt C/o-56 APO,inform that in my service records my son's name wrongly-written as ASHISH YADAV instead of correct name is AASHISH YADAV. 0040552807-6

I,Vijay Kumar,S/o Ram Kishore Sharma R/o A-2-C,(S.F.) DDA-Flats Block-12,Tilak Nagar Delhi,have changed my name to Vijay Kumar Sharma. 0040552959-2

I,Sudhir Kumar,S/o Shri.Brahm Dass R/o-5/164, Dakshinpur- Extn.,Dr.Ambedkar Nagar,Deoli,South-Delhi,Delhi-110062,have changed my minor son name from Tanishq Kumar aged-13 years to Tanishq Gehlot,for all purposes. 0040552959-4

I,Sanjay Gupta S/o Late Shri Jagdish Prasad Gupta,S/o E-18, Kamla Nagar,Delhi-110007,have changed my name to Sanjeev Gupta. 0040552959-7

I,Sadia Khatoon alias Sadia Ghaffar,W/o-Mohd. Rizwan R/o-1219, Baradari Nawab Wazir,Behind Novelty Cinema,Tilak Bazar,Delhi-6,have changed my name to Sadia Rizwan for all future purposes. 0040552980-2

I,Ram Bhutairi alias Chanderkala,D/o Ramji Lal,W/o Gajraj,R/o Durga Colony Teh+Distt.Rewari Haryana,inform that my name written Ram Bhutairi in my 8th-class certificate but after marriage changed my name Chanderkala so Ram bhutairi alias Chanderkala is same person. 0040554295-10

I,Parmit Kaur,D/o Kartar Singh,R/o-2 Bhogal-Road,Rama Tent House,Bhogal, Jangpura,Delhi-110014,have changed my name to Parmeet Kaur. 0040552959-9

I, Rajeev Bansal S/o Ram Narayan Bansal R/o/4507, Gali Dai Wara, Nali Sarak, Roshan Pura, Delhi -110006,have declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Rajiv Bansal in the School record of my minor daughter Pari Bansal aged 14 years. The actual name of mine is Rajeev Bansal. 0040552938-4

I,RAN SINGH,S/O RANDHIR SINGH,R/O-SPE-364/E-2,SUBROTO-PARK, MORADABAD-PAHARI,DELHI-CANTT,SOUTH WEST, DELHI,DELHI-110010,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM RAN SINGH TO RAN SINGH TANWAR,VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED-29/10/2020, BEFORE PCT-DELHI. 0040552980-7

I,Nattu Khan,S/o Chhotte Khan,R/o-V-54,Gali.No.24,Vijay-Park,Mayapur,Delhi-110053,declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Kattu Khan in the school-record of my minor son Arbaz Khan aged-16 years. The actual-name of mine is Nattu Khan,which may be amended accordingly. 0040552980-6

I,Neeraj Hyginious Shawel,S/o-Anthony Christy Shawel R/o-CB-353,3rd-Floor,Narinaa Ring-Road,N Delhi-110028,have changed my minor daughter's name Rebecca Christy Shawel to Rebecca Shawel.D.O.B.-03/01/2013. 0040552959-6

I,Mukul S/o Sanjeev Kumar R/o-15B/48 Block D.D.A-Flat C.R.Park New Delhi-110019,changed my name to Mukul Kumar. 0040552980-4

I,Luvkush Tripathi S/o Beni Madhav,R/o E-3H,Jeewan Park,Uttam Nagar,Delhi-59,have changed my name to Luvkush Tripathi. 0040552959-1

I,Kunnel heriyann Varghese/K C Varghese,K Cherian Varghese,S/o Mathai Cherian R/o-M-10,Sainik,Nagar Uttam-Nagar Delhi-110069,changed my name to Kunnel Cherian Varghese. 0040552959-5

I,Kanchan,W/O Shri Sharvan Kumar Jha,R/O JU-79-A, Pitam Pura,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Vibha Devi. 0040552980-1

I,Devender Goel S/o Ved Prakash R/o-C-66 Milansar Apartment Sector-14 Rohini Delhi-110085,changed my name to Davinder Goel. 0040552959-8

I, Bhavna Sharma W/o, Lalit Sharma R/o,1380, Krishna Gali, Bazar Gulian, Chandra chowk Delhi-110006,have declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Bhavna Sharma in the School record of my minor daughter Charvi Sharma aged 14 years. The actual name of mine is Bhavna Sharma. 0040552938-5

I, Azrael Mohammad S/o Shujad Mohammad R/o 13B No 18TH Street Shivajinagar, Bangalore Pin-560051 Karnataka. Has changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Jibril Malakh. 0070718898-1

I,Asif Jahan,W/o Pattu Khan,R/o-V-54,Gali.No.24,Vijay-Park,Mayapur,Delhi-110053,declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Ashiq Jahan in the school-record of my minor son Arbaz Khan aged-16 years.The actual-name of mine is Asif Jahan,which may be amended accordingly. 0040552980-5

I,Anubha Gupta,R/o-J-404,Skytech Matrot,Sector-76, Noida,U.P.,declares that my minor son's GAURANG MISHRA,school records his father's name,to be changed,from K.L. SINGHAL to SAMIR KUMAR MISHRA permanently. 0040552980-3

I,Anant Kumar,S/O Keshav Prasad Singh R/O-H.No-826/1, Upper Ground-Floor Extended Lal Dora,Burari,Delhi-110084,have changed my name to Anant Kumar Singh. 0040552959-3

I, Vikas Sharma S/o Hem Chand Sharma R/o C-141, Sector 50, Noida, U.P.-201301, have changed the name of my minor son Hitaansh Sharma aged about 5 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Hitaarth Sharma. 0070718881-1

I,KAVITA RANI D/O-BHAGWAN DASS, ADD-PLOT NO.19,FF,SHAM-NAGAR EXTN,VISHNU-GARDEN WEST DELHI-110018,changed my name to KAVITA permanently. 0040552980-8

I, Vaia Ram S/o Bhabuta Ram R/o Bala Jalor, Rajasthan-307029, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Vijay Choudhary. 0070718891-1

I, Suresh Tanwar S/o Ramdev Tanwar R/o House No-5F/20 Nit, Faridabad, Haryana-121001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Raj Tanwar. 0070718866-1

I, Subodh Kumar S/o Yogendra Prasad Verma residing at 15, Tungabhadra, New Mandala Anushaktinagar BARC colony, Mumbai -400094, have changed my name to Subodh Kumar Verma 0070718803-1

I, Sitara W/o Mohd.Shahid R/o-E-212, pkt-4, JJ Colony, Bindapur New-Delhi, inform that my daughter namely Sana,s date of birth has wrongly-Written as-22.5.2006, Insted of-13.05.2016, her correct-D.O.B.is-13.05.2006 and my Name is also written as Shazia insted of Sitara in her school-record. 0040552955-1

I, Santosh Kumar alias Santosh K. Jadli, S/o Late Shri J.P. Jadli R/o 8878/2, 2nd Floor, Multani Dhandha, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055, have changed my name from Santosh Kumar alias Santosh K. Jadli to Santosh Kumar Jadli and all are the name of one and the same person & I will be Known as Santosh Kumar Jadli for all future purposes. 0040552968-1

I, Rajesh Patel S/o Ram Narayan Patel R/o Patel Nagar Colony, Bhagwanpur, Varanasi, UP-221005, have changed my name to Birbal. 0070718835-1

I, Nishchal N Saxena S/o Deepak Saxena R/o F-10-B, 4th-Floor Shahdara, Mansarovar Park, North East, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Nishchal Saxena. 0040552938-1

I,Neeraj Hyginious Shawel,S/o-Anthony Christy Shawel R/o-CB-353,3rd-Floor,Narinaa Ring-Road,N Delhi-110028,have changed my minor daughter's name Rebecca Christy Shawel to Rebecca Shawel.D.O.B.-03/01/2013. 0040552959-6

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I,Luvkush Tripathi S/o Beni Madhav,R/o E-3H,Jeewan Park,Uttam Nagar,Delhi-59,have changed my name to Luvkush Tripathi. 0040552959-1

I,Kunnel heriyann Varghese/K C Varghese,K Cherian Varghese,S/o Mathai Cherian R/o-M-10,Sainik,Nagar Uttam-Nagar Delhi-110069,changed my name to Kunnel Cherian Varghese. 0040552959-5

I,Kanchan,W/O Shri Sharvan Kumar Jha,R/O JU-79-A, Pitam Pura,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Vibha Devi. 0040552980-1

I,Devender Goel S/o Ved Prakash R/o-C-66 Milansar Apartment Sector-14 Rohini Delhi-110085,changed my name to Davinder Goel. 0040552959-8

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I, Azrael Mohammad S/o Shujad Mohammad R/o 13B No 18TH Street Shivajinagar, Bangalore Pin-560051 Karnataka. Has changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Jibril Malakh. 0070718898-1

I, Anuj S/o Rai Singh, R/o 115B DDA Flats, Pitampura Village, New Delhi. DELHI-110034. Have changed my name to Anuj Singh. 0070718801-1

I, Tamalapakula Naga Lakshmi W/o Kodiripaka Vijay Kumar R/o Plot No.-155, Flat No-403, Madhavi Towers, Moti Nagar, Seven Hills High School, Balanagar, KV Rangareddy Sanathnagar IE, Telangana-500018, have changed my name to Naga Lakshmi Telugu 0070718817-1

I Shiv Sagar S/o-Sh.Jaglal R/o-H.No.1129, Gali-No-17, Rithala Village Delhi, Inform that my name is wrongly-written in School-Record of my son Hunny as Shiv Shankar instead of Shiv Sagar. 0040552935-1

I,Namita Bhoi W/O, Sanjaya Kumar Bhoi R/O B-401, pawittra Appartments,12, Vasundhara Enclave, delhi-110096 have changed my name to Namita Dash for all purposes. 0040552902-1

I Harinder Rai S/O, Jagdish Rai R/O F-27, 2nd Floor, Main Pankha Road, Near A-1, Janakpuri Red Light, Jeewan Park, Janakpuri, West Delhi-110058 have changed my name from Harinder Rai to Harinder Kumar Rai for all purposes 0040552901-1

I Bijender S/O Randhir Singh R/O 147, Badshahpur Machhi(178)Sonipat Haryana-131024, have changed my name to Bijender Grewal. 0040552938-3

I, Sanjeev Kumar S/o Binod Kumar R/o Plot No H-7/A, KH No-74/13, Phase 2 Sharma Colony Budh Vihar, North West, Delhi-110086, declare that name of father has been wrongly written as Binod Kumar in my Pan card No-DYQPK98651. The actual name of father is Kamleshwari Shah, which may be amended accordingly. 0070718884-1

I, Umesh Gaurishanker Chaudhary S/O Chaudhary Gaurishanker Algu R/o C-154 F/R Right side,Block-V, Sector-C, Bhagwati Vihar, Delhi-110059 Have Changed my Name to Umesh Chaudhary. 0070718821-1

BUSINESS OFFERS

Manned Office available in Taichung Taiwan on monthly/Deal To Deal basis. Interested Companies to contact +91 7696280269. ibmpl@aol.in 2020412518-3

EDUCATIONAL

ADMISSION -Bachelor in Prosthetics & Orthotics affiliated MGR Medical University at IIPQ, Chennai , WA-869554001.I APPLY www.iipoinstitute.in

LOST & FOUND

I, Abdul Khaliq, S/o Mohd Idris, R/o 162, Pocket-1, Jasola Vihar, New Delhi-110025 have lost Allotment Letter Issued by DDA Vide File No F2 (86)2004/LSB/R/7534 in respect of above said property. If any person found it please inform on 9177784105 0040552900-1

I, Amarpreet Singh Chadha S/O Amrajteet Singh Chadha R/O M-3, 11 Floor, Rajouri Garden, ND-27, M-9891346836 have lost my original CBSE certificate Class 10th(2003) RollNo. 6155312 & Class12th(2005) RollNo.6245278. 0040552936-1

I, KARISHMA D/o Naryann Bahadur R/o h.no-10A L-extn. Part-3, mohann-garden dwarka mode, Delhi-59, have lost my original certificate class-10th(2009) Rollno-6441554 class-12th (2011)-6441154 9736510, CBSE-DELHI. 0040552938-8

I, Paramjyot Singh Anand, Address : D-1021, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-25, Have Lost My Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Secondary Examination (10th Class) of Year 1989 Roll No 095555 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Founder May Cont:- 9910055542 0040552907-1

I, Kalash, S/o Ajay Kant Thakur, R/o E-58, Gali No.3, Ankur Enclave, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-94, have lost my Class-10th MarkSheet Grade Certificate,Passing Year-2019,Roll No.-8631627, CBSE-Delhi. 0040552938-10

I, SURENDER S/O Malkhan singh R/o-3//145 Veena-enclave, Nangliol, Delhi-41, have lost my original-certificate Class-10th year-2016 Rollno-8700455 CBSE-DELHI. 0040552938-9

We have misplaced our Share Certificate during Apr15 to Mar16, Digvijay Singh Bhandari, Rananjay Singh Bhandari & Madhurima Jain from B-381, Chhitrangan Park, New Delhi-19, Name: Apollo Tyres Ltd., Digvijay Singh Bhandari & Madhurima Jain. 0040552938-1

I, Bimla devi W/o Sandeep Kumar,H.No-308 pkt-9 DDA flats naseerpur dwarka Delhi-110075, changed my name to sudha. 0040552938-2

I, Ashwani Kumar S/o Suresh Chand R/o H.No-169 Block-C Swarn Park Mundka, West Delhi-110041, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Ashwani Grewal. 0070718876-1

I, Meena Mahajan D/o Devi Das Mahajan W/o Vipin Kumar Mahajan R/o M-5, Block-M GK Part-2,Greater Kailash S.o South-Delhi-110048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Mmeena Mahajan. 0070718859-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Property being No. X-101, (X-Block) Gali No.13, Bhrampuri, Delhi-110053, Measuring 138 Sq.Yards. Be it known to all that my client intends to purchase the above captioned property from its registered 6 owners as per Will. It is hereby notified that if any person either has or claim of any rights, title, interest, ownership, or claim of any nature whatsoever in the above captioned property for its Sale/Transfer to my client, then such person should forthwith contact to the under signed along with valid documentation proof within 15 days from the date of publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the above captioned is absolutely free from all sort of encumbrances (registered or unregistered) and the owners of the property is vested with absolute clean, clear and marketable rights, title and interest in the above captioned property and my client shall proceed further to complete the sale transaction, as bonafide purchaser and no claim of any nature shall be entertained thereafter.

Lalit Sharma (Advocate)
Ch. No. 735/L, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public at large that my client Agam Sood S/o Late Rakesh Sood R/o 31, GT Karnal road, Delhi 110033 has cancelled or revoke the General Power of Attorney Dated 09.02.2015 executed by him in favour of Smt. Gupreet Kaur W/o Sh. Jagjeet Singh, R/o C-98, Farmer Apartments, Rohini, Delhi in respect of one ware house measuring 3400 sq. feet. Area forming part of property bearing khazra no. 9402/2 & 9404/2-25, situated in the revenue estate of village Sidhokan Kalan in the Abadi of 31, GT Karnal road, Delhi 110033 on 4.07.2020. Any person's, businessmen, establishment, enterprise, any living or artificial person is warned not to deal with the above property with Smt. Gupreet Kaur or any person dealing on her behalf after 4.07.2020. In case if any person chooses to deal in the said property, he/she may do so at his/her risk cost and consequences.

Sd/- Puneet Maheshwari (Advocate)
Ch. No. 503-504, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public at large that my client Agam Sood S/o Late Rakesh Sood R/o 31, GT Karnal road, Delhi 110033 has cancelled or revoke the General Power of Attorney dated 16.05.2018 executed by him in favour of Jagjeet Singh, R/o C-98, Farmer Apartments, Rohini, Delhi in respect of ground floor of the built-up ware house, measuring 30 sq. yards area without leasehold forming part of property bearing khazra no. 9402/3, situated in the revenue estate of village Sidhokan Kalan in the Abadi of 31, GT Karnal road, Delhi 110033 on 4.08.2020. Any person's, businessmen, establishment, enterprise, any living or artificial person is warned not to deal with the above property with Sh. Jagjeet Singh or any person dealing on her behalf after 4.08.2020. In case if any person chooses to deal in the said property, he/she may do so at his/her risk, cost and consequences.

Sd/- Puneet Maheshwari (Advocate)
Ch. No. 503-504, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public at large that my client Agam Sood S/o Late Rakesh Sood R/o 31, GT Karnal road, Delhi 110033 has cancelled or revoke the General Power of Attorney dated 16.05.2018 executed by him in favour of Jagjeet Singh S/o Late Rakesh Sood R/o C-98, Farmer Apartments, Rohini, Delhi in respect of ground floor of the built-up ware house, measuring 123 sq. yards area without leasehold forming part of property bearing khazra no. 9402/3 situated in the revenue estate of village Sidhokan Kalan in the Abadi of 31, GT Karnal road, Delhi 110033 on 4.08.2020. Any person's, businessmen, establishment, enterprise, any living or artificial person is warned not to deal with the above property with Sh. Jagjeet Singh or any person dealing on her behalf after 4.08.2020. In case if any person chooses to deal in the said property, he/she may do so at his/her risk, cost and consequences.

Sd/- PUNEET MAHESHWARI (Advocate)
Ch. No. 503-504, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS FOR THE INFORMATION OF PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT MY CLIENT SHRI HARJI PRASAD AND SMT. INDIRA DEVI RESIDENT OF B-118, METRA VIHAR, BLOCK PHASE-I, NARELA, DELHI 110082, HAVE SEVERED ALL THEIR CONNECTIONS AND RELATIONS WITH THEIR SON VISHNU PRASAD AND HIS FAMILY WHO HAS SHIFTED TO UNDECLARED PLACE ON THEIR OWN DUE TO THEIR ANTIFAMILY AND UNWARRANTED ACTIVITIES. HEREBY DISINHERIT AND DEBAR THEM FOR ALL PURPOSES. MY CLIENTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT DONE BY THEM.

Sd/- VIJAY MALHOTRA (Advocate)
Y-3, CIVIL SIDE
TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that my client, Smt. Durga Ram W/o Late Charnet Lal Jagwal Residing at No.GG-132-B, First Floor/Vikas Pur, New Delhi-110018 is the owner of Property bearing S.No. 32-9, First Floor, Block G, P.O. G-1 situated at Vikas Pur, New Delhi-110018, vide DDA File No. F.18/7518/HB/M, and my client have applied for possession of original documents, in respect of said property. The original document (ie. original Demand cum Allotment Letter/Possession Order, Title Deed/Deed and NOC for Water and Electricity connection of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable despite all reasonable efforts. An FIR/NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (No.87881/2020) dated-22-10-2020. Any Person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may be informed to the above named person at above address/Phone No 8620011463 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If any person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to the right, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director LAB (Associates) or Director (Housing) (Vikas Sector-N), New Delhi.

Sd/-A.Kumar & Associates, Advocate
S.No.216,1st,Apth.Bldg., Jansarpur, ND-58

I, KARISHMA D/o Naryann Bahadur R/o h.no-10A L-extn. Part-3, mohann-garden dwarka mode, Delhi-59, have lost my original certificate class-10th(2009) Rollno-6441554 class-12th (2011)-6441154 9736510, CBSE-DELHI. 0040552938-8

I, Paramjyot Singh Anand, Address : D-1021, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-25, Have Lost My Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Secondary Examination (10th Class) of Year 1989 Roll No 095555 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Founder May Cont:- 9910055542 0040552907-1

I, Kalash, S/o Ajay Kant Thakur, R/o E-58, Gali No.3, Ankur Enclave, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-94, have lost my Class-10th MarkSheet Grade Certificate,Passing Year-2019,Roll No.-8631627, CBSE-Delhi. 0040552938-10

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We have misplaced our Share Certificate during Apr15 to Mar16, Digvijay Singh Bhandari, Rananjay Singh Bhandari & Madhurima Jain from B-381, Chhitrangan Park, New Delhi-19, Name: Apollo Tyres Ltd., Digvijay Singh Bhandari & Madhurima Jain. 0040552938-1

I, Bimla devi W/o Sandeep Kumar,H.No-308 pkt-9 DDA flats naseerpur dwarka Delhi-110075, changed my name to sudha. 0040552938-2

I, Ashwani Kumar S/o Suresh Chand R/o H.No-169 Block-C Swarn Park Mundka, West Delhi-110041, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Ashwani Grewal. 0070718876-1

I, Meena Mahajan D/o Devi Das Mahajan W/o Vipin Kumar Mahajan R/o M-5, Block-M GK Part-2,Greater Kailash S.o South-Delhi-110048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known As Mmeena Mahajan. 0070718859-1

SITUATION VACANT

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• English-Hindi

Translator

(prior experience)

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✓ Work Experience (at least 1 year)

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(Main) examination

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients (1) Shri Satish Kumar Malhotra S/o. Shri. Moolchand Malhotra, and (2) Smt. Roopa W/o. Sh. Satish Kumar Malhotra, both R/o. House No. 516/1, Gali No.5, Mani Ram Mandir Road, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shalimar, Delhi -110022, hereby disown their daughter Ms. Richi Malhotra D/o. Shri Satish Kumar Malhotra and debar her from inheriting any movable and immovable property belonging to their clients. Anyone dealing with the aforesaid daughter of our clients shall be doing so at his own risk and consequences.

MADHUR ARORA (ADVOCATE)
8/25A, LCF, NEW DELHI-110014

CORRIGENDUM

Please ignore content of the advertisement published by D. Das on 29/10/2020 in Indian express & Jansatta for property 2107A, greenfield, Faridabad. The advertisement contents and legal counsel/details had some mistakes due to confusion & typo error. Revised advt shall be published soon. Inconvenience is regretted. Any matter in this regard please email to : das4u2046@gmail.com

Praveen Gupta (Adv)
Address:Chk no 1102, 11TH FLR, ROHANI COURTS, DELHI-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT MY CLIENT SHRI LINGUJI RAMJI KANAKIA R/o-810/5, Gali No.1, SECOND FLOOR, PRAKASH NAGAR, FORT ROAD, NEW DELHI-110028, HAVE SEVERED ALL THEIR CONNECTIONS AND RELATIONS WITH HIS DAUGHTER NAME SHRI. PREETI KANAKIA R/o-15/1, Gali No.1, SECOND FLOOR, PRAKASH NAGAR, FORT ROAD, NEW DELHI-110028, AND HIS FAMILY WHO HAS SHIFTED TO UNDECLARED PLACE ON THEIR OWN DUE TO THEIR ANTIFAMILY AND UNWARRANTED ACTIVITIES. HEREBY DISINHERIT AND DEBAR THEM FOR ALL PURPOSES. MY CLIENTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT DONE BY THEM.

Sd/- LAJPU NEHI AND SACHIN ADRIKARI (Advocate)
Ch. No. 46A, Western Wing,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our client, Mrs. Gyanwati ("Owner") Mr. Keshram Mr. Mr. Krishan acquired the leasehold property from Noida Authority by virtue of Lease Deed which was duly is duly registered in Sub-Registrar-III, Noida as Documents No.3539, Book No.1, Volume No.1754, Page on 313-354 dated 18-12-2020. Thereafter, Mr. Keshram Mr. Mr. Krishan died on 19-03-2019 leaving behind Legal Heirs. Subsequently, the said property has been mutated in the name of Mrs. Gyanwati vide Mutation letter dated 08-07-2020 issued by Noida Authority. Now, Mrs. Gyanwati is the absolute owner of the below mentioned property. If any person(s) having any objection regarding the same about the said Property Ownership Rights/Title or claim, please raise objection with documentary proof within 15 days of Publication at the below address. Schedule Property Residential Plot No.10, Block-HA, measuring 355.55 Sq. Yds., situated at Village Hazipur, Noida, District- Kaushambi (Uttar Pradesh).

MOHD. KHAIRUL HUSSAIN (Advocate)
Khanlan & Khanlan A-38, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048 (M). 9810381172

LOST & FOUND

Lost my Share Certificate of Membership with regard to Flat No. B-85, in Sarve Sanjhi Co-Operative Group Housing Society Ltd. Plot-B, Sector-9, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077, NCR is lodged on dt. 28.10.2020, vide L.R. No. 6

CROSSWORD 4263

ACROSS

1 Makes up lies and goes onto something else (5,2)

5 Mohammedan lawyer in plain clothes (5)

8 Lively car Muriel ordered (9)

9 Creature having pointed small feet (3)

10 Any key but one (4)

12 It's not right having more surplus (4,4)

14 Opportunity a gambler may take (6)

15 A new bride's bits and pieces (6)

17 Pay no regard to a trade concession (8)

18 Arrange live coverage (4)

21 Does it come softly from the coop? (3)

22 He ends up in the relay race or tug-of-war (6,3)

24 The bilingual machine (5)

25 She gets the highest score (7)

DOWN

1 The French Scotsman is a poor specimen (5)

2 Some manner of music (3)

3 Squalid place where people live, fifty in all (4)

4 Fixed form of denial (6)

5 A train driver (8)

6 Give away lines? (4,5)

7 Limits in rents perhaps (7)

11 The conveyance of ecstasy? (9)

13 Touching display of regal appreciation (8)

14 If a man is willing, this may be added (7)

16 Criticises strikes (6)

19 Give Heather a ring - but mind your language (5)

20 Beginner's course (4)

23 Mother has love at heart for a bird (3)

Solutions Crossword 4262: Across: 1 Hospital, 5 Hard and fast rules, 9 Sward, 10 Exhorts, 13 Echoed, 14 Sphere, 17 Horse soldier, 20 Radical, 21 Slump, 22 Yam, 23 Crescent. Down: 1 Hose, 2 Staunch, 3 Indifference, 4 Avenue, 6 April, 7 Disaster, 8 Chiropodists, 12 Lethargy, 15 Execute, 16 Roller, 18 Rider, 19 Spot.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

JUMBLLED 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.

A taste for truth at any cost is a passion which _____ - Albert Camus (6,7)

OARED

DISKS

EOWNNT

LOUGHF

263

253

243

233

223

213

203

193

183

173

163

153

143

133

123

113

103

93

83

73

63

53

43

33

23

13

3

SUDOKU 4278

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

3 2 9 1

8 2 5

2 5 1 8 7

1 7 9 2 3

4 6 7 3 7 1

3 4 7 5 4

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4277

4 8 3 1 5 6 7 2 9

9 1 5 4 7 2 3 6 8

6 7 2 9 8 3 5 1 4

2 3 6 7 9 8 4 5 1

8 4 9 6 1 5 2 3 7

7 5 1 2 3 4 8 9 6

3 9 4 5 6 7 1 8 2

5 6 7 8 2 1 9 4 3

1 2 8 3 4 9 6 7 5

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Your memories, even completely sub-conscious, exert an extraordinarily powerful influence on your behaviour. You should therefore understand that you are in danger of blaming someone not because of what they are doing now, but because of what someone else did a long time ago.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There are two answers to a current question - 'yes or no'. The moment you consider 'maybe' as a possible option, you may relieve the emotional tension, but you'll also miss the chance for a truly staggering and intense encounter. In the final analysis, it's up to you.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

A financial shock is a possibility, although there is no indication that it need be unpleasant. Indeed, if you are ready for some fancy footwork you can turn a likely deficit into a handsome profit. You might even earn brownie points in a close relationship.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You must have all your wits about you. It is awfully tempting to imagine that you can get what you want merely by shouting louder than anyone else. It would be better to be very careful, considerate and sympathetic to others. And that means that you might have to put your own interests second.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

It's a sensitive day, perhaps too sensitive. Too many people are liable to take offence where none is intended, and you should therefore watch what you say. You may continue to do your bit for a charitable cause, contributing to the general welfare. Good for you.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

If you have any doubts or questions, listen to partners. Even though they may speak in riddles, there is a sort of sense in what they have to say. You may forget the facts and look for the inner meaning, if only to give yourself time to sort out what you want.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

You may expend a great deal of effort trying to keep the peace, but at times like this you may be right to give up and allow people and situations to swing to extremes. Only then will you discover whether other people's promises can be really be trusted.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Your beliefs, thoughts and feelings seem to be coming together. In love you are extremely highly-motivated, and likely to get exactly what you want. Travel, both long-distance and close at hand, could provide the trigger which changes your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

You must come to terms with enforced changes. You should also realise that you have steered yourself into a situation which now seems to be out of your control. But simple logic dictates that if you get yourself in, you can get yourself out. So get on with it.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It wouldn't take much for you to throw in the towel, and nobody would blame you. However, if you are typical of your sign, you'll do the right thing and persist. Once you're through current uncertainty you'll see that the effort was worth it.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Domestic and family expenditure may add to your cares, but in general a bout of extravagance offers you a way of forgetting life's burdens. Travel is also still looking like a good means of escape. But it might be an emotional journey you're embarking on, rather than a physical one.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You should watch your financial situation very closely indeed. You will very soon receive a promising offer, but all is not what it seems. In this, and in all matters, you must examine the small print again and again until you have understood every nuance.

Government of Odisha
Skill Development and Technical Education Department Directorate of Technical Education & Training, Odisha
At- Killamaidan, PO-Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001
Phone No- 0671-2301061, email: dtetorissa@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
For selection of agency for development and supply of digital contents (visual Learning Solutions & Virtual Lab Solutions) as per latest curriculum for Diploma Courses offered by SCTE&VT, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for Govt. Polytechnics of Odisha.
No. SPIU-PRO/15/2020/12535, Date: 29.10.2020
The Directorate of Technical Education and Training, Odisha intends to invite proposals from agencies for development and supply of digital contents (Visual Learning Solutions & Virtual Lab Solutions) as per latest curriculum for Diploma Courses offered by SCTE&VT, Odisha for Govt. Polytechnics of Odisha. The details of scope of work, eligibility criteria and submission of RFP can be downloaded from our website <http://www.dtetorissa.gov.in> from 3rd November 2020. Any addendum/corrigendum (if required) will be uploaded at website of DTE&T (<http://www.dtetorissa.gov.in>) in future.
Sd/-
DTE&T, Odisha, Cuttack
OIPR-140004/11/0024/2021

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Following E-tenders are invited by DRM (Engg.) & (Elec.) NWR/Ajmer at 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. 1. Tender No. : 164/2020 Name of work : ADEN-Bhiliwara Sub Division : Zone No. 23 (2020-21 & 2021-22) - All Repairs & Maintenance of General and Sanitary works in staff Quarters in the jurisdiction of ADENBHL, Hatundi (including) to Chanderia (excluding). Approximate Cost : Rs. 1,04,93,773.94 Earnest Money : Rs. 2,02,500.00 Tender Closing Date : 24.11.2020 2. Tender No. : 168/2020 Name of work : ADEN (Line) Ajmer and ADEN-Bhiliwara Sub Division : Reconditioning of Wornout SEJ & Tongue Rail by Manual Arc Welding Technique on Madar-Haripur and Ajmer-Chittaurgarh Section. Approximate Cost : Rs. 19,81,603.88 Earnest Money : Rs. 39,600.00 Tender Closing Date : 24.11.2020 3. Tender No. : 169/2020 Name of work : AJMER - House Keeping and Maintenance of Officer's Rest House at Frazier Road, Ajmer for 12 months. Approximate Cost : Rs. 8,87,801.43 Earnest Money : Rs. 17,800.00 Tender Closing Date : 24.11.2020 4. Tender No. : 170/2020 Name of work : ADEN-Bhiliwara Sub Division : Miscellaneous track works in the jurisdiction of ADEN-Bhiliwara section. Approximate Cost : Rs. 85,59,373.14 Earnest Money : Rs. 1,71,200.00 Tender Closing Date : 24.11.2020 5. Tender No. : 171/2020 Name of work : ADEN-Abu Road Sub Division : Zone No. 18 (2020-21 & 2021-22) - All Repair & Maintenance and Sanitary works in Staff Quarters between Moribara to Karjoda (Excluding Abu Road) Approximate Cost : Rs. 58,16,214.50 Earnest Money : Rs. 1,16,300.00 Tender Closing Date : 24.11.2020 6. Tender No. : 172/2020 Name of work : AJMER - Development / Maintenance of Green Area and Parks in Service Buildings and Colonies for 2 years. Approximate Cost : Rs. 26,47,847.13 Earnest Money : Rs. 53,000.00 Tender Closing Date : 24.11.2020 7. Tender No. : 173/2020 Name of work : ADEN-Marwar Jn. Sub Division : Zone No. 14 (2020-21 & 2021-22) - All Repair & Maintenance and Sanitary work in Service Buildings under ADEN-Marwar Jn. jurisdiction. Approximate Cost : Rs. 79,95,662.20 Earnest Money : Rs. 1,59,900.00 Tender Closing Date : 24.11.2020 8. Tender No. : 174/2020 Name of work : ADEN - Marwar Jn. Sub Division : Zone No. 13 (2020-21 & 2021-22) - All Repairs & maintenance and Sanitary works in staff Quarters between Somesar to Jawai Bandh Section Approximate Cost : Rs. 59,93,555.00 Earnest Money : Rs. 1,19,900.00 Tender Closing Date : 24.11.2020 9. Tender No. : DRM-Elect-13 - 2020-21 Name of work : Electrical repair and maintenance for two years and load augmentation due to new connections at Ajmer station. Approximate Cost : Rs. 35,36,414.00 Earnest Money : Rs. 70,700.00 Tender Closing Date : 17.11.2020 The detailed information of the above tender is available on website www.iimps.gov.in and Tender Notice Board of DRM Office, NWR/Ajmer. 820-DH/20
Please join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways) /NWRRailways

For All Advertisement Booking

Call : 0120-6651214

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:-

Name of work with its location	Modification required in existing OHE arrangement in connection with raising the speed to 160 kmph on existing NDLS-PWL section of Delhi Division.	Earnest Money Deposit	₹14,83,900/-
Approximate Cost of work	₹26,67,83,402.43		
Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	12.11.2020 (11:30 hrs.)		
E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	17.11.2020 (00:00 Hrs.) to 01.12.2020 (15:00 Hrs.)		
E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	01.12.2020 (15:00 hrs.)		
Fund Allocation	CAP & EBR (IF)		
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.iimps.gov.in		

E-Tender No. 16-TRD-NDLS-2020-21 Dated : 29.10.2020 2395/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Dy. CSTE/SPL, Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002 acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders in Two packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

Name of work	"Replacement of signalling gears on age cum condition basis with EI at 6 stations - Khekra (KEX), Baghatpat road (BPM), Baraut (BTU), Kandhla (KQL), Qasimpur Khari (PKPI) & Shamlu (SMQL) Station of DLI Division, Northern Railway"
Approximate Cost of the work	₹19,38,22,928.29 (Rs. Nineteen Crore Thirty Eight Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Eight and Paise Twenty Nine only)
Earnest Money	₹11,19,100/- (To be submitted online)
Completion Period	12 Months from the date of issue of letter of Acceptance.
Website address and Date and Time where tender available	www.iimps.gov.in
Closing Date	11:00 Hrs. on 23.11.2020
Date of Opening of tender	11:30 Hrs. on 23.11.2020
Validity of offer	60 days from the date of opening of tender

(Tenders without earnest money will be summarily rejected)
Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date & time only. Bids are to be submitted online only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored.
The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.iimps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. Necessary changes, Corrigendum/addendum, if required, would be posted on this website only.
No. 256-Slg/SPL/TJK/J220/6 EI Dated: 29.10.2020 2384/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION NO. 1 THANE STATION ROAD, THANE (W)-400 601

www.mahapwd.com	Fax : (022)25377240	e-mail : thane1.ee@mahapwd.com
Out Ward No.	Tel. Phone : 25369293	Date : . 2020

E-Tender Corrigendum No. 1 (Time Table)
WORK NAME : SDR 2059 REPAIRS TO GOVERNMENT POLYTECHNIC BUILDING AT MUMBRA THANE.
Ref. : E-Tender Notice No. 8/1 letter Dated No. This office Letter No. Tender/4114 Date 14.10.2020.

Sr.No.	Tender	Before Publish Date	Now Publish Date
1	Tender Notice No.	8	9
2	Selling Date	19.10.2020 to 12.11.2020	19.10.2020 to 23.11.2020
3	Pre-bid Date	05.11.2020	17.11.2020
4	Tender Opening Date	16.11.2020	27.11.2020

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P. W. Division No. 1, Thane.

DGIPR/2020-2021/1059

AURANGABAD SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., AURANGABAD REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Establishment of Aurangabad Zoological Park, Aurangabad (Phase I) Construction of Boundary Walls, Gates and Levelling Work

Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (ASCDCL) invites various agencies possessing relevant capabilities to respond to this tender for "The Establishment of Aurangabad Zoological Park, Aurangabad (Phase I) Construction of Boundary Walls, Gates and Levelling Work" through <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in>

Tender Reference Number	ASCDCL/2020/314
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The tender document can be downloaded from <https://www.mahatenders.gov.in>. Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
ASCDCL, Aurangabad.

NORTHERN RAILWAY QUOTATION NOTICE

SRDEN/III/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Quotations against following E-Quotation closing date 09.11.2020 16:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this Quotation, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this Quotation towards tender Quotation cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Quotation No. / Date	04-Q-DRM-MB-20-21 / Date :- 29.10.2020
Name of Work	Extension of Line No. 1 at RAC under ADEN/SPN
Quotation Closing Date Time	09.11.2020
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Rs. 6,98,716.06
Earnest Money (Rs.)	Rs. 14,000/-
Quotation Doc. Cost (Rs.)	0.00
Bidding Start Date	29.10.2020
Validity of Offer (Days)	20 days
Period of Completion	15 days

No. 75-W/2/3/WA/Publication Dated : 29.10.2020 2379/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

मेला ऑफिस, कोठी रोड, उज्जैन (म.प्र.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856

NIT No.: USCL/49, Tender ID-2020_UAD_112241_1 Dated: 24-10-2020

Ujjain Smart City Limited invites proposal for "Implementation of Under Ground Ducting with Smart Road and Development of Surface Parking, Lighting , Landscaping works and Development of Public Facilities and amenities near Begum Bag area under MRIDA-II Project at Ujjain." Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Probable Amount of Contract:	Rs. 12,61,50,296.00
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 10,000,000/-
Cost of Document	Rs 30,000/-
Pre bid Meeting Date	05/11/2020 15:00 hrs.
Last Date for purchase of tender and submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	24/11/2020 up to 17:00 hrs.

For more details please visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be uploaded on this website only.
For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, रत्नाम (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/RMC/GIS/850/2020 :: ई-निविदा आमंत्रण :: रत्नाम, दिनांक 23.10.2020

नगर पालिक निगम रत्नाम द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रण की जाती है जिसकी विस्तृत जानकारी ऑनलाइन वेब साईट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है :-

क्र.	ऑन लाईन निविदा क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत	घरोहर राशि रुक्य	निविदा प्रपत्र रुक्य	समय सीमा
01	112267	Preparation of Property Tax Register based on GIS & Multi-Purpose Household Survey with Technical Handholding Support in Municipal Corporation, Ratlam as per Tender Document	1,94,00,000/-	2,00,000/-	12,500/-	42 माह

1- उपरोक्त निविदाओं के निविदा प्रपत्र ऑन लाईन भुगतान कर, कृपया किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा कृपया तथा प्रस्तुत करने की समय सीमा निम्नानुसार है:-

Publish Date:	26-10-2020 10:30	Pri Bid Meeting Date:	06-11-2020 15:00
Document Download / Sale Start Date:	26-10-2020 11:00	Document Download / Sale End Date:	26-11-2020 14:30
Bid Submission Start Date:	16-11-2020 10:30	Bid Submission End Date:	26-11-2020 15:30
Bid Opening Date:	27-11-2020 15:30	Physical Proposal Submission Date:	01-12-2020 17:30

वास्ते आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम, रत्नाम

PARADIP PORT TRUST E-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Name of the work : "Providing Cylindrical Fenders, Super-M Fenders an Cell Fenders at NQ-I, NQ-II, Wet Basin, DSTB and other Berths of Paradip Port". EMD cost: Rs. 3,75,653/- Last Date and time of submission of Bid : 18.11.2020 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details please refer our Website : eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Executive Engineer PPT/PRJ274/2020-21, Dt.29.10.2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum-I No. 23/AC/Ctg/GMU A-1/2018

Notice inviting tender published in various newspapers on 24.10.2020 for tender for Publication of NIT for open tender notice for allotment of 9 Unreserved Catering Stalls (General Minor Units) (including 3 Catering Stalls reserved for Women) at New Delhi & Delhi Jn. Railway Stations over Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years, which is scheduled to open on 19.11.2020. A modification has been made in Tender Document Annexure "B/2". A detail of corrigendum and revised tender document has been uploaded at official website of Northern Railway i.e. www.iimps.gov.in for further information. 2374/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender No. CACM2022, dt.28/10/2020 (Two Packet Bidding System)

Estimated Cost : Rs.1.88 Crores

E-tender : "Annual Maintenance Contract for Data communication equipment, Networking equipment and Hardware peripherals (including Associated Power distribution board & Accessories) at various locations over Southern Railway for Passenger Reservation System, Unreserved Ticketing System & Integrated Unreserved Ticketing System for a period of two years" can be applied through www.iimps.gov.in

Tender closing Date and Time : 18/11/2020 10.30 hrs

Deputy Chief Commercial Manager, Passenger Marketing/Chennai.

Follow us on : [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GMSRailway), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGMSRailway)

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender Notice No. 40 of 2020-21 (Open)- Engg/DDU

On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/ Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

(1) Tender No.18-DDU-SRDEN-I-20-21 : Name of Work with its location: Zone No. 15 Zonal contract for Road work etc. From GAO (Km. 688) to Km. 588.00 in all staff quarters. Level Jinx and service building under AENI/IDDU. Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 1958217.60 Earnest Money : ₹ 39200.00

(2) Tender No.19-DDU-SRDEN-I-20-21 : Name of Work with its location: Repair of staff quarter, pipe line, road, station building etc. in ARA-SSM section under ADENI/XBKJ. Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 8883727.50, Earnest Money : ₹ 177700.00

(2) Tender No.20-DDU-SRDEN-I-20-21 : Name of Work with its location: Complete Track Renewal (P) work from Km. 588.00-593.590=8.872 Km. and to 593.985-617.00=23.015 Km. REV line under ADENI/XBKJ. Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 34058063.22, Earnest Money : ₹ 320300.00

Date & time for submission of e-tender : 17.11.2020, Up-to 12.00 Hrs., Website particulars of e-tendering: www.iimps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya PR/0837/DDU/Engg./T/20-21/56

Stay protected from Corona

Wear your mask properly

Frequently wash your hands with soap

Maintain safe distance

NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

19 SPORT

BRIEFLY

Green makes it to Australia squad for India series

Melbourne: Australia on Thursday included young all-rounder Cameron Green in their T20 and ODI squad for the limited-overs series against India while Moises Henriques returned to national fold after three years following his exploits in the Big Bash League. “Cameron’s domestic form has been outstanding and he has carried it through for Western Australia this summer. As a potential player of the future this is an opportunity for him to be part of the squad and build on his experience,” national selector Trevor Hohns was quoted as saying by Cricket Australia.

Henriques had led Sydney Sixers to the KFC Big Bash last summer with a strike rate of just under 150. “Moises is a tremendous cricketer with loads of experience and is a great person to have around the group. His form was extremely impressive in leading the Sixers to the BBL title last summer and he has played well at the start of this season,” Hohns said.

Australia ODI & T20 squad: Aaron Finch (C), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins (vc), Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Moises Henriques, Marcus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Daniel Sams, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner and Adam Zampa.

Barcelona ease past Juventus in Champions League

Turin: Barcelona played some of its best football in a while to win 2-0 at Juventus in a Champions League match that offered plenty of entertainment even though the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo prevented a highly anticipated duel against Lionel Messi.

Ronaldo was out for the game, more than two weeks after the Juventus forward initially tested positive for the coronavirus. Ivaro Morata, who scored twice against Dynamo last week, again replaced Ronaldo but frustratingly had three goals ruled out for offside. Messi converted a late penalty for Barcelona after Ousmane Dembele had given the visitors the lead in the 14th minute to send Barcelona on its way to its first victory over Juventus in Turin.

Coutinho, Fabinho out of Brazil’s WC qualifying squad

Sao Paulo: Barcelona midfielder Philippe Coutinho and Liverpool midfielder Fabinho were dropped from Brazil’s squad for a pair of World Cup qualifying matches in November because of injury. The Brazilian football confederation said Wednesday that Coutinho will be replaced by Lyon forward Lucas Paquet, while Everton’s Allan was called up in place of Fabinho for matches against Venezuela on Nov. 13 and Uruguay four days later. Neymar is also in doubt for the two games. The Paris Saint-Germain striker left his team’s 2-0 Champions League win at Istanbul Basaksehir due a groin problem. **AGENCIES**

Speed has a new name

Lightning-fast Nortje, marked as special when he troubled Amla in the nets, is making waves in IPL

VISHAL MENON
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

IT’S 2018 and Prasanna Agoram, South Africa’s performance analyst, is closely monitoring Hashim Amla’s trigger movements at the nets. Moments later, a relatively unknown net bowler catches his eye. Robustly built, with blonde hair and debonair good looks, he was generating raw pace and getting disconcerting bounce, much to Amla’s discomfiture. “Who was that bowler who was troubling you at the nets today? Prasanna would later ask Amla. “That’s Anrich Nortje,” was the reply.

Prasanna had heard that name before, a young fast bowler from the Eastern Cape who was blowing away batsmen with pace at first-class level. But this was the first time he had seen Nortje bowl. “This guy is no net bowler. He is good enough to play for South Africa,” he told himself. Prasanna would immediately call up Linda Zondi, the then chairman of selectors to tell: “We have found Dale Steyn’s replacement. This guy has the potential to break the 100-mph mark. Please get him in the team.”

Prasanna tells *The Indian Express* what impressed him back then. “The way Nortje was troubling Amla that day, hurrying him up with pace and hitting his ribcage, I realised his potential.”

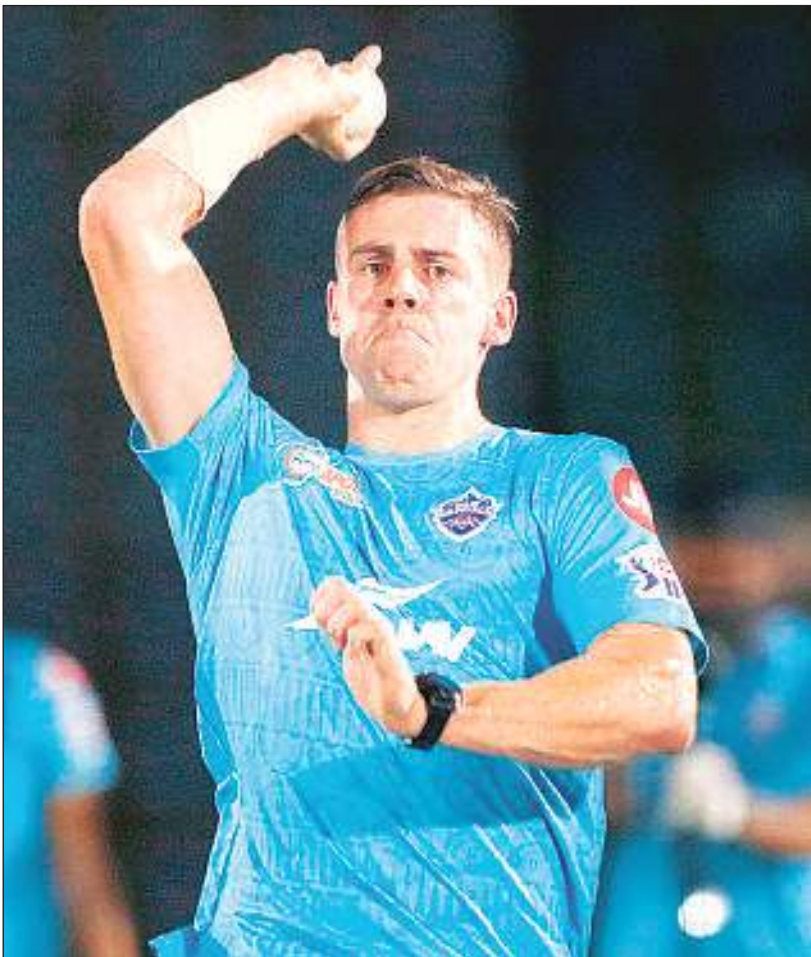
The following year in the Mzansi Super League, South Africa’s domestic T20 tournament, Nortje announced himself to the world when he hustled up AB de Villiers. Facing speeds consistently in the late 140kmph range, the talisman batsman didn’t venture on to the front foot. “Anrich Nortje was a peripheral name who operated in first-class cricket. His reputation enhanced after that spell to AB,” notes Cape Town-based journalist Khalid Mohidin.

After troubling Amla and de Villiers, Nortje is now busy terrorising batsmen in the IPL. He recently clocked the quickest delivery in the history of the IPL, a 156.2 kmph screamer to Jos Buttler. Already with 15 scalps from 11 games, Prasanna is not surprised to see Nortje succeed in the IPL.

“He has all the ingredients to become a world-class fast bowler. He has a smooth action and lovely load-up to the crease. It’s bad luck that he missed the 2019 World Cup with a thumb injury because he would have relished bowling in England.”

Early influence

Nortje grew up in Uitenhage – an industrial town 40km north of Port Elizabeth. From an early age, he was consumed by sport, particularly cricket and rugby. Brandwag High School, from where he graduated, is known for producing international rugby players but watch-



With 15 scalps from 11 games, Anrich Nortje has been a revelation in this IPL. DELHI CAPITALS

ing a certain Dale Steyn on television strengthened Nortje’s resolve to become a fast bowler.

When he played for the Eastern Province U-18 team, he met Piet Botha, a former fast bowler-turned-coach, who was instrumental in honing his skills and polishing the rough edges.

“The thing that struck me about him was the pace he could generate. He really stood out amongst others. He was also very competitive on the field. However, he had a stress fracture that made me realise that there are a few issues that needed to be sorted. There are certain biomechanics that you have to follow if you want to achieve your full potential as a fast bowler,” Botha explains.

The entire work took three years and helped Nortje go from fast to express speeds and add other skills that helped him develop as a bowler. “First, his feet alignment at the time of de-

livery was not proper, which was causing his action to collapse. We worked on getting a braced front leg because that powers your hips and shoulders and gives the desired momentum and the ability to increase the pace. Second, his upper body needed to be more upright and forward,” Botha adds.

The work done with Botha turned Nortje into a bowler who could hit the 150kmph mark with ease but frustratingly, he was also labelled a scattergun.

Last year’s Test series in India was an example of his profligate ways. “That tour was tough because the margins are so small. Thank God I made my Test debut in India and not in England, because I learnt a lot by bowling on those pitches,” Nortje says on Mohidin’s YouTube channel ‘Cricket Fanatics’.

Eye for detail

“He keeps picking my brains,”

FANS’ RETURN TO BUNDESLIGA CUT SHORT

The Bundesliga will have to play without fans again after the tentative return of spectators was cut short due to rising coronavirus infections in Germany. Chancellor Angela Merkel and governors of the country’s 16 states passed new restrictions on Wednesday in a bid to contain the virus, meaning professional soccer matches will have to be played without spectators starting Monday and for the rest of November. **AP**

EXPLAINED

How did Nortje go from fast to express?

UNTIL THREE years ago, Anrich Nortje bowled with a bent front leg at the landing crease, which dissipated his energy. When his front leg landed in the bowling crease immediately after the jump and just before release, his knee would bend a lot. Coach Piet Botha made a crucial change and Nortje began bowling with a braced (straight) front leg. A braced front leg transfers the momentum from the run up to the bowling action. It helps align the body just before release so that it’s perfectly balanced to let rip the ball. In technical jargon, the reactionary ground forces kick in after the braced leg, and these forces transfer from legs to hips, from hips to shoulder and from shoulder to the front arm to the ball. The bent front leg landing doesn’t necessarily always hinder pace but it would need every other element in the action to work perfectly to compensate.

Prasanna says about Nortje, “As an analyst, I prepare documents about team strategies, and it’s Nortje who is the first to get his hands on them. He would be reading them on the bus as well.”

Ravichandran Ashwin narrates an interesting anecdote from this IPL.

“He (Nortje) is a simpleton and different from a lot of other South Africans that I have interacted with. After one particular game, guys were talking about Louis Vuitton, Burberry and other brands. Anrich, who was holding a drink, got up and said, ‘this is not a table that I need to be a part of because I know nothing about it,’” Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.

Later in that show, when Ashwin asks how much of a simpleton he really is, Nortje comes up with this loaded response: “Very simple. Anything I do, with cricket as well, the best ball is top of off.”

Super Kings play party-poopers as Knights’ playoff hopes take a hit

SYNOPSIS

Gaikwad and Jadeja offset CSK’s bowling profligacy.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
OCTOBER 29

TWENTY-THREE runs were required off eight balls, when Lockie Ferguson bowled a full toss above waist height and conceded a no-ball. From that point onwards, Ravindra Jadeja took over. He hit a six off the free hit followed by a four. And in the final over bowled by Kamlesh Nagarkoti, when the equation had come down to seven runs off two balls, the

left-hander smashed back-to-back sixes to secure a six-wicket win for Chennai Super Kings. By successfully chasing 173 for victory, they threw a spanner in Kolkata Knight Riders’ playoff hopes.

Gaikwad & Jadeja save the day

Varun Chakravarthy’s fine spell, 2/20, had put KKR in the ascendency. Sunil Narine ably supported him. Still CSK were in the hunt because young Ruturaj Gaikwad showed spark and took the game deep. After 65 not out against Royal Challengers Bangalore in the last game, the 23-year-old scored a 53-ball 72 on Thursday, but the job wasn’t done yet.

When MS Dhoni was castled by Varun in the 15th over, CSK were under the pump. Sam Curran was struggling to time the ball and it

put Gaikwad under even more pressure. He got out, trying to play an uncharacteristic ramp. Over to Jadeja and his 11-ball 31 not out won the match for his team. Together Gaikwad and Jadeja offset CSK’s bowling profligacy.

CSK’s bowling profligacy

Bit by bit, Chennai Super Kings bowlers were letting it slip. Nitish Rana was the biggest beneficiary of their profligacy.

The inconsistency of their bowlers is a reason for CSK’s underwhelming campaign this term. Against a Kolkata Knight Riders side loaded with four left-handers in the top order, CSK didn’t have a spinner to take the ball away from them. Instead, they had two left-arm spinners in Jadeja and Mitchell Santner

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	13	6	7	0	12
SRH	12	5	7	0	10
RR	12	5	7	0	10
CSK	13	5	8	0	10

and a leggie, Karn Sharma. The pitch was holding up a little and yet again, Harbhajan Singh’s absence was felt. Almost every time pressure was building on KKR batters, CSK

bowlers provided boundary balls to allow breathing space.

Rana’s knock was a case in point. For its initial part, he was going at a run-a-ball, opening the innings. Then, Santner gave him the length to swing and sweep and consecutive fours ensued. When Rana was on 50, Sharma beat him in the air but the skier fell in no man’s land. Sharma missed his length three times in a row in his next over and Rana gleefully hit three successive sixes. Eventually, when he departed for a 61-ball 87, KKR were well set to post a challenging total. With a bit of bowling discipline, CSK could have restricted their opponents to around 160.

BRIEF SCORES: KKR 172/5 (Nitish Rana 87, Lungi Ngidi 2/34) lost to CSK 178/4 (R.Gaikwad 72, V.Chakraborty 2/20) by 6 wickets.

Inspired by Klopp, EB’s Fowler adds set-piece coach

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 29

AFTER BEING in a rut for decades, East Bengal, one of India’s oldest football clubs, is innovating. And at the helm is a manager who found inspiration in Liverpool’s Premier League-winning campaign last season.

As the Reds’ juggernaut rolled on, what caught Robbie Fowler’s attention was a subtle behind-the-scenes change at his former club. Jurgen Klopp, he noticed, had hired a coach only for throw-ins.

“Someone primarily who will look after throw-ins,” Fowler repeats, in awe of Klopp’s attention to detail. So immense, and immediate, was the impact of this that Fowler, a Liverpool legend who was the manager of Brisbane Roar at the time, wondered why no one else followed suit. So, when East Bengal appointed him as the manager earlier this month for their Indian Super League (ISL) debut, Fowler promptly brought on board a specialist, Terence McPhillips, not just for throw-ins but also free kicks and corners.

McPhillips will be East Bengal’s ‘set-piece coach’, a new breed of specialists who focus primarily on preparing players for dead-ball situations, which are increasingly becoming a way to score goals. “We know set pieces are important... you look at the stats of goals for and goals against. We need to try and use that to our advantage. So the set-piece coach will



Under Robbie Fowler, this is the first time that an Indian club will have a set-piece coach. Reuters

look at throw-ins, corners and free kicks both for and against,” Fowler, 45, tells *The Indian Express*.

This is the first time an Indian club will employ a set-piece coach, which is still an evolving role globally. Manchester City and Arsenal are among the few top teams in Europe, who have a dead-ball specialist in their coaching staff. It isn’t surprising to see two Premier League sides warm-up to this concept, given that set-pieces have largely been seen as an English approach to the game.

And by extension, an Englishman introducing the idea in the Indian league, which

EXPLAINED

Numbers back appointment

APPOINTING SET-PIECE coaches is a growing trend in football. The few clubs that have employed people in such roles, in England and parts of Scandinavia, have witnessed a massive improvement. Man City, for instance, were the 13th most prolific side from set pieces in the 2018-19 EPL. The following season, once they appointed a set-piece coach, they had maximum goals, 23, from dead ball situations as per *The Telegraph*. East Bengal are no City but if their experiment is successful and other clubs in the country follow them, it will, in the long term, benefit Indian players and help them improve their technical abilities.

has an overwhelming Spanish influence, is understandable. But Fowler insists East Bengal will not be a team that ‘will prima-

rily look for set pieces’. He wants his team to play possession football, with quick, short passes and create intricate triangles.

To enhance his ideas, the former Liverpool striker, who was twice named manager of the month in the A-League this year, spent a lot of time during the lockdown watching a different sport – hockey.

Football has a long history of looking at hockey for tactical inspiration. Fowler says he saw a lot of international games, including the FIH Pro League matches in The Netherlands, and was amazed at how swiftly the players interchanged positions, passed the ball and created spaces.

“The speed at which they move the ball, I know it’s a different ball... we can take a little bit of inspiration. If you are moving the ball quicker, then it takes the opposition a little bit out of their comfort zone, create pockets of space and you can capitalize that way,” Fowler says. “From a defensive point of view, you get a lot of bodies trying to not concede a goal. You look at the fitness and work ethic of these teams, it is really, really good. This is what we want to do.”

Whether Fowler has the time and resources – in terms of quality of players – to execute his vision is a different question.

Maybe this is where his team of specialists will have to step-up, with focus on McPhillips’s rather unconventional role as the set-piece coach. “Maybe, in terms of doing it in India, I am a bit of a pioneer,” Fowler says.



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