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INDIAN
EXPRESS
GROUP



His base shrinking, Nitish hopes voter cheering Modi will carry him along

VANDITA MISHRA
HAJIPUR, MUZAFFARPUR,
OCTOBER 30

DECISION
2020



B I H A R

BJP FEARS TROUBLE IN
BHAGALPUR BASTION

TEJASHWI NO
BAGGAGE: CONG

PAGE 6

FULL COVERAGE, VISIT
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

ANTI-INCUMBENCY does not quite describe it. This election is dealing two cruel ironies to Nitish Kumar. One, for the first time in 15 years in Bihar, he is at the receiving end of, not in the driving seat of, the desire for change.

It's a deep and dramatic shift: A leader seen and celebrated as the hero of Bihar's Great Turnaround Story, is now seen as a figure of Old Guard, the obstacle for repair and progress, not the righteous vehicle for it.

After all, it was Nitish who restored the authority of the State after the slide presided over by Lalu Prasad, who had scripted a radical upending of caste inequalities but did not, or could

not, take the next step: stitch the politics of social justice with an agenda of governance.

Nitish was the Mandal leader adept at social engineering who also became Sushasan Babu. His

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at a rally in Khagaria district on Friday. PTI

BJP vaccine promise not a violation of poll code, says EC

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE BJP'S promise of free Covid-19 vaccine to the people of Bihar in its election manifesto is not violative of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), the Election Commission (EC) has said in its decision on a complaint filed against the announcement last week.

The EC's clean chit came in response to a representation by RTI activist Saket Gokhale, alleging that the announcement was a gross violation of the Union government's powers, and an at-

tempt to mislead voters, given that the vaccine policy is not decided yet.

The EC had taken the same stand on a complaint received during the Lok Sabha elections last year against the Congress's NYAY scheme that guaranteed a minimum income of Rs 6,000 per month, or Rs 72,000 a year, for 25 crore people.

The Commission's reply to Gokhale, dated October 28, quotes three provisions from the MCC: that state election manifestos should not contain anything repugnant to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Govt plans to leverage microcredit scheme for street vendor database

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

EXPRESS NETWORK

CENTRE FLAGS
SOME 'ISSUES',
MAHARASHTRA SAYS
FOLLOWING NORMS

PAGE 12

THE CENTRE plans to prepare a socio-economic profile of street vendors to bring them in the net of eligible government schemes, and turn PM SVANidhi into a comprehensive poverty alleviation programme, as per directions issued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, top sources told *The Indian Express*.

Under the Centre's new PM Street Vendors' Atmanirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi) microcredit programme, a loan of Rs 10,000

is extended as working capital to street vendors. Disbursals under the scheme have risen to 15,000 per day, and around Rs 582 crore has so far been disbursed to over 5.93 lakh street vendors. The next step will be to profile and map the beneficiaries, work on



Two's COMPANY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Sardar Patel Zoological Park at Kevadia, in Narmada district of Gujarat, which he inaugurated on Friday. ANI

ESSENTIALS MOVING BUT DISCRETIONARY TEPID

HUL chief: Neighbourhood grocer, online channels stood out during pandemic... uptick in rural demand

ANIL SASI
& P VAIDYANATHAN IYER
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

HINDUSTAN UNILEVER Ltd, the Indian unit of the Euro 52 billion Anglo-Dutch consumer goods company Unilever and whose sales are a barometer for national demand, has seen a marked consumption uptick in rural India but sluggish in urban areas.

The rural surge is from areas typically not associated with high per capita consumption such as the Hindi heartland, alongside Punjab, Haryana and the hill states of the north, Sanjiv



SANJIV MEHTA
CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR,
HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LTD

Mehta, chairman and managing director of India's largest FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) company, told *The Indian Express*

in an interview.

The Rs 38,200-crore company, behind a range of products including Kissan jam, Dove soap, Surf Excel and Knorr soups, has clocked a turnaround over the last two quarters: from a minus 7 per cent overall contraction in the June quarter to a plus 3 per cent growth in the September quarter.

This indicates consumers are largely sticking to essentials but choosing to keep off discretionary items sold predominantly in urban markets.

The 3 per cent growth in the September quarter, Mehta said, came from 80 per cent of HUL's

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WORLD



GLOBAL COVID
CASES RISE BY
SINGLE-DAY RECORD
OF HALF-A-MILLION

MORE PEOPLE VOTED
EARLY IN TEXAS
THAN ITS TOTAL
2016 TURNOUT

PAGE 18

Future builds Rs 1,000-cr war chest in arbitration battle with Amazon

AASHISH ARYAN
& SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

IN ORDER to factor in all present and future liabilities in its arbitration tussle with global e-commerce major Amazon, Kishore Biyani's Future Group is learnt to have set aside around Rs 1,000 crore in an escrow account as a safeguard measure, sources privy to the development told *The Indian Express*.

The amount in the escrow account, which could later be raised to Rs 1,500 crore, is equal to the

total investment made by Amazon in Future Coupons, the promoter group entity of Future Retail, the sources said. The Future Group did not respond to a detailed questionnaire seeking its response on the development.

The company's top management is also of the view that the deal with Reliance Retail Ventures, a unit of Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Industries, will go ahead as planned and will be completed as per schedule, one of the persons said.

"The understanding within the company is that even if Future

STRATEGIC TIES WITH FRANCE

Crisis on LAC worst in decades, India response firm & mature: Shringla

In Paris, Foreign Secretary says
France our friend for all seasons



People pay tribute to the victims of the attack, near the Notre Dame church in Nice, France, on Friday. Reuters

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

INDIA HAS dealt with the "worst crisis in decades" on its border with China with "firmness and maturity", Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told an audience in Paris on Thursday.

Shringla, who spoke at the Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI), underlined "respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty", and "peaceful resolution of disputes"

as he described India and France as "strong partners" in the Indo-Pacific.

Earlier this week, in an obvious reference to China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar too had referred to "respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty" after the Indo-US 2+2 ministerial meeting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FRANCE ON ALERT
AMID WARNING OF
MORE ATTACKS

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Monthly avg price of potato Rs 40/kg, highest in a decade

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE ALL-INDIA monthly average retail price of potato rose to Rs 39.30 per kg in October, the highest in 130 months, official data from State Civil Supplies Departments compiled by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, show.

The average retail price of potato in Delhi this month was slightly higher than the all-India average at Rs 40.11 per kg — also the highest since January 2010, almost 11 years ago.

The all-India average retail price per kg this October was almost double that of October 2019 (Rs 20.57 per kg). The average price in Delhi in October 2020 was 60 per cent higher than the Rs 25 per kg of the corresponding month last year.

January 2010 is the earliest month for which comparable data are available on the Ministry's portal.

While retail prices of potato are usually higher during September-November due to seasonal variations, this year, the tuber started to get expensive from February-March, when average monthly retail prices reached about Rs 23 per kg.

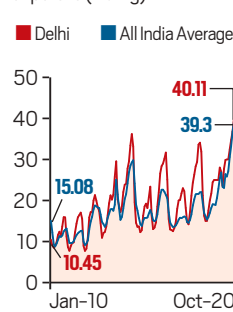
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EXPLAINED
Less storage to blame

ONE REASON for the spike in retail prices is lesser storage than in earlier years. Prices continued to rise during the lockdown in April and May. In fact the Ministry had sounded an alert about the likelihood of a post-lockdown spike in prices.

THE RISING

Monthly average retail prices of potato (Rs/kg)



Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, OCTOBER 30

IN ONE OF the three rooms of the Panchayat Bhawan in Khamtarai village in Arang Block, about 50 kms from Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, stands a wall-mounted metal cabinet with two routers installed under the Rs 3,057-crore rural broadband connectivity project, BharatNet Phase II, awarded to Tata Projects Ltd in July 2018.

These devices — meant to light up the village with the internet — have now become a dragon on the panchayat's finances. Poshan

Sahu, Sarpanch of Khamtarai, said electricity consumption of the devices is probably higher than that for the rest of the office. "Earlier, I would pay a few hundred rupees. In December 2019, after these devices were installed, it shot up to Rs 1,320," he told *The Indian Express*.

The panchayat would not mind the higher costs if services promised under BharatNet were available to the villagers. "We bought wifi-hotspot providers, but we were not allowed to connect them to the device installed," he said.

Under Bharat Net Phase II,

Tata Projects was required to ensure high-speed broadband connectivity (1 GBPS to 10 GBPS) free through WiFi in 5,987 gram panchayats. This involved laying down Optical Fibre Cable over 32,466 km, installing hardware, and establishing a ring of connections instead of standalone connection for each gram panchayat.

The *Indian Express* promised under BharatNet were available to the villagers. "We bought wifi-hotspot providers, but we were not allowed to connect them to the device installed," he said.

PART-3



Khamtarai village is among the gram panchayats listed for the project. Gargi Verma

the company not meeting mutually-agreed milestones. So far, Tata Projects has twice received extension of timeline (EOT), first for a year in June 2019, and then for another six months, which expires in December 2020.

Khamtarai is one of the 200-odd gram panchayats lit (primed for broadband connectivity) under the project. Part of the fourth ring in Arang block, work has been going on in the village for over a year, Sahu said.

But the desktop in the panchayat office remains mostly switched off. "Our computer operator (a village-level entrepreneur or VLE) left and now works

at a shop in the city," Sarpanch Sahu said. Even when the panchayat officials want to operate e-governance portals, the 2 mbps speed hinders all tasks. "We can't even download a document, even on days we have internet connectivity," he said.

Adjoining village Kava, just 2 km away, is not connected to the BharatNet Phase II network yet, said Leela Kosariya, Sarpanch of this gram panchayat. "No digging or other work has commenced, and no device connected... There is no internet in the village; we get our work done from a private centre in Arang," she said.

When asked why services haven't reached the citizens even where infrastructure has been installed, Sameer Vishnoi, CEO of Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHIPS), the state's nodal agency tasked with monitoring the project, said, "BharatNet Phase II project as approved by Government of India was designed to connect blocks to Gram Panchayats. Additional connectivity from Gram Panchayats to offices and houses was not part of the original scope defined in the project."

CHIPS provides network through SWAN (State Wide Area Network) to Tata with the con-

nectivity of 2 Mbps, "for devices management purpose". "Wider Range of Broadband can be accessed as and when requested by customers," Vishnoi said.

Tata Projects did not respond to questions, including on the number of open accessible connections already in place in Chhattisgarh.

In a press statement after bagging the project in July 2018, Tata Projects, however, had said that important services including PDS, 102 (Free Ambulance Service) and 108 (Emergency Service), would be executed at the gram panchayat level. "It will

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New Delhi



BRIEF RESPITE

Air quality to improve as wind speed picks up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE CAPITAL will get a slight relief from high pollution levels over the next two days, with stronger winds and higher temperatures expected.

On Friday too, there was a slight improvement in air quality, as wind speed picked up, resulting in dispersion of pollutants and improvement of air quality within the 'very poor' category.

The contribution of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to pollution in Delhi's air also reduced from around 36% on Thursday to an estimated 19% on Friday, as per the Centre's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

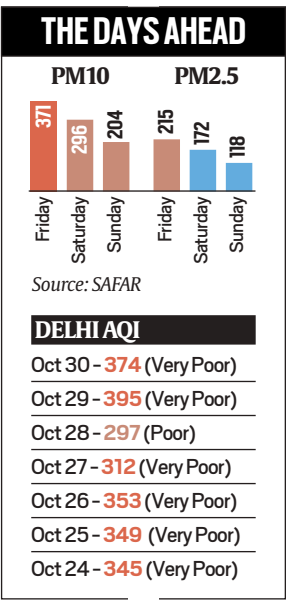
A SAFAR bulletin also noted a reduction in fire counts in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh - from close to 3,000 on Thursday to nearly 1,200 - on Friday. "A significant improvement is forecast for November 1 to the lower-end of 'very poor' or 'poor' category," the SAFAR bulletin said.

Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) on Friday was 374, down from Thursday's 395, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Wind speed over Delhi on Thursday was below 2-3 kmph, but picked up on Friday to around 12-14 kmph, said Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the India Meteorological Department's regional weather forecasting centre. "Wind speed is forecast to be even higher on Saturday and Sunday. The wind direction is from the northwest, which is favourable for transporting pollutants from stubble burning, but as the wind speed is expected to be high until November 1, pollutants will keep getting dispersed," he said.

Temperature in the city is going to be in the 14-30 degree Celsius range, creating the con-



A SAFAR bulletin said a significant improvement is forecast for Nov 1 to the lower-end of 'very poor' or 'poor' category. *Praveen Khanna*



ditions for a dip in air quality as colder temperatures aid pollution accumulation. The city had seen the minimum temperature fall to 12.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest in October in 26 years.

Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai tweeted on Friday that district magistrates and the Delhi Police have been directed to ensure that only green firecrackers are sold and used in the city.

Slow winds, clear skies: What's behind Delhi's unusually cool Oct

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, OCTOBER 30

WITH THE approaching winter, minimum temperatures in the national capital have trended downward over the last one week. Thursday and Friday (October 29 and 30) were the coolest October days recorded in Delhi (Safdarjung) in recent years.

How is the weather changing in Delhi?

Delhi is in the phase of sea-

sonal transition between the southwest monsoon, which has withdrawn from the country, and winter. Since October 23, the minimum temperature recorded in Delhi has been slightly below normal.

Data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) shows that on Thursday, the minimum temperature fell below 13 degrees Celsius in October for the first time since 2007.

What is causing the cooler weather in Delhi?

A DROP IN MINIMUM TEMPERATURES*

Oct 23	14.4 (-2.7)
Oct 24	14.3 (-2.8)
Oct 25	13.8 (-3.3)
Oct 26	15.0 (-2.7)
Oct 27	14.4 (-2.7)
Oct 28	13.8 (-2.2)
Oct 29	12.5 (NA)
Oct 30	13.1 (-3)

Source: IMD
* in degree Celsius at Delhi Safdarjung

The weather is dry and the sky is mostly clear over North and Northwest India. Gentle northwesterly winds are blowing over the region.

On Friday, a western disturbance developed as a trough at mid-tropospheric level, but did not significantly influence the local weather.

What is likely to happen over the next week?

Minimum temperatures across North and Northwest India are likely to remain 2 to 5 degrees Celsius below normal


until at least November 12, according to the Extended Range Predictions issued on October 29. This fall in temperatures will not, however, be seen in some areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand during this period.

"After the monsoon withdrawal, the declining trend in the minimum temperature around this time is normal. Presently, there are no strong weather systems to cause drastic drop in the minimum temperatures, which would remain 2 to 3 degrees below normal," K

Sathi Devi, head of the National Weather Forecasting Centre, said.

Delhi will continue to experience cool and dry weather conditions in the coming days. Minimum temperatures will stay around 11-12 degrees Celsius until at least November 3. Early morning and late evening could be misty and foggy, affecting visibility.

Day temperatures will see a marginal drop from the present, and stay around 30 degrees Celsius until early next month, the IMD said.



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

NATIONAL UNITY DAY


31st October 2020

On the birth anniversary of

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

the Grateful nation pays tribute


Sardar Patel's mantra of unity is the ethos of the nation and his birth anniversary is the festival of Unity of India.



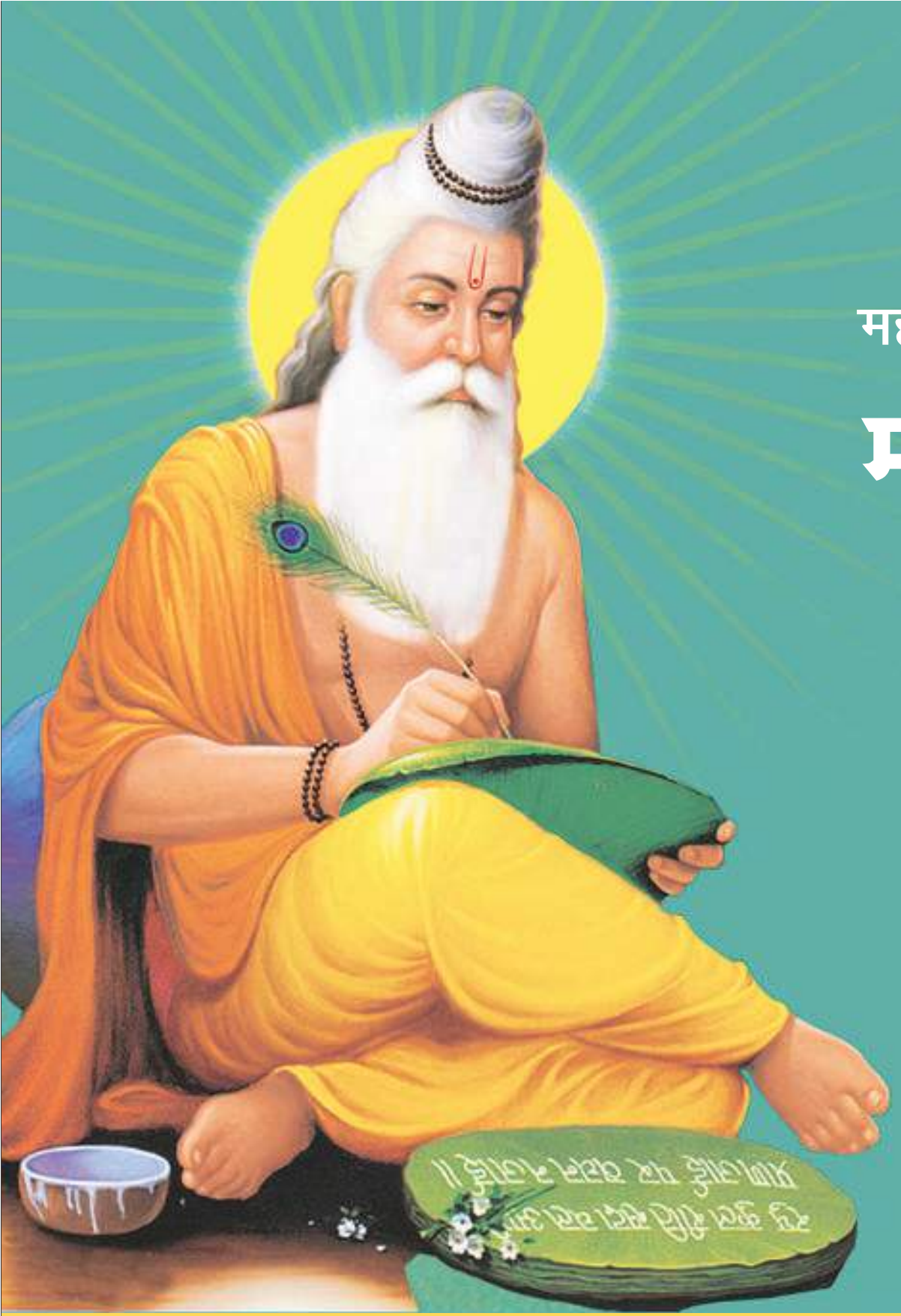
“Sardar Patel did the important work of uniting the country. His thoughts and actions inspire us to live the mantra of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'”

- Narendra Modi

Live telecast of Prime Minister's programme on:
Doordarshan Network from Statue of Unity, Kevadia, Gujarat from 07:30 am onwards



cs/vp 22201/1/3/003/12021




महाकाव्य 'रामायण के रचयिता, आदिकवि

महर्षि वाल्मीकी जी

की जयंती पर आप सभी को हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं

-अरविंद केजरीवाल
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली



दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

अ.जा./अ.ज.जा./अ.पि.व./अल्पसंख्यक कल्याण विभाग
राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार

4 THE CITY



TOTAL CASES		HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
3,81,644				15,760	9,561
		VENTILATORS		1,244	461
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	*Total active cases
Oct 29	5,739	4,138	27	60,124	
Oct 30	5,981	4,433	47	59,641	
Total	32,363*	3,42,811	6,470	46,36,365	

Consider masks as vaccine, says Jain as cases rise

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

WITH THE city reporting over 5,000 Covid-19 cases three days in a row, Health Minister Satyendar Jain Friday emphasised the importance of wearing face masks, saying people should consider them as a "vaccine" against the virus till the time one is available.

Delhi reported 5,891 new cases of Covid-19 – the highest single-day spike so far – Friday, taking the total number of people affected with the virus to 3,81,644. With 47 deaths in the last 24 hours, the death toll increased to 6,470.

"The spread of the virus can be stopped to a large extent if everyone wears a mask. People should consider masks as a vaccine till there is one. It has more benefits than a lockdown," Jain said.

The daily positivity rate rose to 9.88% from Thursday's 9.55%, with authorities testing 59,641 people. Positivity rate, which is the percentage of people testing positive for the virus from among those who were tested, explains the spread of the disease among the population.

Over the last three days, the capital has reported 17,303 new cases – almost 4.53% of the total infections. The Delhi government cited its new strategy, involving aggressive contact tracing and testing, as one of the

Delhi reported 5,891 new Covid cases – the highest single-day spike so far – on Friday, taking the total number of people affected with the virus to 3,81,644. The capital also recorded 47 deaths

reasons behind the sudden surge in the number of infections.

According to sources, districts have been advised to ramp up contact tracing and see if they are in need of any more resources.

On Friday, the Health Minister said officers have been advised to trace all contacts of positive cases. "The districts have been told to find deficiencies within the system and, if required, come up with suggestions. Many districts are already facing a staff crunch as all health-care workers have been exhausted to the full capacity. Officers have been told to aggressively reach out to each contact of patients who test positive," said a senior official from the state health department.

The Union Health Ministry, however, has attributed the rise to social gatherings during festivities, deteriorating air quality, and increasing incidence of respiratory disorders.



WHAT COVID?

At Sadar Bazar, Friday. Covid fears have failed to deter crowds at city markets as festival season picks up. Prem Nath Pandey

BRIEFLY

Another businessman goes missing

Chaziabad: A 46-year-old businessman remains missing for the fourth day from Ghaziabad's Sihani Gate area. According to police, a missing complaint was filed by the family of Parag Ghosh Wednesday. "We are investigating all possible angles," said Awaneesh Kumar, CO City 2. From the same Sihani Gate area, builder Vikram Tyagi had disappeared under mysterious circumstances in June this year. His Innova Crysta was later found in Muzaffarnagar with blood stains inside. "So far there are no similarities in the cases," said Kumar.

JNU: Aarogya Setu no longer mandatory

New Delhi: JNU has gone back on its decision that students and employees have to "mandatorily" install the Aarogya Setu app to gain entry into the campus from November 2, and has instead turned it into an advisory.

Court junks JNU prof plea

New Delhi: Observing that Delhi Police is already investigating the case, a Delhi court has dismissed a plea by a JNU professor seeking registration of FIR in connection with the January 5 mob attack on teachers, students and staff on the campus.

MLA seeks action against Aamir Khan

Noida: Loni BJP MLA Nandkishor Gurjar has has written a letter to police seeking action against actor Aamir Khan allegedly for violation of Covid protocols. "Khan had come with his team and met people without masks...He should be booked under the Epidemic Act," he said in the letter. **ENS**

Govt seeks law dept help as police refuse to share FIRs on NE Delhi riots

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE DELHI Home department has decided to seek the opinion of the Principal Secretary (Law) on the issue of Delhi Police refusing to share copies of FIRs related to the February riots with the elected government and a House panel.

The Home department has also been directed by the House panel to write to the police and demand an explanation on the absence of FIRs against BJP leader Kapil Mishra and the BJP West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh on their alleged role in stoking violence. The matter came up on October 28 during a meeting of the Delhi Assembly panel on welfare of minorities in the presence of its chairman Amanatullah Khan and Principal Secretary (Home) BS Bhalla.

Bhalla told the meeting that he will seek the Law department's opinion on the police stand. Delhi



Police said it cannot share the FIRs as they are 'sensitive'

Police had earlier written to the state government, saying it cannot share the 754 riot-related FIRs as they are "sensitive" in nature.

Police had also produced a 2011 circular to establish its stand. However, the panel disputed the stand of the police, saying the circular pertained to a specific case and that it does not govern other matters such as the February riots. Bhalla told the meeting that

he will take the views of the Law department on the matter and explore the options available with the government on the FIR issue. The department will also flag the panel's query on the absence of FIRs against Mishra and Singh, Bhalla said.

During the hearing, the panel played a clip in front of Home department officials showing alleged police complicity during

the riots. In the clip, four policemen in riot gear can purportedly be seen entering and exiting a mosque multiple times, following which smoke starts billowing out of its premises.

As *The Indian Express* reported on October 9, the Home department had earlier flagged seven clips, including two of policemen purportedly throwing bricks alongside rioters and egging them on during the Northeast Delhi riots, with the police.

DCP (Northeast) had replied that action has been taken on three of the videos, while the rest "are being analysed and a report regarding the same will be submitted in due course of time after ascertaining location, and exact date and time".

Meanwhile, the panel Wednesday also highlighted multiple cases of lapses in the Delhi government's relief drive for riot victims. The Revenue department was directed to take corrective measures within a month.

Yamuna's ammonia level shoots up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

A DAY after ammonia levels in the Yamuna reached nearly six times above the acceptable level, prompting the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to shut two water treatment plants, its level was brought under control on Friday though it still remained three times above the standard.

DJB Vice-Chairman Raghav

Chadha said water supply in parts of south, east, and north Delhi was affected due to the closure of the plants, adding that it will be restored by Saturday morning.

Ammonia levels had reached 3 parts per million (ppm) in raw Yamuna water on Thursday and came down to 1.7 ppm by Friday, DJB officials said. The acceptable level of ammonia is 0.5 ppm.

"We are discussing the issue with the Haryana government and collectively working to find

a solution," said Chadha.

An official from Haryana Irrigation and Water Resources Department too said the concentration of ammonia may have increased in the Yamuna between Thursday and Friday, but added that it was reduced upto 0.9 ppm by Friday evening.

DJB's Bhagirathi and Sonia Vihar water treatment plants, having a combined treatment capacity of 250 million gallons per day (MGD), had to be closed for

around 24 hours since 11 am on Thursday. They resumed operations with 70% capacity by Friday.

DJB officials said on Friday that the spike in pollutants this time has coincided with the closure of Upper Ganga Canal, which supplies about 250 MGD of raw water to Delhi, for annual maintenance. "We would have used the water from the canal for diluting the raw Yamuna water, but the option was not available this time," a DJB official said.

DDMA GIVES NOD

City buses to run at full seating capacity

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

PUBLIC BUSES in the national capital have been allowed to run at full seating capacity by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority chaired by Lt Governor Anil Bajjal, a senior government official said Friday. A transport department official said an order to this effect "will be issued in a day or two".

The decision, based on a proposal made by the Transport Department headed by Kailash Gahlot, comes in the middle of a sharp spike in the city's daily Covid case count and positivity rate.

The department is also preparing a standard operating procedure to reopen the Inter-State Bus Terminals (ISBT) located at Anand Vihar, Kashmere Gate and Sarai Kale Khan. The ISBTs, which witness a footfall of over 2.5 lakh daily, have been shut since March 21.

Over 40 lakh people used to avail bus services on a daily basis before the pandemic. However, ever since bus services resumed on May 19 after a two-month lockdown, buses were allowed to seat only up to 20 passengers to prevent transmission of the virus.

There are 6,595 public buses in Delhi currently, which is half the number it actually requires



CAPITAL FLEET

AFTER REVISION OF RULES

41 passengers in non-AC buses

35 passengers in AC buses

6,595 buses in Delhi

BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

2.5 lakh footfall at ISBTs daily

40 lakh bus users daily

Over 40 lakh people used to avail bus services daily before the pandemic. *Archive*

were leading to long waiting periods for passengers and crowding at bus stops.

After assessing the situation, the transport department had recently sent a proposal to the DDMA to raise the seating capacity. The department had also factored in the revenue loss owing to the restrictions.

With the DDMA approval, AC buses will be able to carry 35 passengers while non-AC buses have a seating capacity of 41.

Leader of the Opposition and BJP MLA Ramvir Singh Bidhuri welcomed the DDMA move. "I thank L-G Anil Bajjal for the decision, which will alleviate the woes of regular bus commuters," Bidhuri said.

to cater to a population of over 2 crore.

The restrictions on seating

'Names struck off ration card list to be added again'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

DELHI FOOD Minister Imran Hussain has said that names of some ration card holders who left Delhi during the lockdown have been deleted from the list of PDS beneficiaries.

Hussain ordered the food and supplies commissioner on October 28 to restore with "immediate effect" all such deleted names as they were not being able to lift their monthly quota of ration from fair price shops.

A senior food department official, however, disputed the claim, saying no such arbitrary deletions have been made.

"It has been brought to my knowledge that some of the beneficiaries had gone to their home states during the period March 2020 to October 2020 due to the lockdown/extended lockdown because of Covid-19, and on their return to Delhi, they are unable to get their due ration as their names have been struck off."

"It is hereby directed that names of all such beneficiaries which have been struck off from the NFS beneficiaries list for the above reason during lockdown/extended lockdown from March 2020 to October 2020 may be restored with immediate effect herewith," said the order signed by Hussain.

Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, which governs the PDS, there are 17.54 lakh ration card holders in Delhi. They



Some ration card holders were deleted from the list after they left during the lockdown. *Archive*

are divided into three categories – 15.12 lakh priority households (PR), 1.73 lakh priority state households (PRS) and 68,468 Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

A senior food department official said the 17.54 lakh ration cards benefit around 71.9 lakh people. The cap on the number of beneficiaries is fixed at 72.78 lakh in the capital.

"No such deletions have been made owing to beneficiaries leaving Delhi for a few months due to lockdown. Instead, around 10,000 to 15,000 new ration cards are being made on a monthly basis. The minister may have written the letter based on certain inputs but we are not aware of any deletion," the official claimed.

9-year-old dies while playing with crackers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

A NINE-YEAR-OLD boy died while he was playing with firecrackers in Outer Delhi's Alipur on Tuesday. Police said it appears a steel glass was placed over the cracker and when it burst, a shard pierced the boy's chest.

The victim has been identified as Prince, a resident of Bakhtawar Pur. He was rushed to a hospital by his relatives and neighbours but died during treatment.

Indrajeet (18), the child's uncle said, "I was at work at a departmental store. His father was at a factory and his mother was working in a nearby field at the time of the incident. Prince was playing outside the house around 11 am. He must have bought a firecracker from a local shop. He was trying to light it but it did not go off... he placed a glass on the cracker, when it suddenly burst. A shard got stuck to his body."

A doctor at Sharda hospital, where the boy was taken, said he sustained severe burn injuries and had difficulty in breathing.

Prince's father Ram Das said, "We never expected this to happen. The shop owner shouldn't have sold the firecracker to a young child. A week ago, we were celebrating his birthday and now our son is gone."

A senior police officer said neither the family nor locals have alleged any foul play. Inquest proceedings will be initiated in the matter, said police.

PART OF DECEMBER 16 RAPE PROBE

ACP whose cases have made it to silver screen twice retires

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE YEAR was 2010, and a case of kidnapping landed at Delhi Police officer Rajender Singh's desk – one that took him to Gujarat, from where a minor was apprehended for the crime. "I didn't want him to waste his life behind bars, and remain a criminal so I helped him with his studies, played cricket with him, taught him how to drive... When he got bail, he got a job, and called me. I felt happy because I knew I made a difference,"

said the 60-year-old ACP, a day after he retired as ACP Dwarka.

In his 34-year-long service, ACP Singh has worked on plenty of high-profile cases – from the December 2012 gangrape and murder case to arresting "super-chor" Bunty to the Ponty Chadha murder case in 2012. Days before he retired, ACP Singh was a part of the team that nabbed Delhi Police sub-inspector Puneet Grewal who was accused of molesting four women and a minor.

Singh, who joined the force in 1986 as a sub-inspector after graduating from Delhi University,

in fact, never wanted to take up the profession. "In the '80s, I was preparing for the UPSC exams and wanted to be a civil servant, not a police officer. I was waiting for results and joined the Delhi Police just like that. Now I am glad I did... my goal has always been to catch the criminal as quickly as possible..." he said.

In the last three decades, not only did he rise through the ranks, Singh has also seen the changing nature of policing. "Technology has changed policing but we follow the old rule book of carrying out investigations," he said.



ACP Rajender Singh

Singh's tough demeanor and his cases also made it to the screen

– twice. In Dibakar Banerjee's celebrated film *Oye Lucky Lucky Oye!* on the life of "super chor" Devinder Singh aka Bunty, actor Anuraag Arora played the inde-fatigable cop chasing Abhay Deol's character – a role inspired by Singh, who worked the case.

"There were 20 teams looking for Bunty... I still remember the recovery of cash, jewellery, furniture, expensive goods – worth Rs 5 crore," recalled Singh.

In 2019, Rajesh Tailang played Singh in Richie Mehta's Netflix series *Delhi Crime*, based on the 2012 gangrape and murder case. Singh

said, "I met Tailang a few times and told him about the investigation and the challenges. I think he picked up the character fast and did well... We are friends now."

Talking about the 2012 case, Singh recalled how the then-DCP (south) Chhaya Sharma called him and other police personnel to the hospital where the woman was admitted late at night. "She formed teams and we set out to find the bus and the accused. It was not a tough case but the pressure was immense. The government, courts, media and public – all wanted

quick results... There was no scope for an error or delay from our side," he said.

In March this year, Singh found himself handling a new challenge. A nationwide lockdown was announced due to Covid, and movement of migrant workers began. "I was worried for migrant workers so my team and I went around providing food and dry ration to them. In my area, senior citizens needed help getting to hospitals so I set up a free van service. Pregnant women too needed help..." he said.

ADVERTORIAL

The Business Magnate with a Philanthropic Heart!



ships for Toyota Kirloskar Motors and TVS Motor Company in the union territories of J&K and Ladakh under the name of Shree Toyota and Jay Kay TVS respectively.

Despite vastness of his business empire, as an individual Shri DV Batra remained down to earth. A Pure, Humble and Noble Soul as ever before always approachable. He amply meets Plato's definition of a 'Philosopher King' who stood out as a great philanthropist attached to various social organizations, so dear to his heart and temperament.

Shri DV batra along with his brother Shri Amrit Lal Batra were the Founders & Trustees of Ch. Aishi Ram Batra Public Charitable Trust, which is operating Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre in New Delhi. They are also Co-Founders & Trustees of a Dharamshala in Haridwar. Shri DV Batra was also the Vice President of Shri Chander Chinar Bara Akhada Udasin Society in J&K, who started a Medical College and Hospital at Jammu under the name of Acharaya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences & Hospital.

The Medical college and Hospital,



guidance Shri DV Batra, ASCOMS - a joint venture with American Oncology Hospital, Hyderabad was formed, to establish Jammu's first and only fully functional super speciality Cancer Care Centre.

Shri DV Batra was a Member of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board which operates under the Chairmanship of His Excellency the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He was also the President of Shri Sanatan Dharam Par-tap Sabha, Srinagar, and also continued to be associated with Vishwa Bharti Women's Education Trust and Schools, as one of the founding members several decades back. Started in Srinagar, the trust has now expanded its wings to Jammu, New Delhi & Noida.

He had also been associated with J&K Dharmarth Trust as a council mem-



SHRI DHARAM Vir Batra, the Chairman of Batra Group of Companies was the fourth son of late Ch. Aishi Ram Batra, a renowned businessman and philanthropist who hailed from District Multan of Punjab (Pakistan). Before partition, the family moved to Amritsar and Kashmir Valley, where they established name and fame in Textile Business in Punjab and Petroleum business in Jammu & Kashmir. His elder brother late Sh. Atam Prakash Batra settled in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Another brother Late Sh. Bhagwan Dass Batra settled in Pathankot who later shifted to Indore, M.P. His two other brothers, Late Sh. Sham Lal Batra & Sh. Amrit Lal Batra are settled in New Delhi.

Shri DV Batra was married to Late Smt. Maya Wanti daughter of Late Sh. Hans Raj Sindwani. He is survived by three sons and two daughters. His eldest son Sh. Davinder Batra is looking after the family business in union territories of J&K and Ladakh, and second son Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra is looking after the family business in NCR – who is also the President of the Federation of International Hockey. It was during his tenure as President, the Hockey India League was established. In addition to this, Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra is also the President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and a member of the International Olympic Committee. Shri DV Batra's third son Sh. Hemant Batra is



looking after the family business of Transportation and a network of Petrol Pumps in NCR.

Shri DV Batra is survived by two daughters, the elder Smt. Raj Rani Sehgal is married to Sh. Rajinder Sehgal and settled in New Delhi. The younger daughter Smt. Puja Bhassin is married to Sh. Anil Bhassin and is settled in Dubai.

Along with his father, late Sh. Ch. Aishi Ram Batra, they pioneered Petroleum Products marketing in the state of J & K. They started petroleum business from grass root level with the dealership of Kerosene oil and at present have a network of petrol pumps, LPG Agency Points and transportation of petroleum products contracts across North India. In 1970 he saw an opportunity to setup manufacturing and distribution of LPG in J&K as no state run companies were present here at that time. He tied up with Hindustan Petroleum and set up two LPG bottling plants one at Jammu and another at Srinagar. In 1990 after the situation in the state started to turn bad both the plants were handed over to Hindustan Petroleum for operations.

Under the able guidance of Shri DV Batra, the Group diversified from trading and transportation of Petroleum Products into a host of manufacturing activities that ultimately saw it emerge as one of the giants in home appliances industry as well as in several other core sectors. The Flagship Company of the Group Super Parts Pvt. Ltd., deals in various Home and Electrical Appliances under the well-known "Superflame" brand of products, which is a household name in the country.

The group also diversified into automobile trade and currently has dealer-

Jammu are located at a picturesque place on a hilltop at Sidhra, having a capacity of 590 beds with healthcare facilities in Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Laparoscopic Surgery, Orthopaedics, Obst & Gyne., Paediatrics, Dental, Skin & STD, Psychiatry, ENT & Ophthalmology. In addition to these facilities the Hospital also has super speciality services like high tech Heart Care Centre, Neuro Surgery, Brain and Spine Surgery, Urology, Paediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery & Gastroenterology for the welfare of the people of J&K. Before establishment of this facility the locals had to go out of J&K even for minor ailments.

Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre, Delhi has an infrastructure comprising of 495 beds, 14 Operation Theatres, 112 ICU beds, 24x7 Emergency facilities, full range of state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratories and comprehensive rehabilitation facilities.

It is the first multi-specialty private hospital of Delhi, that brings world-class medical care within the reach of a common man. Over the years it has progressed bringing in the latest and the most modern medical care in critical and life threatening areas like Cancer, Cardiac, Orthopaedics, Nephrology and Neuro Surgery.

The hospital offers tertiary level care in 42 specialities through the finest medical talent – Physicians, Surgeons, Nursing Professionals and Technicians, enriched with international experience.

In 2019 under the

ber which looks after the welfare of various temples in Jammu & Kashmir. During the militancy period in Kashmir he was instrumental in preserving various temples.

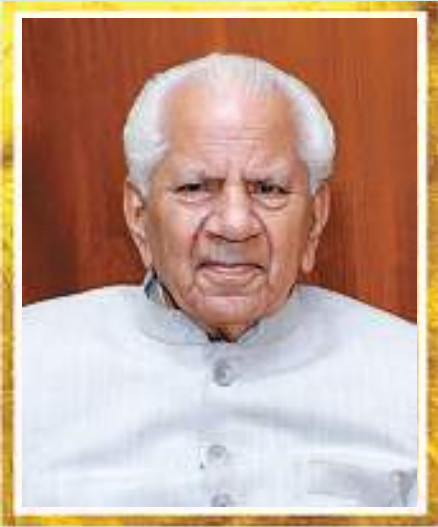
In 1996, the Jammu & Kashmir

Government awarded him the Prestigious Gold Medal at a special function presided over by the His Excellency the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir. This is the Highest Civilian Award of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He was

awarded this honour for his selfless work on various issues in J&K.

Throughout his life he continued to render services in various social, religious and human welfare activities. He is a great loss for humanity.

न जायते म्रियते वा कदाचि - त्रायं भूत्वा भविता वा न भूयः
अजो नित्यः शाश्वतोऽयं पुराणो - न हन्यते हन्यमाने शरीरे ॥



With profound grief we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved

SHRI DHARAM VIR BATRA

(23rd May 1929 - 23rd October 2020)

Prayer Meeting/ Virtual Prayer Meeting

will be held on Monday, 2nd November 2020 - from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm

at W - 11, Greater Kailash Part-2, New Delhi - 110 048.

Join us live on Youtube : <https://youtu.be/RzluojeuRN4>

In Grief

Sons & Daughters-in-Law:

Davinder Batra & Arti Batra
Hemant Batra & Radhika Batra
Narinder Dhruv Batra & Chetna Dhruv Batra

Brother:

Shri A.L. Batra

Daughters & Sons-in-law:

Raji & Rajinder Sehgal
Puja & Anil Bhassin

Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

Batra Family | Leekha Family | Sindwani Family

Faculty & Staff of

**D V BATRA GROUP
OF COMPANIES**

**ACHARYA SHRI CHANDER COLLEGE
of Medical Sciences & Hospital (Jammu)**

**BATRA HOSPITAL
AND MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE, NEW DELHI**



BHAGALPUR

In BJP bastion, a contender: 'unguided missile' LJP

On the constituency won by BJP from 1990 till 2010, riots ghost is in the past; Cong could gain from LJP, discontent in BJP ranks, and Muslim, Yadav votes

ABHINAV RAJPUT

TETRI (BHAGALPUR), OCTOBER 30

BALLOONS AND toys are being sold from bicycles, customers are lined up at snacks stalls, and the swings are full of children. If there are any fears regarding the coronavirus, the Durga Puja fair at Tetri village in Bhagalpur district doesn't display any.

Pawan Singh is testing his luck at a game requiring a participant to throw rings over notes of Rs 5, 10, 20. Employed with a private software company at Pune, he finishes with Rs 10 spent and no wins.

Later, sipping tea, Singh says there is no question things have changed under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. "He has got tap water to villages (under the Nal Jal Yojna). Electricity has improved so much that I can work from home without worrying about power connection."

However, adding to the common refrain of this election, Singh says they expect more — than just the basics of water and power. "Development here is very slow... Other states have Metro, companies, industries... There are software companies even in Nagpur... Not everyone leaves their state out of choice."

Going to polls on November 3, Bhagalpur



is one of the five Assembly seats being contested by the BJP where the LJP, which has exited the NDA in Bihar, has fielded candidates. While LJP chief Chirag Paswan is seen as propped up by the BJP to undermine Nitish, in Bhagalpur, this might boomerang on the BJP.

While the BJP candidate is its district president Rohit Pandey, a Brahmin, the Congress's Ajit Sharma, the sitting MLA, is a Bhumihar, and the LJP has fielded Bhagalpur Deputy Mayor Rajesh Verma, a Marwari. A largely urban constituency, Bhagalpur is dominated by Banias, Brahmins, Marwaris and Muslims.

The 1989 Hindu-Muslim riots in which more than a thousand people died under a Congress government had virtually shut out the party in the elections that followed. The polarisation, exacerbated by the Ram temple



Ashwini Kumar Choubey, a multiple-term BJP MLA from Bhagalpur, and now Union MoS, Health and Family Welfare, campaigning in Saran on Friday. PTI

agitation, ensured that the BJP won five consecutive times after 1990, with Ashwini Kumar Choubey, a Brahmin, elected multiple times. In 2015, he vacated the seat for his son, and moved on to the Lok Sabha.

Subsequently, in 2015, after 15 years, the Congress won the Bhagalpur Assembly seat,

with Sharma defeating BJP candidate and Choubey's son Arijit Shashwat by a little over 10,000 votes. A BJP rebel polled 15,212 votes. The Congress also benefited due to allies RJD and JD(U) drawing it the Muslim vote.

The anger regarding failed promises is not hard to understand. One of four Bihar towns

on the Centre's Smart Cities list, Bhagalpur grapples with traffic jams, especially on the 4.7-km Vikramshila Setu. Ranjan Singh, who commutes over the bridge to his home town, says, "If a vehicle breaks down, there are jams up to 24 hours. There is no provision in the bridge's design to remove such a vehicle."

The town has been waiting for an airport since the time former civil aviation minister Shah Nawaz Hussain won from here in 2006. College exams are known to be delayed for years, with very few offering professional courses. Coaching centres fill the gap.

This time, apart from the confusion created by the LJP, the BJP could face problems due to the denial of ticket to Shashwat and former deputy mayor Preeti Shekhar, both popular leaders, fuelling rift in the local unit.

The lanes that crisscross Sonapatti have encroachments on both sides. Idly watching a bike struggle down one such lane from his garment shop, Sagar Vyas, a Marwari, says, "Most here do not want a repeat of 2015 where a BJP rebel ended up benefiting the Congress. The community is discussing which way they want to go."

Ashish Jha, a student, says, "Verma (the LJP candidate) is popular, but he will have to convince that he is a challenger and not a vote katua (splitter)." Voicing the unease in the

BJP ranks, Jha adds, "The BJP thought that the LJP will dent the JD(U) but it (the LJP) is now an unguided missile. Depending upon the candidate, it is damaging the RJD in some areas and the BJP here."

In private, local BJP leaders admit the same, saying that while the Congress will not have any difficulty securing the estimated 30% Muslim-Yadav vote, the LJP might dent the BJP in the fight for the rest 70%.

Saluddin Ahsan, Principal of Muslim Minority College, says the community has largely forgiven the Congress for the riots. Its CM Satyendra Narayan Sinha had not even visited Bhagalpur after the violence. Says Ahsan, "With the RJD as its partner, the Congress is largely seen as secular. The party has largely abstained from making communal statements." He admits though that sometimes the Congress "keeps quiet", out of fear of being accused of appeasement politics, adding "truth must be told without fear".

In Barhempura, a Muslim-dominated area, Mohammad Yunus is returning after a game of cricket. A carpenter, he came home during the lockdown from Noida as work dried up, but is struggling. "The contractor has asked me to come, but I want to stay here." About the elections, Yunus says, "The state needs a change."

I HEREBY DECLARE



ANIRUDH PRASAD
(AKA SADHU YADAV)
BAHUJAN SAMAJ
PARTY,
GOPALGANJ

TOTAL ASSETS

₹ 4.16 CRORE (with family)

46.5% fall from 2015 (₹ 7.79 crore)

MOVABLE ASSETS

₹ 1.88 CRORE

Assets	2015	2020
Cash in hand	60,000	1.35 lakh
Bank balance	1.24 crore	39.83 lakh
Stocks & bonds	NIL	24.01 lakh
Other investment	NIL	14.10 lakh
Jewellery	31.20 lakh	1.15 lakh
Vehicle	NIL	69.58 lakh
Other	38.76 lakh	38.47 lakh
Total	1.95 crore	1.88 crore

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹ 2.28 CRORE

Assets	2015	2020
Agri land	23.11 lakh	21 lakh
Non-agri land	5.60 crore	82 lakh
Commercial	NIL	1 crore
Residential	NIL	25 lakh
Other	NIL	NIL
Total	5.83 crore	2.28 crore

LIABILITIES ₹ 2.2 CR

(Bank loans, etc.)

CRIMINAL CASES

Five pending, under Sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery), 201 (disappearance of evidence)

COVID-19 UPDATE

CASES IN 24 HRS*: **1,018**

DEATHS: **8**

TOTAL CASES: **2,15,963**

TOTAL DEATHS: **1,084**

ACTIVE CASES: **8,254**

* Bihar Health Department (as of 4 pm on Oct 30)



VOTE, IN CONFIDENCE

CISF men guard a strong room holding EVMs after the first phase of Assembly polls, in Sheikhpura district, on Friday. PTI

KEY PLAYERS

The silent partner, with a big say

RCP Singh may be facing heat over Munger, but he has weathered many a storm as Nitish's aide

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, OCTOBER 30

TWO-TIME JD(U) Rajya Sabha MP Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, better known by his initials RCP Singh, prefers keeping a low profile. The only instance observers in Patna recall of his being vocal is when poll strategist Prashant Kishor briefly challenged his authority as de facto number two to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Two days before the first phase of voting in Bihar though, on October 26, Singh, 62, found himself in the limelight after a violent clash during immersion of a Durga idol left one dead and several injured in Munger, allegedly in police firing. Singh faced violent protests when he visited Begusarai, with the Opposition hinting at the fact that Singh's daughter Lipi Singh was SP of Munger. The Election Commission has since then removed Lipi Singh.

An UP cadre IAS officer, Singh first came in



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

contact with Nitish when he was posted as private secretary to then Union minister Beni Prasad Verma in 1996. Nitish and Singh are said to have bonded over the fact that both come from Nalanda in Bihar and are Kurmi (as was Verma). Nitish is also said to have been impressed with Singh's acumen as a bureaucrat.

When Nitish became Union railway minister, Singh became his special secretary, later following him through his various portfolios. After Kumar became CM in November 2005, Singh moved to Bihar. He came to play a key role in postings, and as Nitish's principal secretary, was seen as his voice. Soon, Singh's influence extended to the JD(U) as well.

In 2010, Singh took voluntary retirement and was nominated by the JD(U) to the Rajya Sabha. He was renominated in 2016.

Sources say Nitish's refusal of the offer of a berth in the Modi Cabinet at the Centre was on account of Singh. The BJP was ready to offer one berth, but the JD(U) leader wanted two — for Singh as well as his other long-time lieutenant, Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.

Nitish has been lucky that Singh and Lalan Singh work well in tandem, knowing their respective places — under him. While Singh is content staying in the shadows, Lalan Singh is an MP.

The one time Singh is seen to have felt his position challenged was when Kishor shot up in the JD(U) like a meteor, and burnt out as quickly. As organisational general secretary of the party, Singh is known to have not taken kindly to the political strategist and JD(U) vice-president meeting party leaders. The emergence of a second power centre, apparently with the blessing of Nitish, was noted by all. Eventually, Singh prevailed and Kishor exited.

Playing virtually his last hand in this election, a cautious Nitish has evened out the stakes in recent days — Speaker Vijay Kumar Choudhary and JD(U) state working president Ashok Kumar Choudhary also have key roles in this election.

The Munger MP, incidentally, is Lalan Singh.



HASHTAG POLITICS

● TEJASHWI ON BJP GOVERNMENT AND INFLATION

RJD leader @yadavtejashwi posted a video of his crowded rally and tweeted: "Inflation has made the common man's life miserable. The onion has scored a century. For the BJP, inflation has gone from being a witch to sister-in-law..."

40.5K VIEWS, 7.4K LIKES, 1.3K RETWEETS IN 3 HOURS



Taking a dig at Tejashwi, @BJP4Bihar tweeted: "We 'work', they 'scandal'. The difference is all about the look". It posted a comic illustration, where a person holds a long list of alleged scandals from the RJD regime and asks Tejashwi: "Bhaiyajii! During our term, there has been 'scandal', not work. Should we appeal for votes for these?"

576 LIKES, 173 RETWEETS IN 9 HOURS

FOR MORE LOG ON TO
INDIANEXPRESS.COM/ELECTIONS

● WHO'S WHERE TODAY

TEJASHWI YADAV IN
SITAMARHI, MOTIHARI,
EAST AND WEST
CHAMPARAN, SIWAN,
SARAN, VAISHALI

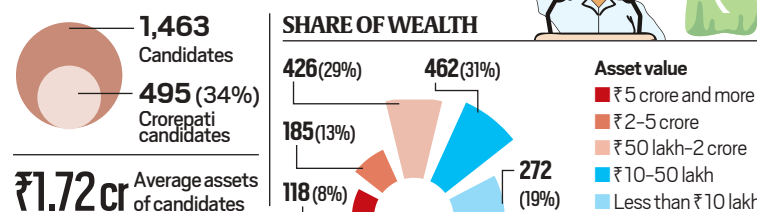
UPENDRA KUSHWAHA
IN CHANPATIA

EXPRESS
explained.
NITISH'S 'TRIPLE C'
AND WHY IT'S MISSING

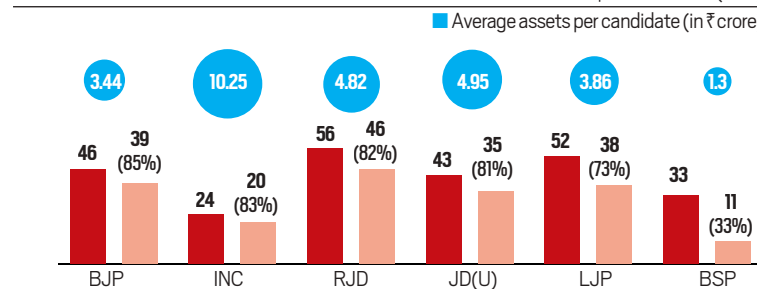
● POLL SPEAK

UNION MINISTER RAVI
SHANKAR PRASAD'S FULL
INTERVIEW

PHASE II CAPITAL COUNT



CROREPATI RACE



Source: Association for Democratic Reforms

‘Jungle raj’ remark shows PM rattled... Tejashwi has no baggage, Bihar accepts him’

Congress in-charge of Bihar SHAKTISINH GOHIL tells MANOJ C G fewer allies won't hurt party, and says they won't let BJP drag elections into non-Bihar issues

The first phase of voting is over in Bihar. What is your assessment?

The people of Bihar are very angry with the JD(U) and BJP. They want change at any cost, they have decided that the Grand Alliance will fulfill their hopes. So there has been positive voting. And the JD(U) and BJP voters, a large section among them, have not come out to vote... that is why the voting percentage has not gone up. But the voting has gone well for the Grand Alliance... People who voted for the BJP last time... they came out to vote in favour of the Grand Alliance.

Would the Opposition's coalition been a winner had caste-based parties such as the RLSP, HAM and VIP been with it?

Votes of Upendra Kushwaha, Jitan Manjhi and Mukesh Sahani did not transfer to us

during the Lok Sabha elections last year. In fact, we suffered losses. In the bypolls, the Congress and RJD fought without any other partner... and barring one seat, won all the seats... The Left parties are cadre-based, their votes get transferred and they will remain with us.

But, in a tightly contested election, won't every vote matter?

This is the land of Chanakya. People of Bihar don't vote for vote *katuas*.

The Prime Minister called Tejashwi Yadav the 'yuvraj of jungle raj'. How big a baggage is the poor perception of the

“

THE EXPRESS
INTERVIEW

WITH
SHAKTISINH
GOHIL,
CONGRESS IN CHARGE
OF BIHAR

RJD's 15-year rule?

This shows that the Prime Minister is rattled. You are the PM since 2014 and your party is in power in Bihar... Despite that you are not able to seek votes for your work... and you are going for personal attacks... Tejashwi has no baggage... and he is not a baggage... The people have accepted him and his rallies are a proof of that.

The LJP may also draw anti-Nitish votes.

The BJP has *chirag* (lamp) in one hand, with which it wants to light up its house and scorch the JD(U)'s house, and then put out the *chirag*. In the BJP's other hand is (AIMIM chief, Asaduddin) Owaisi petrol bomb, with



‘China is also a local issue... Soldiers from Bihar Regiment died at border’

which it wants to finish off secular leaders.

You compared the Nitish Kumar government to Gen Dyer of Jallianwala

Bagh massacre, after the Munger firing.

I have seen the (Munger) video... there was no provocation (by the crowd). There was no reason (for police action). This is jungle raj... We are just voicing the feelings of the people as a responsible political party.

The BJP has been talking of some Congress leaders saying Article 370 should be restored.

We will not deviate from the issues of Bihar. The BJP wants to divert... We will not talk about foreign policy, Kashmir or any other issue... We will fight the Bihar elections on issues of Bihar.

But in his round of rallies, Rahul Gandhi started with Chinese incursions...

China is also a local issue because the sol-

diers who were martyred on the border were from the Bihar Regiment. And our Prime Minister... gave a clean chit to China.

Is there any possibility of a tie-up with the LJP post-elections?

The mood of the people... it is clear we will not need any crutches. The Grand Alliance will come to power with majority.

There is a talk that the Congress could pull down the Grand Alliance.

We had identified 95 seats and asked for 70 seats. Had we got 70 seats from those 95, our strike rate would have been much, much better. (But) We had to remain with the alliance and the RJD being the largest party wanted everyone to be flexible... Even then our strike rate will be good.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TALKING TALENT POOL

THE POST-RETIREMENT appointments top bureaucrats manage to land have always been a topic of debate. Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is learnt to have flagged this issue in his dissent note, which he had given to the Prime Minister-headed high-powered committee tasked with the selection of Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners. He is learnt to have said it was surprising that despite a large number of scientists, academics, historians, human rights activists and people from legal and social service backgrounds having applied for the posts of CIC and ICs, the Cabinet Secretary-headed search committee did not find a single suitable candidate to shortlist from that talent pool.

CASTE CALCULATIONS

AT A TIME the Congress is facing desertions in Uttar Pradesh, former Union minister Jitin Prasad is slowly expanding his Brahmin Chetna Parishad, turning it into a full-fledged organisation—much to the chagrin of the UP party leadership. On Friday, the outfit released its second list of presidents for 15 districts, including Varanasi, Kanpur and Hathras. Prasad's Brahmin outreach is interesting, given that it comes at a time when the Congress is aggressively wooing the Dalit community in UP, having recently raised the Hathras issue in a big way, among other moves.

ALL EYES ON TEJASHWI

MOST CONGRESS candidates in Bihar are keen that RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav campaign in their constituencies. Many Congress nominees are contesting seats that are considered difficult, and they believe a Tejashwi rally in their constituency can help them sail through. There is said to be demand for rallies by former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi by party's candidates in Muslim-concentrated Seemanchal region. Rahul, it is said, has agreed to campaign for an extra day. He was to spend three days in Bihar for each phase, but now may campaign on November 3 and 4, addressing three rallies in Seemanchal and one for Sharad Yadav's daughter Subhashini in Bihariganj constituency.

CYCLE OF POLITICS

ENERGY MINISTER Shrikant Sharma surprised many on Friday by riding a cycle from his residence in Lucknow to a power sub-station a few kilometres away for a surprise inspection. He posted a video on Twitter and wrote that he will from now on use a bicycle to reach office. He also said this is his contribution towards reducing pollution. Opposition Samajwadi Party did not waste time in taking a dig. Referring to the red cap Sharma was wearing, the SP's Twitter handle posted the video saying that even those in power are embracing the Samajwadi colours—cycle is SP's electoral symbol, and its leaders and workers wear red caps.

Statue of Unity gets a tourism boost; PM launches 17 projects

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, OCTOBER 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi, who is on a two-day visit to Kevadia in Narmada district—his first visit to the state since the pandemic struck—inaugurated 17 tourism projects around the Statue of Unity complex and laid foundation stones for four upcoming projects.

Modi, who was accompanied by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Governor Acharya Devvrat, rode the train and indulged in games at the Children's Nutrition Park, cruised in a jetty along the six-kilometre navigation channel downstream Narmada River and petted animals and birds at the Sardar Patel Kevadia Zoological Park—projects that were slated for inauguration on March 26 but were postponed due to Covid.

October 31, Sardar Patel's birthday, is being celebrated as Ekta Divas and the projects in the precincts of the statue now called the "Kevadia tourism circuit" have been themed around "unity".

Scheduled to visit Kevadia Friday afternoon, Modi advanced his tour and arrived early to meet the families of former chief minister Keshubhai Patel



PM Narendra Modi at the Statue of Unity on Friday. ANI

who died Thursday and the Gujarati singer-actor duo Mahesh Kanodia and brother Naresh who died of Covid-19 earlier in the week.

Modi began his Kevadia visit by inaugurating the Aarogya van, which has over 1,000 species of medicinal and herbal plantations, and took a tour of the gardens on a golf cart with a face mask on, except at a couple of "selfie points", where he stopped to take pictures.

The PM interacted with the women's self-help groups from 331 families that will run the Aarogya Cafe—a health cafeteria where tourists will be able to purchase herbal items sourced

mainly from the rich forests and villages around the Statue of Unity.

Modi, who spent close to an hour at each of the projects, rode the train at the Children's Nutrition Park, running along a 600-metre track and five themed station stoppages—Phalshaka Griham, Payonagari, Annapoorna, Poshan Puram and Swastha Bharatam, featuring cuisines from across India. Each of the stations has a mascot—Kumar Kisan, a puppet farmer who tells the story of how he grows fruits and vegetables at Phalshakha, an animated cow grazer Janardhan at Payonagari, who explains the importance of

milk and a doting mother at Annapoorna station.

He inaugurated the two-storeyed Ekta Mall, spread over 35,000 sq ft that houses handicrafts and handlooms from across the country.

At the Jungle Safari, touted as the "fastest-built safari in the world", and the geodesic dome for aviary, "the largest in the world", Modi spent time petting a macaw and went on the cruise downstream the Narmada river.

The PM also laid the foundation for the government quarters and an administrative building coming up in the vicinity following the implementation of the Statue of Unity Area Development and Tourism Governance Authority. The Gujarat assembly, had last year passed a bill to set up a Statue of Unity Tourism Authority which will notify a designated tourism development area around the SoL.

He also laid the foundation stone for quarters of the State Reserve Police Force as well as the Adarsh Gam, which has been proposed by the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd to relocate close to 1,000 beneficiaries of the six villages around the Statue of Unity, who have been agitating against the acquisition of their lands.

TN Governor gives assent to Bill on 7.5% medical reservation

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 30

A DAY after the state government issued an executive order assuring 7.5% horizontal reservation for government school students in medical admissions in this academic year, Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit too granted his assent to the Bill—which had been pending for approval for over a month.

The government chose to take the executive route on Thursday as there was a delay from the Raj Bhavan despite pressure from Opposition parties as well as a meeting of some state Cabinet leaders with Purohit.

The Bill was unanimously passed in the Assembly on September 15.

The new law will provide a 7.5% horizontal quota for students who have studied in state government schools and qualified in NEET for admissions to undergraduate medical courses. The 7.5 % quota will be ensured for students who have studied from Classes 6 to 12 in government schools. The horizontal reservation shall be provided in each category of vertical reservation followed in Tamil Nadu within 69% reservation from the academic year 2020-21.

"This is to inform the people of Tamil Nadu that the Governor has given his assent to the Bill titled Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Indian Medicine and Homeopathy on preferential basis to the students of Government Schools Bill, 2020," said the statement.

The statement further elaborated that Governor Purohit had sought the legal opinion of the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, through a letter dated September 26 and his opinion was received on Thursday. "As soon as the opinion was received, the Governor has given assent to the Bill," the statement said.

Mehta's response to Purohit's query was: "Article 15 [5] of the Constitution specifically provides that the state is empowered to make a special provision by law for the advancement of any socially or educationally backward classes of citizens insofar as such special provisions relate to admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions whether aided or unaided by the State."

UP to aid women from minority community getting married

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday announced that it will provide financial assistance of Rs 20,000 to women from the minority community who are getting married and come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"The move will help women from minority communities and will bring them to the main-

stream. The government has approved Rs 5 crore for the implementation of the scheme," said a spokesperson for the state government.

"Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the number of works like this being done is more than any other government has done," said the spokesperson. **ENS**

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dvap-06138/11/0001/20-21

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Regd. Office Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune 411006
Tel.:1800-209-5858, Fax:66026666, CIN - U66010PN2000PLC015329

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that, with effect from 31st December 2020 , our **Noida Office** (code-1103) is relocated to new premises as mentioned herein below:

Old office address	New office address
Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., C-31, 2nd Floor, Sector-2, Near Nirulas Hotel, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301	Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Wave silver tower, F7/21, 7th Floor, Plot D-6, Sector 18, Noida, Uttar Pradesh - 201301

All policyholders are requested to take note of the new address mentioned herein above and any further correspondence to our above branch office be made only to our new address mentioned herein above.

This notice is issued for the information of all our esteemed policy holders and to the public at large, in public interest.

By order For and on behalf of
Chief Executive Officer Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Evaluation Authority
(ISO 9001 :2015 Certified Authority)
542, 5th Floor, 2nd Stage, MS Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone: 080 - 22353938, 22032561
Fax: 22283541. E-mail: keagok@karnataka.gov.in;
Website: www.kea.karnataka.gov.in

No: KEA 02 PROC (RFP) 2020 Date: 29-10-2020
NOTIFICATION

Seeking "Request for Proposal" (RFP) from eligible Evaluation Consultant Organizations to take up evaluation of studies under QCBS method of KTPP Act.

Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA) is a technical agency for guiding and overseeing the evaluation of all Public Policies, Programmes, Schemes, Boards, Urban and Rural Bodies and State Undertakings in Karnataka. KEA intends to evaluate few schemes of the Government of Karnataka.

All the evaluation Consultant Organizations (ECOs) who intend to apply must carefully go through all the sections of this RFP. Interested ECOs are requested to upload filled Technical and Financial Proposals as prescribed in the RFP along with the letters to the e-Procurement Portal website: <https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in> after downloading the required documents hosted in the same website. The applicants have to pay **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 40,000/-** online which is refundable to non-selected ECOs.

The last date and time fixed for uploading the filled documents and to make the payment of EMD is on or **before 01-12-2020 at 17:30 hrs.**

Chief Evaluation Officer
Karnataka Evaluation Authority

DIPR/DDU/1498/SSC/2020-21
COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.

Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

For Reliance Industries Limited
Sd/-
Savithri Parekh
Joint Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

IMPORTANT NOTICE

RUNNING OF "FESTIVAL SPECIAL" TRAINS TO ACCOMMODATE DIWALI AND CHHATH PUJA RUSH

The Festival Special Trains shall run fully reserved.

Only the reserved class accommodation (berths & seats both) will be available in Festival Special Trains.

The passengers are requested to get the reservation of berths/seats done beforehand.

Passengers having reserved tickets will only be allowed to enter the platform to board the train.

As part of the Northern Railway's additional measures, all stations will be adequately manned to check passengers without ticket.

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CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

Extract of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter / Half Year Ended 30th September, 2020

(₹ in crore, except per share data)

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30th September, 2020	Half Year Ended 30th September, 2020	Quarter Ended 30th September, 2019
Value of Sales & Services (Revenue)	128,385	229,314	165,228
Less: GST Recovered	12,190	21,881	11,844
Revenue from Operations	116,195	207,433	153,384
Profit before exceptional item and tax	10,589	19,131	15,055
Profit before tax	10,589	24,097	15,055
Profit for the Period*	10,602	23,850	11,352
Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	35,031	65,949	10,566
Paid up Equity Share Capital, Equity Shares of ₹10/- each	6,445	6,445	6,339
Other Equity excluding revaluation reserve**	-	-	-
Earnings per equity share (Face value of ₹ 10/- each) (Not Annualised)			
Basic (in ₹) - After Exceptional Item	14.84	35.42	18.47
Basic (in ₹) - Before Exceptional Item	14.84	27.70	18.47
Diluted (in ₹) - After Exceptional Item	14.68	35.02	18.47
Diluted (in ₹) - Before Exceptional Item	14.68	27.39	18.47

*Includes Non-Controlling Interest
**Reserve excluding revaluation reserves for the year ended as on 31st March, 2020 was ₹ 446,992 crore.

Notes:

- The Audit Committee has reviewed the above results and the Board of Directors has approved the above results and its release at their respective meetings held on 30th October, 2020. The Statutory Auditors of the Company have carried out a Limited Review of the aforesaid results.
- Additional information on standalone financial results is as follows:

(₹ in crore)

Particulars	Quarter Ended 30th September, 2020	Half Year Ended 30th September, 2020	Quarter Ended 30th September, 2019
Value of Sale & Service (Revenue)	64,431	116,694	94,803
Less: GST Recovered	3,185	5,002	3,686
Revenue from operations	61,246	111,692	91,117
Profit Before Exceptional Item and Tax	4,759	8,685	12,255
Profit before tax	4,759	13,105	12,255
Profit for the period	6,546	15,840	9,702
Total Comprehensive Income (after tax)	7,170	18,022	8,836

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges pursuant to Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th September, 2020 are available on the Stock Exchanges' websites (www.bseindia.com / www.nseindia.com) and the Company's website www.ril.com.

For Reliance Industries Limited
Sd/-
Mukesh D. Ambani
Chairman and Managing Director

Date : 30th October, 2020

www.ril.com

Reliance Industries Limited
Registered and Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021
Telephone: +91 (22) 3555 5000; Facsimile: +91 (22) 2204 2268
E-mail: investor.relations@ril.com • Website: www.ril.com • Corporate Identity Number: L17110MH1973PLC019786

Statement of Deviation/ Variation in utilization of funds raised

Name of listed entity	Reliance Industries Limited
Mode of Fund Raising	Rights Issue
Date of Raising Funds	June 11, 2020
Amount Raised	Rs. 13,281.05 crore (Refer Note 1 and 2)
Report filed for Quarter ended	September 30, 2020
Monitoring Agency	Applicable
Monitoring Agency Name, if applicable	Axis Bank Limited
Is there a Deviation / Variation in use of funds raised	No
If yes, whether the same is pursuant to change in terms of a contract or objects, which was approved by the shareholders	Not Applicable
If Yes, Date of shareholder Approval	Not Applicable
Explanation for Deviation / Variation	Not Applicable
Comments of the Audit Committee after review	No Comments
Comments of the auditors, if any	No Comments

Objects for which funds have been raised and where there has been a deviation, in the following table:

Original Object	Modified Object, if any	Original Allocation	Modified allocation, if any	Funds Utilized	Amount of Deviation/Variation for the quarter according to applicable object	Remarks, if any
Repayment/ prepayment of all or a portion of certain borrowings availed by the Company	Not Applicable	Rs. 39,755.08 crore	-	Rs. 13,281.05 crore	NIL	The total funds raised from the Rights Issue till September 30, 2020 is Rs.13281.05,01,439.50 including an amount of Rs. 5,86,50,363 received during the quarter ended September 30, 2020 (Refer notes below).
General corporate purposes		Rs. 13,281.05 crore		-		

Deviation or variation could mean:

- Deviation in the objects or purposes for which the funds have been raised or
- Deviation in the amount of funds actually utilized as against what was originally disclosed or
- Change in terms of a contract referred to in the fund-raising document i.e. prospectus, letter of offer, etc.

Note 1:

	No. of Equity shares	Price (in Rs.)	Amount (Rs. in crore)	Remarks
Total Issue Size	42,26,26,894	1,257.00	53,124.20	
Funds received during quarter ended June 30, 2020	42,24,40,258	314.25	13,275.19 [#]	Rights Equity Shares were issued as partly paid-up and an amount of Rs. 314.25 (i.e. 25% of the Issue Price) per Rights Equity Share has been received on application (of which Rs. 2.50 towards face value of Rights Equity Share and Rs. 311.75 towards premium amount of Rights Equity Share). The schedule for payment of the balance amount of Rs. 942.75 per Rights Equity Share is proposed as (i) Rs. 314.25 i.e. 25% in May 2021, and (ii) Rs. 628.50 i.e. the balance 50% in November 2021. The Board of the Company would make the calls for this purpose.
Funds received during quarter ended September 30, 2020 (refer Note 2)	1,86,636	314.25	5.86 [@]	

Rounded off to two decimal places.
@ Total amount received during the quarter ended September 30, 2020 is Rs. 5,86,50,363.

Note 2:

1,86,636 Rights Equity Shares, kept in abeyance pursuant to an order passed by the Hon'ble Special Court constituted under the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992, were allotted on July 29, 2020 to the eligible applicants in accordance with the order passed by the Hon'ble Special Court.

The entire funds raised by the Company through Rights Issue, including amount received during the quarter ended September 30, 2020, has been utilized for the objects stated in the Letter of Offer for Rights Issue of the Company, dated May 15, 2020.

For Reliance Industries Limited
Sd/-
Savithri Parekh
Joint Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place : Mumbai
Date : October 30, 2020

8 GOVT & POLITICS

Citing repeated poll code breach, EC revokes Nath's star campaigner status

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) on Friday revoked Madhya Pradesh Congress chief and former CM Kamal Nath's "star campaigner" status for the upcoming bypolls in the state, citing repeated violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

The EC said it has taken action against the Congress leader over his remark calling CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan "mafia" and "milawat khor" on October 13. The Commission had earlier warned him on October 26 for calling BJP candidate Imarti Devi an "item" while campaigning for a Congress candidate.

In an order issued on Friday, the Commission said, "...for repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct and for completely disregarding the advisory issued to him, the Commission hereby revokes the status of leader of political party (Star Campaigner) of Kamal Nath, Ex-Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, with immediate effect for the current Bye-elections of Legislative

EXPLAINED
E. Who is a star campaigner

A STAR campaigner is a prominent leader of a political party who canvasses for party candidates in an election. The expenditure incurred on gatherings and rallies addressed by star campaigners is exempt from being added to the expenditure account of a candidate. In view of the pandemic, the EC has reduced the number of star campaigners. Now, national and state parties can field 30 star campaigners, as opposed to 40 earlier. Unrecognised parties can have 15 star campaigners, down from 20.

Assembly of Madhya Pradesh." "However, if any campaign is done by Kamal Nath from now onwards, the entire expenditure related to travel, stay and visit



Kamal Nath

will be completely borne by the candidate in whose constituency he carries out campaigning," the EC said.

On Friday, the EC also said the "chunnu-munnu" remarks made by BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya against Congress's Digvijaya Singh and Nath were in violation of the poll code provisions and advised Vijayvargiya not to use "any such word" in his public utterances.

The Commission had issued a notice to the BJP leader on October 26 seeking his reply.

The EC has also issued a notice to Girraj Dandotiya, BJP candidate from Dimani assembly seat, for making objectionable remarks against Nath.

Bypolls to 28 Madhya Pradesh Assembly seats will be held on November 3.

The Congress Friday said it will move the Supreme Court against the EC decision, PTI reported.



Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan at rally in Khagaria district on Friday. PTI

Pak minister revealed truth on Pulwama attack: Rajnath

Nadda says Rahul should apologise for Pulwama stand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHAGALPUR, SIWAN, OCTOBER 30

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh and BJP president J P Nadda on Friday latched on to a Pakistani minister's remark on the 2019 Pulwama attack to hit out at the Opposition parties from the campaign stage for the Bihar Assembly polls.

This came a day after Pakistan minister Fawad Chaudhry, while speaking in the National Assembly, admitted that his country was responsible for the terrorist attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel.

"A Pakistani minister has revealed the truth in the Pulwama attack by giving a statement in the National Assembly. Pakistan has accepted that they were behind the Pulwama attack. Until now, they had been saying they were not involved in it," Singh said at a rally in Bhagalpur.

"Congress leaders had questioned our intent then. But now that a Pakistani minister has given a statement in the National Assembly that Pakistan was involved in the Pulwama attack, they are silent," he said.

He said Opposition leaders were "indirectly empowering Pakistan".



BJP president JP Nadda arrives at rally in Bihar's Begusarai on Friday. PTI

He said when former prime minister Indira Gandhi had divided Pakistan into two, the BJP's late stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee had praised her in Parliament. "But, the Congress today has only one work left: doubting and raising questions over the government's achievements."

Singh said the Opposition keeps saying that China has "grabbed" India's land and added that if "we reveal the achievements of our Army, you all will jump out of joy". Praising Nitish Kumar, Singh said there is no stain on the JD(U) chief over his work in his 15 years as CM. "We don't hold Tel

CONG LEADERS MEET GUV, SEEK DISMISSAL OF NITISH GOVT

Patna: Bihar Congress leaders met Governor Phagu Chauhan on Friday and demanded dismissal of the Nitish Kumar government in the midst of the ongoing state assembly polls, holding it responsible for the firing in Munger during a Durga Puja event that claimed a life. Bihar Congress chief Madan Mohan Jha submitted the memorandum to the governor. PTI

Piyawan, Danda Bhanjan rallies, we hold rallies for development," said the Defence Minister, referring to an RJD rally in 2003.

Addressing a rally in Siwan, BJP chief Nadda said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the country for his stand on the Pulwama attack.

"What should I say about the Congress party and Rahul babu. They became Pakistan advocates. Pakistan minister Fawad Chaudhry said yesterday that 'we did the Pulwama, Imran Khan did the Pulwama'. Their minister is saying so in an answer in their National Assembly."

Mafia, corrupt elements trying to attack govt: Uttarakhand CM

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 30

UTTARAKHAND CHIEF Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Friday accused the "mafia" and "corrupt elements" of trying to attack his government, pointing to several "conspiracies" over the past three-and-a-half years.

In a video of his interaction with the media shared on Twitter, Rawat said, "Tamam tarah ke shadyantra ho rahe hain. (Various types of conspiracies are being done). Several conspiracies have been done in the past three-and-a-half years. Mafia and corrupt elements are collectively trying to attack. But we are firm on the policy we have been following so far."

The CM's remarks come after the High Court's recent order of a CBI inquiry against him, based on allegations of financial impropriety by journalist Umesh Sharma. The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the High Court order.

Goyal slams Oppn, Punjab govt for 'misleading' farmers

Union Minister says procurement of paddy has gone up across the country

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

AHEAD OF the nationwide road blockade called by farm unions to protest the new farm laws on November 5, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal on Friday accused Opposition parties and the Punjab government of trying to mislead farmers and said the Centre is always open to a dialogue.

Addressing reporters over a video conference, Goyal gave details of the ongoing kharif paddy procurement across the country and said that about 1.57 crore farmers are expected to be benefited by the procurement — 26 per cent more than last year.

"I think a message will go all over the country through these figures that the farmers did not get misled by the attempts of spreading confusion," Goyal said, citing data of the ongoing paddy procurement. Referring to farmers' protests, Goyal said, "You saw that it was limited to Punjab only because the Government (of Punjab) and some of parties are engaged in doing politics and they are standing with middlemen and not concerned about the interest of the farmers."

Asked if he will directly engage with farmers' groups, Goyal said, "We are always in engagement. I myself engaged with farmers in Maharashtra and Rajasthan... All are engaged with communities in different districts of Punjab. Their representatives came to Delhi also, but if they are willing to engage, we are always open to a dialogue and our doors are open."

"I think it's a very last ditch failed effort by certain elements in

7,000 MT OF ONIONS IMPORTED, MORE BY DIWALI: GOYAL

Patna: Union Minister Piyush Goyal Friday said the government has proactively banned the export of onion from September 14 and relaxed import norms to increase supply so as to check the rising prices of the bulb across the country. He said 7,000 MT of imported onions have arrived and another 25,000 MT is expected to reach before Diwali. ENS

Punjab who are worried that they will lose their political constituency. And unfortunately the state government is not in a position to maintain peace and harmony in that state," he said.

Goyal said that as of October 29, 188 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) paddy have been procured by the government on MSP, 24 per cent higher than last year.

The paddy procurement started from September 26 this year, 4 days ahead of the routine start from October 1.

He said an amount of Rs 1,40,078 crore is expected to be paid to paddy farmers under MSP-based procurement, 21 per cent higher than Rs 1,15,172 crore last year. "The procurement has been doubled under the Modi government... the farmers of India trust Prime Minister Modi... It's unfortunate that in one state, politics and certain vested interests have overtaken temporarily, over there also procurement is the highest this year. I think it is around 37 per cent higher in Punjab," Goyal said.

Assam Cong chief pulls up MLA who set off museum row

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, OCTOBER 30

THE CHIEF of the Assam Congress has written a stern letter to the party legislator behind the controversial letter on a museum showcasing the culture of riverine areas, asking him to exercise restraint in his comments on the issue as it was providing unwanted ballast to the BJP ahead of the Assembly elections early next year.

MLA Sherman Ali Ahmed had on October 18 written to the Assam Director of Museums, requesting him to "expedite" the process of establishing a "museum reflecting the culture and heritage of the people living in Char-Chaporis of Assam in the premises of the Srimanata Sankardeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati", as recommended by a committee in March.

The Kalakshetra is a prestigious cultural institute in Assam named after Vaishnavite reformer Sankaradeva. "Char-Chaporis" refer to the riverine sand belts of the Brahmaputra that are populated mostly by Muslims of Bengali-origin, a community which is colloquially—and disparagingly—referred to as "miya" in Assam.



Srimanata Sankardeva Kalakshetra

People from other communities, too, reside in such areas.

State Congress president Ripun Bora, in an October 28 missive, told Ahmed that his letter to the Museums Director was "in perfect order" and that he had done his "duty as an MLA".

"But the recent controversy arose due to your reaction and statement made in media for a miya museum which was out of the content of your above letter," Bora wrote.

He added: "You may refer my tele-conversation with you on 26th October, 2020 on the above issue and my suggestion to refrain from further making any statement or reaction. But despite that you have been repeatedly hammering the same matter which has given BJP and RSS (an opportunity) to make serious controversy by dragging the name of our Congress party."

"Your such statement at this critical juncture on the eve of upcoming Assembly Election is totally unwanted," Bora further said.

In Imarti seat, Nath remark 'not issue'; voters flag dip in mandi rates, high power bills

IRAM SIDDIQUE
DABRA (MADHYA PRADESH), OCTOBER 28

AS THE BJP plays up state Congress chief Kamal Nath's "item" remark against its candidate Imarti Devi in the run-up to Dabra Assembly bypoll, people in the constituency rue lack of development and raise issues such as crashing grain prices in the mandi and soaring electricity bills.

State Women and Child Development Minister Devi, who was among the Congress MLAs whose resignation brought down the Kamal Nath government, has won the seat thrice in a row since 2008, when the seat was reserved for SC nominees.

Against the three-time MLA, the Congress has fielded Suresh Raj.

Once considered a stronghold of Narottam Mishra, now state Home Minister, the constituency has 41 per cent OBC voters and 24 per cent SC voters.

Sitting outside a mechanic's shop about 10 km from Dabra's main chouraha, Sitaram Sharma, a rice farmer, said he has been a "core BJP voter" on account of being a Brahmin — about 14 per cent of Dabra voters.

Sharma said he would earlier vote for anyone vouched for by Mishra, "but not anymore". Rice prices have crashed in the mandis and electricity bills have shot up, he said. Having received Rs 60,000 in his account and Rs 35,000 in his wife's account as farm loan waiver after the Kamal Nath government swore in, he now wants the Congress back in power.

"If the Congress returns, we will gain. If not, we have to endure," he said, adding, "Chouhan is a good man, but there has been



At a mechanic's workshop in Dabra. Iram Siddique

no work."

The mandi in Dabra recently saw a protest by farmers after the paddy rates were down to Rs 1,300 per quintal. Subsequently, an FIR was registered against 113 farmers.

Neither Sharma nor Arvind Pandey, who sipped tea outside a stall, feel Nath's "item" remark will affect their voting. "Ye toh bas ek hasi thithole ki baat thi jo neta apne aap mein karte rehte hai. Bas hogai. Wo koi mudda thodi hai (That was just a jocular remark leaders make. That's no issue)," said Pandey.

Pankaj Upadhyaya, standing beside him, said, "The farmers are in terrible shape. Half completed dams are lying deserted and farmers are struggling with no water. No one is talking about real issues."

Picchora tehsil in Dabra has seen at least three meetings by BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, whose rebellion brought down the Congress government. Farmer Dharmendra Baghel said, "Maharaj (Scindia) should not have done this... Ever since BJP government came, the mandi has crashed."

At the market surrounding Agarsen chouraha in Dabra, it is business as usual. Paint shop owner Anand Gupta said he has

been a supporter of BJP and home minister Mishra, but now wants the Congress to stage a comeback. "The development in Dabra has not even been 25 per cent in two decades. Mishra was a three-time MLA, but nothing happened. Imarti Devi's tenure is no good either," he said.

In the adjacent utensil shop, Brijendra Aggarwal echoed Gupta's view. Complaining about waterlogging during rain, his elderly mother joined in, "The whole scooter is submerged. Not a single drain has been made here."

Aggarwal's said business is slow, first due to the lockdown and now because he cannot get stock from Mumbai due to limited rail traffic.

Some, however, do not have much hope from Raje. "Kamal Nath did good work and had reduced electricity bills substantially but we'll vote for Imarti Devi and BJP," said Raj Kumar Jain, also a utensil shopowner.

Mukesh Aggarwal, another shopowner, argued that Dabra did not see development as it never had an MLA from the ruling party. "With the BJP government in the state, we want to choose a BJP candidate and see if there is any change on ground," said Mukesh.

The daily hustle-bustle of the market was disrupted by the drone of the helicopter carrying Sachin Pilot and Kamal Nath for a poll meeting nearby.

With Raje standing beside him, Pilot urged the farmers to not forget atrocities inflicted in Mandasaur and raised the Vyapam scam during the previous BJP rule in the state.

Sitting at a nearby sweet shop, Dinesh Pandey, who claimed he is a BJP worker, said Raje will give a tough fight to Imarti Devi. "Par sarkar to BJP ki hi rahegi."

J&K alliance team led by Omar visits Kargil, Drass

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 30

A DELEGATION from the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration on Friday visited Kargil to interact with people of Ladakh, which was carved out as a separate Union Territory from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir last year.

The Kargil Democratic Alliance, an apex body of religious and political parties in Kargil, has put its weight behind the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, a joint front of mainstream parties in Jammu and Kashmir formed to seek restoration of the erstwhile



Omar Abdullah

state's special position before August 5, 2019.

The five-member delegation led by former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah held a meeting with leaders of Kargil Democratic Alliance on the agenda of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration.

"We told them that if you want, we would be sending our representatives to your meetings and we would definitely want that the voice of Kargil be in-

cluded in our meetings," Omar said after the meeting. "We will fight politically and we will fight legally. But what is more important is that we will fight peacefully. We have no intention to create a situation on our land that would harm it."

The delegation also included PDP leader Ghulam Nabi Lone, PDP youth president Waheed ur Rehman Parra, National Conference provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani and Awami National Conference vice-president Muzaffar Shah.

The members also stopped at Drass to interact with people and the political leadership in the area.

Addressing a meeting in

Drass, Omar said, "Earlier, when we would come to Drass, we would feel that we are in our own land, with our own people. But today when we crossed the Zojilla (Pass), it looked as if we are going to a neighbour's place, as if we are guests."

"Whenever a state was divided, it happened according to the wishes of the people there. Whether it was Punjab, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh or Andhra Pradesh, there was approval of people. For the first time, the decision was forced on the people. It was not the decision of our Assembly. There were no signatures of our Chief Minister. These powers were illegally taken by the Governor sahib and without

asking us, our state was divided and then downgraded to a UT. We are not ready to accept that decision."

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir administration stopped Srinagar MP and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah from visiting Hazratbal shrine to offer Friday prayers on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, of which Farooq is the president, condemned the action and termed it an interference in religious rights.

Sajad Lone, spokesperson for the alliance, said, "This marks a new low in the curtailment of fundamental rights of people of J&K."

Ahead of Nov 1 Gujjar stir, internet suspended in parts of Rajasthan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 30

INTERNET SERVICES were suspended in parts of eastern Rajasthan ahead of the proposed Gujjar protest on November 1, even as a section of the community's leaders left for Jaipur to hold talks with the government late on Friday.

Internet services were suspended in parts of Bharatpur, Karauli, Dausa as well as Jaipur. In the capital, internet was suspended for 24 hours in Kotputli, Paota, Shahpura, Viratnagar and Jamwaramgarh tehsils till 6 pm

on Saturday, as per an order issued by Divisional Commissioner Somnath Mishra on Friday. For Dausa, Mishra has ordered suspension of internet services in the entire district till 5 pm on Saturday.

The state government remains on high alert ahead of the November 1 protest, and has deployed additional central and state police forces in the region, apart from setting up pickets.

On October 17, Gujjar leaders had given an ultimatum to the state government till November 1 to accede to demands made by the community at a mahapanchayat in Bharatpur. The maha-

panchayat had been called by Gujjar leader Kirori Singh Bainsla, where he was joined by other leaders from the community, including Himmat Singh, who had broken off from Bainsla.

However, late on Friday, leaders of the Himmat Singh faction left Bayana in Bharatpur to hold talks with the government. According to Singh, a delegation of as many as 40 leaders left Bharatpur for Jaipur.

In Karauli, Bainsla addressed a press conference on Friday and asked supporters to gather at Pilupura in Bharatpur on Sunday morning.

BRIEFLY



The seized stash. PTI

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Terror hideout busted in Rajouri district

Jammu: Security forces on Friday busted a terrorist hideout in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district and recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition, including explosives, automatic rifles and pistols, officials said. A joint team of the police and 38 Rashtriya Rifles found the underground hideout built of stones in a forest near Gambhir Mughlan, Rajouri SSP Chandan Kohli said. Two AK-47 rifles with as many magazines and 270 bullets; two Chinese pistols with two magazines; 75 Pika rounds; 12 blank rounds; 10 detonators; and 5-6 kg of explosive material were found. PTI

GUJARAT

Principal held for 'molesting' minor girl

Ahmedabad: A 56-year-old principal of a primary school in Jamnagar was arrested Thursday for allegedly molesting a 10-year-old girl inside a school. According to police, the principal on Monday called the child to the school which has been shut for months, allegedly promised her better marks, and touched her inappropriately. On Tuesday, the girl narrated the incident to her parents. Taking cognisance, an FIR was lodged at the police station concerned on Thursday under IPC Section 354A for sexual harassment and relevant sections of POCSO Act. ENS

ANDHRA PRADESH

7 of wedding party killed in road mishap

Amaravati: At least seven people of a marriage party were killed when their van fell into a ditch in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh on Friday, police said. Five persons were killed on the spot while two others succumbed on the way to a hospital, police added. They said brakes of the van apparently failed while it was descending a hill and fell into the ditch near Tantikonda. About 20 people were returning to their native village Gokavaram after attending a marriage at the Venkateswara Swamy temple when the mishap occurred. PTI

HIMACHAL PRADESH

2 killed as car crashes into venue of party

Shimla: Two women were killed and two others suffered injuries when a car crashed into the courtyard of a house during a retirement party at Shakrah village in Shimla Thursday night, the police said. The incident occurred at at the house of Beli Ram who had invited his friends over after retiring from the Accountant General's office in Shimla. His son told the police the car driven by an invitee, Ramesh Kumar, crashed into the courtyard and overturned. Kumar has been booked. ENS

COURT REJECTS DISCHARGE PLEAS OF FOUR COPS IN ISH RAT JAHAN CASE

CBI court says accused police officers acted 'while discharging official duties'

SOHINI GHOSH

AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 30

A SPECIAL CBI court in Ahmedabad, while presiding over the trial of the alleged extrajudicial killing of Ishrat Jahan, observed that the act of the accused police officers "can be said to have been done while discharging their official duties."

The court made the observation on October 23 while rejecting the discharge pleas of four accused police officers — J G Parmar, Tarun Barot, G L Singhal and Anaju Chaudhary.

Parmar, who lodged the FIR on the encounter as then police inspector in the Detection of Crime Branch (DCB), Ahmedabad that

carried out the encounter, died on September 21 and the case against him now stands abated.

As per the DCB's version of investigation, the Gujarat Police received inputs from the Intelligence Bureau (IB) on terrorists landing in Ahmedabad from Kashmir and Mumbai. Subsequently, police personnel and checkpoints were stationed and allegedly "one of the terrorist from rear door of the car started indiscriminate firing from an AK 56 rifle towards the police personnel", following which the police retaliated and four alleged terrorists were killed.

As per CBI's investigation however, Ishrat and Javed were apprehended from Vasad toll booth in June 2004.

The court, in its order noted that "the story of Gujarat Police is that they received information from I.B. that four terrorists had entered into Gujarat... When the car did not stop, police fired on the tyre of the car... One of the terrorists came out of the car and started firing on the police. In retaliation, police also fired on the terrorists, resultantly, all of them had died. Therefore, act of the police officers can be said to have been done while discharging their official duties..."

The court also relied on the investigation carried out by the Gujarat High Court-appointed 2011 SIT headed by IPS officer RR Verma that found loopholes in the crime branch probe of 2004, to conclude that the Gujarat

Police's version of how the encounter unfolded made a better case than the CBI's version.

The court order further said, "Looking at the bomb blasts in Ahmedabad in the past and looking to the seriousness and gravity of information received by them from I.B. with regard to the terrorists entering into Gujarat, they cannot ignore the information... Therefore, in order to prevent four persons, who died in the encounter, officers were required to do some preventive actions."

The court adjourned the case for the framing of charges while directing CBI "to place on record prosecution sanction as required under section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure..." from the Gujarat government.

First phase of Malabar Exercise to begin in Bay of Bengal on Nov 3

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE MALABAR Exercise, the annual naval war games, will this year be held over two phases — in the Bay of Bengal from November 3-6, and in the Arabian Sea in mid-November, the Navy said in a statement Friday.

The 24th edition of the exercise will also see participation of the United States Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN). This is the first time since 2007 that all four member countries of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue — India, America, Japan and Australia — will participate in a joint naval war-gaming exercise.

Australia joining the exercise this year gains significance as all the four countries are members of the Quad, and it will send a strong message to China, with which India has been involved in a nearly six-month military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

The Navy's statement on Friday, elaborating on the first phase of the exercise, said the games "will witness participation of Indian Navy units with USN Ship USS John S McCain (Guided-missile destroyer), RAN Ship HMAS Ballarat (long range frigate) with integral MH-60 helicopter, and JMSDF Ship JS Onami (Destroyer) with integral SH-60 helicopter".

The Indian Navy's participation will be led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

Republic Media gets another police notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

THE NM Joshi Marg police investigating a case against Republic Media Network for allegedly inciting disaffection against Commissioner Parambir Singh and defaming Mumbai Police's image has sent another notice to the network.

Earlier, Republic TV news channel had issued a statement that a second notice from the po-

Conversion just for marriage unacceptable, rules Allahabad HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 30

DISMISSING A petition filed by a married couple seeking direction to others to not interfere in their married life, the Allahabad High Court has observed that conversion "just for the purpose of marriage" is unacceptable.

The court made the comments after finding that a Muslim woman had converted to Hinduism, and a month later married as per Hindu rituals.

In an order passed on September 23, Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi stated that keeping in view the facts and circumstances, "this court is not inclined to interfere in the matter under Article 226 of Constitution of India". Consequently, the court said, "the writ petition is dismissed".

The court stated that through writ petition, the petitioners have prayed for a direction on the respondents to not interfere with their peaceful married life by adopting coercive measures.

"This much is reflected from the record that the first petitioner is Muslim by birth and she converted her religion from Muslim to Hindu on 29.6.2020. The peti-

Petitioner converted to Hinduism and married 'just after one month', which reveals conversion took place only for marriage, court noted

tioners solemnized their marriage according to Hindu rites and rituals on 31.7.2020," according to the order. "The court has perused the record in question and found that the first petitioner converted her religion on 29.6.2020 and just after one month, they solemnized their marriage on 31.7.2020, which clearly reveals to this court that said conversion has taken place only for the purpose of marriage."

In its judgment, the court referred to the 2014 order in Noor Jahan Begum, alias Anjali Mishra, and Another versus the state of UP and others, along with connected cases decided by same court on December 16, 2014. The court observed that "conversion just for the purpose of marriage is unacceptable".

Quoting from the relevant portion of the 2014 judgment,

there was already the provision of an escrow account where the proceeds of the business would go.

These companies are expected to invest up to Rs 30,000 crore for the 12 clusters where the private operations will be permitted. The estimated security deposit, therefore, would come to around Rs 1,000 crore.

It was also felt during the meeting that if a company is unable to meet its financial obligations or provide the services, the government should have some financial leverage to work with. The PPPAC, sources said, therefore favoured the retaining of the security deposit rider.

The other issue, of whether Railways officials needed to carry out additional safety inspections, was not flagged as a pain point by any of the companies. It was internally pointed out that the clause could be done away with as private operators were supposed to certify a train as safe on their own.

the order stated: "Applying the above-noted principles as laid down in various judgments and mandate of The Holy QURAN in Sura II Ayat 221, I find that alleged conversion of petitioner No.1, girl in each of the writ petitions, cannot be said to be bonafide or valid.

"The religion of petitioner No.1 in each of the writ petitions was converted at the instance of the petitioner No.2 (boys) to marry with the girl. The petitioner girls have stated that they do not know about Islam. In the writ petition, as well as in the statements on oath made before this court...they all stated that the boy got their religion converted with sole purpose to marry with her."

"Thus, conversion of religion to Islam, in the present set of facts, of the girls without their faith and belief in Islam and at the instance of the boys, solely for the purpose of marriage, cannot be said to be a valid conversion to Islam religion.... Even in the case of Lily Thomas (supra) Hon'ble Supreme Court observed...that conversion of religion of a non-Muslim without any real change of belief in Islam and only for marriage is void," Justice Tripathi stated in the order, quoting from the 2014 judgment.

Private train operators must deposit security with Railways

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

PRIVATE FIRMS that run passenger trains must deposit a security amount equal to 3 per cent of the project cost with the Railways. And, to ensure safe operations of private trains, Railways officials will carry out the same pre-departure inspections as the ones for government-run trains.

Both decisions were taken Thursday at a meeting of the government's Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) with NITI Aayog and Railways officials to iron out multiple wrinkles before the expected operations of 151 private trains on 113 routes in the country.

Sources said NITI Aayog officials felt private firms—which are anyway bringing in investment and taking up associated risks—need not provide a security deposit, so as to ensure the ease of doing business. Also, they felt,

The Rail Ministry is currently processing the "Requests for Qualification" for private routes. Larsen & Toubro, GMR and BHEL are among the 15 firms that have submitted 120 bids for the 12 clusters. Sources said around 10 bids have been found to be ineligible on various grounds in the ongoing evaluation exercise.

It was also pointed out in the meeting that the haulage charge of Rs 512 per km payable to the Railways by the private companies was cheaper by around Rs 300 when compared to the haulage charge IRCTC pays for its two corporate Tejas trains. The reason is that in the case of Tejas, the trains belong to Railways and the lease for the rakes are also included in the haulage charge. When it comes to private firms, however, the rolling stock belongs to them, and on top of haulage, there will be revenue sharing with Railways as well—so, the exchequer will not face a financial disadvantage.

READY FOR COMBAT

An anti-ship missile fired by the Navy's Guided Missile Corvette INS Kora in the Bay of Bengal on Friday. The Navy said the target ship was severely damaged and in flames. ANI

PROPOSED AREA FALLS IN ELEPHANT RESERVE

Centre to Uttarakhand: Explore alternative land to expand airport

LALMANI VERMA

DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 30

THE MINISTRY of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has asked the Uttarakhand government to consider avoiding sensitive areas of the Shivalik Elephant Reserve while exploring land suitable to use for the expansion of Dehradun's Jolly Grant Airport.

The forest conservation division of the MoEF has made this observation in response to an Uttarakhand government proposal for the diversion of 87 hectare (ha) of forest land in Dehradun district for the expansion of the airport.

Assistant Inspector General of Forests Sandeep Sharma, in a letter to the Uttarakhand Forest Department, said the area proposed for diversion is a 'High Conservation Value' area and will cause fragmentation of riverside forests situated between the existing runway and the river. "Out of the 87,0185 ha proposed area to be diverted, 47 ha area falls under MDF [moderately dense forest]. Therefore the State Govt, may explore alternatives for the proposal

such as acquiring area lying north of existing runway," read the letter.

"...The entire proposed forest area for diversion falls within the Shivalik Elephant Reserve and elephant corridors within its 1 km radius. Moreover, the notified Kansora-Barkot Elephant Corridor is located within 5 km radius. The state government should consider avoiding these sensitive areas and explore alternative lands," it said.

Sharma also pointed out that the proposed land is located within a 10-km radius of Rajaji National Park/Tiger Reserve. "Therefore, status of the Wildlife Clearance/comments of Chief Wildlife Warden and NTCA may be furnished," the letter reads.

The expansion project includes development of the airport, parking area, a new ATC tower and extending the existing runway to 3.5 km to meet international airport standards. A state official said the expansion will ensure that the airport is suitable for operating more than one multi-mission chopper, like the IAF's Chinook, at any given time.

Recently, the Uttarakhand cabinet approved a proposal for the expansion of a helipad at the Kedarnath shrine to make it suit-

able for operating Chinooks. "But that helipad can't be used in winters as snow covers the entire area. For such situations, Dehradun airport must be equipped," the official said.

The proposal sent to the MoEF itself says that the area is a part of the Shivalik Elephant Reserve and it falls within a 10-km radius of Rajaji National Park. "Thus there is regular movement of wild animals, especially elephants, from one area to another, leading to man-animal conflict affecting humans as well as wild animals. Thus to mitigate the conflict, Dehradun FD is proposing a wildlife mitigation plan subject to approval of CWLW [Chief Wildlife Warden], Uttarakhand," the proposal says.

The mitigation plan proposes construction of elephant proof wall, solar fencing, weed eradication, construction of water holes, purchase of tranquilizing gun and other rescue equipments

A senior official in the state Forest Department said, "A detailed reply to ministry's observations will be sent very soon. Reports are being collected from the officials of the forest division concerned."



Activists have argued that closure or merger of schools is in violation of sections of the RTE Act. File/representational photo

3,000. If the distance to school is more than 1 km, students will be provided travel allowance as per Right To Education (RTE) norms, said officials.

Parents and activists from across the state have opposed the move. Activists have argued that closure or merger of schools is in

violation of section 3 and 8 of the RTE Act. Converner of Odisha RTE forum Anil Pradhan said, "Majority of these schools are from tribal belts on hilly terrains. Closure of schools in a village will only increase the dropout rate as it won't be feasible for students to travel far to attend school.

EXPLAINED

What the NITI project entails

IN 2017, Odisha was among three states, along with Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh, to be selected by NITI Aayog to offer assistance for improving their health and education sectors under SATH-E. The initiative aims to transform elementary and secondary school education through goal driven exercise and create role model states for education. The initiative culminates at the end of the 2020 academic year. Merger of schools is one of the measures undertaken to achieve goals as the process is advocated to help "consolidate" resources such as teachers, libraries, laboratories and play equipment.

Geographical constraints should also be considered before closing down schools."

In Pudapada village in Deogarh district, villagers submitted a memorandum to the Block Education Officer and gheraoed

his office after it was decided to merge the only primary school in the village with another school. Similar protests were witnessed in Ganjam where 433 primary and upper primary schools are to be merged. At Chasa Kanamana

village in Chatrapur block, villagers staged a dharna over the decision. A parent said, "Most of us here migrate for work leaving our children with their grandparents. A school within the village ensures they attend classes regularly. If it is far, it will not be possible for students to travel by themselves."

Parents are also concerned that if their children fail to attend school, they will also be deprived of the midday meals.

Asked about such concerns, Dash said, "The district collectors have been authorised to cancel the merger if genuine concerns arise. I will also personally oversee them. We understand if there are geographical constraints like crossing a water body or National Highway, it will be difficult for students. All these concerns will be taken into consideration."

The government is yet to decide a date for reopening of schools, the minister added.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Kiran Bakshi W/O, Neeraj Bakshi R/o A3/149 3rd Floor Sector 17 Rohini have changed my name to Kiran Kathuria for all purposes. 0040553121-1

I, ASHOK KUMAR S/O-AMAR SINGH R/O-FLAT.No.27-C & D-BLOCK,KANISHKA-APARTMENT,SHALIMAR-BAGH,DELHI-88,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHOK KUMAR SWAMI. 0040553159-3

I Subhash Chander S/O, Gajender Singh Rathore R/o House No. 430, Sector 10, Gurgaon, Haryana, 122001 have changed my name to Subhash Rathore for all purposes. 0040553108-1

I, ANJUM PARVEEN,W/o MAJID HUSSAIN,R/o-D-112, GALI NO-18, NEAR-NOOR MASJID OLD-MUSTAFAABAD DELHI-110094. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM ANJUM TO ANJUM PARVEEN. 0040553198-1

I, have changed my daughter's name from Mayara to Maira Khan for all future purposes. Mohd. Faisal Khan S/O Pesh Nawaz Khan R/o J-211, Stellar one, Noida Extension, Greater Noida West. 0040553158-1

I, Yoginder kumar, s/o-Mahavir singh khatri, R/O-B-1/102,Sunrise-apartment Rohini,Sector-13,Delhi-110085,have changed my minor son name,from Devansh to Devansh Khatri. 0040553159-5

I, Vinodkumar C G S/O Gopalan Nair P, R/O Amrita Kripa , P.O.- Cherukode, Vallapuzha, Cherukode, Palakkad, Kerala- 679336. have changed the name of my minor son Nitin aged about 16 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Nitin Vinod. 0070719057-1

I, SUKHJIT SINGH,S/O KARAM SINGH R/O WZ-II/B-55,VISHNU GARDEN, DELHI-110018.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUKHJEET SINGH. 0040553159-6

I, SANGEETA KUMARI,spouse of No.14639871K(HMT)JOSHI ALPESHKUMAR DINKARBHAI,resident of, House.No.-1025K,Village-Anara, Tehsil-Kathlal, District-Kheda, Gujarat-387630,have changed my name,from SANGEETA KUMARI, to JOSHI SANGEETA,vide-affidavit, dated-30/10/2020,before Notary-Advocate,Ram Kishore Singh,Regd.No.-2548, NewDelhi. 0040553150-3

I, Prem Kumar,W/o-Manohar Lal Bharti R/o-24/21,West-Patel-Nagar,Delhi-88,have changed my name to Prem Kumari Bharti both are same Person. 0040553159-1

I, Praveen Kumar S/O Shri Bhagat Singh Address: H. N. 3752 Kucha Mohattar Khan Mori Gate Delhi-06 declare that my name wrongly written as Praveen Singh in my son Pratyush Singh aged 14 year and Daughter Avani Singh aged 11 year in the school records. The actual name of mine is Praveen Kumar. 0040553102-1

I, PRABHJOT KAUR,W/O JITENDER PAL SINGH R/O-WZ-183-A, VISHNU GARDEN, TILAK-NAGAR, DELHI-110018. CHANGED MY NAME TO PRABHJOT KAUR SANDHU. 0040553159-2

I, No. 14639871K (HMT) JOSHI ALPESHKUMAR DINKARBHAI,Unit-7017-EME-BN, resident of,House.No.-1025K, Village-Anara,Tehsil-Kathlal, District-Kheda, Gujarat-3876 30,have changed my minor daughter's name,from KHUSHI, to KHUSHI JOSHI, vide-affidavit,dated-30/10/2020,before Notary-Advocate, Ram Kishore Singh, Regd.No-2548, NewDelhi 0040553150-4

I, MD AMIN S/O-WALI MOHAMMAD,R/O H.N.O.589,K-BLOCK, MANGOLPURI, DELHI-83,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD AMIN. 0040553159-4

I, KOKILA BAN,mother of No.14639871K(HMT)JOSHI ALPESHKUMAR DINKARBHAI,resident of,House.No.-1025K, Village-Anara, Tehsil-Kathlal,District-Kheda, Gujarat-387630,have changed my name,from KOKILA BAN(DOB-01.07.1952), to JOSHI KOKILABEN DINKARBHAI(DOB-06.08.1953),vide-affidavit,dated-30/10/2020, before Notary-Advocate,Ram Kishore Singh, Regd.No.-2548, NewDelhi. 0040553150-2

I, Jamila W/O Khurshed Alam, residence D-51, New Ashok Nagar,Vasundhara Enclave, New Delhi-96, have changed my name,Jamila to Jamila Khatoon,for all purposes infuture. 0040553150-5

I, Deepanshu Giri D/O Sahdev Giri R/O G-30/222, Sector-3 Rohini, Delhi-85, have changed my name to Drishti Giri vide affidavit dated 28/10/2020 at New Delhi. 0050170801-1

I, Poonam Devi, Wife of JC-380594K Sub Dalip Kumar, 1 Arny HQ Sig Regt. Signals Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg, New Delhi-110010 have declared that in my husband's Service Records, my name is wrongly written is POONAM DEVI but my correct name is POONAM for all future purpose. 0040550682-10

I, DINKARBHAI,father of No.14639871K(HMT)JOSHI ALPESHKUMAR DINKARBHAI,resident of,House.No.-1025K, Village-Anara, Tehsil-Kathlal,District-Kheda, Gujarat-387630,have changed my name,from DINKARBHAI(DOB-01.07.1949), to JOSHI DINKARBHAI NATHABHAI(DOB-09.12.1948), vide-affidavit, dated-30/10/2020, before Notary-Advocate,Ram Kishore Singh, Regd.No.-2548, NewDelhi. 0040553150-1

I, Bal Krishna Badgaiyan S/o Shri Damodar Prasad Badgaiyan R/o H.No.F-113, Vijay Vihar, Phase-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my daughter's name from Shreya Dwivedi to Shreya Badgaiyan for all future purposes. 0040553152-1

I, Anil Kumar Sharma,S/o Late.Har Parsad Sharma,R/o-53,South-Park,Apartment, Kalkaji,NewDelhi-19,have changed my name to Anil Sharma,for all,future purposes. 0040553159-7

I, Ajay Jaishwal S/o Prabhat Puri R/o WZ-270, Gali No-9, Singla Hospital, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, Palam Village, Palam Village, Palam Village South West Delhi-110045, declare that name of my has been wrongly written as Ajay Jaishwal in my minor daughter birth certificate.no-3887630 The actual name of my is Deepak Puri, which may be amended accordingly. 0070719085-1

I Km Dimpal Rani w/o. Bachan Singh R/o. B-627, Gharoli Dairy Farm, Mayur Vihar Phase 3, New Delhi-110096 have changed my name to Dimpal for all future purposes. 0040553141-1

I Mohd. Nazim S/o Late Aziz Ghulam Nabi R/o H.No.5417, Uncchi Gali,Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Mohd.Nazim Nabi for all purposes. 0040553111-5

I Hema Bisht alias Beena alias Beena Devi D/o Sh. Dhyan Singh W/o Sh. Parveen Singh R/o Plot No.-30-A, Kh.No.23/2, Gali No.-37-B, Kaushik Enclave, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Hema Bisht for all purposes. 0040553111-1

I Praveen Kumar Jalan S/o Late Sh.Shyam Lal Jalan R/o A-2/7, Third Floor, Block-A, Model Town-II, Delhi-110009 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Shona Jalan to Shanaya Jalan for all purposes. 0040553111-3

I Shashi alias Shashi Bala D/o Late Sh. Arjun Dass W/o Sh. Rajnish Pal R/o K-705, AWHO Sispal Vihar, Sector-49, South City-II, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018 have changed my name to Shashi Bala for all purposes. 0040553111-2

I Tanvi Sawhnay D/o Sh.Gurmeet Singh R/o F-276, IInd Floor, Gali No.21, Near A.V.B.Public School, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Tanvi Kaur for all purposes. 0040553111-4

I Anukriti Jain D/o Vikas Jain R/o B-11 2nd floor swasthya vihar vikas marg Delhi 110092 & my Date of birth (02/07/1999) Have changed my name to Ishika Jain. 0040552807-4

LOST & FOUND

My original CONVEYANCE-DEED of my DDA-FLAT.No-524, POCKET-6,SECTOR-A-5, NARELA,DELHI-110040,has been lost, Finder-Contact Mr. HARISH CHANDER SHARMA,S/O LATE.SOHAN LAL SHARMA, Mob:-8459390660. 0040553159-8

It is notified for the attention that my original Qualifying,certificate of Class 10th.examination of year-2016, and Roll.No.8651043, issued by CBSE,has been lost.Finder Pls content; Tannu,H.No.291,Shiv Mandir, Wazirabad, Delhi.Mob.7 011330352. 0040553159-10

I, Rajinder Singh S/o Sardar Singh R/o C-64,Raujouri Garden Delhi lost my Allotment-Letter Perputual-Lease Site-Possession, DDA Possessions-Letter-of Property,No.C-5/2,Wazirpur Industrial Area Delhi-110052,Finder Contact-9871822334. 0040553159-11

I, MOHAN LAL SHARMA,S/O LATE.KRISHAN KUMAR SHARMA,R/O-98-B,RAMESH-NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110015,HAVE LOST MY ORIGINAL PROPERTY-DOCUMENTS OF THIS ADDRESS,A-649,BLOCK-A,J.J.COLONY BAKKARWALA,NANGLOI,DELHI, property area measuring-18-sq.mtrs.Finder-Please Contact-MOHAN LAL SHARMA-9211495907. 0040553159-9

LOST & FOUND I, Sunita Gautam D/o Lt. Sukhan Lal R/o S-24, School Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have lost chain documents of Plot No.B-201,Swam Nagri, Greater Noida,U.P.India i.e. Allotment Cum Allocation Letter Dated 20.11.1998 in favor of Mr. Sushil Kumar Agrawal S/o LKishan Lal Agrawal & Lease deed which was Registered in the office of concerned sub-Registrar as Document No.14779, Block No1, Vol.No.1584, Pages 105-148, Regd 27.12.2006, issued by GNIDA finder call :9811264210

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT RISHI SINGH SEHWANAT S/O LATE SHIVCHAND R/O VARIO MAHIPALPUR, DELHI HAS DISOWNED & DISINHERITED HIS DAUGHTER MS. MANJU AND HER DAUGHTER MS. MAHIMA & SON MADHUR FROM HIS MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND ASSETS DUE TO THEIR BAD CONDUCT AND MISBEHAVIOUR MY CLIENT HAS SEVERED ALL RELATION WITH THEM, FURTHER CORROBORATED THAT MY CLIENT HAS ALREADY DISOWNED AND DISINHERITED HIS SON RAMESH, DAUGHTER RAJANI MS. RAJNI AND GRAND DAUGHTER MS. MUSKAN THROUGH PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLISHED EARLIER.

B.S. CHAUHAN (Advocate) Ch. No. 418, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notified to the public that my clients Mr. Subhash Verma s/o Shri M.R. Verma, Mrs. Ranjna Verma wife of Shri Subhash Verma R/o B-30, Sector-13, Bagh, Delhi-110088, and their daughter Mrs. Kanika Gulati, have got no connection of whatsoever nature with their son Nishant Verma and his wife Mrs. Nishant Verma and their children, who have been living separately for some years. My aforesaid clients have already severed all their connections of whatsoever nature from Shri Nishant Verma and his family. Our aforesaid clients also disown Nishant Verma and his family from all their properties movable or immovable. Any person dealing with them shall do so on their own risks and consequences and my clients will not be responsible for any of their acts and actions at any point of time.

Sd/- (R.D. Vats) Advocate Ch.No. 685, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Shri Ramesh Chand Garg S/o Sh. Asha Ram Garg, R/O G-2129-130, Sector 16, Rohini, Delhi-11008, has renounced the world and had become the disciple of Guru Swami Prithustanand Saraswati Hencoforth as per Guru-Shishya tradition my client has acquired the new name as Guru Premnand and is permanently living in the ashram at 154, Hiral Enclave, Colony, Rishikesh, Haridwar, Uttarakhand. My client has severed all connection with his late wife and family at Delhi and has disposed of all of his movable and immovable properties acquired in his life time as per his will. Hencoforth my client is free from all worldly acts. BHAGWAN SAKHA BHALA KARE.

Sd/- S.S. RATHEE (ADVOCATE) Enst. No. 031279213 Ch. No. C-77A, CL Joseph Block Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

This to inform public at large that my client Sh. Vinod Sharma, s/o Late Sh. Bhagat Ram Sharma and Shri. Neelam Sharma both R/o 1708, Rishi Nagar Kotla Mubarakpur New Delhi, disown their son Mohit Sharma, due to his act of disobedience and my client lost their control and accordingly sever all their relations and disinherit and disentitle him from claiming any share in movable immovable assets of my client. My client disown and disinherit him. My client does not hold any responsibility to the act and conduct of him. Anybody deals with him at his own cost and risk.

Sd/- Vipin Kumar Saini (Advocate) Enst. No. 244, Masjid Mohd. New Delhi-110049

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Madan Singla S/o Sh. Om Prakash Singla R/O C-28, Gali No. 1, Raj Park, Nehru Nagar, New Delhi due to non completion of terms & conditions decided between my client and you, the Noticee, my client has decided to cancel, revoke & withdraw all the property documents i.e. General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sell, Affidavit, Receipt, Possession Letter, Will, etc. Reason is non-fulfillment of payment regarding Property No. 159, Block-H, Phase-I, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-52 measuring 550 sq. yds. & disowned Sh. Manoj Kumar Sharma S/o Sh. Rameshwar Sharma R/o Gali No. 5, Shiv Mandir Road, Saroop Nagar, Utarisapur, Narela, New Delhi. Anybody dealing with him in any manner whatsoever will be doing so at his/her own cost, risk & responsibility thereto & my client shall be in no way responsible for any acts, deeds and things done by him.

Adv Mukesh B Khandyal UC-14A, Jyoti Shikhar, DC, Janakpuri

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Manjit Bala Chauhan W/o Late M.S Chauhan R/o CB-347, Ring Road, Naraina, New Delhi-110028 applying to transfer/mutation ownership title in her name in the below mentioned property from its owner viz., K.L. ALGHA property bearing No. CB-347, built on portion of Plot No. 4 land measuring 47 sq. yards i.e. situated in (Cantonment Board area).

If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended transfer ownership title in the name of my client sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s, within 15 days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the mutation/ownership title proceedings with the Delhi Cantonment Board, as having purchased the above said property vide registered sale executed on 27.05.2016 from its above said owner if there are no third party claims /objections /disputes will be entertained. Krishan Mohan (Advocate) WZ-27, Post Office Walli Gali, Naraina, New Delhi-110028

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that the Property Leasehold Plot of Land bearing no. B-46, measuring 250 SQ.MTRS. situated in the residential known as Sector-42, Noida, U.P.-201301, offered as security with State Bank of India and my clients) Sh. Sangeet Kumar Singh (2) Mr. Sandeep Kumar Singh & (3) Sh. Rajeev Kumar Singh are entered into an Agreement to Sell with M/s. Narayan International (a partnership firm) signing Authority Sh. Praveen Kumar Agrawal & Shri. Naveen Kumar Agrawal seller. M/s. Narayan International (a partnership firm) signed the property by virtue of Regt. Agreement to Sell dated 07.08.2010, executed by Smt. Anshu Singh in favour of M/s. Narayan International (a partnership firm), duly registered vide Regt. No. 3329, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 1932, Pages - 1 - 18, dated - 07.08.2010. It is hereby notified that any person or entity, firm / company, Bank, HUF / member of HUF/ Financial institution having claim any charge, interest or lien or claim on the basis of documents mentioned above are otherwise and / or objection to these of, He / She / They may today only the same to the undersigned with documentary proof / court judgement within 15 days from the date of publication, failing with the title shall be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrances, flaw and impediment. Mithilesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch.No. 717, District Courts Rohini, Delhi-85

NOTICE

Documents of Flat Buyer Agreement of Flat No. 1102 Located in Tower No. B3 Floor 11th in Project ALOHA GURGAON, situated at AEZ Inspirations, Sector-57, Village Tigra, Tehsil and District Gurgaon has been lost at my office 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi - 110007. Use of above document by anyone will be illegal. That flat has not been sold to any party till today.

A.K. JAIN Director RTCL Limited

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

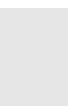
General Public is informed that My clients Ashok Kumar Hasija and his wife Kanta Arora R/o H.No. 1286, Sector 15, District Sonapat, Haryana-131001 has disowned and disinherited their son Kunal Hasija his wife Garima Arora, his son Master Kaalrav Hasija as well as their future children from their all movable, immovable properties, assets etc. That my clients are not responsible for their son, his wife, his son as well as their future children.

Sd/- Mohd. Asim (Advocate) Supreme Court Of India Gali No-12, Nehru Vihar, Karawal Nagar, New Delhi.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD CIVIL SIDE Chapter XII, Rules1 and 7 Miscellaneous Application ARCO No. 21 of 2020 SRI NITIN YADAV Applicant Versus ASIAN DEVELOPERS LTD. AND ANOTHER To, Asian Developers Ltd. through its Director Sri Dinesh Sharma/MD/ CEO/AR, GN-5, Shivaji Enclave, New Delhi-110027 Whereas the above named applicant has made an application in the Court for Arbitration in the above noted case you are hereby called upon to enter appearance on or before 27-11-2020 day of 2020 to show cause why the application be not granted. The said application will be heard on such day thereafter as may be subsequently notified in accordance with the rules. Take notice that in default of appearance on or before the day before mentioned in person or by advocate or some person by law authorised to act on your behalf, the application will be heard and determined in your absence. A copy of the application together with a copy of the affidavit filed by the applicant is annexed hereto. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this the 21-10-2020 day of 2020.

Sd/ Vishal Shukla (Advocate) Deputy Registrar f, M.G. Marg, Allahabad Allahabad Lucknow




HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
"A State Government Undertaking"
(E-Tendering mode only)
Online tenders are hereby invited on turnkey basis (two part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, for the following work :-

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Documents	Completion period	Sale of Tender documents	Last Date of Receipt of Tender	Opening of Techno Commercial bid
1	CEO/M&C/ Tender/No.08/ S-Stn/Chail/ 2020-21	Survey, Design, Erection, Testing & commissioning including Supply of Material for Construction of 33/11kV 1x6.3 MVA New (Un-manned) Sub-Station at CHAIL of Distt Solan including civil works, complete in all respect on partial turnkey basis in ED, HPSEBL, Solan under OP, Circle Solan.	Rs. 281 Lacs	Rs. 7.03 Lacs	Rs. 5900.00	12 Months	From 03.11.2020 to 12.11.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM)	13.11.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM)	18.11.2020 (at 15.00 Hrs)


The detailed tender notification can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from the website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/>HPSEB and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. Any clarification/amendment shall be uploaded on the above website. For further details on e-tendering, please contact on Phone No. 0177-2801745.

-sd- Er. SANJEEV MARIA
Chief Engineer (OP) South, HPSEB Ltd. Shimla-4

मुख्य कार्यालय विरार विरार (पूर्व) ता. वसई, जि. पालघर-४०१३०५



दुरध्वनी : ०२५०-२५२५१०१/०२/०३/०४/०५/०६
फ़ैक्स : ०२५०-२५२५१०७
ई-मेल : vasaivirarcorporation@yahoo.com
जावक क्र. : व.वि.श.म./आतरेच/२७०/२०२०
दिनांक : २९.१०.२०२०




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दुरध्वनी : ०२५०-२५२५१०१/०२/०३/०४/०५/०६
फ़ैक्स : ०२५०-२५२५१०७
ई-मेल : vasaivirarcorporation@yahoo.com
जावक क्र. : व.वि.श.म./आतरेच/२७०/२०२०
दिनांक : २९.१०.२०२०



HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
"A State Government Undertaking"
(E-Tendering mode only)
Online tenders are hereby invited on turnkey basis (two part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, for the following work :-

Sr. No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of Work	Tender Form Fee (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Validity Period
1.	The Municipal Commissioner, Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation, (Opp. Virar Police Station, Bazaar ward, Virar East, Maharashtra 401305 Toll free number for VVCMC : 18002334353, Ph :- (0250-2525105)	Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 10 nos. Segregating Trommel Each of 300 TPD Capacity for Processing Legacy Solid Waste	15000/- + 18% GST	1%	90 days

मुख्य कार्यालय विरार विरार (पूर्व) ता. वसई, जि. पालघर-४०१३०५



दुरध्वनी : ०२५०-२५२५१०१/०२/०३/०४/०५/०६
फ़ैक्स : ०२५०-२५२५१०७
ई-मेल : vasaivirarcorporation@yahoo.com
जावक क्र. : व.वि.श.म./आतरेच/२७०/२०२०
दिनांक : २९.१०.२०२०

Sr. No.	VVCMC Stage	Vendor Stage	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
1	Release of- Tender		31.10.2020, 11.00 am	-
2		Tender Download	31.10.2020, 11.00 am	-
3		Pre-Bid Meeting	10.11.2020, 03.00 pm	-
4		Ammendments if any, Download	11.11.2020, 11.00 am	-
5		Online Tender Submission	11.11.2020, 11.05 am	25.11.2020, 05.00 pm
6	Technical Proposal Open Date		27.11.2020, 04.00 pm	-

Schedule of E-Tender


Sr. No.	VVCMC Stage	Vendor Stage	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
1	Release of- Tender		31.10.2020, 11.00 am	-
2		Tender Download	31.10.2020, 11.00 am	-
3		Pre-Bid Meeting	10.11.2020, 03.00 pm	-
4		Ammendments if any, Download	11.11.2020, 11.00 am	-
5		Online Tender Submission	11.11.2020, 11.05 am	25.11.2020, 05.00 pm
6	Technical Proposal Open Date		27.11.2020, 04.00 pm	-

Note :-

The bidder shall have to submit their bids online and upload the relevant documents from as per key schedule (Key details)

- Tender Document and other details shall be available on:- Website- <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
- Earnest money to be submit online only
- Amendment to Notice Inviting Tender, if any would be published on website only.
- Pre-bid meeting venue, date & time : 3rd Floor, Conference Hall of Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation, Head Office, Virar on 10.11.2020 at 03.00 pm.


Sd/-
(Dr. Vijaykumar Dwase)
Deputy Commissioner
Solid Waste Management
Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation



UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं. 690, e-Tender Notice दिनांक: 29.10.2020
Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Maneri Dam, Maneri, Uttarkashi invited online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. 04/EE(E&M)/Maneri Dam/2020-21
Name of work: Annual Routine Maintenance (ARM) of Hydro-Mechanical and Electro-Mechanical equipment of Maneri Dam, Maneri Uttarkashi
Estimated cost: ₹ 2253130.00 (excluding taxes)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 30.10.2020 at 10:00 hrs.
Last date of submission of bid on website: 21.11.2020 at 17:00 hrs.
For full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.
Executive Engineer (E&M)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"



NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
L.No.-JHS-ELG-W-T-07-2020-21-RT Tender Notice Date: 28.10.2020
For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:-

Tender No. & Description	Tender value (₹)	E
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PM SVANIDHI – LOAN SCHEME FOR STREET VENDORS HIT BY LOCKDOWN

Relief for hawkers: Centre flags ‘issues’ to Maharashtra, state says following norms

MAYURA JANWALKAR
& LAXMAN SINGH
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 30

THE PRIME Minister Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), an interest-free loan scheme rolled out by the Centre to provide working capital to street vendors affected by the nationwide lockdown, may now be caught between the Centre and Maharashtra government.

While the Centre had nudged Maharashtra to rid the application process of certain discrepancies, state government officials said there are no discrepancies, and the scheme is, in fact, being implemented in toto.

Sources in the Union government told *The Indian Express* that the secretary, Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, had written to Maharashtra chief secretary on October 27, "raising and reiterating issues about the discrepancies and problems in implementation of Street Vendors Act, 2014, and PM SVANidhi

scheme for street vendors to resume livelihoods".

The letter, it is learnt, mentions that the scheme was not taking off in Maharashtra "due to issues created by the State government".

In a review meeting of PM SVANidhi on October 16, sources said, multiple issues were flagged by the Centre to Maharashtra. "Many street vendors who are identified in the survey conducted by the State are not registered as eligible for benefits under PM SVANidhi Scheme," a source said. "As per the scheme, the condition of domicile of street vendors has been imposed for their registration."

Sources in the Union government said that 1,63,309 Letter of Recommendations (LoRs) were issued to applicants in Maharashtra until October 16, but they are yet to be issued the Certificate of Vending (CoV). The LoR and CoV are issued by urban local bodies under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vendors) Act, 2014.

The Indian Express had re-



BMC says it has encouraged all street vendors to apply for the scheme. Nirmal Harindran/File

ported on October 6 that more than 20 lakh street vendors across the country had applied for interest-free loan under PM SVANidhi, and nearly 2 lakh vendors had until then received the benefit. The loan needs to be repaid within a year under the scheme, which was launched in June with a sanctioned budget of Rs 700 crore. Upon repayment, a vendor is eli-

gible for another Rs 10,000 as loan. While the Centre contends that the Maharashtra government was told that not registering vendors identified in the state's survey, and insisting on their domicile certificates before their registration, are against provisions of the 2014 Act, senior officials of the state Urban Development Department said the state had not

imposed any additional conditions for street vendors to avail the scheme. However, they said, some bank branches processing their applications have, in many cases, sought additional documents such as domicile certificate, CRISIL rating or documents for e-KYC from applicants.

Mahesh Pathak, Principal Secretary, Urban Development-II, Maharashtra, said about 2.60 lakh applications were received from street vendors in the state, of which nearly 20 percent has been approved. He said very few applications are rejected; the rest are pending. "Three meetings were held regarding this but no such issue was raised," Pathak said.

"In fact, there was a VC meeting held only three days ago with Government of India officials, all corporation officials — I also attended that meeting — but no such discrepancies were discussed. "This scheme is being reviewed at the highest levels. We have not sought any additional documents from applicants and the Central scheme is being fol-

lowed in toto."

Some bank branches "may have sought additional documents from the applicants," he said.

In the online application to avail benefits of PM SVANidhi scheme, applicants are asked to choose their preferred bank and branch in a dropdown menu, and many choose the bank closest to their home or the one that they may already have an account in, Haider Imam, general secretary of APUH Hawkers' Union, said.

Of 6,500 members of his union in Mumbai, Imam said none has yet received the scheme's benefit.

Sharad Bande, Superintendent of Licence department, BMC, said, "We have not imposed any new condition for which hawkers are finding it hard to avail benefit of the scheme. All surveyed hawkers have been asked to submit their forms to the nearest municipal ward offices. I have asked our staff to assist hawkers if they face difficulties in filling the forms. The BMC's role is to give them a platform to avail the benefit."

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

242 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 80,88,851
RECOVERED: 73,73,375
DEATHS: 1,21,090
TESTS: 10,77,28,088
DOUBLING RATE: 121.57**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING TIME**
■ Maharashtra	16,66,668	5,902	0.36%	199.66
■ Andhra	8,17,679	2,905	0.37%	195.62
■ Karnataka	8,16,809	4,025	0.50%	142.79
■ Tamil Nadu	7,19,403	2,652	0.39%	185.85
■ Kerala	4,18,484	7,020	1.80%	39.97

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

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.51 NOW: 1.50	7 DAYS EARLIER: 7.75 NOW: 7.51	DETECTED TODAY 48,648 RECOVERED TODAY: 57,386
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths	Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on October 29, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive

Covid-19 positivity rate drops below 10% in Maharashtra

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, OCTOBER 30

AFTER FIVE to six months of a soaring positivity rate, Maharashtra has started witnessing a decline in Covid-19 infections. According to data, between October 22 and 29, positivity rate reduced to less than 10 per cent.

Positivity rate is a key indicator of gauging transmission of the disease and is the percentage of people who test positive for the virus out of those tested. Dr Pradeep Awate, state surveillance officer, said in mid-September, overall positivity rate of Maharashtra was 24.6 per cent. From October 22 to 29, the positivity rate declined to 9.93 per cent, he added.

In Jalgaon district, the positivity rate is less than 5 per cent. Mumbai, Thane, Nagpur and Kolhapur are among 12 districts where positivity rate is between 6 and 10 per cent. These also include Beed, Hingoli, Nanded, Parbhani, Ratnagiri, Osmanabad, Wardha and Washim. Pune, Ahmednagar and Sangli are among 16 districts where Covid positivity rate is between 10 and 15 per cent. Others include Amaravati, Akola, Aurangabad, Bhandara, Buldhana, Gondia, Jalna, Latur, Nandurbar, Raigad, Solapur, Yavatmal and Sindhudurg.

Dhule, Palghar and Satara are three districts where positivity rate is between 15 and 20 per cent. Positivity rate is more than 20 per cent in Nashik, Gadchiroli and Chandrapur.

Dr Awate said local variables also played a role in differing district trends. For instance, areas where the infection spread initially have recorded a declining

'ANTICIPATING 2nd WAVE IN 30 DAYS'

Pune: Dr Subhash Salunkhe, adviser to Maharashtra chief secretary and chief technical coordinator for Covid-19 in Pune division, said a meeting was held with state officials and experts from the Covid-19 task force to prepare a strategic paper on stepping up preparedness in the event of a second wave of infections. "We are anticipating a second wave in the next 30 days," he said. The paper essentially focused on stepping up surveillance for influenza cases and Covid-19 and monitoring fever cases with respiratory illness at private clinics. **ENS**

trend. He said testing had also reduced as compared to mid-September. For instance, in mid-September, close to 89,000 samples were being tested daily; this is now down to 75,000. "This is because of fewer cases at fever OPDs and reduced number of contacts of a person who test positive for the virus," he said.

The recovery rate in the state is 89.69 per cent and, till October 29, there were 1.27 lakh active cases. The state has reported 43,710 deaths and over 16 lakh cases.

State health department officials have not ruled out a second wave of Covid infections. They added that with the festive season round the corner, people would have to be more disciplined. Lowering the guard could lead to a spike in cases, Dr Awate said.

BJP, TMC spar after teen found dead in police station

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 30

A 15-YEAR-OLD BOY was found dead inside the toilet of a police station at Mallapur in West Bengal's Birbhum district on Thursday night. Police said the teenage boy was detained in connection with theft cases. Police said primary investigation indicates that he had hanged himself and added that the postmortem report is awaited.

The BJP has alleged that the boy was assaulted "at the behest of TMC" because his parents are BJP supporters. TMC's Birbhum

unit chief Anubrata Mondal, however, issued a statement saying the boy's parents are not BJP supporters. Later, the boy's family said that he died by suicide and that they have always supported TMC. "We are not BJP supporters, we have always supported TMC. My son hanged himself inside the police station," his father told the media.

The BJP has given a call for a 12-hour bandh in Mallapur on Saturday.

BJP general secretary Sayantan Basu said, "The victim's family members are in fear and under pressure. It shows there is no law and order in the state."

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

15TH HONOUR TITLE DAY: 141 FIELD REGIMENT (KARGIL)



CAPT PV VIKRAM, SM DMT
(01 JUN 80 - 06 JUL 99)



JOGAL RAMESH
(24 OCT 73 - 02 JUN 99)

On the occasion of 15th Honour Title Day of 141 Field Regiment (KARGIL) on 31 Oct 2020, the Commanding Officer, all ranks, their families and the Buzurgs of the unit pay homage to the martyrs who have made the supreme sacrifice for the Nation during 'OP VIJAY'. Their valour & heroism continues to inspire all of us. All ranks of TEAM KARGIL VICTORS pray to ALMIGHTY to grant eternal peace to the departed souls. We also pledge to take the honour of the unit to even greater heights and glory in the times to come.

CO & All Ranks 141 Field Regiment (KARGIL)

India's First Seaplane Services take-off...

Inauguration of First-Ever Water Aerodrome at Kevadia and Flagging-off of Seaplane Services between Water Aerodrome, Kevadia and Sabarmati River Front, Ahmedabad

Seaplane Services: A New Era of Air Travel in India

- India's First Commercial Seaplane Services
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Salient Features of Water Aerodromes

- Developed at ₹36 Crore each at Kevadia & Sabarmati
- Terminal Building Area - 700 sqm
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by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

In the august presence of

Acharya Devvrat
Governor, Gujarat

Vijay Rupani
Chief Minister, Gujarat

Nitinbhai Patel
Dy. Chief Minister, Gujarat

Hardeep Singh Puri
Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation (I/C)

Mansukh Mandaviya
Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C)

Gitaben V. Rathva
Member of Parliament (Chhota Udepur)

Dr. Kiritbhai Solanki
Member of Parliament (Ahmedabad-West)

Date: Saturday, 31st October, 2020 | Time: 11:50 AM
Venue: Kevadia, Gujarat

Join the event live at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PMOfficeIndia>

Partners in this initiative:

DAVP 03101/13/0002/2021

New Delhi



“IF LIBERTY MEANS ANYTHING AT ALL, IT MEANS THE RIGHT TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO HEAR.” — GEORGE ORWELL

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

STAND WITH FRANCE

Nice terror strike should strengthen global resolve against extremist ideologies that use religion to terrorise and kill

THE HORRIFIC ATTACK in the French city of Nice in which a person beheaded a woman and killed another woman and a man inside a church, will be condemned unequivocally by all sensible and peace loving people. India did right by expressing solidarity with France in its moment of shock and grief. As with another incident earlier this month in which a teacher was killed in a Paris suburb for showing his students cartoons of Prophet Mohammed, France has described the attack in Nice as yet another act of Islamist terrorism on its soil. In both cases, the killers appear to be radicalised Muslim men, who arrived in the country recently. France has been a repeated target of terrorist attacks since 2012, when the satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo* published cartoons of Prophet Mohammed. With each attack, France's sense of vulnerability to an extremist ideology that uses religion to terrorise and kill to achieve political ends has only grown.

The latest incident will only strengthen the resolve in France, home to Europe's largest Muslim population, to crack down on what President Emmanuel Macron earlier this month called "Islamist separatism", describing Islam itself as a religion in crisis, and vowing to reform Islam in line with French values, including "laicite" or secularism. France is preparing a new legislation that will arm law enforcers with powers of surveillance, to pull children from home-schooling back into school, deport individuals and shut down mosques if they are perceived to be violating the "French way of life". This is a legitimate course of action in the face of terrorism. But the larger challenge for France is to negotiate a way of life that can accommodate its multi-culturalism with its first principles. As has been proved elsewhere in the world, holding a religion culprit for the actions of a few followers is not the wisest way forward. Holding the right to be offensive to others' faith as the true test of freedom diminishes the spirit of France's founding ideals, especially when it is directed at another religion, and when the bulk of the followers of that religion perceive themselves to be powerless as an underclass.

The concern that what happens in France does not stay in France anymore has been borne out by protests across the globe at Macron's speech. President Recep Tayipp Erdogan of Turkey, and former Malaysian President Mahathir Mohammed have much to answer for instigating these reactions. One imagines himself to be the new leader of the Ummah, the other seems not to have got used to his retirement. Neither has conducted himself in the manner of a world leader. India is one of the few countries that has come out in support of Macron even as he was being accused of Islamophobia. And it did so without condoning the controversial cartoons. That's the right thing to do.

STILL HAZY

A new body is no silver bullet to clear Delhi's air. Without measures at ground level, it could mean more of the same

ON THURSDAY, WHEN Delhi's air quality dipped to its worst since January 2, the National Capital Region got a new pollution management agency. The Centre issued an ordinance to constitute a commission to cut through the smog that has been keeping its date with the capital's air with unflinching regularity for over 10 years, defying a succession of agencies and court orders. The new commission has the mandate to address the chief failing of the agencies that were so far been responsible for clearing NCR's air pollution — lack of coordination. The 18-member body will "bring together Centre, states and other stakeholders on a collaborative platform". On paper, this seems to be the first step towards bringing focused attention to the NCR's air quality, a requirement that has remain unfulfilled because state governments have not seen eye to eye, authorities like the Supreme Court-mandated EPCA and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have tended to work in silos, and departments responsible for transport, industry and health have rarely taken ownership of the crisis. Much will, however, depend on the new agency's working protocols. Already there are fears that a body helmed by bureaucrats may not be a significant departure from the past.

The commission will supersede all existing bodies, including the CPCB as well as state governments in matters of air pollution mitigation. The 22-year-old EPCA will be dissolved. These agencies had been constrained by a lack of enforcing capacity. The new commission will reportedly have more powers — in its constitution and scope as well in terms of punitive provisions. However, a growing body of reportage shows that it's their impracticability, insensitivity to ground realities, and not enforceability deficit, that have rendered past practices such as bans and penalties ineffective. Apprehensions that the new agency could mean more of the same have gained ground because Thursday's ordinance talks of a Rs 1 crore fine or five years' imprisonment or both for violators of pollution control norms.

The NCR's pollution problems are a complex interplay of the fallout of lifestyle choices of its residents — the large fleet of personal vehicles, for instance — agricultural practices in its neighbourhood and the region's geography. While coordination between authorities is, no doubt, a precondition for clearing the air, these have to be founded on policies that enable behavioural changes — ones that facilitate greater use of public transport and incentivise farmers to give up stubble burning. Without such efforts, the commission will remain another top-down endeavour.

STORIES FOR ALL

A legendary Parisian bookstore lives to fight another day

THE BOOKSTORE IS often a portal — to worlds more wondrous than reality — but you must learn to surrender to chance. You must lose yourself in a maze of musty bookshelves. You must let the book find you. Few other bookstores have staged such encounters with so much love and generosity as Shakespeare and Co. The legendary Parisian bookstore's literary cred is enviable: its first edition, founded by American Sylvia Beach, was featured in Ernest Hemingway's *A Moveable Feast*, doubled as office and salon for James Joyce and friends; and functioned as a safe harbour for books that turned censors apoplectic (such as DH Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*). Under its second owner George Whitman, Shakespeare and Co remained a literary hub, but the three-storied establishment became roomier still. It opened its doors to other stories: A traveller from across the world could sleep in tiny folding beds, tucked between bookshelves, in exchange for reading a book, and writing a one-page autobiography.

But like many other things of beauty that the pandemic has ravaged, the legendary Parisian bookstore, too, is struggling. Sales are down 80 per cent since March, prompting owners to appeal to regular customers to order on their website. That's not the only independent bookstore that is gasping for breath. New York's The Strand sent out a similar distress signal to its customers, prompting a deluge of online orders that crashed its website.

The independent bookstore, which bears the stamp of its owners and curators, is the antithesis of the online shopping cart, which offers the banality of click and pay. But it is also a tenacious creature. It has outlasted those who regularly prophesise its demise, and will, hopefully, survive the pandemic, even if it has to adapt to e-delivery to do so. Whitman called his bookstore a "novel in three words". Here's hoping that this is only a temporary ironic twist in its riveting narrative.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

A MIDDLE-SCHOOL TEACHER in France, Samuel Paty, is beheaded for showing cartoons of the Prophet as part of a class on free expression. Subsequently, three more people are killed. The killings have drawn condemnation. But almost as if on cue, this horrible incident is being scripted to bear the weight of every historical grievance: Illiberal states like Malaysia, Turkey and Pakistan are, in a cowardly way, positioning themselves as defenders of Islam. Every single argument over the failures of French multiculturalism or its neo-colonial past is being trotted out as an explanation. Islam is being put on trial. The French State is being described as a provocation. All in the service of avoiding some plain truths.

No liberal should equivocate on the right to freedom of expression. President Macron was absolutely right to robustly defend free expression as a principle. Liberals have been too squeamish about defending freedom of expression. There is a mistaken belief in some circles that defending robust norms of freedom of expression, especially in Europe, is to license colonial impunity or expressions of cultural superiority. But every single time you compromise on freedom of expression, you set back the struggle of millions of people, including Muslims, struggling to free themselves from the yoke of oppressive blasphemy laws everywhere across the world. To put the point bluntly, the use of caricatures or writings about Muhammad as a paradigm case to limit free speech does incalculable harm to liberal freedom across the world. It does more to cement stereotypes of Muslims than the vile propaganda of Islamophobes. To take one example, the much misused Section 295 of the Indian Penal Code had its origins in the controversy over *Rangela Rasool*; and the *Satanic Verses* affair irrevocably transformed free speech politics in India for the worse. Reform is not going to be possible if you do not swallow the idea that occasionally offensive speech will get through, including about the Prophet. There are reasons for liberals to worry about colonialism and orientalist caricatures. But these cannot be alibis to compromise on liberal freedoms. The idea that Muslims need to be especially protected from offensive speech, paradoxically, is itself an expression of a kind of anti-Muslim sentiment.

It is time to stand up for individual freedoms, against all challengers

Liberal states are right to take actions against perpetrators of violence, and should worry about the atmosphere that nourishes a fear of freedom. But if they are doing it in the name of liberal principles, they will need to adhere to those principles. They have to ensure that the asymmetries of power do not discriminate against communities. They will have to ensure that the purpose of public policy is to protect freedom and not to subordinate another culture or produce a forced uniformity.

Liberals often have a well-motivated desire to respect, or at least not give offence to millions of believers. Standing steadfast behind the right to freedom of expression does not require valorising offensive speech; those who offend are at best to be tolerated, not encouraged. They might sometimes require condemning. Defending legal toleration cannot close off the question of what forms of ethical practices are appropriate for society. It, in fact, presupposes this difficult conversation. These are fine distinctions all liberal states should understand.

But liberals have also got the politics of offence backwards. Many people who want to gratuitously offend religion are puerile; often the motivation is to display a kind of impunity, especially towards minorities. But restricting freedom of expression, or violently reacting to it, ideologically rewards such impunity. It makes it more, not less politically potent. It unwittingly confirms the stereotypes the minority groups cannot handle freedom. The more it becomes acceptable to circumscribe speech because it is offensive, the more offence people take. Offensiveness has become a competitive community sport in many contexts, precisely because it can be weaponised for political mobilisation. Moreover, it is otiose to think that in a globalised context, where images and ideas circulate instantly and speech is decontextualised and re-contextualised in ways no one can control, freedom will better served by promising any religious community a sanitised public sphere that could never cause them offence. If even a pedagogical project in a protected classroom can be re-contextualised as an offensive assault on Islam, then it is a fool's paradise to promise a world where the sacred will never be seen to be violated.

It is a cardinal liberal principle that no one should be targeted for being a member of a particular community. But the liberal expression of this commitment is to retreat into a taciturn silence over the connection between religion and violence. There is the rush to go into the comfort zone of "root causes", some secular experience or deprivation, discrimination, colonialism, poverty. These do matter in understanding how particular forms of violence are nourished. But the response that "religion has nothing to do with it" is historically inaccurate.

Politically mobilised, fanatical religion has often not been safe for individual freedom, whether it is a form of Islam, Christian or Buddhist fundamentalism or Hindu nationalism. The idea that true religion would never incite anyone to violence is neither here nor there — the point is that people kill and behead in the name of religion. It is an interesting question what cultural power allows some incidents to be labelled as religiously motivated. In the same month as the beheading in France, a Dalit lawyer was killed in Gujarat for posts allegedly prejudicial to Brahmins. Which will be constructed as a religious killing?

It is, however, not for liberals to get into theological disputes and define people's religion for them. When they do this, they come across as if they want to exercise power over the religion. All liberals should be interested in making sure that freedom is not compromised. What kind of religion is compatible with this freedom is for believers to decide. Getting into this hornet's nest, as Macron did, is overreaching, and muddies the principle at stake.

Liberal states are right to take actions against the perpetrators of violence, and should worry about the atmosphere that nourishes a fear of freedom. But if they are doing it in the name of liberal principles, they will need to, as much as possible, adhere to those principles. They have to ensure that the asymmetries of power do not discriminate against communities. They will have to ensure that the purpose of public policy and public discourse is to protect freedom and not to stereotype or subordinate another culture or produce a forced uniformity.

This is a moment where the one thing that unites the political currents of the time is a sneering glee at exposing the fragility of liberalism. All kinds of forces will muddy the ideological waters around the violence in France to serve their ends. But remember the believer who thinks they exist to protect their God, and not the other way round; and those who think human beings cannot handle individual liberty are both taking our humanity away from us. It is time to cut through complicated politics and defend the simple principle of liberty, against all its challengers.

Mehta is contributing editor, The Indian Express



KHALED AHMED

AN AFGHAN "warrior" who will be remembered in various ways — positive and negative — was in Islamabad from Kabul on October 19, calling on Prime Minister Imran Khan. He was the legendary Hezb-e-Islami leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. And Khan lost no time in putting his fears in a nutshell: "Spoilers within and outside Afghanistan were dead set against Afghan peace negotiations for their vested interest."

Now that the Americans are exiting Afghanistan, and Hekmatyar has little communication with the "unfriendly" Taliban, who will soon knock on the door of Kabul, he must review his position. He was no doubt always charismatic, and might still be, but his options are narrowing. He was favoured by Pakistan and was named the first prime minister of Afghanistan after the Russians left. He didn't always deliver. Is he of any use in 2020?

Hekmatyar was inflexible in his tactics and was, therefore, isolated, but in strategy he has been infinitely flexible. This last trait might incline some to think that he is unreliable, which has forced him to "negotiate" himself out of isolation within the jihad in Afghanistan. He has been in Kabul after "negotiating" a peace deal with the US-supported Ashraf Ghani government in 2016. Such was his loneliness living on the Afghan border close to Pakistan that he made a similar deal with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan in 2009. There was a \$10 million American price on his head which was taken off after this move.

Living in Kabul has become "iffy" for Hekmatyar after the expected exit of the

HEKMATYAR REDUX

With US exiting Afghanistan, is the warlord of any use to Pakistan?

The dilemma for whoever deals with post-US Afghanistan is the fragmentation of the Afghan warriors into Pakhtun and non-Pakhtun bands. Afghanistan is going to be divided in multiple ways as armed gangs sit down and decide the next 'Islamic' government in Kabul. The Pakhtuns may be the dominant ethnic community, but they stand outnumbered by non-Pakhtun Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazaras, etc. Moreover, Pakhtuns tend to get divided among themselves, reducing Afghanistan to many satrapies that negate the modern state.

Americans. The Taliban didn't like him and neither did Ghani's Tajik allies — this goes back to the days when Tajik leader Ahmad Shah Massoud and Hekmatyar were fighting their "inset" jihad against each other. Kabul's Tajik leader Abdullah Abdullah had recently visited Islamabad and called on PM Khan. Now the question is: Who will win favour in Islamabad? Note: In the recent debate in Kabul about the post-US situation, Hekmatyar had carefully gone public against "Indian designs" in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's "jihadi" general Hameed Gul set a lot of store by Hekmatyar but was let down when the latter didn't join an important battle against the pro-Soviet Afghan army across the border. A Pakistani hero of the Afghan war against the Soviets was Colonel Imam, a commando of the ISI who had trained the Taliban in guerrilla warfare. He knew both the Tajik warrior Ahmad Shah Massoud whom Pakistan didn't pick as an option in Afghanistan; and Hekmatyar, whom Pakistan seemed to hero-worship. Ambassador (ret'd) Arif Ayub, who served in Kabul and knew Imam, wrote after Imam's death at the hands of the Taliban, in quarterly *Criterion* (May 15, 2012): "Even at the time of our worst relationship with Massoud (following his burning of our Embassy, attempted murder of our Ambassador and Defence Attaché; and the bombing in Peshawar, in which our Governor's daughter was killed) Imam kept on insisting that Massoud should be treated as a younger brother who should be brought back into the

family and never ostracised... He had no such sympathy for Hekmatyar, whom he accused of being responsible for the destruction of Kabul and the killing of more mujahideen commanders than the Russians."

The dilemma for whoever deals with post-US Afghanistan is the fragmentation of the Afghan warriors divided into bands, Pakhtuns on the one hand and the non-Pakhtun on the other. Afghanistan is going to be divided in multiple ways as armed gangs sit down and decide the next "Islamic" government in Kabul. The Pakhtuns may be the dominant ethnic community in Afghanistan, but if you put together the non-Pakhtun Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazaras, etc. they stand outnumbered. Moreover, Pakhtuns tend to get divided among themselves, reducing Afghanistan to many satrapies that negate the modern state.

Pakistan has expressed its distance from the confusion of loyalties that Afghanistan represents today by wire-fencing the Durand Line. It doesn't want the "spillover effect" that takes place every time Afghanistan fights with itself. The latest news is that in Pakistan's Jalalabad consulate, 15 Afghan women and men have died in a scuffle while seeking Pakistan visas. The dream that has to replace this chaos is a regional trading bloc of South Asia that connects India with Afghanistan through a high-way going across Pakistan, onwards to Central Asia and Europe.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

OCTOBER 31, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ARMY IN ASSAM THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT declared the sub-divisional town of Barpeta and two mofussil towns, Barpeta Road and Howli, in Kamrup district as disturbed areas following large-scale incidents of violence, arson and assault, according to K Ramamurthy, adviser to the Assam governor. Indefinite curfew was clamped on Howli and its adjoining village Halapeti after violence, in which one person was killed and four were seriously injured. Army patrolled in Howli township and nearby areas in aid of civil authorities to quell the violence involving two communities. Ramamurthy said "communal violence would be put down with a heavy hand".

NAM PEACE MISSION INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT the non-aligned peace-makers will have their first meeting in Belgrade early next week to begin efforts to end the five-week war between Iran and Iraq. To facilitate its task, the Indian government has decided to rush Foreign Secretary RD Sathe to Teheran. Sathe will be carrying a message from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for Iran's President Bani-Sadr. Sathe's mission follows the discussion his colleague in the MEA, Romesh Bhandari, had with Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

MORADABAD CURFEW AN INDEFINITE CURFEW was imposed in

Moradabad after a series of violent incidents left four persons dead, including two women, taking the death toll during the last 48 hours to nine.

SOVIET OIL INDIA HAS SOUGHT 2.5 million tonnes of crude and 2.25 million tonnes of products, mainly kerosene and diesel, from the Soviet Union for 1981. This year, the Soviet Union is committed to supply 1.5 million tonnes of crude and 1.9 million tonnes of products. Narayan Datt Tiwari, Planning and Labour Minister, who returned to Delhi from Moscow, said India would like Soviet Union to increase its crude supplies to 4 million tonnes.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Cosying up to India is one way in which Washington wants to resist the domination of China but this has a direct impact on its relations with Islamabad.” —DAWN, PAKISTAN

In the dark at Hathras

Would it have made any difference to the young Dalit girl had she not been forced to drop out of school? We cannot say, for such is the state of information about education in UP



KRISHNA KUMAR

ONCE UPON A time, the states were known as provinces. Hindi carries that memory by continuing to use *pradesh* along with *rajya*, the latter being closer to “State”. In English, however, the only way you can now distinguish the state in its broader sense from one of the Indian state is by spelling the latter with a capital “S”. Young readers don’t find it easy to make the distinction, especially if the topic is how federal India’s central state functions in the states. For upper-primary teachers of social science in English-medium schools, life would have been a lot easier if the prescribed textbook occasionally used the old term “province”. The taboo against that is possibly related to an unwholesome connotation of “provinciality” — it evokes remoteness, not being well-linked. This negative sense is not recent, so there is no point suspecting that neo-nationalism has conquered provinciality.

If teachers were allowed to display occasional flexibility to use “provinces” for states, it would encourage clarity in children’s minds. But it might not address the opacity that provinciality implies. No matter where you get your education, you can’t avoid ignorance about life beyond your own state’s border. If you have attended a school affiliated to one of the two all-India boards (CBSE and ICSE), you are likely to learn very little about life in the states, including your own. Socialisation into a pan-Indian outlook means that you will regard state borders as little more than an administrative necessity. On the other hand, if you went to a school linked to a state board, you will imbibe a deep sense of “borderliness,” carrying solid ignorance of neighbouring states. You will be socialised to see your state as your base, a marker of your identity.

Absence of knowledge and curiosity about what lies beyond the border of one’s own state can’t necessarily be attributed to language. If that were so, the Hindi belt would offer exemplary instances of trans-provincial awareness and interest in the educated citizenry. Problems may be similar, even identical, on the two sides of a provincial border, but popular preoccupations sharply differ. In a state-board school, you are taught about the geography and society of your own state. In a CBSE school, you transcend provincial life altogether and focus squarely on all-India tests. No wonder, environmentalists hate the system of education. Their activism makes them both unique and lonely. They rightly feel that little progress can be made on ecological issues without social and political cooperation across provincial borders.

In Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the police also realise how useful it might be to know the terrain across the border. They face a hard time when UP criminals escape into MP and vice-versa. Recently, a famous gangster did just that, and the UP police had to waste precious time in bringing him to home turf for a final solution. Older people of the two states can tell you many stories of the post-Independence decades, when famous dacoits used the long border from Gwalior to



C R Sasikumar

Rewa to play hide-and-seek with their chasers in livery.

In the era of GST and Google, one might assume that all borders have shed their opacity value. The growth of media was also supposed to melt away the barriers that inter-state borders present to the flow of awareness. Seized by these positive thoughts, I felt curious to know how UP’s citizens felt about the sharp opprobrium their state had elicited from the national press over the recent Hathras episode. Editorials of several national English dailies had harshly criticised the administrative handling of the incident that had occurred in Bool Garhi village. How did the English-reading public of cities like Lucknow, Allahabad and Varanasi react?

Outsiders’ criticism doesn’t affect UP, an old colleague who now lives in UP told me. This is partly because readers of English dailies are few in number and the Hindi press does not publish sharp criticism — of anything to do with the government. In a pre-Hathras conversation, a retired Lucknow professor had told me that the administration was doing its best to control the goon culture that had seeped into UP’s ethos. His point was that outsiders don’t understand UP.

How can they? If you want factual information, UP is the toughest among the Hindi states to worm it out of. During the days Hathras was in headlines, one of the news reports on Bool Garhi mentioned that the girl whose body was burnt under police guard

Outsiders’ criticism doesn’t affect UP, an old colleague who now lives in the state told me. This is partly because readers of English dailies are few in number and the Hindi press does not publish sharp criticism — of anything to do with the government. In a pre-Hathras conversation, a retired Lucknow professor had told me that the administration was doing its best to control the goon culture. His point was that outsiders don’t understand UP. How can they? If you want factual information, UP is the toughest among the Hindi states to worm it out of.

was a primary school dropout. That must have happened in 2011. The Right to Education Act had been promulgated a year earlier. A feature article in one of the dailies indicated that this girl stopped going to school because a new highway made it too dangerous. To ascertain the facts, I called up an NGO who contacted an officer at the directorate of education. He flatly refused to discuss Hathras. Might a Google map help? It showed Highway 509 passing through the Bool (spelt Bul) Garhi village, splitting it into two unequal parts.

My search for the school did not succeed. I was hopeful because UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education) showed that the primary school in Bool Garhi village had a *pucca* boundary wall. Why it doesn’t show on Google is puzzling. Though Bool Garhi is not a remote village — it is quite close to Hathras town — it got its own primary school in 2003. The latest available enrolment figure (2017-18) on UDISE was 25 children. There were the other usual official facts, such as the presence of a ramp, a toilet for boys and a separate one for girls, a hand pump, and two teachers. Data-wise, the school was doing well but that couldn’t stop a Schedule Caste girl from dropping out of Class V. Would it have made a difference to what happened to her last month? Who can say?

The writer is a former director of NCERT and editor of the Routledge Handbook of Education in India



JAMES ANDERSON

THIS WEEK, THE US and India held the third annual 2+2 ministerial dialogue in New Delhi, demonstrating the strength of the bilateral relationship even during these unprecedented times. The dialogue comes at a consequential moment for our two countries as we forge ever-closer ties to promote a common vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Fifteen years after the signing of the US-India Defence Framework, the pace of our growing defence cooperation is such that we are achieving new milestones every year. This year is no exception as we announced the conclusion of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement, the last of four defence “enabling” agreements, which together facilitate closer military cooperation and interoperability.

The elevation of the US-India defence relationship to a “Major Defence Partnership” in 2016 was a milestone that set our bilateral defence cooperation on a new trajectory. In the years since, we have increased the scope and complexity of exercises, expanded mutual logistics support, and established secure communications between our forces, facilitating closer collaboration on shared security interests, particularly in the maritime domain. We saw evidence of this deepening partnership this past July as our navies conducted a combined naval transit of the Indian Ocean, and last November as we completed our first-ever tri-service exercise, Tiger Triumph. In February, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi announced a vision for a Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, a sign that the bilateral relationship had reached new heights.

This upward trajectory should not come as a surprise. As the world’s oldest and largest democracies, the United States and India have a special role among free societies. The United States and India share a similar vision of the Indo-Pacific based on a shared commitment to a rules-based order that respects the sovereignty of all countries and ensures freedom of navigation and overflight. The recent acceleration in the US-India defence relationship reflects our alignment on security issues of mutual concern, and a recognition that only by working together — and with like-minded partners — can we address the formidable challenges we face today and those we expect in the future.

This alignment exists not only in concept, but in our strategy. The 2018 National Defense Strategy identified the “reemergence of long-term, strategic competi-

tion” as the central challenge to prosperity and security, and called for expanding alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region. The same year, Prime Minister Modi announced India’s Act East Policy, which calls for greater Indian involvement in promoting “SAGAR” — the Security and Growth of All in the Region. In poetic fashion, *sagar* is the Hindi word for ocean — a fitting allusion to India’s status as the largest economy and military in the Indian Ocean region. We welcome this expanded role for India in promoting regional stability and defending the principles that have helped so many in this region to rise and prosper.

Under this policy, India has deepened bilateral defence relations with Southeast Asian countries, while preserving ASEAN centrality. India has also strengthened its ties to like-minded countries, such as the United States, Japan, Australia and France. Earlier this year, India signed Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreements with both Japan and Australia, facilitating shared logistics between its militaries — a critical enabler for cooperation across such a vast region. And just this month, India invited the Royal Australian Navy to participate in the annual US-India-Japan Malabar naval exercises in November. The increased scope and pace of Quadrilateral activities reflects a clear strategic convergence among the four countries, and a strong reminder of the importance of fostering a resilient network of like-minded partners in a complex region.

Looking to the future, there are many opportunities for further growth in the defence partnership. We are expanding dialogue on emerging threats in the cyber and space domains, and will continue seeking broader collaboration between our defence innovation communities. We are also looking to expand cooperative capacity building efforts with partners across the region to ensure they are equipped with the tools they need to protect their sovereignty. To this end, we support India’s greater involvement in promoting maritime security in Southeast Asia, including upholding international law and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. Finally, we hope to deepen our interoperability with India through the sale of even more high-end systems such as unmanned aerial systems, fighter aircraft, and air and missile defence capabilities.

Under the 2+2 framework, the US and India are strengthening one of the most consequential partnerships of the 21st century. Just as investments in previous years have set the foundation for the accomplishments we can claim today, our ongoing efforts will carry forward the momentum for even stronger ties in future years. At its full potential, our partnership can serve as a source of strength and inspiration for the region and the world, highlighting the benefits of freedom and inclusion over approaches that rely upon coercion and intimidation.

The writer is Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy



SUHAS AMBALE

THE INDIAN EXPRESS editorial on October 29 — ‘J&K reality’ — in the context of the new land laws in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh said that the government has done nothing to assure the people of the former state that their concerns of demographic change are being considered.

On August 6 this year, after the action against Article 370, *The Indian Express’s* editorial had expressed similar concerns about the “unique demography” of Jammu and Kashmir.

Reading both of these in good faith, one would conclude that demography is a matter of legitimate concern. So, it must follow that demographic change basically alters the dynamics of any place undesirably. This is where the picture gets a little more complex. The established norms of discourse are that demography is a concern but only in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, even that is not correct. Because, clearly, for the mainstream discourse, the demography of Jammu is not a matter of concern. It is only Kashmir where this issue is deemed legitimate.

When concerns about Kashmir’s demography are raised, it is clearly about the percentage of Muslims in the region. In 1981, Muslims were about 94.96 per cent of Kashmir while in 2011, the community’s population stands at about 96.41 per cent. For the sake of the nation’s collective memory, there may also be a need to mention that the only forcible change in Kashmir’s demography so far has come with the barrel of the

Demography, theirs and ours

Insecurities about demographic change are not a problem just in Kashmir Valley

gun pointed at the Hindus, making them flee the Valley.

The editorial does mention that even Ladakh and Jammu are feeling let down. But has the real demographic situation of Jammu ever been discussed threadbare earlier? They seem to be given a token mention here but not in the context of the real change that Jammu has seen over the years.

The situation in Jammu is quite different from that of Kashmir. Jammu has seen much more demographic change over the decades. Take this fact, for example: The proportion of Muslims in the Jammu region has increased substantially from 30.7 per cent in 2001 to 33.5 per cent in 2011 while at the same time, the proportion of Hindus, Sikhs and others combined (but excluding Christians) has come down from 68.95 per cent in 2001 to 66.13 per cent in 2011.

The power struggle between Jammu and Kashmir in the politics of the erstwhile state, the dominance of Kashmir and the resentment of Jammu are well known.

Further, according to the Centre for Policy Studies, during 2001-11, the population growth of Kashmir Valley of 25.8 per cent outpaced Jammu’s 21.4 per cent. Remember

that Kashmir’s population growth is almost exclusively Muslim, while Jammu’s is mixed.

Rohingyas have also been brought to Jammu and settled. Some media reports have estimated the presence of at least 10,000 of them and also say that there is significant public opinion that they must leave.

These demographic concerns of the Jammu region had rarely been discussed till the time Jammu and Kashmir was a state. Neither are these being discussed now.

Are some demographic changes better or worse than others?

Let us accept for a moment that demographic change by people outside of Kashmir is a concern. Why would it be? Because the religious character of Kashmir would change. Because religious demographics often predict medium-to

long-term power equations.

If a 96 per cent Muslim Kashmir can be concerned about demographic change by the people of a religion that does not even proselytise, can a 79.8 per cent Hindu India not have legitimate demographic concerns about proselytising religions whose self-professed aim is to convert people out of the Hindu religion into a different religion?

If a mainstream editorial is asking for legal safeguards for Kashmir’s demographic character, shouldn’t it be logical that India, too, may need an anti-conversion law that protects it from demographic change? Then, should foreign-funded missionary activities in India not be restricted, because, clearly, the money comes from somewhere else to change India’s demographic character?

Demographic aggression is a reality, especially in Pakistan and Bangladesh. Since we all accept that the fallout of demographic realities can be disastrous for those at the receiving end, then what is so wrong about making India a safe haven for demographically-threatened minorities from Pakistan and Bangladesh?

Also, in the same context, isn’t the NRC a legitimate exercise? Wouldn’t Assamese have genuine demographic concerns, especially given that the magnitude of demographic change the state has seen is massive?

It is good that respectable publications want to discuss demography and accept that they can be predictors of changing power equations but one does wonder why there’s so much concern only for one region’s demography in a secular democracy.

These are questions that, in a healthy atmosphere of public debate, should be discussed and deliberated upon without name-calling and hyperbole.

The writer is a public policy professional and research head of a Delhi-based think tank

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SKewed EDUCATION

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Another brick in the wall’ (IE, October 29). It lays bare the skewed practices of elitist institutions, which are indulging in an “academic racism” of sorts. A 100 per cent cut-off is a ridiculous idea and students being able to score that completes the vicious cycle of an ill-conceived education system. While numerous articles have been written decrying this malady, and it has been long-established that academic intelligence is only a fraction of the human intellect, precious little has been done to attenuate this issue. Does the NEP 2020 have any answers to this?

Elizabeth Philip, Pune

J&K QUAGMIRE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘J&K reality’ (IE, October 29). It is on our insistence that Maharaja Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession in October 1947 to facilitate the state of Jammu and Kashmir with special rights conferred on it to join the Union of India. So, peace will remain elusive in the Valley if these special rights continue to be eroded or terminated unilaterally. For enduring harmony, the people of the state need to agree to let go of them of their own accord. For this, we have to convince them that they will be treated equally in society at every cost.

Tarsem Singh, Mahlipur

REPORTING NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Sushant Singh death case: Can excessive reporting interfere with administration of justice? HC asks Centre’ (IE, October 30). When crimes and criminals are being protected by the state machinery, it is the

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duty of the fourth pillar of democracy to see that justice is done. Investigative journalism is welcome by hapless citizens but it may be perceived as “excessive reporting” by the state machinery who are desperate to shield the criminals for their vested interest.

Partha Guharay, via email

MIND AND BODY

THIS REFERS TO the article ‘Lost in Paris’, by Tabish Khair (IE, October 30). You can not separate bodies from ideas. Some bodies with some ideas kill. Other bodies, with different ideas, tolerate. Ideas control the bodies. You cannot prevent killing of bodies unless the bodies with tolerant ideas succeed in their struggle against bodies with intolerant killer ideas. Bodies are not autonomous agents which can decide not to kill each other. I disagree with the idea of dichotomy between mind and body.

Subhash Athale, via email



UPCM Yogi Adityanath in Chitrakoot on Friday. Express

Adityanath: Everybody will get chance for kar seva at Ayodhya Ram temple

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 30

CHIEF MINISTER Yogi Adityanath Friday said people from every village "will get an opportunity to perform kar seva" in construction of the Ayodhya Ram temple after the Covid-19 pandemic is over.

Addressing a public meeting at Lalapur in Chitrakoot district, he reiterated that over 500 years of wait to build a grand temple had ended and soon "its gates will open for devotees".

He paid tributes to Maharishi Valmiki on the occasion of his birth anniversary and visited the Valmiki Ashram in Chitrakoot. "Sant Tulsidas conveyed the philosophy of Valmiki to every household through Ram Katha. The true Ram Rajya is where there is no discrimination of caste and sect," he said. He also visited the Mata Asawar temple. Underlining development

works, the chief minister expressed confidence that Chitrakoot and its surrounding areas would prosper due to the upcoming Defence Corridor and Bundelkhand Expressway.

"My government will ensure that every household of this region will be provided drinking water at the earliest," he said.

The CM said his government planned to ensure air connectivity in Chitrakoot and develop Lalpur and Rajapur for tourism.

Highlighting that religious tourism was one of the priorities of his government, Adityanath asked officials to prepare a "solid action plan" for upkeep of the Valmiki Ashram.

Paying tributes to Rashtrtrishi Nanaji Deshmukh, the chief minister said was the social reformer was "a great person who had given the ideology of Atmanirbhar Bharat", a term popularised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to boost domestic industries.

UP: NSA invoked against 11 held for cow slaughter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER

THE BADAUN police has invoked National Security Act (NSA) against 11 people arrested on charges of cow slaughtering on October 8. The accused, aged between 25 and 50 years, are lodged in the Badaun district jail.

"Police sent its report to the district magistrate and on completion of due procedure, the DM has invoked NSA against the 11 accused," said Praveen Singh Chauhan, Additional Superintendent of Police, Badaun.

Among those arrested, nine of them are residents of Gurupuri Chandan village, while two others are from neighbouring Dalmi village. Three of the accused are migrant labourers who had returned to their native places after the nationwide lockdown was enforced, said police.

Nine persons had no criminal record and were arrested for the first time, said Rajeev Kumar, Station House Officer, Beenawar police station.

According to police, on October 8, they had received an information that some people were involved in cow slaughtering at Gurupuri Chandan village.

A police team rushed to the spot and caught the accused. They recovered 200 kg meat, skin, body parts and also weapons used for slaughtering cows from the spot, said Kumar. He added that a veterinary doctor was called on the spot and he had identified the meat as beef.

Later, an FIR was lodged and police arrested all the 11 accused, said Kumar.

Rajnath

side, it is learnt, later pointed it out to the US.

Three days later, the US Department of State corrected the transcript to record: "Due to the challenges that we are facing today, our partnership has become even more important and it determines our future."

But the US Department of Defense, as of Friday night, continued to retain: "Excellencies, in the area of defense we are challenged by reckless aggression on our northern borders - (inaudible)." And it added a footnote — [As delivered by Indian Government English-language interpreter.]

The diplomatic kerfuffle was evident Friday as the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "We have seen the story that purports to reflect a conversation in the recent 2+2 meeting. This has no factual basis and is a figment of the writer's imagination."

But the US embassy spokesperson, when contacted, said, "The original U.S. transcript of the 2+2 opening statement was prepared from an audio recording of the Indian Government interpreter's English-language delivery to US participants."

The 2+2 meeting, being described as a success, saw Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark T Esper launching a sharply-worded attack on China.

The four ministers were addressing the media after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where they discussed several issues of "regional and global concern" on which they

collaborate, including Covid-19 response, security and defence cooperation, and shared interests in a free and open Indo-Pacific, according to a US State department statement.

While Pompeo said Indian and US leaders and citizens see with "increasing clarity" that the Communist Party of China is "no friend to democracy and rule of law", Esper targeted Beijing by flagging the "increasing aggression and destabilising activities by China".

Singh and Jaishankar, however, did not name China, but spoke of "respecting" and "upholding" the "territorial integrity and sovereignty" of all States, a reference to Beijing's belligerence along the Line of Actual Control.

Future battle with Amazon

"The interim order passed by the emergency Arbitrator of SIAC is not per se enforceable by Indian courts, although it holds persuasive value and parties are expected to abide by it. In order to enforce the interim order in India, Amazon can apply for interim reliefs under Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act from Indian courts. In the event of breach of an interim order, there can be damages that can be claimed by them (Amazon)," Amit Jajoo, partner at IndusLaw, said.

Section 9 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act provides the option to parties to ask the court to pass orders to preserve the condition of the goods or to take interim custody of the same until a final order is passed in the case.

On August 29, Future Retail had announced that it would "sell by way of a slump sale the retail and wholesale business" of its supermarket chain Big Bazaar, premium food supply unit Foodhall, and fashion and clothes supermart Brand Factory's retail and wholesale units, to Reliance Retail.

The deal had run afoul of Amazon, that had bought a 49 per cent stake in Future Coupons, which translates to roughly 3.58 per cent in Future Retail. In its objections, Amazon had said that the deal, apart from being a violation of a non-compete clause and a right-of-first-refusal pact, was also denying it the "call" option, which was part of the agreement that it had with Future Coupons.

This provision, Amazon has claimed, enabled it to exercise the option of acquiring all or part of Future Retail's share-

ernment's interventions such as giving food grains and direct transfer of money, increasing the MGNREGA (allocation) and its wages, are steps in the right direction.

"This is evident from the fact that consumption in rural India is now growing at a rate faster than urban. Urban India has also been impacted with the high density, high rate of infection in metropolitan cities, higher incidence of vertical or other lockdowns with business activities getting hit to a greater degree. So the redeeming part is that we are seeing the consumption in rural (areas) go up, also impacted by a good harvest, and also from the fact that a lot of people have moved from urban India to rural India," Mehta said.

He said the two channels that have "stood out" during the pandemic are "e-commerce and the neighbourhood grocer."

"They have been the fastest growing channels, because people have suddenly understood the benefit of proximity trade," Mehta said.

A pickup in online sales volumes has been reported by practically all companies in this space, with HUL seeing its share of online retail to its total sales volume rising to close to 6% this year from 3% in 2019.

India's FMCG trade is still dominated by millions of traditional mom-and-pop general trade outlets, despite the surge in online retail and organised trade. Online sales, despite the presence of deep-pocketed players such as Amazon, Walmart and Reliance Retail, have a minuscule 3 per cent share, market researcher Nielsen said in a September report.

IIMC's new prof

had said of the Mahatma: "He was father of the nation, but of Pakistan. The country had crores of sons like him, some were worthy, some unworthy."

It was the second time that Saumitra had been removed from a party-related post. In 2013, he was editor of Charaiveti, the BJP's mouthpiece in Madhya Pradesh. He was sacked after the magazine ran an article 'Church ke nark me nun ka Jeevan', alleging sexual exploitation of nuns in the Catholic Church.

In a letter to Sumitra Mahajan, who was then MP from Indore and president of Pandit Deendayal Vihar Prakashan, Saumitra wrote, "I have been treated like a criminal. I was selected as editor due to my RSS background and ide-

ological commitment". The letter was also copied to RSS leaders Mohan Bhagwat, Suresh Joshi and Suresh Soni, BJP leaders Rajnath Singh, L. K Advani and state leaders including Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Saumitra's appointment to the IIMC was confirmed -- over 60 applicants were interviewed -- by an order on October 26, when he joined the institute as a professor.

The IIMC offer letter sent to him on October 20 stated that his selection had been confirmed after he was interviewed in the first week of September, and that he would be under a two-year probation period from the date of joining.

Saumitra did not respond to multiple calls and text messages from The Indian Express for comment. Asked about the appointment, IIMC Director General Sanjay Dwivedi said, "No comment."

Chhattisgarh panchayats

bring improvement in the co-ordination between security agencies, help provide better health facilities, enhance reach of banking services, help education initiatives through online portals and promote digital payments, thereby, bringing rural population closer to the digital economy. The government will be able to manage G2C (Government to Citizen) service and its 'schemes/development programs' due to the increase in the reach of general service centres," the statement had said.

For residents of Kalai, free broadband is still a dream. "I went to Arang in the middle of the night to get my result. There is not even a CSC (Common Services Centre) kendra in the village," said Vinod, a college student from the village, who ran out of mobile phone balance in March, and hasn't had money to recharge it.

The schools in the village have been shut for most of the year for want of the internet, said Sarpanch Leela Kosariya. "We would really like to have easy internet access to our village. These days, due to lockdown, everything is online. We have to go to the Arang block office to get simple things done," she rued.

A device has been installed in the Panchayat Bhawan of another village Bhothali in Arang block, but even the Sarpanch Vijay Shahani doesn't know its utility. "For more than a year, there has been a device in the Panchayat Bhawan. Very rarely, officials come and check it, but there's no connectivity," Shahani said.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Naushad, S/o: Faiyaz Hussain, R/o: Dargah Sayad, Blind School, P.K Road, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 62/19 U/s 324 IPC has been registered at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Naushad cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Naushad has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Naushad accused of FIR No. 62/19 U/s 324 IPC has been registered at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.12.2020

By Order
Sh. Pawan Kumar,
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 6,
DP/144/NDD/2020 Patiala House Court, New Delhi

Karnataka State Drug Logistics & Warehousing Society (R)

No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560079. Phone: +91-80-23486221,
Fax: +91-80-23281477, E-mail: ad.kdlws@gmail.com

No.: KDL/EQPT(2)/Re-TND/FTD and DT/09/2020-21 Date: 30.10.2020

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref.: 1) Tender Notification No.: KDL/EQPT(2)/Re-TND/FTP&DT/07/2020-21 (IND-744) dated 30/10/2020.

Nation wide Short Term Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act, 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

(1) Short term Re-Tender for Supply of Figner tip Pulse Oximeter & Digital Thermometer equipments for Covid-19 Pandemic_IND-744.

The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement Department may participate through e-tendering system. Details regarding specification, EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information is available in the Tender Document. Which can be downloaded from the website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 30.10.2020. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders in e-Procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Commissioner,
Food Safety and Standard Authority and Director, KSDLWS, Bengaluru

DIPR/BU/Bronze/1498/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

H.P. BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, DHARAMSHALA-176213

Hi.Shi.Bo/STORE/7/2020-768-770 DATED:- 30.10.2020

"LIMITED TENDER NOTICE"

Sealed tenders are invited by the undersigned for printing and supply of Envelopes from reputed and experienced firms having experience of handling such jobs.

Tender document can be obtained from the Office of the Secretary, H.P. Board of School Education, Dharamshala on cash payment of Rs. 500/- or by post by remitting Rs. 550/- through Bank Draft in favour of the Secretary payable at Dharamshala on any working day on or before 18.11.2020 upto 11.00 AM. The Tender Document can also be downloaded from the Board website: www.hpbose.org. For downloaded form, the tenderer shall have to submit a Bank Draft/Board Receipt of Rs. 500/- in favour of the undersigned along with the Tender Form. Offers complete in all respect along with Earnest money Rs. 5000/- (Five thousand rupees) in the form of F.D.R/T.D.R valid for at least 6 months in favour of the Secretary, H.P. Board of School Education, Dharamshala should reach in the office of the Secretary, H.P. Board of School Education, Dharamshala-176213 on or before 18.11.2020 by 11.00 AM. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 3.00 PM. The tenders received without tender document cost (in case of downloaded forms), Earnest money and tenders received after due date shall be summarily rejected.

Sd/-
Secretary
HP Board of School Education
Dharamshala-176213

HB-7927

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD**
(POWER WING)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No.: BP-2813 dt. 23.10.2020
Name of Officer : Dy. Chief Engineer, Bhakra Power Houses Circle, BBMB (P.W), Nangal.
Name of Work : Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 2 number HP compressor after dismantling of existing old HP compressors in switchyard of Bhakra Left Bank Power House of BBMB (P.W), Nangal.

Start date for download tender documents	23.10.2020 from 10:00 Hrs.
Last date for download tender documents	24.11.2020 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Start date for submission of online bid	23.10.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of online bid	24.11.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Due date for opening technical bid	25.11.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.

For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BBMB Website <http://bbmbeproc.abcproure.com> & www.bbmb.gov.in
748-PR-Generation-4 for your Better tomorrow Save Energy Today

APPEAL FOR INFORMATION



Zarina

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Zarina D/o Unknown** R/o Unknown. Age about 60 years, Height 5', Face oval, Complexion wheatish, Built thin wearing Red colour cloths was found unconscious condition at Outer Ring Road, Near Rajghat, Delhi and shifted to Safdarjung Hospital on 26.10.2020 where she got dead during the treatment.

In this regard a DD No. 05-A dated 27.10.2020 U/s 174 Cr.PC has been lodged at PS Darya Ganj, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased female may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO

PS Darya Ganj, Delhi

Ph. 011-23279331, 23274683

Mob: 8750870421

DP/450/CD/2020

**NLC India Limited**
Regd. Office: "Navratna", Government of India Enterprise
CORPORATE OFFICE: BLOCK-I, NEWLY-607 801 TAMIL NADU
CIN No.: L35909TN1956Q0003507 Website: www.nlcindia.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notices SI.No.2 to 4)
SI.No. Tender Ref./Scope of Supplies & Qty. Reqd.
1. UNIT: M.M.COMPLEX-PTE/ENQ/20-21/001684/MM18(6), Dt.20.10.2020: Supply of Daily Required Medicines in Specific Brand Name for a period of One year for a value of ₹ 2.30 Crore. **Qty:The quantity of medicine required daily will be intimated through Fax / e-mail and should be supplied within 24 hours but not later than 48 hours from the time of receipt of fax / e-mail intimation. B.G.Amount: ₹ 2,00,000/-**
2. ENQ/20-21/001615/MM03(01),Dt.17-10-2020: Spares for EX-200 Model Tata Hitachi make Backhoes. **Due date of opening: 16-11-2020**
3. ENQ/20-21/001685/MM01(03),Dt.23-10-2020: Procurement of 7.5 KW main slewing gear box. **Due date of opening: 27-11-2020**
4. ENQ/20-21/001707/MM01(06),Dt.23-10-2020: 7.5 KW worm planetary main slewing gear box with output pinion. **Due date of opening: 24-11-2020**
Period of contract: SI.No.1: One year from the date of placement of Price agreement order.

SI.No.	Tender document cost	Last date for sale	Date & Time of Opening
1	₹ 1000/-	20-11-2020 Upto 12.00 Hrs. [20-11-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.	

FOR e-TENDER DOCUMENTS/DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT: www.nlcindia.com
Note: With effect from 01-11-2020 all Tender Notices/Auction Notices of NLC India Limited, would be hosted only on our website www.nlcindia.com and Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) www.eprocure.gov.in
PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS : HELP IT TO HELP YOU

**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MUMBAI**

Mumbai International Airport Ltd.
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND PARCELS AT AIRPORT SITE (MUMBAI AIRPORT)
Mumbai International Airport Limited ('MIAL') intends to sublease the Land Parcels for the design, finance, development, construction, management, operation and maintenance of the Land Parcels at Airport Site (Mumbai Airport) to parties selected through a competitive bidding process.
MIAL hereby invites interested parties to participate in the competitive bidding process by submitting their request in prescribed form to MIAL which can be downloaded from the website: <https://www.csmia.aero/business-opportunities/commercial-opportunities.aspx>.
Upon payment of prescribed fee, the interested parties shall obtain the RFQ document containing qualification criteria and terms. Interested parties thereafter have to submit the Application for Qualification within the stipulated time period provided in the RFQ document.
Contact details: Gm.finance@qvk.com

**नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल**
हाउसिंग फॉर आल प्रकोष्ठ (HFA CELL)
नृतीय तल, आई.एस.बी.टी. भवन, होशंगबाद रोड, हबीबगंज, भोपाल-462023
ईमेल- bmcnp.hfa@gmail.com वेबसाइट <http://www.bhopalmunicipal.com>

विज्ञापन क्रमांक. 29/एफ.ए.ए./2020 भोपाल, दिनांक 29.10.2020
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र
प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजनानर्गत वाणिज्यिक उपयोग बावत् भूखण्ड का प्लेट (लीज) पर व्ययन भोपाल नगर निगम, प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजनानर्गत निम्नलिखित व्यावसायिक भूखंड को लीज पर व्ययन हेतु ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

क्र.	स्थल का नाम	क्षेत्रफल	न्यूनतम दर / वर्ग मीटर	निविदा प्रतिभूति राशि
1	कोकता (ट्रांसपोर्ट नगर)	254 वर्ग मीटर	37800.00	₹. 24,00,000

निविदा शुल्क ₹. 1000 /- (एक हजार रुपये) मात्र जो.ई.सी.टी. सफ़्त ऑनलाईन समा किया जाकर निविदा प्रपत्र ई-टेंडर क्र. 2020_UAD_108162_2 वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।
● निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने की तिथि 03/11/2020 (प्रातः 10:00 बजे) से 17/11/2020 (सायं 05:30 बजे) तक
● प्री-बिड बैठक की तिथि 10/11/2020 सायं 03:00
● निविदा प्रपत्र प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 17/11/2020 सायं 05:30 तक
● निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि 18/11/2020 दोपहर 11:30
● निविदा के संबंध में अन्य समस्त जानकारी कार्यालयीन दिवस /समय पर अवलोकन को जा सकती हैं।
प्रभारी मुख्य अभियन्ता (HFA)
नगर पालिक निगम भोपाल
नि.क्र.1108/020/021

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER QUALITY CONTROL & PROCUREMENT DIVISION, HMT, SRINAGAR
TENDER DOCUMENT
SHORT TERM

e-NIT No. PHE/QCAPD/23a-Tender Dated: 29-10-2020
For and on behalf of the L Government of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders are invited on item rate basis in two covers (details recorded in tender document) from Registered Original Manufacturers or their sole authorized distributor/dealer as per specifications / details annexed to the e-NIT for the Supply of Multi-Parameter Water Quality Field Testing Kits (FTKS) with Bacteriological H2S Test Vials under Jal Jeevan Mission, from the reputed and registered manufacturers or their authorized distributor/dealers as per specifications / details annexed to the NIT.

Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender Document	EMD Fee	Validity of Bids
Supply of 2000 Nos Multi-Parameter Water Quality Field Testing Kits (FTKS) with Bacteriological H2S Test Vials under the Jal Jeevan Mission, from the reputed and registered manufacturers or their authorized distributor/dealers as per specifications / details annexed to the NIT	Rs. 5000000/-	Rs. 1500/- Only.	Rs. 10,000 only	180 days from opening of Price Bid

Schedule of Critical Dates/Information

GENERAL				
Client Name	Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE, Jal Shakti Deptt. Srinagar.			
Circle	Superintending Engineer, PHE Mechanical, Jal Shakti Department, Circle South, Srinagar.			
Division	Quality Control & Procurement Division PHE Jal Shakti Department, HMT Srinagar.			
Bidding Type	Open			
AMOUNT DETAILS				
Estimated Cost	Rs. 50.00 Lakhs Approx. (Rupees Fifty Lakhs only)			
Bid Document Fee (Non-Refundable)	Rs. 1500.00 In the shape of treasury Challan e-transfer to J&K Bank A/c No: 0005010100005110 IFSC: JAKAACHINAR			
Bid document fee payable in the shape of treasury Challan e-transfer under major Head MH-0215-Rev-Misc to:	Executive Engineer QCAPD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar. e-mail: xenmandp@gmail.com			
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 100000/- (Rupee one lakh only) in the shape of COR/PDR/RS from nationalized banks only having a branch in Srinagar.			
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour of:	Chief Accounts Officer, Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Department, Srinagar.			
TENDER DATES				
Bid Document Downloading Start Date.	29-10-2020.....06.00 PM			
Bid Document Downloading End Date.	09-11-2020.....02.00 PM			
Clarification Start Date	29-10-2020.....06.00 PM			
Clarification End Date	05-11-2020.....04.00 PM			
On Line Bid Submission Start Date	29-10-2020.....06.00 PM			
Bid Submission End Date	09-11-2020.....04.00 PM			
Date of opening of Cover 1st.	10-11-2020.....02.00 PM			
Bid Validity Period	180 days from opening of the Price Bid.			
Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Engineer QCAPD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar.			
Bid opening Authority	Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Deptt. Srinagar.			
Address	Engineering Complex, Near Silk Factory, Raj Bagh Srinagar Kashmir-190001. (e-mail: kmrphd@gmail.com)			
The tenders of qualifying/eligibility criteria, consisting of general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in . The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time, will be opened on the time and date (given in the critical date schedule), in the office of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Deptt. Srinagar in presence of the bidders who wish to be present. In case of offers happen to be closed due to a holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening - the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue or on any day convenient/feasible to the tendering committee/authority of the Department. THE COMPLETE BIDDING SHALL BE ONLINE IN TWO COVER SYSTEM. The Cover 1st of bids shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Deptt. Srinagar on the time and date given in the broadband information of tender and any other date and time convenient to the tendering committee/authority of the Department. The date and time of opening of 2nd cover i.e. Financial Bids shall be notified separately. The Financial Bids of qualified bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE, Jal Shakti Deptt. Srinagar. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from opening of the Price Bid. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website http://www.jktenders.gov.in (As per J&K Finance Department Order No.: A/24/2017-851, Dated:- 07-06-2018, furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. Hence hardcopies need not to be submitted. The hardcopies along with EMD shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 (Lowest Bidder) for each of the item on tender as per BOO evaluation after opening of Financial Bids). Position of the Bids: The availability of funds shall be ensured before placement of Supply order. No. PHE/QCAPD/462-49 DIPP-6239 Dated: 29-10-2020				

**Coal India Limited**
(A Maharatna Company)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>."

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
Follow us on www.scrailways.in
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO.70/2020
dt. 29.10.2020
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
e-Procurement Tender Notice
The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.irps.gov.in, and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 hrs of the Due date of the Tender. For all indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on www.irps.gov.in."

Tender No.	BRIEF DESC.
C1205395	Supply and installation of MIDAS
38.20.1398	Fabricated Hand brake Wheel
77.20.1145	Paint Ready Mixed Red Oxide

Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening:-
SL. No.1 on dt. 16.11.2020. SL. No. 2 on Dt. 19.11.2020. SL.No. 3. on



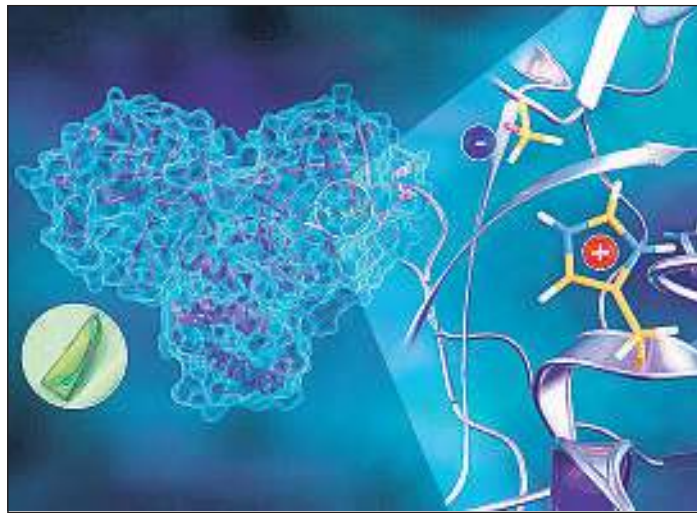
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

Scientists create 3D atomic map of novel coronavirus replication mechanism



The first neutron structure of the SARS-CoV-2 main protease enzyme.
Jill Hemman/ORNL, US Dept of Energy

IN THE coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 is an enzyme called the main protease, which drives its replication once it infects the human cell. For the first time, scientists have completed a 3D map that reveals the location of every atom in the molecule of this enzyme. As Covid-19 cases surge again in several countries, this 3D mapping will allow scientists to better understand how the coronavirus behaves, and how it can be stopped.

The mapping was done by researchers at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory under the US Department of Energy. The results are published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

SARS-CoV-2 expresses long chains of proteins. When these chains are broken down and cut into smaller strands, it enables the virus to reproduce. This task is performed by the main protease. Its structure: two identical protein molecules held together by hydrogen bonds. If a drug can be developed that inhibits or blocks the protease activity, it will prevent the virus from replicating and spreading to other cells in the body.

Researchers used a technique called neutron crystallography. The site containing the amino acids where the protein chains are cut, these ex-

periments revealed, is in an electrically charged reactive state — not in a resting or neutral state, contrary to previously held beliefs. Second, researchers mapped the location of each hydrogen atom in the places where drug inhibitors could bind to the protease enzyme, as well as the electrical charges of the associated amino acids.

Previous research published in Nature Communications creates a complete atomic structure of the protease enzyme. The new research builds on that.

The team will now use the newly obtained information to investigate the binding properties of drug molecule candidates to produce improved Covid-19 therapeutics.

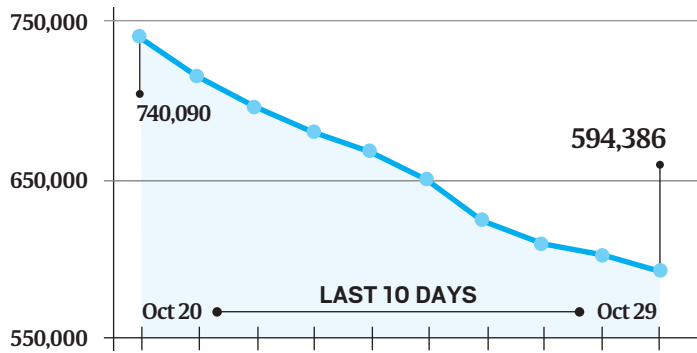
The research is novel in several ways. It is the first time anyone has obtained a neutron structure of a coronavirus protein. The researchers said it is also the first time anyone has looked at this class of protease enzymes using neutrons. Further, the fact that the protein chains are cut at a site that is in an electrically charged reactive state, rather than neutral, was a surprise finding.

Source: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, US Department of Energy



INDIA ACTIVE CASES

594,386



Note: The Oct 29 figure in this graph is based on the government update on Oct 30

INDIA TOTAL CASES
8,088,851

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Oct 30

WORLD TOTAL CASES
45,304,036

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Oct 30

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

IN THE months of March, April and May, Europe as a whole reported between 35,000 and 38,000 Covid-19 cases every day, at its peak. The numbers steadily declined after that as the United States, and, later, India emerged as the epicentres of the epidemic. For most of June, July, and even August, Europe reported less than 20,000 cases a day, almost a third or fourth of what India alone was reporting.

In the last one month, however, there has been a dramatic rise in cases in Europe. The second wave of infections in Europe is far worse than the first. On Thursday, Europe reported more than 2.5 lakh cases in a single day, according to the database maintained by the website ourworldindata.org.

The US, which has had a slightly different trajectory than Europe, too is in the midst of a second wave. Daily numbers in the US have mostly been over 30,000 since June, but in August and September, it was significantly lower than the 50,000-60,000 it was reporting at its peak. In the current wave, the number of daily new cases has already crossed 88,000.

Lowering of guard

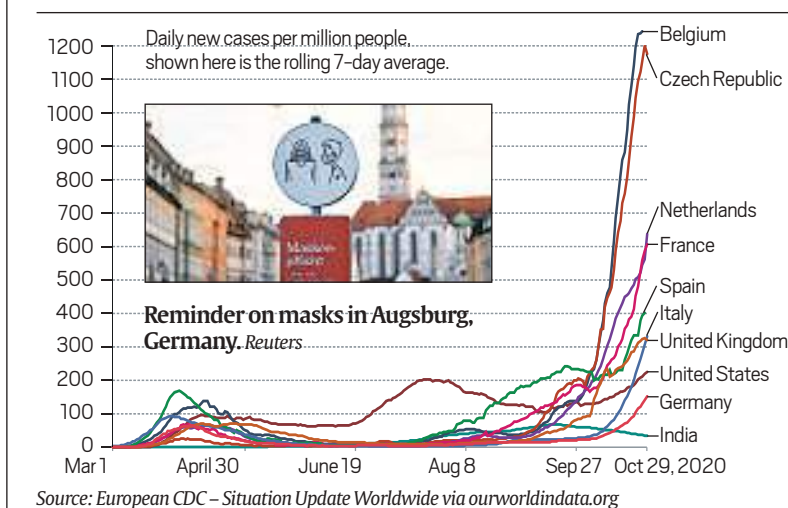
While there could be a variety of reasons behind this renewed surge in Europe and the US, experts point to two possible broad factors: a general lowering of guard after the numbers began to dip in the summer, and the drop in temperature that would be pushing most activities indoors. The cold, dry weather could also be helping the virus survive longer and remain potent, though the evidence on that is not conclusive.

"Europe does seem to have got a bit relaxed in June and July, once the numbers began to come down. People started travelling extensively, even for leisure. And this has contributed to the surge that we are seeing now. This is what we need to learn about this disease, and need to guard against. The virus has not gone anywhere, even when the numbers decline," said Shahid Jameel, Director, Trivedi School of Biosciences at Ashoka University.

Spain, for example, received 2.5 million visitors in July, after practically no international tourists in March, April and May.

Gagandeep Kang, professor at Christian Medical College, Vellore made the same assessment. "We are coming out of a time when most of Europe was on a holiday, and had started travelling... within Europe, but still,

THE CURRENT COVID-19 SURGE IN EUROPE



travelling. In the United States, school holidays ended around the end of August, and colleges started to function. We are two months from all those events, and for the virus to multiply, it takes a bit of time, there is a lag. So, this surge is not entirely unexpected," she said. "What is a bit surprising is that one would have expected these populations, which are considered to generally more aware, to have done a better job at doing the non-pharmaceutical interventions to control the epidemic, but that clearly does not seem to have happened."

Change in weather

Both Kang and Jameel also underlined the possible role of the change in weather.

"As the temperatures go down, more and more people remain indoors. Transmission of the virus becomes much more effective in these settings. So, while the virus was always present, the effectiveness of transmission is likely to have increased when people interact mostly in closed spaces. There are studies that have shown that the probability of infection increases during interactions in closed spaces," Jameel said.

Jameel said Australia could avoid a major surge during the southern hemisphere winter because of much better compliance with wearing masks. "In fact, this year, there has been a significant decline in cases of flu in Australia, because people have been wearing masks. Also, the population density is much

lower, and the Australian winter happened, when people were still very afraid of the virus, and the fatigue had not set in," he said.

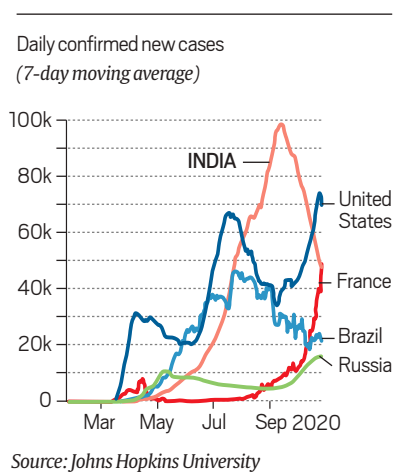
Kang said while the winters had forced people indoors, their interactions had not declined. "It is not as if people are isolated at home. As is usual during this time, the activities shift indoors in winters... And in places which are small and the ventilation is not good, the chances of the virus sticking around and infecting people, is much more," she said.

New strain

A new study, published on Thursday on a pre-print server (yet to be peer-reviewed), suggests that travel within Europe, particularly Spain, could be spreading the virus. It reports that a new variant of the virus, first detected amongst people in Spain in July, has now spread through many countries in the region. Named 20A.EU1, this variant is particularly prevalent in the UK, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France and Norway. It accounts for the majority of the recent infections in Europe, and "was dispersed across Europe by travellers to and from Spain".

However, the study also says there was no direct evidence to suggest that this new variant spread faster than others, or that it resulted in more serious disease. In effect, while the new variant is becoming dominant, it is not yet clear whether it is also leading to the rapid

INDIA & OTHER 4 COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST CASELOADS



rise in numbers.

Second wave in India

In India, the number of daily new cases touched a peak in the middle of September, and has been declining ever since. On September 16, India detected 97,894 new cases, the highest for any country in a day. Currently between 45,000 and 50,000 new cases are being detected.

But states like Delhi and Kerala are already witnessing a fresh wave of infections. In fact, Delhi is going through a third wave now, having seen two cycles of peaks and declines earlier — each peak higher than the previous one.

Whether India will also go through a Europe-like resurgence during the winters cannot be predicted. Experts have been warning of the risk in the festival season and the approaching winter when air pollution too is high. The impact of Dussehra, if any, and the Bihar elections might become evident only after a few weeks.

But Kang said there were also other differences between the situations in India and Europe. "In Europe and some other parts of the world, a lot of human activities are driven by the season, and the prevailing climate. In most parts of India, the weather changes are not that extreme to force significant behaviour changes... Now, whether that would protect us in some way is something we can only wait and see, but it is certainly plausible," she said.

How to read the Index of 8 Core Industries

UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

ON THURSDAY, the Office of Economic Adviser within the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for September 2020.

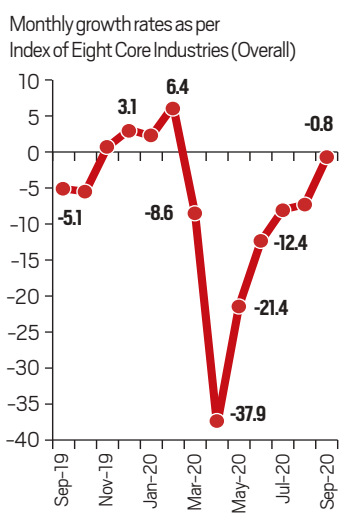
Compared to September 2019, the ICI contracted by 0.8 per cent in September 2020. In terms of cumulative growth in the first half of the current financial year — that is, between April 2020 and September 2020 — this index contracted by 14.9 per cent (see chart).

What is the Index of Core Industries and what does it signify?

As its name suggests, this is an index of the eight most fundamental industrial sectors of the Indian economy and maps the volume of production in these industries. The eight sectors are Coal, Natural Gas, Crude Oil, Refinery Products (such as Petrol and Diesel), Fertilisers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

The index gives different weights to each of these sectors to arrive at a final figure. Refinery Products have the largest weight while Cement has the lowest. Steel and

SEPTEMBER TO SEPTEMBER



Electricity are the other heavyweights.

Since these eight industries are the essential "basic" and/or "intermediate" ingredient in the functioning of the broader econ-

omy, mapping their health provides a fundamental understanding of the state of the economy. In other words, if these eight industries are not growing fast enough, the rest of the economy is unlikely to either.

How do we read the latest data?

There are two ways to read the performance in September 2020.

One is to look at it relative to the performance in September 2019. As can be seen from the chart, the ICI had contracted by 5.1 per cent last September (that is, over September 2018). In that context, for the ICI to contract by 0.8 per cent in this September shows continued weakness in the economy.

In light of the same reasoning, the April to September growth is —14.9 per cent over the same period last year. It can also be seen that some of the weightiest sectors have contracted the most. Further, this year's contraction is happening on the back of rather meagre growth last year (1.3 per cent) and this points to a sustained period of industrial growth in the Indian economy.

The other way to look at this data is to focus on the trend of ICI growth over the past 6 months — that is, since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns.

98.6°F vs new normal: why is body temperature declining over time?

KABIR FIRAQUE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

FOR SEVERAL years now, doctors and researchers have known that 98.6°F is not really the gold-standard "normal" body temperature it was once considered to be. Studies in the US and Europe have found average body temperatures declining over time. But does this trend also hold good outside of high-income countries?

Indeed, body temperatures have declined in an indigenous rural population in Bolivia, a 16-year study has found. Published in *Science Advances*, the study also looks at possible reasons that may have caused this decline among people in general.

What is the case for and against taking 98.6°F as "normal" body temperature?

The German doctor Carl Reinhold August Wunderlich, who in 1851 pioneered

the use of the clinical thermometer, took over a million measurements of 25,000 patients, and published his findings in a book in 1868, in which he concluded that the average human body temperature is 98.6°F.

In recent years, however, different studies have found the human body temperature averaging out differently, including at 97.7°, 97.9° and 98.2°F. One of the largest such studies, published last year, found that body temperatures among Americans have been declining over the last two centuries.

So, what does the new study add?

In previous studies, the reasons for declining body temperatures were not clear, nor was it known whether a temperature below 98.6°F is "normal" outside of high-income countries. The new study made 18,000 observations of body temperature in 5,500 individuals among the Tsimane, an indigenous population in the Bolivian Amazon. "The Tsimane are indigenous forager-

horticulturalists who inhabit a tropical environment rife with diverse pathogens — from familiar ones like a cold or pneumonia, to less familiar, like hookworm and tuberculosis," lead author Michael Gurven, an anthropologist at University of California, Santa Barbara, said by email.

Greater exposure to infection can lead to higher inflammation, which in turn can lead to a higher body temperature. "From earlier studies, we also know that Tsimane experience higher inflammation due to this high infectious burden. And so we expected to find that body temperatures would be higher among Tsimane than they are in the US, UK and Germany," Gurven said.

Instead, the study found, average body temperatures among the Tsimane have fallen by 0.09°F per year; they average roughly 97.7°F today. This decline in less than two decades, the researchers noted, was about the same as that observed in the US over two centuries.

What could be the reasons for this?

The study looked at a number of hypotheses about factors that may be causing the decline of body temperature among people in general, and tested these against their findings among the Tsimane.

BETTER HEALTHCARE: One hypothesis is that improved hygiene and healthcare in high-income population groups have led to fewer infections over time and, in turn, to lower body temperature. While the Tsimane live a rural lifestyle with a relatively low access to healthcare, they do have better access than they did two decades ago.

Indeed, some infections were found to be associated with higher body temperature. But when the statistical model adjusted the temperature findings for infection, it found that reduced infection alone could not explain the declines. "This is to say that the decline in body temperature over the duration of the study is not altered by considering patient characteristics, including their

medical diagnoses," Gurven said.

LOWER INFLAMMATION: People use anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen more frequently than earlier. Again, even after accounting for biomarkers of inflammation, body temperature declines over time remained among the Tsimane.

BRIEFER ILLNESS: Since people have greater access to treatment, has it reduced the duration of infection? That was another hypothesis the study tested. The findings among the Tsimane, indeed, were consistent with this argument. If a study participant had a respiratory infection in the early stages of the 2002-18 study, it led to having a higher body temperature than the temperature if they had the same infection more recently.

BODIES WORKING LESS: Another hypothesis is that people are healthier, so their bodies might be working less to fight infection. Also, our bodies may not have to work as hard as before in order to regulate internal temperature, because of air-condition-

ing and winter heating. The Tsimane do not use such advanced technology, but do have more access to clothes and blankets.

So, what are the implications?

Together, the findings underline that there is no single cause that could explain the decline. The researchers said it's likely a combination of factors — all pointing to improved conditions.

The researchers do not expect their findings to influence how doctors use body temperature readings in practice. Doctors already acknowledge there is no universal 'normal' body temperature for all people at all times.

Among its limitations, the study used the same type of thermometer, but not the same thermometer over the entire 16 years. In the earliest study years, the sample size was smaller. The study did not account for pregnancy or lactation, or the time of day when body temperatures were recorded.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Yumi Meng and Yi Wang after the wedding in Taoyuan city on Friday. AP

TAIWAN

Same-sex couples in military marry in first for Taiwan

TWO LESBIAN couples tied the knot in a mass wedding held by Taiwan's military on Friday in a historic celebration with their peers. Taiwan is the only place in Asia to have legalised same-sex marriage, with more than 4,000 such couples marrying since the legislation passed in May 2019. The mass wedding with 188 couples was the first time same-sex couples have been wed and celebrated at a military ceremony. Both couples said they viewed their ceremonies with a sense of responsibility towards representing LGBT people. **AP**

USA

Former eBay employees admit to cyberstalking

TWO FORMER eBay employees pleaded guilty on Thursday to participating in a cyber stalking campaign against a Massachusetts couple whose online newsletter was viewed by top executives as critical of the company. Federal prosecutors said former eBay employees Stephanie Stockwell and Brian Gilbert and others harassed the couple through Twitter and sent them disturbing packages like a bloody Halloween pig mask during the 2019 campaign. They pleaded guilty, becoming the latest ex-members of eBay's security and global intelligence team to admit wrongdoing. **REUTERS**

THAILAND

Students boycott royal graduation day in protest

STUDENTS SYMPATHETIC to Thai protesters said on Friday they were boycotting graduation ceremonies led by King Maha Vajiralongkorn in a show of anger at the monarchy amid growing calls to reform it. The ceremonies, at which the monarch personally hands out degrees, are a rite of passage for graduates and their families with photographs of the moment displayed in many Thai homes. But protests since July have brought open criticism of the monarchy, defying long-standing taboo. **REUTERS**

France on alert as officials warn of more attacks after Nice killings

Protests erupt in several nations against French cartoons of Prophet Mohammad

TANGI SALAÜN & CAROLINE PAILLIEZ
PARIS/NICE, OCTOBER 30

FRANCE STEPPED up security nationwide on Friday to guard against Islamist attacks after the fatal stabbings at a church in Nice, while protests flared in parts of the Middle East, Asia and Africa over French caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad.

President Emmanuel Macron deployed thousands of soldiers to protect sites including places of worship and schools, and the nation was at its highest level of security alert after the second deadly knife attack in its cities in two weeks.

Interior Minister Gerald Damartin said France was engaged in a war against Islamist ideology and more attacks on its soil were likely. "We are in a war against an enemy that is both inside and outside," he told RTL radio. Nice Police Chief Richard Gianotti said any symbol of the republic or Christianity was a potential target. "We have to be vigilant, we have to be attentive," he told Reuters.

Police were holding a 21-year-old Tunisian migrant, identified by a French police source and Tunisian officials as Ibrahim al-Aouissouli, over the attack in which a man shouting "Allahu Akbar" decapitated a woman and killed two other people in Notre Dame Basilica in Nice on Thursday.



French police patrol on Montmartre in Paris on Friday. President Emmanuel Macron deployed thousands of soldiers to protect sites including places of worship and schools. Reuters



Ibrahim al-Aouissouli is suspected by French police of carrying out the attack. Reuters

The attack took place at a time of growing anger among Muslims in many countries over the issue of French cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad, which they deem insulting and blasphemous.

It occurred almost two weeks after Samuel Paty, a school teacher in a Paris suburb, was beheaded by an 18-year-old

Chechen. Paty had shown his pupils such cartoons in a class on freedom of expression.

France, home to Europe's largest Muslim community and hit by a string of militant attacks in recent years, has defended the right to publish such cartoons. Macron has insisted France will not compromise on its basic freedoms of belief and expression.

In Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Palestinian territories, tens of thousands of Muslims staged anti-French protests after Friday prayers.

In Islamabad, police briefly fired tear gas at protesters who broke through security blockades in a failed attempt to demonstrate at the French embassy.

Protests also took place in Lebanon and Somalia.

Police used a Taser and rubber

bullets to overpower a man in Paris on Friday when he threatened officers with two knives after they challenged him. The motive was not immediately clear.

France's chief anti-terrorism prosecutor, Jean-Francois Ricard, said the suspect was a Tunisian born in 1999 who arrived in Europe on Sept. 20 in Lampedusa, the Italian island off Tunisia that is a main landing point for migrants from Africa. He arrived in Nice by train on Thursday morning and made his way to the church, where he stabbed and killed the 55-year-old sexton and beheaded a 60-year-old woman.

He also stabbed a 44-year-old woman, who fled to a nearby cafe where she raised the alarm before dying, Ricard said. Police then arrived and shot and wounded him.

Video call home

In the Tunisian city of Sfax, Aouissouli's family said he had spoken to them on a video call outside the church hours before the attack. He had shown no sign that he planned any violence, they said.

Aouissouli had gone there looking for a place to sleep, his sister said.

Family members told Reuters they were shocked at the idea that he had committed such a violent crime. "My brother is a friendly person and never showed extremism," his older brother Yassin said. "He respected all other people and accepted their differences even since he was a child." **REUTERS**

France enters nationwide 4-week Covid lockdown

Paris: Parisians fleeing for the countryside jammed the roads ahead of France's lockdown to slow the spread of resurgent coronavirus infections, and there was only a sprinkling of people hurrying along city sidewalks Friday as the nationwide restrictions went into effect.

Dystopian images of logjams that stretched for 700 km at one point Thursday evening were a grim sign of a return to the dark days of the spring, when virus cases first swelled in Europe and many countries kept their citizens inside for weeks on end. With infections hitting record levels in some countries, many are now resorting to severe restrictions again.

In France, concerns were growing that rising infections would swamp the country's health system, so authorities ordered another four-week lockdown beginning Friday.

All of France's 67 million people have been ordered to stay at home at all times, except for buying essential goods, availing medical care, or exercising. **AP**



GOING FOR THE BIG PRIZE: Both Trump and Biden held events in the crucial swing state of Florida on Friday. Reuters



'Hindu Americans for Biden' follows shifting South Asian identities in US



KARISHMA MEHROTRA
SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 30

AS THE Republican nominee, Donald Trump had made a point of courting a new bloc, the Hindu American vote, in 2016. In 2020, for the first time ever, a US Democratic presidential campaign has an official Hindu American coalition, taking a leaf out of the Republicans' book.

Murali Balaji, the head of Hindu Americans for Biden, said the creation of his organisation is a "recognition by the Democratic Party that you can't take these coalitions for granted".

Alongside Indian Americans for Biden and the campaign's Asian American Pacific Islander (AAP) Outreach, Hindu Americans for Biden comes in a long line of ever-shifting campaign categorisations, reflecting ongoing identity contestations in the community. "The articulation of Hindu American identity has become more urgent as more Hindus are identifying outside of the Indian subcontinent... I don't have strong Indian ties nor really understand the country. However, my faith identity has been a strong part of who I am. There are probably many like me who don't feel as strongly about their place of ancestry but may feel strongly to their faith," Balaji said.

With Democrats identifying in overlapping ways, the campaign juggles many coalitions. "Certainly when I was at the Democratic National Convention (in 2016), you saw the claims from the Hindu Americans for Trump," said former DNC CEO Seema Nanda. "I think what Vice President Biden and Senator Harris is trying to do is really reach people where they see themselves on their different identity levels. For some, it's Indian American. For me, I'm Hindu but I identify much more as an Indian American. It's an organisation I would be more likely to join than

a Hindu Americans for Biden. It's about outreach."

Progressives, however, find the term to be directly linked to India's Hindutva. "It's a bogus category. We used to have regional language organisations, like the Telugu society. This Hindu platform is anti-Muslim; it's a negative thing not a positive thing," said Vijay Prashad, author of the book "Karma for Brown Folk".

Romesh Jhapra, the founder of Americans4Hindus, said: "Our organisation is not just for people from India but for the minorities in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. The Indian Americans were infiltrated by the Islamists and became messy. But if we keep it more pure as Hindus, they don't infiltrate."

But, Balaji said the Hindu American label shouldn't just be a "domain of the right". "One of the challenges has been to try and disentangle this idea that Hindu Americans are all jingoistic which is not true," he said.

The Hindu American Foundation, founded in 2003, was a prominent step in the identity formation, following in the footsteps of other faith-based lobbying groups such as the Jewish American Anti-Defamation League. "We deliberately built something around a Hindu American identity because our college experiences showed us that Indian organisations shied away from celebrating Hindu holidays to be respectful to the Muslim Indians or Christian Indians," said Suhag Shukla, co-founder of HAF. "Donors did ask us why we have to say Hindu and not be Indian American, but we wanted to take on issues unique to faith that Indian organisations might not."

However, the identity layers peel back even further. More than a decade ago, "South Asians for Obama" was the beginning of transitions away from solely "Asian Americans" categorisation. "South Asian refers to the sociological experience of being a brown kid in a white environment," said Prashad. Before that, the label Asian American Pacific Islander (AAP) had been the most prominent and longstanding moniker in the community — ranging from campaigns to Congress caucuses. Still, very little government data exists beyond an Asian-American category level.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



At the site of a collapsed building in the coastal province of Izmir, Turkey, on Friday. Reuters

Strong earthquake kills 14 in Turkey, Greece
7-magnitude quake brings buildings crashing down, sets off large tidal waves

REUTERS
ISTANBUL, OCTOBER 30

FOURTEEN PEOPLE were killed in Turkey and Greece after a strong earthquake struck the Aegean Sea on Friday, bringing buildings crashing down and setting off tidal waves which slammed into coastal areas and islands.

People ran onto streets in panic in the Turkish city of Izmir,

witnesses said, after the quake struck with a magnitude of up to 7.0. Neighbourhoods were deluged with surging seawater which swept debris inland and left fish stranded as it receded.

Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) said 12 people died, one due to drowning, while 419 people were injured. On the Greek island of Samos two teenagers, a boy and a girl, were found dead in an area

where a wall had collapsed.

Search and rescue operations continued at 17 collapsed or damaged buildings, AFAD said. Izmir's governor said 70 people had been rescued from under the rubble.

Ike Cide, a doctoral student who was in Izmir's Güzeldere region during the earthquake, said he went inland after waters rose following the earthquake.

"I am very used to earthquakes... so I didn't take it very

seriously at first but this time it was really scary," he said, adding the earthquake had lasted for at least 25-30 seconds.

Crisscrossed by major fault lines, Turkey is among the most earthquake-prone countries in the world. More than 17,000 people were killed in August 1999 when a 7.6 magnitude quake struck Izmit, a city south-east of Istanbul. In 2011, a quake in the eastern city of Van killed more than 500.

Global Covid cases rise by single-day record of half a million

SHAINA AHLUWALIA & ANURAG MAAN
OCTOBER 30

GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS cases rose by more than 500,000 for the first time on Wednesday, a record one-day increase as countries across the Northern Hemisphere reported daily spikes.

Global daily Covid-19 cases have risen by nearly 25% in less than two weeks as the world witnessed 400,000 daily reported cases for the first time last Friday.

Most western countries and parts of Latin America have reported their highest single-day surges in the past few weeks. Many governments, with the no-

table exception of the United States, have started taking stronger measures to bring the spread of the virus under control.

The global coronavirus tally stands at 44.7 million cases and about 1.17 million deaths.

Europe, North America and Latin America account for over 66% of global cases and over 76% of global deaths.

Europe's new daily infections have doubled over the past two weeks as it reported more than 250,000 cases for the first time on Wednesday, according to a Reuters tally.

The region has so far reported about 9.5 million cases and about 261,000 deaths.

France reported a new record daily total of more than 50,000



Theatre workers protest outside the Italian Prime Minister's office against Covid restrictions, in Rome on Friday. Reuters

infections for the first time on Sunday.

Euro-zone economic activity has slipped back into decline this month as renewed restrictions to control the coronavirus pandemic forced many businesses in the bloc's dominant service industry to limit operations, a survey showed last Friday.

The United States continues to lead the worldwide coronavirus tally with about 8.9 million infections and about 228,000 fatalities since the pandemic started.

The United States broke its daily record for new coronavirus infections on Friday as it reported 84,169 new cases due to outbreaks in virtually every part of the country shortly before its

presidential election on Tuesday.

The United States is reporting about 75,000 cases a day on an average, according to a Reuters analysis and its death toll from Covid-19 could surpass 500,000 by February unless nearly all Americans wear face masks, researchers said.

Asia surpassed 10 million infections of the new coronavirus on Saturday, the second-heaviest regional toll in the world, according to a Reuters tally, as cases continue to mount in India despite a slowdown and sharp declines elsewhere.

In the Middle East, Iran, the most affected coronavirus infections country is reporting one death every three minutes, according to state TV. **REUTERS**

GLENN THRUSH
OCTOBER 30

TEXAS, A 2020 jump-ball state once considered a layup for Republicans, is shattering turnout records, with the number of early in-person and mail-in ballots now exceeding the total number of votes cast statewide in the 2016 election.

Early-voting turnout has been enormous across the country, spurred by the coronavirus pandemic and one of the most bitterly contested presidential races in history, accelerating a years-in-the-making shift away from Election Day-only voting.

As of Friday morning, more than 83 million votes had been cast, representing more than 60 per cent of the total ballots cast four years ago, according to the nonpartisan US Elections Project.

In 11 states, voters have already submitted 80 per cent of the ballots cast in those states in 2016, and five of them — Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and Nevada, along with Texas — are battlegrounds.

Texas, the nation's second most-populous state, was the sec-

EXPLAINED
Tight race for Texas

TEXAS IS the second-most populous state in the US and has a history of consistently backing Republican candidates. But this time, polls show the state could swing either way. The Biden campaign has not spent a lot of resources in Texas, and considers it to be not essential for a Biden presidential victory. However, retaining the state is crucial for Trump, who is far behind in national polls. But the high number of early votes from the urban, Democratic-leaning areas of Texas is likely to worry the Trump campaign.

and to pass its 2016 threshold (the first was Hawaii). The Texas secretary of state's office reported Friday — the last day for early voting in the state — that 9,009,850 people had already voted. Four years ago, a record-breaking 8,969,226 Texans voted in the election. **NYT**

CROSSWORD 4264

ACROSS

1

Not against roughing up an opponent (10)

6

Engaged sign on the telephone (4)

10

A charmer about to be detected in depravity (5)

11

French wine department (9)

12

Ensure it will make you rapacious (8)

13

For centuries it was the language of the masses (5)

15

King who had plenty from various sources (7)

17

Grass around the seaport (7)

19

Colours from Dresden (7)

21

Puts on something saucy? (7)

22

Maybe Poe's a past expert at telling fabulous tales (5)

24

A bitter blow is wanted badly (4,4)

27

Obviously not in the pink (3-6)

28

Appeal either way (5)

29

False witness who turns to abuse (4)

30

Lately here - in heavenly guise (10)

DOWN

1

Likewise enveloped in coals of fire (4)

2

A carry-over of marriage ritual (9)

3

Ron for example may be beyond help (5)

4

Uncle is out to get us; that's the heart of the matter (7)

5

Let's eat out in America (7)

7

Used in transporting other metals besides gold (5)

8

He urges one change to facilitate quick growth (10)

9

Such an order can't be bettered - it includes fruit (5,3)

14

Have a shot at winning the soccer game perhaps (5,1,4)

16

Animal trained to work without worrying (8)

18

Nurse felt funny taking ill (9)

20

Leave the ranks and walk briskly (4,3)

21

Justify being wrongly severed (7)

23

A capital seat I snuggle into (5)

25

Swore to reform but hasn't got any better (5)

26

Combat wear (4)

Solutions Crossword 4263: Across: 1 Leads in, 5 Mufti, 8 Mercurial, 9 Eft, 10 Note, 12 Left over, 14 Chance, 15 Debris, 17 Discount, 18 Veil, 21 Coz, 22 Anchor man, 24 Lathe, 25 Soprano. Down: 1 Lemon, 2 Air, 3 Slum, 4 Nailed, 5 Muleteer, 6 Free verse, 7 Interns, 11 Transport, 13 Accolade, 14 Codicil, 16 Knocks, 19 Lingo, 20 Soup, 23 Moa.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're now spiralling along, heading for a fairly dramatic period, and you should keep your schedule as free as possible to allow for changing moods and circumstances. Also, if a friend is responsible for a catalogue of errors, don't be too hard on them. Step in and help instead.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

The overall situation is still potentially profoundly chaotic, but even in the midst of disorder there is much to be thankful for. Plus, an older friend might come to the rescue before long. This simple fact is due to transform your life over the coming few months.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)

Letting go is never easy. However, if you do what you know to be right in the long-term, even if this means going against current desires, you'll free yourself from a series of awkward dilemmas. You need to be able to stand aside and see your ambitions through critical eyes.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You'll probably be at full stretch emotionally. The immediate areas of concern involve your social life, children and money, in each of which you should work for the best while sensibly guarding against disappointment. And, if you're too busy, then heed the lessons and be more discriminating in future.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

This is a positive time and you'll soon be hitting a peak on a number of cycles. The key to success is to do everything with total and absolute concentration. If someone tries to distract you, ignore them! You can ask the experts but, then, in some senses you're an expert too.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

This is certain to be a time of arguments and hassles. If it's not, you're missing out! The point is that if you are prepared to risk disagreements you'll clear the air and do yourself a power of good. Honesty can be uncomfortable, but that doesn't mean that it's not necessary.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

You'll be on twenty-four hour call, clearing up partners' emotional, professional and personal crises. Don't worry if friends seem too critical, it's just their way. Besides, there might be some good common sense in their sharp words. Listen well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Estrangements, either by design or accident, are likely. But then, so are sudden and intense new meetings. In fact, anyone you meet now is likely to arouse extremely strong reactions, although whether of attraction or repulsion, only time will tell.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

You may be thrown into fresh uncertainty. The question is how you deal with it. Right now you may be advised to put your fantasies into action, no matter how many times you've been told that you're not up to it. All you need is the right support from the best people.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You may have to face the world head-on today. You cannot make difficult people or situations go away by ignoring them, so you may as well get into the spirit of the times: fact is indeed a great deal stranger than fiction. But then, what's new?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Secret developments may be brought into the open if you ask the right questions. It is doubtful whether you will ever build up a full picture of what is going on at the moment, but at least you can fit some pieces into the jigsaw. A little fancy foot-work should help.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)

Left to yourself you will have a fairly relaxed time but, if you're not a hermit, you'll be involved with other people. And, once that happens, you'll be sucked into their lives, with all their many dramatic ups and downs. If that prospect doesn't delight you, then stand back.

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 quip.

I think you have to pay for love with _____ - Edith Piaf (6,5)

PYAEE

AELTTT

ETIRR

DEUUBS

SOLUTION: PYAEE, TRIER, TATTLE, SUBDUE
Answer: I think you have to pay for love with bitter tears. - Edith Piaf

SUDOKU 4279

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4278

VOCAL FOR LOCAL

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सच्चे साँई

धूप एवं

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New Delhi

DRAFT RULES FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CODE

Trade union rules left to states to frame, 15-day lay-off notice

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

FOLLOWING THE passage of the three labour codes in Parliament last month, the Labour and Employment Ministry has now floated the first set of draft rules for the Industrial Relations Code, proposing changes in the conditions for workers to strike, alongside a rise in the threshold relating to layoffs and retrenchment in industrial establishments to 300 workers from 100 workers earlier without any government nod.

The draft rules — which have been put out for public feedback for a month — propose electronic methods for most communication, including maintenance of an electronic register for standing orders for all industrial establishments, along with specifying establishments to give a 15-day notice for lay-offs, 60-day notice for retrenchments and 90-day no-

CHANGES TO STRIKE CONDITIONS

■ In its draft rules, the Labour and Employment Ministry has proposed changes in the conditions for workers to strike

tice for closure as they apply for permission from the government.

The rules, however, have skipped defining model standing order and left the formulation of rules for trade unions to state governments, a measure which experts said will create divergence in rule making across the country.

The Industrial Relations Code had raised the threshold for requirement of a standing order — rules of conduct for workmen employed in industrial establishments — to over 300 workers.

"Most important thing was the model standing order. The central government is supposed to make it and employers can adopt it, and then it will be deemed to be a standing order. The government may use the notification route. Earlier it used to be with rules, but it hasn't been put out yet, which isn't the correct method," XLRI professor and labour economist KR Shyam Sundar said.

Rules relating to political contribution, or utilisation of funds or negotiating council for trade unions have also been left to be finalised by state governments. Also, most communication has been made electronic, which may hit a roadblock, experts said. "Most things have been left to the electronic process which means companies or employers, small or big, or trade unions, or labour departments or tribunals, all must have electronic communication systems. It is a big ask," Sundar said.

The draft rules have also detailed conditions for functioning of the proposed re-skilling fund for retrenched workers. "Every employer who has retrenched a worker or workers under this Code, shall, within ten days, at the time of retrenching a worker or workers shall electronically transfer an amount equivalent to fifteen days of last drawn wages of such retrenched worker or workers in the account to be maintained by the Central Government. The fund so received shall be transferred by the Central Government to each worker or workers' account electronically within forty five days of receipt of funds from the employer and the worker shall utilize such amount for his re-skilling," the rules said.

The government is aiming to implement the four labour codes from April 1 next year. The Centre is also going to reach out to states to hasten the process for setting rules at their level in order to meet the April 1 deadline.

INTERVIEW WITH HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LTD CMD SANJIV MEHTA

'Now when it is India's time under the sun, I do hope that globalisation does not retreat'

IN THE growth and development of the country, exports play a big role and it would be in India's interest to ensure that globalisation is given an impetus, SANJIV MEHTA, chairman and managing director of Hindustan Unilever Ltd, India's largest FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) company, said. In an interview with ANIL SASI & P VAIDYANATHAN IYER, Mehta said while there is a very clear and apparent improvement in consumption between the June quarter and September quarter, the trends differ in rural and urban areas. Edited excerpts:

As the largest FMCG player, how do you see the economy — 7 months into the pandemic?

What I would use is our sales figures as a surrogate because, after the June quarter, we have not got any other number yet — though it's evident that the sales have improved. As the Covid-related restrictions reduced, people started becoming more mobile, and the economy began to open up. In the March quarter, we had a minus 9 per cent growth. Now, that was because in the last week of March, there was a sudden disruption and we could not supply our distributors. So the -9 per cent was not all driven by offtake reduction, but more by way of supply chain constraints that happened as a result of the lockdown. But I think the severest quarter was the June quarter. I come from a clear school of thought that the government did the right thing in terms of enforcing the lockdown.

Subsequently, we had a minus 7 per cent growth in the June quarter. If we look at the September quarter, we had +3 per cent growth, and importantly 80 per cent of our business, which relates to health, hygiene and nutrition, our portfolio grew in double digits. And this portfolio grew at 6 per cent in the June quarter. So clearly, there has been a visible improvement in consumption. For categories which are more discretionary, like skincare, or colour cosmetics, or in categories like ice creams, out-of-home consumption and the vending business, we saw negative growth of about minus 45 per cent to 69 per cent in the June quarter. It reduced to minus 25 per cent in the September quarter. So, there is a very clear improvement in consumption between the June and September quarters. If this is to be a surrogate for consumption in the country, and consumption being one of the largest components of GDP, then it would definitely show an improvement in the economic figures as well.



There's been quite a bit of focus on the rural market. There's also been this temptation in policy circles to sort of clap along the anti-rural market or the hinterland as a single, fairly homogeneous sort of a market? Are there trends that you're seeing in the rural market?

If we are to look at this urban-rural split, let's step back a bit to get some perspective. The per capita consumption of FMCG products in the country is a meagre \$40 per head. Compare that to Indonesia where it is 1.5x India, or in China where it is 3x India. And this \$40 is at a national level. If you look at it from a lens of rural India, then it would be less than half of the national per capita FMCG consumption — in the vicinity of \$17-\$18. Therefore, the runway for growth in rural India is massive. Ideally, if the country keeps progressing, without any hiccups, rural growth — because of its lower base — should be growing faster than urban India for years to come. But because of the stress in the economy, the growth rate in rural consumption had significantly declined even before the pandemic hit us. And during Covid, I think, the two most important tasks, if I may put it that way, for any government, would be to protect the health of the people and to help the marginal sections.

So, from a perspective of giving food grains and direct transfer of money, or whether increasing the MGNREGA (allocation) or increasing the rate of MGNREGA, I believe, these have been steps in the right direction. This is evident from the fact that consumption in rural India is now growing at a rate faster than urban. Urban India has also been impacted with high density, high rate of infection in metropolitan cities, higher incidence of vertical or other lockdowns with

business activities getting hit to a greater degree. So, the redeeming part is that we are seeing the consumption in rural go up, also impacted by a good harvest, and also from the fact that a lot of people have moved from urban India to rural India. So, within rural India, the lowest per capita consumption is in the Hindi heartland, and that's also linked to the per capita GDP..

So are you suggesting that the government's intervention of providing food grains, increasing transfers played a role..

Absolutely! As mentioned earlier, pre-Covid, growth rates in rural India had more-or-less disappeared. They have now come back because of the series of steps that the government took.

So, in terms of growth across categories, how is it panning out?

We are now growing at 3 per cent on the total company's basis. But if you look at our 10-year historical growth, we grew at 9 per cent. The 3 per cent comes from 80 per cent of our portfolio (food, hygiene, nutrition) growing at 10 per cent and the balance 20 per cent of our portfolio with a negative growth of 25 per cent. So, when you put this together, it becomes 3 per cent on the total portfolio. This 20 per cent of my portfolio, that is growing at -25 per cent, is predominantly an urban portfolio and linked to a great extent to people not stepping out.

How about the tariff walls, other protectionist measures by governments across the world? Does this trigger a rethink in strategies for MNCs such as Unilever? What's the impact on HUL?

If you take our India business, 99 per cent of what we sell in India is manufactured locally. In fact, we

went in for localisation years before and that is the reason why we have a large portfolio which caters specifically to the Indian consumer.

That said, I am personally of the firm belief that globalisation is the right thing for the world. If you look at the last three decades, since globalisation got an impetus, more people have come out of the poverty trap than ever before, more wealth has been created than ever before. Now when it is India's time under the sun, I do hope that globalisation does not retreat. India has just two-and-a-half per cent of the global agri. trade. With all the reforms that have taken place and are now starting to unfold in the agri space, India could have a much larger share of the global agri trade. A small country like the Netherlands is the second-largest exporter of agriculture and horticulture products in the world, whereas India should rightfully be a granary to the world. So, if you look at the growth and development of the country, exports play a big role and therefore, I think it would be in India's interest to ensure that globalisation is given an impetus and that globalisation does not retreat.

Is there a view on the consolidation and emerging monopolies like in sectors such as retail?

I wouldn't call them monopolies because you have to look at monopolies from a total trade perspective. Today, the two channels that have stood out during the pandemic are e-commerce and the neighbourhood grocer. They have been the fastest-growing channels and in the case of grocers because of the benefit of proximity. I think India's trade structure will evolve in a different way from what it has evolved in many other parts of the world. In other countries, it was modern trade, which took over general trade. India has 10 million general trade outlets; 10 million general trade outlets means, on an average, 100 million people depend on general trade for dinner on the table. So, from an economic and social perspective, it's really important for the general trade to survive and prosper. I think the difference will come in if we can help digitise the general trade and help bring the modern science of retailing to the general trade. That would be a good, massive opportunity for the general trade and will allow them to survive and thrive. And that would also be right from a social perspective. India will be a country where general trade, modern trade and e-commerce will co-exist.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

COVID-19 IMPACT

'Pre-festive stimulus measures to prop up growth momentum'

Stimulus measures announced by the government before the festive season will support growth momentum as it will provide a push to demand, a Dun & Bradstreet report said

MAJOR MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY CENTRE AS PART OF THIRD STIMULUS PACKAGE:

■ On October 12, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a payment of cash in lieu of LTC (Leave Travel Concession) and Rs 10,000 festival advance to government employees

■ The Finance Minister also announced additional capital spending and a Rs 12,000 crore interest-free 50-year loan to states to boost the economy

KEY INDICATORS STILL LOW:

The signs of recovery are nonetheless fragile as industrial production, bank credit and capital expenditure remain low



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

The capital expenditure as a part of the stimulus measure will help in uplifting growth. In addition, the RBI's decision to invest in state development bonds for the first time ever might also help in reversing the slowdown in capex as states would get much-needed capital for investment

Source: Dun & Bradstreet/PTI

What ADNOC's investment plans mean for India

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

THE ABU Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), one of the world's largest energy producers, has announced that it is looking for partner companies in India to invest in the country's down-

stream petrochemicals space. ADNOC's investment plans are likely to attract major partners in the country.

What is ADNOC looking to invest in?

EXPLAINED

ADNOC had in 2018 announced plans to invest \$45 billion over five years to expand its refining and petrochemicals operations. The company has stated that it has plans to invest in overseas markets such as India where oil con-

sumption is growing.

Who could be potential partners for ADNOC?

According to experts, ADNOC would likely partner with Reliance Industries Ltd. or leading state-owned oil marketing companies

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
ROC NO. SSCL / 9561 / 2020
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS Date : 29.10.2020

I	1.	Development of Smart Multi Level Car Parking with Basement for Two wheeler parking at Hanging Garden Multipurpose Hall Campus in the ABD Area of Salem City Municipal Corporation. Estimate Cost Rs. 1200.00 Lakhs
II		Bid document and other information available at www.tntenders.gov.in , www.tenders.tn.gov.in , www.salemcorporation.gov.in Tender document can be downloaded from the above website.
III		Date, time and Venue for Tender Procedures. Submission of bids -09.12.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. Opening of bids -09.12.2020 at 3.30 P.M.

DIPRI/ 4063 /TENDER/2020 Commissioner, Salem Corporation

Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd.
Shankarsheth Road, PMT Building Swargate, Pune - 411037, Phone No : 020 - 24440417

TENDER NOTICE NO. 4-CE-2020

PMPML invites eligible Bidders to Selection of Service Provider for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 233 Tata Diesel Midi Buses for PMPML as per RFP. Details of RFP form purchasing etc. are as follows:

Date Of Sale : 02/11/2020 To 23/11/2020 till 02.30 pm
Date Of Submission : 02/11/2020 To 23/11/2020 till 02.30 pm
Technical Bid opening date : 24/11/2020 at 03.00 pm

All relevant details of the procurement are available in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Documents. The RFP Documents available and can be purchased online on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

The Pre-bid Meeting would be held on 10/11/2020 at 3.00 pm at Chairman and Managing Director Office Swargate, Pune 411037.

All Subsequent notification, extension and amendments will be post on websites. Sd/-
Dr. Chetana Kerure
Joint Managing Director
Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd.

Advt No. : CE/10
Date: 29/10/2020

FUTURE-RELIANCE DEAL

'BSE to consult Sebi on its stance'

REUTERS

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, OCT 30

THE BSE will consult capital markets regulator Sebi and seek clarifications from Future Retail and Reliance Industries about their \$3.4 billion transaction, following Amazon's objection to the deal, an exchange source said.

A BSE source said it will consult Sebi about its stance on the deal and the exchange later on Friday also plans to seek clarification from Future and Reliance Retail. Sebi and the stock exchanges did not respond to requests for comment.

Amazon declined comment, while Future and Reliance did not immediately respond.

APPLE Q4 RESULTS

Record quarter in India, says CEO Tim Cook

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

APPLE HAS announced another record quarter of revenues despite the pandemic, with strong performance in international markets including India.

"Geographically, we set September quarter records in the Americas, Europe and rest of Asia Pacific. We also set a September quarter record in India, thanks in part to a very strong reception to this quarter's launch of our online store in the country," Apple CEO Tim Cook said in an earnings call after the announcement of financial results for Q4 2020.

In a release, Cook said despite the ongoing impact of Covid-19, Apple is in the midst of its most prolific product introduction period ever, and the early response to all our new products, led by its first 5G-enabled iPhone lineup, has been tremendously positive.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
परमाणु उर्जा विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
नाभिकीय ईंधन समिती / NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX
Electrical Projects, 2nd Floor, Sarathi building, ECIL post, Hyderabad-500 062

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

On behalf of President of India, Dy Chief Engineer (CED, EP & PD), Sarathi Bldg, Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad - 500 062, invites sealed item rate Public tenders from the approved and eligible contractors who have executed works of similar nature and magnitude for the following works. E-tender, visit www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (₹)	EMD (₹)	E-tender processing fee	Tender sale period	Last date of online submission of bids	Date for submission of hard copies	Due date of Opening bids (Part-I)
1	E/609/2020 (E - Tender & Two Part Tender)	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning Of AC Packages At NFC-Kota	₹ 1746 Lakhs.	27,46,000/-	₹ 5,900/-	31.10.2020 to 21.11.2020	29.12.2020 Upto 21:00 Hrs	05.01.2021 Upto 14:00 Hrs	05.01.2021 at 15:00 Hrs
2	E/610/2020 (E - Tender & Single Part Tender)	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning Of AC and Ventilation Systems at Melshop plant building, NFC-Kota	₹ 57.86 lakhs	1,15,720/-	₹ 3,414/-	31.10.2020 to 21.11.2020	05.12.2020 Upto 21:00 Hrs	12.12.2020 Upto 14:00 Hrs	12.12.2020 at 15:00 Hrs (Single Part)

For eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and detailed notice inviting tender, please log on to www.nfc.gov.in. E-Tender document for participation is available on www.tenderwizard.com/DAE. Bidders have to register for e-tendering which is compulsory for participating in tendering. For e-Tender details contact Sri Vivek Kumar Cell No. 08247482565. Date for opening Part-2 of tender will be intimated subsequently to the qualified bidders.

Sd/-
Dy. Chief Engineer (CED, PD, & EP)
For & On behalf of the President of India

PRAYAGRAJ NAGAR NIGAM
1- Sarojini Naidu Marg, Prayagraj, UP
Pin-211001

Letter No. 367/Env./2020 **Date: 29.10.20**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR TOTAL STATION SURVEY OF LEGACY WASTE SITE.

Prayagraj Municipal Corporation invites Expression of interest from the interested firm/ Agencies/ Experienced Person for "Total Station Survey" regarding quantification of legacy waste in MSW Plant situated at Baswar. Interested parties can submit their financial proposal of Total Cost for the work on or before 31.10.2020 upto 16:00 hrs. Along with Rs. 10,000/- Demand Draft in favour of Nagar Nigam, Prayagraj.

Date of presentation for above proposal is scheduled on 02.11.2020 at 12:00 hrs. at the office of Chief Engineer Municipal Corporation Prayagraj. For more details please visit the website at <http://www.etender.up.nic.in>

Sd/-
(Uttam Kumar Verma)
Environment Engineer
Municipal corporation Prayagraj

सं.डी.: 366/पर्या./2020 दिनांक- 29 अक्टूबर, 2020

BRIEFLY

US court tells Antrix to pay \$1.2 bnto Devas

Washington A US court has asked Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to pay compensation of \$1.2 billion to a Bengaluru-based startup, Devas Multimedia, for cancelling a satellite deal in 2005. As per the agreement in January 2005, Antrix agreed to build, launch and operate two satellites and to make available 70 MHz of S-band spectrum to Devas, which the latter planned to use to offer hybrid satellite and terrestrial communication services throughout India. The agreement was terminated by Antrix in February 2011. Over the next years, Devas approached various legal avenues in India, including the Supreme Court. **PTI**

Indian Oil Q2 net rises 11-fold to ₹6,227 cr

New Delhi: Indian Oil posted an eleven-fold rise in net profit to Rs 6,227 crore for the September quarter. **ENS**

REFUND OF OLY TICKETS

Fans living in Japan who bought tickets for the postponed Tokyo Olympics have been guaranteed refunds the local organizing committee said on Friday. This does not apply to fans who have purchased tickets outside Japan through so-called Authorized Ticket Resellers appointed by national Olympic committees.

BRIEFLY

Even with Bale in ranks, Tottenham lose in Europa

Paris: AC Milan cruised past Sparta Prague 3-0 for its second straight win in the Europa League, while Tottenham fell to a surprising 1-0 loss at newcomer Antwerp. Milan on Thursday easily overcame a missed penalty by Zlatan Ibrahimovic to remain unbeaten in 23 games in all competitions, dating back to least season. Tottenham saw its 10-match unbeaten run end, despite having Gareth Bale in the starting lineup for a second straight time in the competition.

Fellow Premier League clubs captured their second straight win. Leicester beat AEK Athens 2-1 away while Arsenal scored three goals in a four-minute span either side of half-time in a 3-0 victory over Irish club Dundalk. A minute of silence was held ahead of the game between Nice and Hapoel Beer Sheva to honor the three victims of a knife attack in the French city earlier Thursday. The players from both teams wore black armbands during the game, which the hosts won 1-0. Benfica and Rangers earned their second straight victories while Hoffenheim and Wolfsburg cruised to big away wins.

Ex-Wallabies Palmer says he is gay

Melbourne: One-test Australia prop Dan Palmer has become the first Wallabies player to come out as gay, writing in a newspaper column on Friday of mental health issues and drug problems while coming to terms with his sexuality. The 32-year-old wrote in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of the anguish of "living the dream" as an elite athlete while being trapped in a "false narrative." "I was incredibly frustrated, angry and desperately sad. I despised myself and the life I was living," wrote Palmer, a former vice-captain of Super Rugby side ACT Brumbies. "Most nights, I cried myself to sleep and routinely numbed myself with a heavy cocktail of opioids. I fantasised about disappearing, changing my name and starting my life all over again. It is not an exaggeration to say my own death felt preferable to anybody discovering I was gay." Former Wales captain Gareth Thomas is the only other rugby union international to come out.

REUTERS

Anju to become AFI Sr. vice-president

New Delhi: Incumbent Adille Sumariwalla will be unanimously elected as Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president for a third term while former long jumper Anju Bobby George will be made senior vice-president during its Annual General Body Meeting here on Saturday. Ravinder Chaudhary, who has served AFI for a long time in various capacities, will be elected unopposed as the secretary. There will be no contest for other posts also as there are only one candidate for all of them. Sandeep Mehta, who had filed nominations for the secretary's post, had withdrawn from the contest. He will now be the senior joint secretary. Madhukant Pathak will be elected unopposed as treasurer. The AGM also will elect five joint secretaries and eight executive committee members without contest. AFI Planning Committee head Lalit Mehta is one of the executive committee members. He was also an executive committee member in the last term. **PTI**

Two-minute rounds, 12-ounce gloves: Tyson's return to the ring

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

IT'S BEEN a busy year for Mike Tyson, and an even busier week. In July, after drumming up interest through numerous selfies and training montages, the boxing legend announced a return against Roy Jones Jr. And on Thursday, Tyson addressed the media along with opponent Roy Jones Jr to talk more about the exhibition bout.

Two-minute rounds

The eight-round exhibition bout — originally scheduled for September 12 in Carson, California — will take place on November 28 at the Staples Center behind closed doors. Tyson, 54, hasn't fought since losing to Kevin McBride on June 11, 2005. Jones has been retired for less than 30 months but is 51 years old. When asked about the round lengths, both Tyson and



Mike Tyson hasn't fought since the loss to Kevin McBride in 2005. *File*

Jones were seemingly annoyed and compared the two-minute rounds to women's boxing. "I'm not happy at all. That's for women. Why we doing two-minute rounds?" Jones said. Tyson added: "I'm sure they have their reasons for doing it. But you know, women fight for two minutes." Professional men's rounds

A Royal riposte

Rajasthan stay in the hunt for playoff spot with stellar show to end KXIP's winning run

SYNOPSIS

Synopsis: Stokes-Samson partnership tames Gayle force

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

OCTOBER 30

BEN STOKES is at the wheel and Rajasthan Royals are on the road to recovery. Skating on thin ice, Royals are responding superbly, inspired by their talisman, who lit up Abu Dhabi with a sparkling half-century on top of his two wickets. RR eventually sauntered to their victory target of 186 with 15 balls to spare. For Kings XI Punjab, a sixth win on the trot would have taken them very close to a playoff berth. They now have to beat Chennai Super Kings in their final group league fixture on Sunday to have a chance.

With just six matches to go in the group stage, only one team, Mumbai Indians, has reached the playoffs. This has been a very competitive IPL.

Stokes-Samson partnership

This was RR's second win on the spin and yet again, Stokes was the impact player for them. A 26-ball 50 came on the heels of his unbeaten century against MI in the last game. Against an imposing total, a good Powerplay was the key for RR. The new ball was their best opportunity to get off to a flyer. Stokes led the charge.

A four off Arshdeep Singh followed by another against Mohammed Shami, and the left-hander was in total control — save a top edge off a Shami bouncer. KXIP skipper KL Rahul introduced leg-spinner Murugan Ashwin inside the Powerplay. Stokes decimated him. When he departed in the sixth over, RR had already reached 60. They finished the Powerplay on 66/1.

Stokes' innings set the tempo and the batsmen who came after him just had to carry on with the momentum. Sanju Samson played beautifully for his 25-ball 48, and when he was run out in the 15th over, his team had victory firmly in sight. Together Stokes and Samson neutralised the KXIP



Chris Gayle's 99, an innings which included eight sixes, went in vain. *BCCI/IPL*

spinners, as Ashwin and Ravi Bishnoi conceded 70 runs off their eight overs for just one wicket. Steve Smith put the finishing touches in the company of Jos Buttler.

Gayle force

Earlier, Chris Gayle fell one run short of a hundred. Jofra Archer bowled a yorker which hit his pad and ricocheted into the off-stump. It upset Gayle to the extent that he threw his bat on the ground and it flew towards mid-wicket. Gayle, meanwhile, was shaking hands with Archer.

It wasn't a typical Gayle innings — a storm blowing away the opponents. And yet, he scored those 99 runs off just 63 balls, hitting eight sixes. He was the reason why Kings XI Punjab got to a 180-plus total after losing the toss on a sluggish Abu Dhabi pitch.

KL Rahul struggled to get a move on, his 120-run partnership with Gayle notwithstanding. Nicholas Pooran played a cameo

but didn't make a big impact. So it was down to Gayle to carry his team.

He came at the end of the first over and departed in the 20th. All along, barring once or twice, he picked the right deliveries to hit and targeted the right bowlers. KXIP didn't pick him for their first seven matches. This was his sixth match and the 41-year-old now has three 50-plus scores to his credit.

The game had an eventful beginning. Archer started off proceedings with a yorker. That was supreme conference. On the final delivery of the over, he dismissed Mandeep Singh with a snorter. The ball reared off a length, thudded into the glove and popped up to the short square gully region. Stokes charged in from backward point, dived forward and took the catch inches off the ground. Rajasthan Royals brought in Varun Aaron for Ankit Rajpoot, hoping he would provide some support to Archer. The RR bowling in this tournament has been a one-

POINTS TABLE

Team	Matches	Won	Lost	Pts	NRR
MI	12	8	4	16	1.186
RCB	12	7	5	14	0.048
DC	12	7	5	14	0.03
KXIP	13	6	7	12	-0.133
RR	13	6	7	12	-0.377
KKR	13	6	7	12	-0.467
SRH	12	5	7	10	0.396
CSK	13	5	8	10	-0.532

KXIP: Despite Friday's defeat, KXIP hold on to fourth spot on the basis of net run rate. Their final league encounter is against bottom-placed Chennai Super Kings, who are out of the playoff race. But MS Dhoni's team has defeated RCB and KKR in their last two outings.

RR: Steve Smith's men face KKR on Sunday. With both teams on 12 points (Rajasthan have a better net run rate), only the winner will stay in the reckoning with the losers falling out of the race.

man show. Aaron forced Gayle to mistime a pull, when the batsman was on 10. The skier went to deep backward square, where Riyan Parag dropped it. Maybe, he was put off by Robin Uthappa running towards him.

RR captain Smith probably missed a trick by not giving an extra over to Archer in his first spell. The fast bowler bowled only one delivery to Gayle when the left-hander was bedding in. Then again, Smith barely had any death-overs options, which could be a reason why he decided to hold back his bowling spearhead. Kartik Tyagi came and Gayle welcomed him with two fours and a six. From RR's point of view, a big positive was Stokes completing his quota of four overs. Gayle, by and large, played him and Archer judiciously but still reached a 33-ball half-century.

BRIEF SCORES: Kings XI Punjab 185 for 4 (C Gayle 99, KL Rahul 46; J Archer 2/26) lost to Rajasthan Royals 186 for 3 in 173 ovs (B Stokes 50, S Samson 48, S Smith 31 not out; M Ashwin 1/43).

Today's matches: Delhi versus Mumbai, 3:30 pm; Bangalore versus Hyderabad, 7:30 pm.

Joining the dots: How RCB, Kohli got it right this season

SANDIP G

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

AFTER NINE long years—a period denoted by spectacular underachieving and comical imploding—Royal Challengers Bangalore are on the brink of qualifying for the playoffs this season. Barring the oddest string of outcomes, they would progress as the second-place side.

Behind their resurgence has been a horde of factors, from a more balanced squad to a less combustible approach and the blossoming of fine young individuals to a sense of collectivism that has seldom dwelled on them. Recapturing their smooth journey and the driving forces behind it.

The perfect juggle

Striking the perfect balance can be a tedious process in this format, the level of fluctuations more unpredictable than the wanton spurt of a stock-market bull. RCB of the past five years could be a case study on disproportionate stock-hoarding—a skewed overseas-domestic players ratio, formidable top-order and flimsy middle-order, the uneven spread of quality hands, crew of one-dimensional bowlers, underperforming all-rounders, and too much tinkering to name but a few evident shortcomings.

This time, though, they finalised their nu-

cleus quite early on in the series, didn't overly tamper with the core and stuck with it for a chunk of their first 12 games.

There was better clarity in picking a condition-specific team. Like on pitches with a hint of moisture, Mohammed Siraj was picked to harness the swing on offer.

On drier surfaces, an extra spinner was included. There was better discretion in knowing when best to introduce a batsman or deploy a bowler. For instance, not in every match was Washington Sundar thrown the new ball. In short, the resources and manpower were used wisely and prudently.

Sharpened bowling

Arguably RCB's most versatile bowling firm ever. There is the swing of Siraj, the left-arm trickery of Isuru Udana, the thrift of Washington Sundar, the guiles of Chahal, the slippery pace of Navdeep Saini and the smarts of Morris.

While playing away from their home ground, Chinnaswamy Stadium, with its short boundaries and batting-friendly decks, has benefitted, their bowlers have dramatically improved as well.

Sundar, for example, was erratic in the last edition, leaking 8.22 runs an over. This time around, he has whittled it down to an incredible 5.65.

Morris (6.21), Chahal (7.23), and Navdeep Saini (7.95) have all kept the economy rate



South Africa's Chris Morris has taken 11 wickets at an average of 15 with an economy rate of 6.21. There are four RCB bowlers in the top-20 in the list of bowlers with most dot balls. *BCCI/IPL*

below 8. There are as many four RCB bowlers in the top 20 of dot-ball accumulators. No team is more well-represented.

And only Jofra Archer (one every 1.93 ball) has a better frequency of dot-ball than Morris (one every 1.95 balls). At the same time, they

have not let the pursuit of leaking runs compromise their hunt for wicket—in two fewer games, Chahal has already matched last year's tally of 18 wickets, unfailingly producing a wicket in his first-over, Morris has nabbed 11 at an average of 15.

The rest of them have rallied around them and plugged away with wickets at crucial moments of the game.

Beyond Kohli and AB

Over-reliance on Kohli and AB de Villiers has been a recurrent theme for RCB. The reliance on the vaunted pair has not changed, but it's not excess as it had been in the last few years.

Kohli is still their most prolific run-getter and de Villiers has been rocket-fuelling their innings down the order. But the emergence of Devdutt Padikkal has reduced the burden from the shoulders of Kohli and de Villiers.

The 20-year-old has plundered 417 runs, of which 244 have come in the power-play, the second-most after KL Rahul, and has the best strike rate in the first six overs (133), thus consistently providing racy starts for his side. He has not only glossed over the scratchy returns of his opening partner Aaron Finch, but also facilitated de Villiers to bat down the order and finish the games.

So that the batting line-up is not top-heavy like it had been in the last four years, and there is an even distribution of menace.

Coach Langer worried about bubble-fatigue

REUTERS

MELBOURNE, OCTOBER 30

AUSTRALIA COACH Justin Langer believes managing the mental health of his bubble-weary players will be one of his key responsibilities during the upcoming home series against India, the 49-year-old said on Friday.

Steve Smith, David Warner, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood were among those who got a taste of life in a bio-secure bubble in August before leaving for a limited-overs series in England. They are experiencing it again in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) in the United Arab Emirates as cricket continues to follow that template as the standard COVID-19 safety measure.

The quartet, along with several other Australia players in the IPL, will return home to enter another bubble before the six short-form internationals against India from Nov. 27. "When we sat down with all the boys individually in England and showed them the schedule coming up, you could see the blood drain out of their face — for personal and professional reasons," Langer told reporters.

"We're going to have to be really careful with how we manage our players this summer." "While some people won't agree with it at times, our people, our players and staff are high priority for us to make sure they are healthy and happy."

England quack Jofra Archer, also playing in the IPL, conceded this week he was counting down the days to be free from the world of bio-secure bubbles he has been trapped in for the past few months. Australia have named all-rounder Cameron Green in their limited overs squad against India. Langer said the 21-year-old was "banging really hard on the door" but would have to wait for a Test call-up.

"When we sat down with all the boys individually in England and showed them the schedule coming up, you could see the blood drain out of their face — for personal and professional reasons."

JUSTIN LANGER, AUSTRALIA COACH

Besides, he and Finch have averaged 39 in 11 games, which meant more breathing space for Kohli at No 3.

Likewise, the addition of Chris Morris has shored up their death-bowling as well as death-over hitting. Now there are more heroes than two amidst them, different protagonists who could win them games on their day.

Judicious use of resources

Kohli has judiciously used his bowlers too, weaving in the circumstance of the match and the nature of the batsman. He can summon anyone of Saini, Siraj, Morris or Sundar to pick the new ball.

Likewise, he can introduce any one of Sundar, Morris, Udana, or Saini to bowl at the death. If one of the main bowlers endures an off, Kohli could rely on Shivam Dube's medium pace or Gurkeerat Singh Mann's off-spin.

The flexibility of the bowling makes it difficult for batsmen to plan against them. There is sufficient depth too—the likes of Adam Zampa, Moeen Ali, Dale Steyn and Umesh Yadav have been mostly bench-warmers.

It also implies that utility has preceded reputation in picking teams. Kohli has not shirked from ringing in the changes, even it meant replacing an under-firing big gun. Steyn was listless in his first couple of games, so Kohli benched him for the next 9 games.

Ever-evolving Phogat makes it 3-0

GAURAV BHATT

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 30

ARGUABLY, THERE was more intrigue surrounding Ritu Phogat's third fight on Friday than even the debut last November. That first fight, against a fellow debutante, was by-the-numbers matchmaking from One Championship for an exciting prospect. Friday's bout was not only against an experienced striker in Cambodian Nou Srey Pov but also came after what has been Ritu's longest uninterrupted stretch away from home.

After briefly hopping home for Holi after her second win in February, Ritu had spent eight months in Singapore, a test of her patience and progress. Had Ritu made any meaningful improvements during the enforced layoff? Worse yet, had the still-nascent skillset deteriorated?

Ritu answered those questions with a second-round TKO win at the ONE Championship: Inside The Matrix event in Singapore, taking her MMA record to 3-0. Ritu told reporters after the fight, "This win should give me more confidence and take me one step closer towards the target."

The target, a shot at the atomweight



Ritu Phogat's technical knockout win over Cambodia's Nou Srey Pov in the second round extended her unbeaten record to 3-0.

world championship, looked far away earlier this year. For Ritu, majority of the lockdown was spent following basic drills over video conferences at her apartment. "MMA's new for me. The online training was good, but I couldn't be sure whether what I'm doing was right or wrong," Ritu told this paper in August.

As regulations relaxed and gyms reopened, Ritu did some bagwork and pad-work but the 'no contact' diktat meant no live

sparring or groundwork drills. Essentially, that meant not being able to train her two weaker suits for a long time.

Despite the extended break, Ritu showed up a better striker. The 25-year-old's forward pressure drove Srey Pov against the wall. Her opponent had a few moments when she would circle away and sting Ritu with counter hooks. On her debut, Ritu flinched whenever she was struck. Against Srey Pov, she ate the shots and kept the pressure up. Another improvement from the first two fights is the use of elbows, and Ritu mashed her opponent's face at every chance.

"I worked hard during the pandemic on my striking, to not just depend on wrestling which is already a strong suit," Ritu told reporters after the fight.

Wrestling though remained key for the former U-23 World Championships silver medalist. The plan was to use the improved striking to set up the wrestling. And her coach, former UFC fighter Siyar Bahadurzada, added a sweetener to the plan.

"Coach told me to watch my opponent, use powerful punches, take her down and dominate her on the ground. He said he will give me a hundred dollars if I managed that," Ritu said.



NATIONAL UNITY DAY

Building a sustainable future from hereon



The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, celebrated on 31 October, commemorates the contributions of freedom fighter and country's first Union Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The narrative of the country's unified development has changed since independence. Country's steel industry is capable of bringing that growth

NATIONAL unity today has more names than there were during the post-independence India. Every year, since 2014, 31 October is celebrated as the 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' or the National Unity Day to pay tribute to Late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a visionary who played a pivotal role in India's freedom struggle and integrated the country after the independence. His efforts brought more than 500 princely states in the country under one flag and align with Indian Union.

It was a remarkable milestone in nation-building. A press statement of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India had said, "The occasion will provide an opportunity to reaffirm the inherent strength and resilience of our nation to withstand the actual and potential threats to the unity, integrity, and security of our country."

The feat achieved by Patel was of profound significance in the 1950s. However, the relevance of a unified 'Bharat' has immensely enhanced today. With socio-political schisms, the economic divide between states, rising gap among people, and communal hatred amongst the various sects in the country against each other speak volumes about our dwindling social-economic, political order.

Moreover, the year 2020 has remained a turbulent year until now. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the businesses hard. With millions of people losing their employment this year due to the pandemic, the country needs urgent help on various fronts. The catastrophe has exposed the levels of our preparedness toward disaster management.

What is needed?

In the present context, therefore, we need development catalysts, who not only play a pivotal role in unifying people but also strengthens the businesses and the economy – prime elements of growth. Business

leaders, their businesses and their expertise in understanding and solving larger problems of the country needs are unparalleled. Political figures, development sector professionals, celebrities and leaders need the assistance of corporates.

A good strategy is to use the resources of companies and work towards the objective. Companies, big and small, are often involved in carrying out welfare activities through their corporate social responsibilities. A number of companies, in recent months, have shifted their focus on those who have lost their employment or have started focusing on regions, where there is a greater need for development.

Steel industry playing an active role

Steel finds its usage in a myriad of things. It is used in the construction industry, automobile sector, appliances, medical equipment, in the utensils that we eat, everyday products like the cans that we drink in and even in the smallest of products like needles. And yet, it is far away from reaching its saturation point. The steel production is the key for India to attain a higher GDP because of its wide usage and India's capacity to cater to the steel requirements.

The Indian steel sector owes its growth to the domestic availability of raw materials such as high-grade iron ore and non-coking coal. Moreover, the cost-effective and young workforce is another advantage to India's steel industry. Also, India is blessed with a long coastline on the west, east, and south; thus making it one of the chief players in the global steel market.

In the coming years, the requirement of steel in India is expected to grow enormously as India is soon likely to become the second-largest consumer of steel. It is already on the path to becoming the



SANJAY GUPTA, Chairman, APL Apollo Tubes Limited

world's largest producer of steel. Greater collaboration and development of the industry can also fulfil the Government of India's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Moreover, there is a certain level of environmental advantage in using high-strength steels and those applied in active construction applications. Having been around for over three decades, APL Apollo Tubes Limited has come up as a category leader in the structural steel industry. Enjoying a powerful geographical presence, its wide range of application of its products, and strong equity in the trade fraternity, the company has an ecosystem which can help the society at large.

The change believers

Being the largest producer of structural steel tubes in India, APL Apollo Tubes Ltd has an extended distribution network of warehouses and branch offices in 29 cities across the country catering to domestic as well as 20 countries worldwide.

The Company believes in transforming the industry landscape with its value-added products through innovation and technology usage.

In line with the objectives of nation-building and unifying in these difficult times, the Company has a well-established

framework for its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy. Under this, the Company conceptualises development programmes for the weaker sections of the society. "We continue to lend a helping hand to the underprivileged and make healthy contributions to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for Education of Poor Children and the World Hope Foundation," said Mr. Sanjay Gupta, Chairman, APL Apollo Tubes Ltd.

"We are innovation leaders. It is evident in our products across categories. However, we are actively looking to bring innovation to create a sustainable business that helps the country and also helps those who need our help. We have already started a dialogue at various industry-led forums to take the work of helping others to the next level. Amidst the current turbulent phase, we need to build strong momentum," added Mr. Gupta.

"See, just like our products, we need to come together and join forces for a better and stronger India based on the values and principles of the Iron man of India," he added.

APL Apollo's Tubes Ltd work can thus be used as a blueprint of success for similar social work across India.

What has been done until now?

Be it instilling latest technology or optimum utilisation of resources, the company never hesitated in investing more in R&D which works as a driving force behind their ever-growing ability to create new products, adapt new applications, strengthen processes, develop new market and enhance existing market share.

"Our products and solutions are all designed to have a positive sustainability impact. It has led us to adopt innovative methods of production like DFT i.e. Direct Forming Technology, which saves materials and is more cost and time effective. Other products include Tricoat pipes, and Galvanized pipes (GP)," said Mr. Gupta.

"Innovation is building a world where your products can cater to multiple industries simultaneously. Along with producing steel tubes and pipes at a fast pace, we are also reducing the usage of wood in various industries. We achieved this by providing alternate products that are durable and eco-friendly. Today, we take pride in developing the nation in an innovative way along with creating a sustainable future," added Mr. Sanjay Gupta.

Leading by example, the Company has also pledged to save the environment and the bio-diversity of the country. Its campaign, 'Save Trees, Use Steel' has not only won accolades but has also made it stand out among other fellow corporates. As per the Company's estimate, around 250,000 trees are being saved every year with the use of steel doors and other related building products of the company.

Commenting on the benefits of steel use, Mr. Gupta added, "Steel releases no harsh chemicals or toxins and can easily be retrieved from the environment with magnets. Use of structural steel also reduces pollution as compared to other building methodology."

Celebrity endorsement is another way to bring in the required support for development. The Company has roped in the famous veteran star, Amitabh Bachchan for its branding.

The need for cohesive action

To rise above and beyond the current challenges and build a unified country, all development stakeholders need to work on the lines of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 2030 agenda. These Goals lay the basic structure for future sustainable growth that our country and the world needs. Collaboration across industries, nations and governments is an important driver for sustainable development. And companies such as APL Apollo Tubes Ltd are at the forefront of this change journey.

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Plants



25.5 Lakh
Tonnes Capacity



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