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Damage control in Hathras: UP Govt seeks CBI probe, lifts village lockdown

Family says won't take narco test; DGP, Addl Chief Secy (Home) visit them

JIGNASA SINHA & AMIL BHATNAGAR
HATHRAS, OCTOBER 3

THE UTTAR Pradesh government Saturday recommended a CBI investigation into the entire chain of events in the Hathras assault and alleged gangrape case, including her hurried cremation without the family's presence. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the CBI probe after going through a report submitted by Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Kumar Awasthi and Director General of Police H C Awasthi, who visited the victim's family in their village in Hathras district on Saturday and met local representatives.

The visit by the two officers followed lifting of the blockade around the village, imposed following the cremation of the 19-year-old around 3 am on Wednesday organised by the police. Asked about the cremation during his visit, DGP Awasthi told the media, "That's why this action (the setting up of an SIT) has been taken."

The family told *The Sunday Express* they will not take the polygraph and narco tests that the state government had said it would conduct on all those involved in the case, including the police officers investigating it. At a press conference that he

SUNDAY STORY
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Looking for a 19-year-old
Her grieving family, a village riven by deep fault lines, and a sordid drama by police, admn take over the narrative

and the DGP held after they had spent around half-an-hour with the family, Awanish Awasthi said, "The CM has constituted an SIT headed by senior officials and a woman officer. Statements by the family have already been taken by the investigating team. I assure you, every point raised by the family will be investigated by the SIT. Whoever the culprits are, strictest of action will be taken against them."

MORE REPORTS
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Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tries to stop Uttar Pradesh Police personnel from lathi-charging her party workers at the Delhi-Noida border on Saturday. She was heading to Hathras with Rahul Gandhi when the scuffle took place. PTI

BJP IT head tweets her video; illegal if she's rape victim, says NCW chief

ESHA ROY & AVANEESH MISHRA
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 3

THE NATIONAL Commission for Women (NCW) has said it would look into the tweet by BJP IT head Amit Malviya sharing a video of the 19-year-old Hathras Dalit woman who died after she was brutally assaulted and allegedly gangraped. Asked about the

tweet, NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma told *The Sunday Express*: "If she is a rape victim, then the incident of tweeting the video is really very unfortunate and is also absolutely illegal."

Under Indian Penal Code provisions, anyone who reveals the identity of a person who is a victim of sexual assault or suspected to be one can be imprisoned for up to two years. Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Commission for

Women Vimla Batham also told *The Sunday Express* that she had not seen the video, but if it disclosed the woman's identity, it was "definitely objectionable" and the commission would take cognizance and serve Malviya a notice.

The BJP leader tweeted the 48-second video on Friday, writing, "Hathras victim's interaction with a reporter outside AMU where she claimed there was an

CUTS MANALI-LEH DISTANCE BY 46 KM PM opens Atal tunnel, says delayed border projects on fast track

Daulat Beg Oldie airstrip closed for 40-50 years... what was the compulsion? IAF opened it, no political will: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 3

FOR LONG, the country's security was "compromised," border infrastructure projects delayed and demands by security forces for modern gear and equipment ignored, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday as he inaugurated the 9.2-km-long Atal tunnel at Rohtang.

Without naming any person or party, he said demands for modern fighter aircraft, ammunition, modern rifles, bulletproof jackets, extreme cold weather gear were shelved. "File pe file, file pe file. Kabhi file kholte the, kabhi file ke saath khetle the (file after file, file after file... sometimes they opened a file... sometimes they played around with the file)."

He said the crucial Daulat Beg Oldie airstrip in Ladakh lay closed for 40-50 years — abandoned in the mid-1960s, it was revived in 2008 by the IAF.

"What was the compulsion (majboori)? What was the pressure?... The fact is that the Air Force was able to restart it due to its own determination, not be-



PM Narendra Modi with (from left) Lt Gen Harpal Singh, BRO DG, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur at the inauguration of the tunnel, Saturday. PTI

cause of any political willpower," he told a gathering in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Army chief General MM Naravane and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar at the tunnel's southern portal at Dhundhi near Manali.

The tunnel's opening, amid the ongoing India-China stand-off along the Line of Actual Control, is going to help sustain

troops mobilised in eastern Ladakh by providing an almost all-weather connectivity between Manali and Leh during the long, harsh winter months.

The tunnel is the newest addition to the Indian list of frontier infrastructure, the construction

RELATED REPORT
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TELLS SC IN AFFIDAVIT Govt decides to waive interest on interest for loans up to Rs 2 cr

Blanket waiver will hit survival, this is over stimulus announced: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

STATING THAT a complete waiver of interest for loan repayments during the moratorium period would affect the very survival of banks and create problems for depositors, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that it has decided to waive compound interest on MSME and personal loans up to Rs 2 crore for the six-month period.

In an affidavit filed in the top court, the Union Finance Ministry said that "after careful consideration and weighing all possible options, the... Government... has decided that the relief on waiver of compound interest during the six-month moratorium period shall be limited to the most vulnerable category of borrowers".

EXPLAINED
Interest stays but big relief

THIS IS a big relief to MSME and personal loan borrowers. But borrowers will have to pay the interest on their outstanding loans for the moratorium period they opted for. Banks won't add that interest component to the principal outstanding at the end of the moratorium to calculate fresh EMI at current interest rate.

"This category of borrowers... would be MSME loans and personal loans up to Rs. 2 crore" and would include education, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rajasthan rape charges: After Opp criticism, family gets legal help

DEEP MUKHERJEE
BARAN, OCTOBER 3

CAUGHT IN THE HATHRAS firestorm which has put pressure on the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, an alleged case of rape of two minor sisters in Rajasthan's Baran district, 275 km from Jaipur, has created a political storm in the Congress-ruled state.

With the BJP mounting an attack on Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and the National Commission for Women on Saturday criticising Chief

EXPRESS NETWORK
MP RAPE: DAY AFTER SUICIDE, ACTION AGAINST 3 COPS
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Minister Ashok Gehlot for lack of sensitivity in the Baran case, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) in Baran appointed a senior advocate to extend legal aid to the family of the minor girls. "We had received an application from the two minor girls through the Sakhi Kendra in Baran

for free legal aid. Following that, we have appointed senior advocate Kamlesh Dubey, who will provide legal aid to the family and will monitor the case until its conclusion," DLSA Secretary and Additional District and Sessions Judge, Baran, Shiv Kumar told *The Sunday Express* on Saturday.

In the Baran incident, what attracted the Opposition ire was the rejection by a local court of an application by the family of the minor girls to re-record their statements under Section 164, Code of Criminal Procedure, before a magistrate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

On Ladakh road, Army memorial for 20 soldiers killed in Galwan

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE ARMY has erected a memorial to commemorate the 20 Indian soldiers who had died fighting Chinese troops near Patrolling Point 14 (PP14) in eastern Ladakh on June 15. The memorial mentions the names of all 20 soldiers who had gone to remove Chinese tents on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control, but were killed in a hand-to-hand combat with rival troops.

The plaque in the memorial, which is situated along the



The memorial on the Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie road. ANI

Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie road, mentions the details of the incident. "Op Snow Leopard", it states,

"on 15th June 2020 at Galwan Valley, Col B Santosh Babu Commanding Officer 16 Bihar CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Shopian: Probe looks at role of SPO posted in Srinagar, Army says will act as per law

Gaps in probe, bodies of three labourers are exhumed

MUZAMIL JALEEL
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

BODIES OF three Rajouri labourers, killed in Shopian on July 18 by the Army which called them terrorists before admitting there was "prima facie evidence indicating that during the operation, powers vested under the AFSPA were exceeded", were exhumed in Baramulla Saturday and handed over to their families.



Police personnel take away the bodies that were exhumed in Baramulla on Saturday. Express

The J&K Police and Army have instituted their own inquiries, but questions remain — from the mystery detention of a Special Police Officer to the Army's claim about the "encounter" in Amshipora in Shopian, the killing of three "terrorists" and the recovery of "arms and ammunition and IED material".

The SPO detained by J&K Police is Fayaz Ahmad Rather, working at the Rajbagh police mess in Srinagar and attached to a Dy SP with the counter-insurgency Special Operations Group.

From Seri Chauhana village of Poonch district, Rather, according to his family, was taken by police around a month ago.

Asked about Rather, IGP CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Being forced to name Ranbir, Rampal, Morea: accused in NCB probe

SADAF MODAK & MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

A FORMER executive producer of Dharmatic Entertainment, a sister concern of Karan Johar's Dharma Productions who was arrested last week, told a court on Saturday that he was forced by officials of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) to falsely implicate actors Ranbir Kapoor, Arjun Rampal and Dino Morea.

Kshitij Prasad had earlier said the NCB had forced him to implicate Johar. The agency had denied it stating that the investigation was being carried out in a

EXPRESS NETWORK
AIIMS BOARD RULES OUT MURDER IN SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT CASE
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"professional manner".

"I have been repeatedly harassed and coerced into falsely implicating Dino Morea, Arjun Rampal and Ranbir Kapoor in the present proceedings despite me repeatedly stating that I do not know the said persons and have no knowledge of such allegations," Prasad said in an application CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In uncle's backyard, student finds stone linking Kerala to Roman empire

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

UMA VISHNU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

"IT'S A button... I found a button!" Praviha P A said, holding up the small, oval bead-button. The Class 12 student, one of the volunteers at the excavation site in Pattanam, a village in Ernakulam district of Kerala, had been sieving the soil dug out of

one of the trenches in her uncle K S Sukumaran's backyard. As he brushed the sand off, P J Cherian, director of PAMA Institute, a Kerala-based Trust that's carrying out the excavation, knew the 'button' was no ordinary find. There emerged a glorious she-Sphinx, the Greek mythical creature known for its magical powers.

A series of correspondences with experts over the next three months, including with Dr Giulia Rocca, who teaches archeology and history of Greek and Roman

art at the Tor Vergata University of Rome, confirmed Cherian's instinct: the 1.2-cm-long banded agate, a precious stone found in the Indian Subcontinent, was from a seal-ring, very similar to the kind worn by Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor, who reigned from 27 BC until his death in AD 14.

The gemstone with the Sphinx, along with the head of a small Greco-Roman statuette found on Sukumaran's plot on April 25, is further evidence that Pattanam, the small village by



The she-Sphinx carved on a banded agate stone; the Greco-Roman statuette head, found in Pattanam in April. Express



the backwaters of the Periyar river, could be Muziris — the legendary port city that thrived sometime between the 1st century BC and 4th century AD.

Muziris, the 'Emporia of the East', flourished after the Romans conquered Egypt, and rose to become a key centre for trade between the Red Sea and Indian Ocean regions — sending out pepper, precious stones, silk, beads, ivory and pottery to West Asia and Rome, and importing gold coins, glass, wine and wheat from there. Then, sometime in the 4th

Century AD, Muziris disappeared. There are several theories about this, among them that, with the decline of the Roman empire, its key trading partner, the port city fell into disuse. Another hypothesis is that a cataclysmic flood in the Periyar in 1341 silted the Muziris harbour, leaving it too narrow for ships.

The Sphinx that turned up in a corner of Sukumaran's plot is the biggest find from the latest round of excavations — the tenth since 2007.

How could a Roman seal-reached Muziris? "There are numerous possibilities — merchants and traders could have brought it. Anyway, there wasn't just one royal seal; there would have been thousands. They were used by the emperor himself and those whom he authorised, to be used as a stamp, instead of a signature," says Cherian, adding that there's another "strong possibility" — that the Sphinx was produced at Pattanam.

"Wastage of the banded CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



IN BASEBALL-MAD KOREA, SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANTS TAKE GUARD WITH CRICKET

Till a decade ago, cricket was an unknown sport in South Korea, and it remains unfamiliar for many in the country. What cricket is for South Asian countries, baseball and football is for South Korea. But over the past three decades, it has been slowly making inroads here, largely due to South Asian immigrants.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



INTRANASAL VACCINES FOR COVID-19

Bharat Biotech will soon make a billion doses of a nasal vaccine

EXPLAINED



NARCO AND POLYGRAPH TESTS

Neither method has been proven to have a 100% success rate

EXPRESS AUDIO

A footballer's broken dreams and Nadal on new tennis balls

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

How being diagnosed with a congenital heart condition will affect Anwar Ali's career, and why Rafael Nadal is not happy with the balls used at the French Open.

FROM PAGE ONE

BJP IT head

attempt to strangle her neck. None of it is to take away from the atrocity of the crime but unfair to colour it and demean the gravity of one heinous crime against another..."

In the video, the woman can be seen lying on the ground, her face clearly visible. Till late Saturday night, the video was still up on Malviya's Twitter account.

Malviya did not respond to calls and messages. In another tweet late on Friday, he said, "Why are some people hell bent on giving Hathras crime, colour of a sexual assault, when neither the victim nor her mother's initial statements and not a single report by various medical agencies indicate a rape? Is a physical assault leading to her death any less of a crime?"

Malviya also shared a tweet by the national in-charge of BJP Mahila Morcha social media, Priti Gandhi, saying, "Can you elaborate which law is violated if video of the victim is posted? Not one report suggests that she was sexually assaulted. It is only a fiction of Lutyen media's imagination. Are we governed by rule of law or the hallucinations of a few?!"

The UP Police has said forensic tests on the woman didn't show evidence of rape. In a statement recorded before a magistrate on September 22, after she had regained consciousness, the 19-year-old, however, had said she had been raped during the assault on September 14.

Section 228A of the IPC states that "whoever prints or publishes the name or any matter which may make known the identity of any person against whom an offence under sections 376, 376A, 376B, 376C, 376D or 376E is alleged or found to have been committed shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years and shall also be liable to fine". In the Hathras case, the FIR has been filed under Sections 302 (murder), 376D (rape) and the SC/ST Act.

The NCW Chairperson said, "Courts have said over and over again that a rape victim's identity cannot be revealed in any which way. When we send statements, we are also very careful to never reveal the identity of a rape victim. The UP Police had issued a statement saying that she was not a victim of rape. Nevertheless there seems to be some confusion. I will be speaking with Amit Malviya as well as the UP Police personally on the matter. If it turns out that she was a rape victim, then the NCW will take the issue forward to its logical end."

The State Commission for Women's Batham said, "I have not seen the video and have no information about that. If the video has a photo of the victim or if her statement under Section 164 of the CrPC (before a magistrate) is mentioned, that it is objectionable. If these things are there, it is definitely objectionable. I can only say her identity should not be disclosed. I will look at the video and take cognizance of the matter. We will serve a notice in that case."

DGP Hitesh Chandra Awasthy said he had not seen the video and could not comment. Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Kumar Awasthi said, "I cannot comment on it at this point."

The Hathras police spokesperson said: "We have not received any complaint about the tweet. We will look into the matter."

WITH INPUTS BY JIGNASA SINHA

Interest waiver

housing, auto, consumption and consumer durable loans, personal loans to professionals and credit card dues of up to Rs 2 crore.

The affidavit comes in response to a petition seeking a waiver of the interest.

The Government said it will seek due authorisation from Parliament for making "appropriate grants in this regard" and this "shall be over and above the support of Rs. 3.7 lakh crore to MSMEs, Rs 70,000 crore for home loans, etc., extended through the Garib Kalyan and AatmaNirbhar packages".

Arguing against a blanket waiver, the government said the word "moratorium" is categorically defined by the RBI in various circulars and "was never intended to be 'waiver of interest' but 'deferment of interest'".

"After a very careful and major consideration of several fiscal and financial criteria, its inevitable effects and keeping the uncertainty of the existing situation in mind, the present interest and interest on interest was merely deferred and was never waived", the ministry said.

It said that borrowers have understood the difference between the waiver and deferment and "therefore, a majority of the borrowers (more than 50 percent) have in fact not taken benefit of the moratorium".

If the interest is waived on all the loans and advances for all classes and categories of borrowers, the amount would be more than Rs 6 lakh crore, the government pointed out.

"If the banks were to bear this burden, it would necessarily wipe out a substantial and a major part of their net worth, rendering most of the banks unviable," it added. For example, such an exercise "would completely wipe out over half of the State Bank of India's 'net worth'".

The Centre also sought to link the receipt of interest from borrowers to payment of interest to depositors who it said "are...small depositors, pensioners etc. surviving on interest".

The affidavit pointed out there are an estimated 8.5 deposit accounts in India for every loan account and added that to keep the cycle going, "the contractual interest on all outstanding advances will have to be charged even during the period of deferment and if this compounding interest is not received from the borrowers for any particular period, a commensurate denial of interest to customers holding deposits is inevitable and unimaginable".

Hearing the matter on September 3, the court had directed that accounts which have not been declared as NPAs as of August 31 should not be declared so till further orders.

Rajasthan rape

Baran Superintendent of Police Dr Ravi Saturday said the police were now investigating allegation of rape by the family. "The initial FIR was for kidnapping. But when the girls mentioned alleged involvement of boys in their statements under Section 161 CrPC given to the police, the sections pertaining to rape and POCSO Act were added. We are investigating the allegations or rape now. We will fully cooperate with the DLSA-appointed advocate, and ensure justice," he told *The Sunday Express*.

The incident pertains to September 19, when an FIR was registered under sections 363 (kidnapping) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the IPC following a complaint by the father of the girls who had gone missing. The two boys named by him were also minors.

On Thursday, Dr Ravi had said the girls, aged 15 and 13, had not mentioned any sexual assault or any other criminal angle in their statements before the magistrate. "They had said they went on their own accord. Later, the two of them were presented before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and sent to a home for women," he had said.

The two girls were located by

Opening Atal tunnel, PM slams neglect of key infra

of which has riled China which, over the years, has built an extensive network of roads right up to the LAC and the McMahon Line, stretching from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

The tunnel under the Pir Panjal range – it is the world's longest highway tunnel above the altitude of 10,000 feet (3000 metres) – cuts the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km, and driving time by four hours.

It's a boon for residents of Lahaul and Spiti Valley who remain cut off from the rest of Himachal Pradesh for nearly six months due to snow.

Though the foundation stone of the tunnel was laid by then UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi in July 2010, it was wracked by delays, missing several deadlines.

Calling it a "historic" day, Modi expressed his gratitude to those who had worked hard for

the project – jawans, engineers and labourers. He said the tunnel would have taken another 20 years had work not been expedited after 2014.

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid the foundation stone for the approach road to the tunnel in 2002 but the project was delayed after his tenure and only 1.3 km of the road was built until 2013-14, Modi said.

He said the speed of blasting of the tunnel was increased from 300 m per year to 1,400 m per year after 2013-14. Delays pushed up the cost from Rs 950 crore to around Rs 3,200 crore.

Flagging the tunnel as one of the key elements of the strategic infrastructure upgrade that will help secure "security and prosperity," the Prime Minister said the government had restarted several old projects crucial for securing the borders.

UP govt seeks CBI probe, lifts village lockdown

The family asked why they had not been provided legal counsel so far. "We came to know that the lawyer of Nirbhaya (the 2012 Delhi gangrape victim) wanted to meet us, but the police didn't let her come. How are we supposed to fight the four accused without legal counsel?" said her brother.

About the narco test, he said, "We want justice for our sister, but why should we undergo it? Do authorities usually force the victim's family to take such tests?"

The family of the main accused, Sandeep, said they wanted the test to be conducted as soon as possible, "because we want the facts to

come out". "If they are guilty, punish them as you deem fit. But they should be given a chance, because we know what happened," said a relative, Hariom.

The woman's family said the DGP and Additional Chief Secretary had assured them of a fair investigation. "They said they will help us and the accused will be punished. When we complained about the hasty cremation and the police, they asked us to let the SIT submit its final report. They said a lot of senior police officers are looking into the case," said the victim's brother. The SIT, that has completed its initial round of questioning, has submitted a report to the UP government.

The family also reiterated that the district authorities had forced them to stay inside their home for two days, with around 50 policemen parked outside, and accused Hathras District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar of pressuring them to change their statements and threatening to confiscate their phones.

"On Thursday, the SIT team came to our house and questioned us for five to six hours. After they left, the DM sir came and scolded us. He abused my sisters and told us to change our statements. A video of this conversation was recorded by my cousin. When the video got out, the DM came again and threatened to confiscate our

phones. He told us that he knows what we say to the media. We are scared that our phones are being tapped. We told him that we won't give our phones to him," said the woman's elder brother (28).

The woman's sister-in-law said, "He (the DM) told us that we should be happy with the compensation the government has given us. He said the case will be disposed of after the media leaves."

Speaking to the media on Friday, Laxkar had said, "I deny the negative rumours about my interactions with the family."

Awanish Awasthi said police deployment would continue in the village.

WITH ENDS, LUCKNOW

the police in Kota on September 21 and handed over to the family after September 24.

Senior advocate Dubey, appointed by the DLSA, said under the POCSO Act, even consensual sex with minors was considered rape. Further, a minor's consent is not a consent in the language of the law, pointed out Rajulben Desai, Member, NCW. "It came up that in the 164 CrPC, that she went on her own will. A consent of a minor is not counted as consent. When will we be aware of this?" she said in Jaipur.

On Thursday, Gehlot termed as "unfortunate" the parallels being drawn between the Baran and Hathras incidents. "...the girls in Baran have themselves said in their statements in front of the magistrate that no assault took place and they went with the boys on own accord," he had tweeted in Hindi.

The Sunday Express met the father of the girls in Baran, and he said Dubey would speak on the behalf of the family. Dubey said, "The family appeared to be under pressure and afraid for their safety. I will be monitoring the investigation process and will also see if there was any discrepancy. We will then take a call on if we need to file additional cases," he said.

The BJP said Rajasthan had become the crime capital of the country. "In the past 20 months, lakhs of cases have been registered and a plethora relate to murder, loot, dacoity, rape and gang rape... We demand the intervention of the Governor. We will start a state-wide Halla Bol campaign," said Rajasthan BJP president Satish Poonia.

The BJP has announced a fact-finding team, while a delegation met the Superintendent of Police in Baran on Saturday.

The brother of one of the mi-

nors accused in the case denied the rape allegations, speaking to *The Sunday Express*. "My brother didn't know the girls. He and his friend, who is the co-accused, had gone to Kota on September 18. There they saw the girls and their father sitting in a police jeep and hitched a ride back to Baran. Later we came to know they've filed a case against us. The allegations of rape are baseless. In fact, we were threatened by the girl's father," he said.

Shopian (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar said: "SPO has not been arrested. He must have been called for questioning, but on paper, he hasn't been arrested. I have been told that two civilians, who were informers, were arrested. I will say what is on the file."

Rather and two others, who have already been produced before a court in Shopian, are being investigated for their alleged role in connection with the killing of Imtiyaz Ahmad (20) and Mohammad Ibrar (16) of Dharsakri village of Kotranka, and Abar Ahmad of Tarkasi village by the Army.

Their bodies were exhumed Saturday after J&K Police confirmed that DNA tests had established their identities. Imtiyaz Ahmad, one of the three labourers, had been working in Shopian since 2018. He had been staying and working at the house of the numbardar of Chotgam village. On July 16, Imtiyaz told the numbardar of his family that he would rent a room since two other labourers from his village were going to join him. He rented a room above a shop in the neighbourhood – it's very close to a camp of the 62 Rashtriya Rifles – from village resident Shakeel Ahmad Lone. The next morning, when Lone's

wife went to the room, she didn't find anyone there.

On July 18, the J&K Police announced the killing of "three unidentified terrorists" in an "encounter" in Amshipora village of Shopian.

"On a specific input by 62 RR ... an operation was launched... During search, terrorists fired upon Army personnel and encounter started. Later on, police and CRPF also joined. During encounter, three unidentified terrorists were killed... Incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, were recovered," the police said.

On July 19, Brigadier Ajay Katoch, Commander of 12 Sector Rashtriya Rifles, had spoken to the press on the encounter, with almost the same details. "On night 17th and 18th July, we received a human intelligence... of presence of 4 to 5 unidentified terrorists in village Amshipora... At 0245 hours on 18th July while the cordon party was in the process of laying the cordon, they came under heavy fire... At 0530 hours, after there was visibility, a search party was moved into the target house which was a newly constructed small single house. While the search part moved inside, it came under fire from inside of the house... In the ensuing action, three terrorists were neutralized. The dead bodies of the terrorists, along with the arms and ammunition and IED material recovered were handed over to the J&K Police..." he said.

On August 9, three families from Kotranka area of Rajouri approached police with a report that three of their kin, who had gone to Shopian to work as labourers, were missing since the night of July 17. On August 13, a police team from Srinagar took DNA samples of the families to match them with the DNA ex-

traction is changing," he said.

Modi said that reforms are being brought to promote indigenous production of weapons in tune with 'Make in India', and the long-awaited post of Chief of Defence staff has been created.

It has been made compulsory to buy several parts and equipment from domestic industries and their import has been banned, while India's institutes are being offered incentives so that foreign investment and technology comes to India's defence industry, he said.

"We have to enhance our infrastructure, our economic and strategic power at the same pace at which India's global role is progressing. Self-confidence in AatmaNirbhar Bharat is today part of the common person's mentality. Atal Tunnel is a symbol of such self-confidence," he said.

investigation... Stage managed encounter etc are not words attributable to the Army and our resolve to uphold law of the land is demonstrated by our actions taken till now."

NCB probe

before the court on Saturday. He said that he was again made to sign false statements prepared by NCB officials and that he was retracting from them, including the self-incriminatory portions.

Prasad was in NCB custody from September 27 to October 3. On Saturday, the court sent him to jail till October 6.

The NCB countered Prasad's allegations stating that he was "totally non-cooperative, adamant and arrogant" and had refused to sign a statement he himself had given. "He was trying to bargain hard for putting his signature on the statement in lieu of removal of Section 27A of the NDPS Act," the NCB submitted to the court. The section is a non-bailable offence pertaining to financing illicit traffic. Special public prosecutor Atul Sarpande also submitted the statements recorded by the NCB to the court and said that they didn't contain any of the names mentioned by Prasad.

In his written plea submitted through lawyer Satish Maneshinde, Prasad said, "I say that I am being mentally, emotionally and psychologically harassed and abused by the complainant (NCB) into making false statements." He said that he was surrounded by NCB officials who dictated statements and made him sign them under duress, threat and coercion stating that they would implicate his wife and other family members if he did not.

"Upon reading of the statement, the accused also realised that many parts of the statement were unilaterally included by the officers without his consent (and) are completely false," Maneshinde said.

The NCB claims Prasad was part of a conspiracy for drug procurement and distribution and had received ganja from co-accused Ankush Armeja. According to the NCB, Armeja was connected with accused Anuj Keshwani, from whom commercial quantities of drugs were allegedly seized.

The NCB has also claimed links between Prasad and other alleged peddlers accused of connections with late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's cook Dipesh Sawant and actor Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik.

The NCB told *The Indian Express* earlier that Prasad had initially said he did not supply narcotics to anyone but used it for personal consumption after purchasing it from the alleged drug peddlers arrested in the case. An official said that during interrogation, Prasad had denied consuming ganja, but that they had established he had been in contact with the alleged drug peddlers more than 20 times. This is why the charge of financing and conspiracy had been added, the official said.

However, the official said they had not yet established whom Prasad allegedly supplied to or the quantity he did, but claimed that his prima facie involvement in financing someone "was enough to charge him".

Twenty arrests have been made so far in the case, arising out of the probe into Rajput's death, on an alleged Bollywood drug nexus. Among those arrested is Chakraborty and Showik, with the Bombay High Court earlier reserving an order on their bail applications.

While Chakraborty is also facing a case on WhatsApp chats purportedly dealing with drugs, and a probe on money laundering charges, no arrests have been made in those. Chakraborty is

also being investigated by the CBI over an abatement to suicide case registered by Rajput's family.

Army memorial

led the Quick Reaction Force of 16 Bihar and attached troops tasked to evict the PLA (People's Liberation Army) OP (outpost) from general area Y Nala and move further to PP14".

The plaque mentions that "the column successfully evicted the PLA OP from Y Nala and reached PP14 where a fierce skirmish broke out between the Indian Army and PLA troops". Col B Santosh Babu, it says, "led from the front and his troops fought gallantly in a hand-to-hand combat, causing heavy casualties to the PLA". It calls the killed Indian soldiers as "gallants of Galwan".

China is yet to officially declare the number of PLA troops who died in the clash, but sources in the Indian defence establishment said Beijing had unofficially confirmed to the Indian side that at least five of their soldiers had died, including a commanding officer.

The seventh round of Corps Commander-level talks are expected to take place next week. In the diplomatic and military talks so far, India has been demanding a status quo ante, for troops from both sides to go back to their positions as of April end.

Roman empire

agate precious stone (on which the Sphinx was carved) was found in the same trench, along with cameo blanks, indicating that there was a lapidary workshop in Pattanam 2,000 years ago," he says.

On the Sphinx's association with Roman royalty, Steven Sidebotham, professor of ancient history and archaeology at the University of Delaware who in 2009 excavated Bernike, an ancient port city in Egypt with known trade links with Muziris, said in an email to *The Sunday Express* that it's established that the seated female winged Sphinx was the signet symbol on the finger ring of Augustus. "This symbol then became popular and many wealthy men undoubtedly copied it."

The Sphinx is also a "phenomenal sign", says Cherian – of Pattanam being Muziris. "There is a silent agreement among historians that the pre-9th century period was very primitive. But findings such as these show that's not true. There is now proof that inter-continental trade exchanges were happening," he adds.

Chris Gosden, Oxford professor of European Archaeology, who was in Pattanam during the 2014 excavation season, says the recent finds show the connections between South Asia and Europe on the one hand and the Far East on the other. "These early forms of globalisation involved trade, but also the exchange of aesthetic forms, ideas and sensibilities... which may indicate that Asia and Europe have much more entangled histories than we have realised to date," Gosden said in an email.

The 66 trenches excavated at Pattanam so far (five of those in this season) make up less than 1 per cent of the 111 acres of the Pattanam archaeological mound.

For Cherian, every new find is a moment of epiphany – of Muziris being a place at a time when the "best things were happening". When he shuts his eyes and thinks of the port city, what does he see? "A beautiful world where there was openness of mind. We are yet to find a weapon in Pattanam. And the architecture respects human scale... we haven't found anything like the Roman Pantheon that dwarfs humans. I am accused of romanticising Muziris. But I speak from the evidence."

FULL REPORTS ON
www.indianexpress.com

TOTAL CASES		Total		Vacant
2,87,930		HOSPITAL BEDS	15,827	9,898
		VENTILATORS	1,321	525
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Oct 2	2,920	3,171	37	56,258
Oct 3	2,258	3,440	34	39,306
Total	25,234*	2,57,224	5,472	32,30,952

Total active cases

BRIEFLY

PWD to streetscape 500 km roads

New Delhi: The Public Works Department is set to streetscape 500 km of PWD roads in Delhi. This will include around 150 road stretches across different areas in the city. "Streetscaping essentially means the roads will be redesigned to be more uniform. The project is in planning stages and the tender for consultation has been floated. Work will start by January or February 2021 and will take around two years to be completed," said a PWD official. "Once the streetscaping is done, it will be easier for walking, parking, etc. There will be planned parking spaces. The project will include creating disabled-friendly footpaths, cycle tracks and non-motorised vehicle lanes," he said. **ENS**

4 apprehended for robbing phones

New Delhi: A 20-year-old man and his three accomplices were apprehended for allegedly robbing the mobile phones of his friend from south-east Delhi's Amar Colony area, police said on Saturday. The accused were identified as Aashis, a resident of bulandshahr in UP, Hemant (20), a resident of Ayur Vigyan Nagar, Devender (24), a resident of Srinivaspuri and one juvenile, they said. **PTI**

Man smears excreta on himself to escape cops

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested a 23-year-old man who allegedly put faeces on his body to escape from the clutches of policemen in North Delhi's Kashmere Gate area. Police said the accused has been identified as Arjun, a resident of Madangir, who has been involved in four criminal cases. "On Thursday, police were patrolling when they saw two suspicious men on a bike. They were signalled to stop but instead they sped up towards the staff to intimidate them," a senior police officer said. "Their bike slipped and they tried to escape. While one person succeeded in absconding, Arjun was caught after a chase for around one kilometre. He tried to use pepper spray on police," DCP (north) Anto Alphonse said. **ENS**

STRATEGY CHANGED AS CASES INCREASED

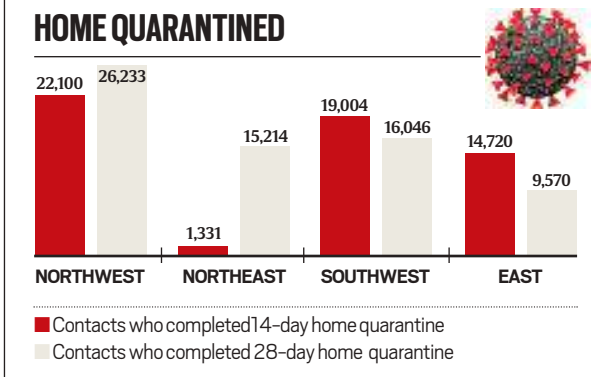
In four districts, officials tracked 3 contacts for every Covid patient: RTI

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

AUTHORITIES IN Delhi have tracked an average of three individuals per Covid patient and registered a positivity rate of up to 37% among these contacts, according to information obtained from four out of 11 districts in the city through the Right to Information Act (RTI).

According to the Delhi government's records, till October 3, Covid-19 has affected 2.87 lakh people in the city, a figure based on over 32 lakh tests. Out of the total, over 2.57 lakh people have recovered, 5,472 have died, leaving 25,234 active cases.

An analysis of responses from Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and East districts show that the four districts collectively tracked and isolated 1.25 lakh contacts of Covid-19 cases between March and mid-September. Among those contacts who were tested, 12,569 came out as positive.



Tracking and testing are among the main pillars of governments across the globe in the fight against the pandemic. Medical experts stress on mass testing not just to identify corona positive individuals but also to isolate their contacts and put them under quarantine to curb the spread of the virus.

According to data made available by the Chief Medical Officer of East district, Dr Rekha Rawat, the district recorded

15,251 Covid positive cases till September 20. It tracked and isolated 39,600 contacts, tested 12,529 such people, of which 4,638 turned out to be positive.

Northeast district medical officer Dr RK Sehgal said in his response that the district registered 5,870 corona cases till September 9. Against the total infected persons, 18,884 contacts were traced and isolated, of which 1,196 tested positive.

In the Northwest district, till

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

August 28, 22,492 positive cases were detected. District medical officer Dr Meenakshi Hembram said 44,191 contacts of total detected cases were traced and 16,101 tested, of which 3,384 were found to be positive.

Southwest district tracked and isolated 23,063 contacts, the district's contact tracing cell said in a response on September 14, adding that 16,046 such individuals were tested and 3,351 among them found positive. It also said that 7,017 contacts of Covid positive cases refused to get tested.

According to central guidelines, persons with a history of close proximity to corona positive patients are identified as contacts. Among this category, those with co-morbidities are categorised as high-risk and the

rest are grouped as low-risk.

Two Delhi health department officials said that during the early stages of the outbreak, an average of 10 contacts, and in some cases over 15, were being traced. However, with the spread of the virus, the scope of the exercise had to be reduced to make best possible use of the available resources.

The contacts are monitored from the surveillance hubs set up at the district levels.

High-risk contacts are advised to home quarantine for 14 days. According to the Covid-19 protocol for contact tracing, low-risk contacts "do not mean no-risk contact and equal emphasis must be given for low-risk contacts as they are potential sources for transmitting the disease".

Meanwhile, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain told reporters that the Covid situation in the city, especially in terms of deaths, has "stabilised". He said the bed occupancy at the hospitals has reduced by over 1,000 in the past week and expressed satisfaction over the rate of testing.

Snatchers on bike target govt employee

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THREE BIKERS allegedly snatched the gold chain of a 51-year-old Delhi government employee in Prashant Vihar area. The incident took place on Thursday evening around 5 pm when the complainant was feeding a cow before going to a temple. The entire incident was captured on a CCTV camera. An FIR has been registered, but no arrest has been made yet.

Police said the man, Shyam Chhabra, was going to the temple when the incident took place. "We have registered a case under relevant sections and investigation has been initiated," said DCP (Rohini) P K Mishra.

In a video of the incident, which went viral on social media, the man can be seen offering something to a stray animal. Suddenly, a person, talking on the phone, collides with him. "They get into an argument. Meanwhile, his two accomplices who are on a bike join him. The accused who collided with the man snatches his chain and pushes him, following which he falls on the road. The accused flee from the spot even as the man tries to chase them," a senior police officer said.

Several teams have been formed and police are checking CCTV footage near the spot to identify the accused persons or get clues about them, Mishra said.



CCTV grab of the incident

BUILDING BLOCKS

A section of a new DMRC rail under construction next to the Signature Bridge, Saturday. Tashi Tobgyal

4 Kashmiri youths held for 'terror strike plan'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE DELHI Police Special Cell has arrested four Kashmiri youths for allegedly planning terror strikes in the national capital. DCP (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said the accused have been identified as Altaf Ahmad Dar (25), a resident of Pulwama; Mushtaq Ahmad Gani (27); Ishfaq Majeed Koka (28); and Aqib Safi (22), all residents of Shopian.

"A team led by Inspectors Sunil Rajain and Ravinder Joshi nabbed the accused from Central Delhi's ITO area. They

were carrying four sophisticated pistols and over 120 rounds of ammunition. Ishfaq is the elder brother of slain terrorist Burhan Koka, ex-chief of Ansar Ghajwat UI Hind, an off-shoot of Al Qaeda in J&K. Burhan Koka was killed in an encounter in Shopian's Melhora area on April 29 along with two other associates," said Kushwah.

"On Friday, police received information that a group of Kashmiri men had collected a huge cache of arms and ammunition and will come to ITO and Darya Ganj. Thereafter, a trap was laid near ITO and the accused were apprehended," he said.

Man kills girlfriend, stuffs body in box bed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

A 28-YEAR-OLD man was arrested from Assam for allegedly smothering his girlfriend to death as he suspected she was in a relationship with another person.

Police said the accused has been identified as Satish Kumar, a resident of Qutub Vihar. "Kumar and Dishu Kumari used to work in the same BPO in Gurgaon. On September 2, police received information of a foul smell coming from a locked room in Chhawla and found the body of a woman inside a box

bed," said a senior police officer. "Police checked CCTV footage and found that Kumari, along with the suspect, had entered the room on September 23. However, only Kumar came out after a few hours and took the woman's scooter," the officer said.

Police got a tip-off that the suspect had fled to Dibrugarh and would visit a friend there. "Kumar was apprehended from a hotel in Dibrugarh. He had booked a taxi to move to Shillong," said DCP (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena.

Kumar allegedly took clues from crime shows to evade arrest, police said.

Students expected to pay Board fee, schools step in by crowdfunding, paying from pocket

SUKRITABARUAH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

FINDING DONORS, crowdsourcing, teachers paying themselves — various Delhi government school stakeholders are trying to find ways to help the most economically strained students pay their hefty CBSE exam fees before October 15, the final date for schools to send the list of candidates for the board exams.

CBSE exam fees for Class X and XII students were drastically increased last year. The Delhi government had stepped in then, announcing it would pay the complete exam fees for students of government schools. This year, however, it stepped back citing a fund crunch and said fees will have to be collected from students, due to which many families are hard-pressed to pay the amount.

Gunjan Gover, school man-

agement committee (SMC) coordinator for Northeast Delhi I district and an SMC member of a girl's school in Burari, has so far assisted over 15 students in paying their fees — which could start at Rs 1,800 and go up to more than Rs 2,500.

"We have set up a help desk in our school to help parents with admissions. Some parents approached us and said they cannot pay the exam fees. At first, we said there's nothing we could do to waive the fee and they will have to pay it. But day before yesterday, a visibly distressed family came to the school, and we were moved to contribute Rs 500 each for the fees. Members of other SMCs of schools in areas like Ghonda, Gokalpur and Karawal Nagar have also informed me of other such extremely distressed families. So, between ourselves, we have raised the amount for fees for 12-13 students, and through



Delhi government has cited a fund crunch for not paying the exam fee this year

donors — businesses, NGOs, wealthy relatives — for around five children," she said.

Principals of schools are also putting together money. A principal of a Northwest Delhi school said they have given an 'open offer' to students with regard to the fees.

"By now, around 90% of stu-

dents have paid their fees. If any child comes forward and says he or she cannot pay, and if their class teacher can verify they are very strained, we will find a way to pay their fees. So far, we found that six students who came forward will be unable to pay. We teachers have put together the amount between ourselves and will use the school's Pupil Welfare Fund if the need arises," he said.

At Government Co-ed Senior Secondary School, Sector 8, Rohini, the vice-principal has reached out to her batchmates from her alma mater to help students pay their fees.

"The process of collection is almost over, but the vice-principal and I have put together money for the fees of 10 children, most of whom do not have parents, from our own pockets. Our vice-principal is the alumni of Springdales School and has made an appeal to a group of her batchmates. From that, we have raised funds for two

girls, one of whom is an orphan and another whose parents lost work during the lockdown," said school principal Awadhesh Jha.

Another attempt to crowd-fund fees is being made by the All India Parents' Association, which has sent out appeals on social media and e-mails to ask people to contribute to students' fees.

"Money has started coming in, but the scale of the problem is very large. A few days ago, three separate people contributed Rs 500 each to me for this purpose but this doesn't cover the fee of even one student. Whereas, in every school, there are going to be multiple children for whom paying will be very difficult," said AIPA president Ashok Agarwal.

Even Gunjan Gover said her efforts cannot cater to all reports of distress she is receiving: "The other SMC members and I have limited resources, so we have to prioritise and decide who are the most distressed."

Discontent in BJP as some fail to make cut for new Delhi team

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE NEWLY-formed team of BJP's Delhi unit has left several state leaders disappointed after they failed to find a spot in the set-up. These include party spokespersons Harish Khurana and Tajinder Bagga, it is learnt, with the latter ostensibly using his social media profile to register his protest.

The Delhi BJP Thursday appointed a new set of office-bearers, which include three general secretaries — Kuljeet Chahal, Dinesh Pratap Singh and Harsh Malhotra — eight vice-presidents, eight secretaries and 10 spokespersons.

Sources in the party said Khurana, son of former Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana, threatened to resign from the post of spokesperson, which he has held for over ten years, as he has been asking for a post as office-bearer. He had also sought a ticket in the assembly election but was denied it.

Khurana removed 'spokesperson' from his Twitter bio and changed it to *karyakarta* in the morning. By evening, though, 'spokesperson' was back in his bio, with sources saying this was after senior leaders intervened.

Bagga, meanwhile, deactivated his usually busy Twitter profile. A senior leader said Bagga had been seeking the post of youth wing president or office-bearer. "He deactivated his profile because detractors often use the argument that he is just a social media star. He wanted a position in the front organisation instead of being a spokesperson, where one is limited to media activities rather than building a support base through organisational activities," the leader said.

Former vice-president Shazia IImi, the lone Muslim face among state office-bearers, is also learnt to be unhappy over being dropped from the team. IImi, however, said she is not disappointed with the restructuring.

Against the backdrop of a massive defeat in the Delhi Assembly elections earlier this year, the BJP had replaced state president Manoj Tiwari with Adesh Gupta around four months ago.

Party leaders said most people considered close to Tiwari, who were part of the old team, including media department in-charges Pratyush Kant, Neelkant Bakshi and Purvanchal morcha head Manish Singh, were also not included in the new team.

Bakshi, however, said, "Same people cannot be part of the team again and again. Then how will new leadership grow? It is a good, balanced team."

Drug case: HC issues notice to WhatsApp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE DELHI High Court has issued a notice to WhatsApp after it was told by the Delhi Police that the California-based company was not responding to its queries about call and chat details of accused persons it suspects to be suppliers of "illegal smack" in the capital.

The court was hearing bail petitions filed by two co-accused in a case registered by New Usmanpur police station after the recovery of 25 grams of 'smack' from the main accused.

Delhi Police has told the court the accused are mass suppliers of "illegal smack" in Delhi and there are several WhatsApp calls which connect four accused in the case. The accused also had a WhatsApp group for exchange

of various messages, the court was told.

As per a status report filed before the court, WhatsApp was issued a notice by Delhi Police on July 25 for the purpose of seeking "registrant details" of certain WhatsApp numbers, details of groups, calls, chats and other details. A reminder was sent to the company on September 11 but to no avail. The accused have argued mere details of call records do not establish they were necessarily speaking about supply of drugs and that the statement of a co-accused cannot form the sole basis for their arrest under law.

Justice Pratibha M Singh, in an order, said as the case requires further investigation, call detail records and chat details between the accused would be relevant for the purpose of ascertaining if they were involved in supply and distribution of drugs.

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48 years legacy of MDI Gurgaon is a testament of its position among the top B-schools in India and its continuous quest for excellence. The institute offers the following two-year full time AICTE approved programmes:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Graduate Diploma in Management - PGDM • Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Human Resource Management) - PGDM (HRM) • Post Graduate Diploma in Management (International Business) - PGDM (IB) 			
Accreditations		CRISIL Grading A** National State	
Admissions through CAT 2020 for Indian citizens and through GMAT for NRI / PIO / Foreign Nationals			
Last Date for Online Application: Friday, 27th November 2020 (5 PM)			
For complete information about selection process, contact:			
Management Development Institute		Management Development Institute	
Gurgaon: Phone: (+91 124) 4560000, 4560555, 4560666 E-mail: admissions@mdi.ac.in Website: www.mdi.ac.in		Murshidabad: Phone: 08348021165 E-mail: admissions@mdim.ac.in Website: www.mdim.ac.in	

Doctors, nurses to hold joint protest for pay

New Delhi: Doctors at North MCD's Hindu Rao Hospital will be joined by nurses for a two-hour indefinite protest against the salary delay starting Monday. Salaries of doctors, nurses, and several other staff of health facilities under North MCD — including Hindu Rao, also a Covid facility — have been delayed since June.

Dr Sagar Deep, general secretary of the hospital's Resident Doctors' Association, said, "Nurses will be joining the protest on Monday. We shall continue protesting till our salaries are paid."

Mayor Jai Prakash said, "Our sources of money were affected by Covid but we have taken new initiatives which will give results soon; we will be in a better position to pay salary on time." ENS

Court upholds order for FIR against cop who shot man

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

A DELHI court has upheld a Metropolitan Magistrate's order directing the registration of an FIR against a Delhi Police constable, who allegedly shot and killed a 25-year-old man to secure an out-of-turn promotion.

As per court records, when constable Baljit was posted at a picket in Outer Delhi's Sannoth village in 2013, he received information that three-four persons snatched a Ford Endeavour that was en route to pick up school children. When Baljit spotted the car, he gave chase instead of informing senior officers. He was allegedly engaged in a shootout with one Amit Dahiya, who was shot multiple times by Baljit. He

claimed it was an act of self defence as Dahiya opened fire at him first. Dahiya's mother had approached court for registration of an FIR against Baljit, through her lawyer Sandeep Kaushik, and an order was issued directing FIR to be registered against the constable within 7 days in 2015. However, this was challenged by Baljit in a revision petition.

Kaushik told the court of Additional Sessions Judge Jitender Kumar Mishra, "The act of Baljit was not an act of self defence as shown in the story by police, but is clearly a case of murder as firing four bullets on vital parts of the body cannot be an act of self defence... it can be clearly seen that the story of encounter is a concocted story... in order to get out turn promotion (he) has fired upon the deceased..."

During the hearing, the court perused the postmortem of the deceased, which had established "there were 14 injuries on the body of Amit Dahiya, four were firearm injuries and 10 caused by blunt force, which establishes he was mercifully beaten by the accused with some blunt object". The order read, "...If those injuries were caused by police official, then in those circumstances, there was exceed of power by official in discharge of official duties... Whether those injuries caused were part of official act, the same can be only answered when the matter is put to trial."

Baljit, through his lawyer Abhishek Rana, argued that as there was no sanction in the case, the trial court cannot proceed. The court said sanction can be taken at any stage during trial.

MEETINGS ON TO DECIDE CUT-OFFS

Helplines, WhatsApp groups: DU gears up for online admissions

ARANYA SHANKAR & SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

WITH JUST about a week to go for undergraduate admissions, Delhi University (DU) colleges are gearing up for their first ever online admission process. From creating WhatsApp groups of teachers to forming committees and making notes of potential problem areas, several steps are being taken to ensure the process goes smoothly.

DU is set to release its first cut-off list on October 12.

Hansraj College Principal Rama said that while it had not yet decided if teachers have to come to college during the admission process, the possibility was going smoothly.

"Most of our meetings are taking place online. Our department meetings have already begun to decide cut-offs. We will discuss in the Admission Committee if teachers will come to college or not. But we have already created WhatsApp groups of teachers for coordination. Every few days,



Principals said issues likely to crop up include lack of connectivity, choosing electives, among others

they held meetings via video conferencing, and it has been smooth till now," she said.

Hindu College Principal Anju Srivastava said the college will need to have many more teachers involved in the admission process this year. "Usually, admission is open from 9 am to 1 pm. But this time, it will be till 5 pm, so we will require a higher number of working people. Whether we will have teachers working from college or remotely, we will discuss. I would prefer if teachers are in college, but it will be decided through a consensus. For the OBE (open book exams), we had a control

room, but if there's no student coming, it really doesn't matter where you are," she said.

SGTB Khalsa College Principal Jaswinder Singh said some things will require more caution while conducting admissions. "We will need to be more cautious in the admission of reserved categories. If the caste certificates are issued on a digital platform, it will be easier to verify. If they are not, we will have to take extra steps for verification," he said. Another issue, he said, could be in choosing elective courses. "I think for course combinations, teachers will contact students and give them a list of available elective courses. This will also be put up on the college website. Some general elective courses are very popular, some are not. So we will have to see how to allot these to students," he said.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh College principal Anil Sardana said while some challenges are anticipated during the online admission process, conducting OBE was far more difficult. "There are the likely problems of network and internet connectivity. The verification process after the cut-off list release is going to be done digi-

tally this year, so we will be setting up helplines for the applicants. We will be conducting 60-70 admissions per department, and around 400 admissions in the commerce department. We hope the online verification will be done seamlessly, but in case there is any issue, the teachers will directly contact the applicants," he said.

At Aryabhata College, Principal Manoj Sinha said they will constitute department-wise committees of around three teachers to check if applicants have calculated their percentages correctly while claiming a seat. "With each cut-off list, the committees will check to see if there has been any misunderstanding in the calculation of marks. One concern that some principals share is the verification of some documents... those which require forensic checks can only be carried out when colleges open and students report to them. This could be a problem if there is an error in any student's verification, since by then, they will not be able to take admission under later cut-off lists..." he said

VISVESVARAYA JALANIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, V.J.N.L., Yettinahole Project Division, No.2 Hemavathi office campus, Kunigal Road Tumkur-572102. Office Phone No: 0816-2201844
Email-ID: eeyvp2mk@gmail.com
NO : 1) V.J.N.L.Y.P/E/D.2/TMK/TND-04/GAIJ/PKG-II/2020-21/1001
Dated: 03.10.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM)

On behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Limited, Bangalore the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.2, Tumkur, Karnataka invites tenders on "Percentage basis" through e-procurement portal from registered contractors enrolled in VJNL / KNNL Category I. Contractors the following tenders and the calendar of events are as follows.

Name Of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs in Lakhs)
CONSTRUCTION OF AQUEDUCT USING PORTAL FRAME FROM CH.203.020 KM TO 203.140 KM OF YETTINAHOLE GRAVITY MAIN CANAL ACROSS GAIL PIPELINE ROU CORRIDOR (WITHDRAWN PORTION FROM MAJOR AQUEDUCT PACKAGE-II)	3593.87

The contractors can download and submit the completed bid documents through e-procurement website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 07.10.2020 to date: 22.10.2020 17.00 hrs tender shall be submitted through E-proc. Details such as EMD amount/Tender Processing fee/Qualification of bidders/ Tender Conditions etc can be obtained through e-procurement. The Technical bid will be opened on 27.10.2020 at 11:00 hrs at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No-2, Tumkur through e-procurement. Any queries in this regard may be submitted on or before 3.00PM on 16.10.2020 to Executive Engineer. The competent authority to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons. Any further information required may be obtained from the undersigned during office hours upto 22.10.2020, 17.00 Hrs.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, V.J.N.L, YP Division No 2, Tumkur.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Every member of Team Seventeen is proud of your supreme sacrifice and bravery. We wish you were present to guide us. Your heroic deed in which you neutralised 02 insurgents on 04 Oct 2001 will forever motivate us. We salute you sir.

CO and All Ranks 17 Rara Fd Regt (8 RAJPUT)

REMEMBRANCE

NAIB SUBEDAR G GURUSWAMY NAIB SUBEDAR G GURUSWAMY NAIB SUBEDAR G GURUSWAMY NAIB SUBEDAR G GURUSWAMY

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE MARTYRS OF "THE RISING SUN" WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATION ON 04 OCT 1996 WHILE FIGHTING TERRORIST IN POONCH SECTOR J&K.YOUR ETERNAL MEMORIES WILL ALWAYS INSPIRE US.

COOL ANOOP AND ALL RANKS 321 FIELD REGIMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to operational reasons the following trains will remain cancelled till further advice :-

Train No. & Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
04252 New Delhi - Lucknow Clone Special Train	With effect from 11.10.2020
04251 Lucknow - New Delhi Clone Special Train	With effect from 10.10.2020

Note : For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182 **Integrated Helpline No. 139**

Please Join US on :-

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Always at your service
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GREATER WARANGAL SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED
RFP Notice No. GWSCL/CTN/03/2020-21. Dated: 01.10.2020

N.W. Setting up of Faecal Sludge and Septage Treatment Plant (FSTP) of 150 KLD Capacity in Warangal on the basis of Design, Engineering, Construction, Supply, Installation, Testing, Erection & Commissioning and thereafter operate & Maintain the FSTP for Nine Years and Six Months, RFP downloadable from Website: 05-10-2020 from 10.30 AM onwards. Last Date for Download of RFP on GWSMC: 20-10-2020 upto 11.00 AM. Bid Due Date/Bid Submission date: 20-10-2020 upto 4.00 PM. Address for Communication & Submission of Bid: MD&CEO, GWSMC, Beside MGM Hospital, Warangal-506002. Date of Pre-Bid Meeting: 09-10-2020 at 11.00 AM in O/o, Commissioner, GWSMC, Beside MGM Hospital, Warangal-506002. Last Date for receiving queries for Pre-Bid Meeting: 09-10-2020 upto 4.00 PM. Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid (Eligibility & Qualification Criteria): 20-10-2020 at 4.30 PM. Presentation by technically qualified bidders: 23-10-2020 at 11.00 AM. Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid: 26-10-2020 at 12.00 Noon. Issue of Letter 'Letter of Award': 28-10-2020. NOTE: Further details can be obtained at <https://gwmv.gov.in/Tenders.aspx>
R.O.No: 966-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2020-21 Sd/- MD&CEO, GWSCL

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M), U.P. JAL NIGAM, GHAZIABAD

Letter No.: 2895V/7229
Date : 01.10.2020

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders for Supply, Installation, Commissioning & Testing of 2000 LPM, 40m head and 1100L PM, 4m head Submersible pumping plants & its Appurtenant works at Chithera water supply Scheme Distt. G.B. Nagar respectively invited by U.P. Jal Nigam shall be downloaded and uploaded at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 05.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs. onwards to 12.10.2020 at 17:00 hrs. E-tender shall be open on 13.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs. onwards at office of Executive Engineer, Construction Division (E/M), U.P. Jal Nigam, Ghaziabad. The cost of tender document for each tender is 1,000.00 + 18% GST which can be deposited through RTGS only. All other conditions shall be as per NIT and tender document.

Diagnostic centre to open at Bangla Sahib

New Delhi: A diagnostic centre, the "country's cheapest" will begin at the Gurdwara Bangla Sahib in December, with an MRI costing Rs 50, as per the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC).

The facility will be available inside a hospital in the gurdwara, where a dialysis centre has also been set up, with the procedure costing Rs 600, said DSGMC president Manjinder Singh Sirsa. "Anyone can come to the gurdwara and use these facilities. These are the country's cheapest," he said. He added that the diagnostic centre would also offer x-ray and ultrasound facilities, costing Rs 150. The machines have been procured through donations worth Rs 6 crore from various people, the DSGMC president said. The dialysis centre would be functional by Saturday and the diagnostic centre by December, Sirsa said. ENS

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 20/11
Date: 28.09.2020

E-Procurement Tender Notice

On behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Material Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites the E-procurement tenders:

S.N.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	EMD
1.	19205861	Low Maintenance Lead Acid Secondary cell 2V/ 300 AH Capacity conform 'RDSO Spcn No. IRS.S.88/2004 in hard rubber container complete with inter cell connector microporous ceramic vent plug, sealed flite gudge and nuts bolt and washer dry and uncharged condition."	540 Nos.	Rs. 81.350/-

Tender Opening Date: 27.10.2020 Note: (1) The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tender. For this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with class III digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Documents being attached should be signed on their body. (5) Allocation for "Cost of Drawing" is Z-650 and for "Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)" is Deposit Misc. stores-00844517. The above tender notice has been uploaded on <http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in>. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached. 101320 (P)

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tender Notice No.: TMC/CPOH/PRY/J20-21/04
Date: 26.09.2020

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

CWM/CPOH / North Central Railway / Prayagraj for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work upto 15.00 hrs. on 02.11.2020. The details of the Tender are as under:-

SN	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Date of Opening of Tender
1	TMC-CPOH-PRY-06-20-21	Repairing of wheel and axle assembly for various types of track machines as per schedule of work.	₹ 556842.78	₹ 111000.00	₹ 0.00	02.11.2020

Completion Period: 12 Month. **Eligibility Criteria for similar work:** Work related to wheel and axle of any railway track vehicle. **Note:** (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.ireps.gov.in upto 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. (4) The tenders shall submit a notarized affidavit on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender will not be considered and may be rejected. (5) The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (6) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (7) This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. (8) Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. (9) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (10) Tender online can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs. on 02.11.2020. 1014/20 (A)

North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in North Central Railway @CPRO NCR

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, ATAL NAGAR, NAVA RAIPUR
2ND TENDER NOTICE
No.PHQ-Sec-1-Kit-Clo(38-A)/4178/20 Nava Raipur, Dated 30/09/2020
Sealed tenders are being invited from original equipment manufacturers (OEM) or authorized by manufacturer (only one) for the following item:

Sl No.	Name of Item	Qty	Specification	EMD in Rs	Remarks
1.	Long Range Tropical 5 Inch Ankle/Trekking Boot	2000 Pair	As per Section-IV	3,30,000/-	The tenderer shall submit Two Pair untested samples of Trekking Boot as per the specification. Sample-1 must be Embossed/stamped with this manufacturer's name or his recognized trade mark, size and month/year of manufacture in outside. Sample-2: without any trade mark of manufacturer in outside. Lab test can be performed by the department from any government lab.

The tender offer in the prescribed tender form along with all the relevant document sealed and completed in all respect must be submitted as per the schedule below.

SCHEDULE FOR TENDER

a) Address for submission of Tender Document :- AIG of Police (P&P), Block no.01/Room No. 106 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur.

b) Last date & time for Submission of Tender Document :- 28/10/2020 till 03.00 pm

c) Place, Time and Date of Opening Technical Bid :- Sector 19, Nava Raipur 28/10/2020 at 04.00 pm

d) Place, Time and Date of opening Financial Bid :- Shall be intimated.

e) Date till which the Bid to remain valid :- 120 days from the scheduled date of submission of the Bid.

Note:- 1. In case of tender opening declared as holiday, tenders will be opened on next working day. 2. Tender documents can be downloaded from our website www.cpolice.gov.in and at the time of submission of documents tender fee Rs. 2000/- will be paid in the form of DD of State Bank of India/Scheduled bank (other than Cooperative Bank) payable at Raipur in favour of Assistant Inspector General of Police (Accounts), Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Atal Nagar Raipur or State Govt. Challan of Rs. 2000/- to be deposited in the Head of A/c-0055-Police-800 other receipt. Tender fee is non refundable and cant exempted in any condition. 3. Modification/Amendments/Corrigendum, if any shall not be advertised on the new paper but shall be published in the aforesaid web site only. 4. If any bidder sends tender document through Courier/Speed post. The tender documents will be accepted till 3.00 pm on 28/10/2020 at Block No. 01, Room No. 106 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur only. Received tender documents, in any other address at PHQ as stipulated and time, will not be accepted.

Sd/-
A.I.G. of Police (P&P)
For-Director General of Police

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag H.Q. Awantipora
Ph. No 01933247951, E mail: xnmidanantnag@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Modernization of LIS Samboora by way of Design Manufacture Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of 10 Cusec Horizontal Centrifugal Pumping Unit for LIS Musafir Grave.

Ref: This office E Nit No 29/MIDA of 2020-21 Dated: 28.09.2020 issued vide MIDA/1411-20 Dated: 28.09.2020

Please read at ANNEXURE B SPECIFICATION OF REQUIRED EQUIPMENT SL 1 (A) (XXI) as;

Material of Pump Casing : Close fine grained Cast Iron conforming to IS:210 grade 20

INSTEAD OF:
Material of Pump Casing : ASTM 351/CF-8M in the e NIT referred above.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original E NIT.

No. MIDA/1509-16
Died: 30.09.2020
DIPK-6719/20

Executive Engineer,
Mech. Irr. Div., Anantnag
H.Q. Awantipora.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag H.Q. Awantipora
Ph. No.: 01933247951, E mail: xnmidanantnag@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Modernization of LIS Samboora by way of Design Manufacture Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of 10 Cusec Horizontal Centrifugal Pumping Unit for LIS Allochibagh.

Ref: This office E Nit No 28/MIDA of 2020-21 Dated: 28.09.2020 issued vide MIDA/1401-10 Dated: 28.09.2020

Please read at ANNEXURE B SPECIFICATION OF REQUIRED EQUIPMENT SL 1 (A) (XXI) as;

Material of Pump Casing : Close fine grained Cast Iron conforming to IS:210 grade 20

INSTEAD OF:
Material of Pump Casing : ASTM 351/CF-8M in the e NIT referred above.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the original E NIT.

No. MIDA/1517-24
Dated: 30.09.2020
DIPK-6715/20

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mech. Irr. Div., Anantnag
H.Q. Awantipora.

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION
DISMANTLING OF COMPLETE BOGIE OF BG COACHES

For and behalf of The President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Repair Workshop, Bhavnagar Para, invites E-Tender as per the details given below :- E-Tender Notice No. BVPW/2020-21-Bogie Dis-03 (1) Name of Work: Dismantling of Complete Bogie of BG Coaches in Carriage Repair Workshop Bhavnagar Para as per Scope of work. (2) Approx. cost of work: ₹ 36,70,820/- (3) EMD: ₹ 73,400/- (4) Date and Submission of bid and opening of bid: Submission: 23-10-2020 up to 15:00 hrs. Opening: 23-10-2020 after 15:30 hrs. (5) Website particulars and Address of the office: CWM-BVP's Office, Carriage Repair Workshop, Bhavnagar Para-364003 Website: www.ireps.gov.in BVP-037

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कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता (दक्षिण) उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
जल संयंत्र
32-राजपुर रोड, देहरादून।
जीवन संयंत्र
दूरभाष नं०: 0135-2742828, ई-मेल: eesouth-uj-s-uk@nic.in

पत्रांक: 1231 / लेखा / ई-निविदा / 2020-21 दिनांक: 03 अक्टूबर, 2020

ई-निविदा सूचना

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, दू-विड सिस्टम (तकनीकी विड एवं वित्तीय विड) के आधारे पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर राशि (₹० में)	निविदा मूल्य (₹० में)	अवधि
1.	देहरादून जलोत्सर्जन योजना के अन्तर्गत कारगी चौक देहरादून अवस्थित 68 एम०एल०डी०, एस०टी०पी० स्वचालित एस०बी०आर० पद्धति का संचालन एवं रख-रखाव मय अशोधित एवं शोधित सीवरज की कैमिकल एवं बाइलॉजिकल टैरिज, इलेक्ट्रिकल एवं मैकेनिकल मशीनरी की मरम्मत एवं रख-रखाव तथा सिविल स्ट्रक्चर की मरम्मत, रख-रखाव, गार्डनिंग, रंगाई-पुताई, कूड़े-कचरे का निस्सारण, परिसरमलिनियों की सुरक्षा एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य (सामग्री, श्रम, टी० एण्ड पी० सहित) जिसमें केवल विद्युत देयक एवं डीजल विभाग द्वारा देय होगा।	1000000.00	5000.00 + 18 प्रतिशत जी०एस०टी० अतिरिक्त	5 वर्ष

शर्तें

- निविदा प्रपत्र की उपलब्धता तथा ई-टेंडरिंग की प्रक्रिया की समस्त जानकारी वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
- निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 05.10.2020 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 20.10.2020 को साय: 05:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड / अपलोड किया जा सकता है।
- तकनीकी विड खोले जाने की तिथि 21.10.2020 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे निर्धारित है।
- ई-निविदा हेतु प्रिबिड मीटिंग हेतु तिथि 13.10.2020 को अधीक्षण अभियन्ता कार्यालय, 95-राजपुर रोड, देहरादून में प्रातः 11:00 बजे निर्धारित है।
- निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निविदादाता को डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर प्रमाणपत्र (डी०एस०सी०) किसी प्रमाणित / प्राधिकृत संस्था द्वारा निर्गत किया होना आवश्यक है।
- उपरोक्त निविदा सूचना में यदि कोई संशोधन किया जाता है तो संशोधित निविदा सूचना सीधे वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ही अपलोड की जाएगी। संशोधित निविदा सूचना का प्रकाशन समाचार पत्र में नहीं किया जाएगा।
- किसी भी निविदा अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार विभाग में निहित है।
- निविदा हेतु न्यूनतम अर्हता स्वचालित 50 एम०एल०डी० स्वचालित एस०टी०पी०, एस०बी०आर० पद्धति का 03 वर्षों के संतोषजनक संचालन एवं रख-रखाव का अनुभव वाली फर्म ही अर्ह होगी। शेष विस्तृत समस्त नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में देखी जा सकती है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता (दक्षिण)

GOBICHTTIPALAYAM MUNICIPALITY
Govt. No.4463/2012/EL
Tender Notice
Construction of Daily Market Building under Integrated Urban Development Mission (IUDM) 2020-2021

1. Bids are invited by the Municipal Corporation, Gobichettipalayam for the execution of Construction of Daily Market Building in Ward-B Block No. 9, T.S.No. 295/1, 295/2, 295/3, 296/1 & 296/2 in Veerapandi Village, Gobichettipalayam Municipality (Two cover system). 2. Work value : Rs.699.78 lakhs. 3. Bid document can be downloaded from the website <https://tenders.gov.in> at free of cost and the full details of the tenders can be had from the above web site.

4. Common dates & time:-

1) Date and time of Pre bid meeting	21.10.2020 AT 11.00 AM
2) Last date and time for downloading bid documents	05.11.2020 upto 3.00PM
3) Last Date and time for submission of bid document, including online submission	05.11.2020 upto 3.00PM
4) Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid	05.11.2020 AT 3.30PM

5. In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared as holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

Commissioner, Gobichettipalayam Municipality, Gobichettipalayam.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून
(का०)-0135-271407, फ़ैक्स-0135-2651060, ई-मेल- nagarnigam.ddun@gmail.com)

स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के अन्तर्गत स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण-2021 हेतु सर्वेक्षण के समस्त घटकों पर फ़िल्ड व ड्राय्यूमेंटेशन कार्य करने हेतु इच्छुक विशेषज्ञ संस्थाओं/संगठनों/फ़र्मों से EOI हेतु प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण-2021 के समस्त घटकों पर कार्य करने हेतु उक्त प्रस्ताव दि० 10/10/2020 तक स्वच्छ भारत मिशन सेल नगर निगम देहरादून कार्यालय अथवा ई-मेल में किसी भी कार्यदिवस पर 10-5 P.M. तक सम्पूर्ण प्रपत्रों सहित जमा कराये जा सकते हैं। अंतिम तिथि के पश्चात प्राप्त प्रस्तावों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून।

N.M.R. 180 - NAMAKKAL DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD.
1/1167, Paramathy Road, E.B. Colony (PO), Namakkal (Taluk & District), PIN - 637 001.
Phone : 9790997832, 9790997833 Email : zavinmmkl@gmail.com, savinmmkl@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Invited sealed tenders for vehicles by 2 cover system for distribution of milk and collection of tubs from Namakkal Milk Marketing Office and Salem Milk Union to operate 10 lorries / Mini Lorries, 4 Mini autos and 1 taxi / Diesel for union head office Marketing / P & I / Engineering section usage for the period of 2020-2023 (3 years). The cost of tender form is Rs. 200/-.

a) EMD for 5.0 to 7.0 ton hired lorries - Rs. 10,000/-
b) EMD for Mini/lor / Bolero / Tata ACE / Taxi / Diesel - Rs. 3,000/-

The tender form will be issued from the date of issuance of advertisement to 03.11.2020 up to 3.00 p.m. on all working days at Namakkal DCMPU Head Office. The EMD must be paid only as DD in favor of "GENERAL MANAGER, Namakkal DCMPU Ltd" payable at Namakkal and the duly filled tender forms should be submitted on or before 05.11.2020 by 02.00 p.m. The opening of the tender forms will be on 05.11.2020 the same day itself by 02.30 p.m. Tender forms can also be downloaded from "www.tenders.tn.gov.in" on free of cost up to 03.11.2020 3.00 P.M. All other details are enclosed with the tender form.

DIPR/3713/TENDER/2020 **GENERAL MANAGER**

5 GOVT & POLITICS

Bihar Oppn alliance announces seat share, minor ally VIP 'quits' in a huff

Cong gets 70, Left 29, RJD to accommodate JMM from its 144

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 3

AS THE Opposition Grand Alliance announced the share of seats the partners will contest in the forthcoming Bihar Assembly elections, RJD leader and former Deputy CM Tejawshi Prasad Yadav declared himself leader of the alliance, thanking the other parties for reposing faith in his leadership, and made several promises if they form the government.

Among others, Tejawshi said the first Cabinet meeting of a Grand Alliance government, if it comes to fruition, would announce 10 lakh government jobs for the state's youth.

The media conference, attended by leaders of the other alliance partners, was not without its share of drama. Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) chief Mukesh Sahni, whose party's share of seats was not announced, said towards the end of joint press conference that he was "betrayed" by Tejawshi. Sahni walked out of the press meet and told reporters that his party could no longer be part of the Grand Alliance.

The VIP had been demanding 20-plus seats but was assured of about 10 seats, it is learnt.

Addressing the media in the state capital, the RJD leader said the Congress would contest on 70 seats, besides the Valmiki Nagar Lok Sabha by-election, while the three Left parties will fight from 29 constituencies: CPI(M) from 19 seats, and the CPI and CPI(M) six and four seats, respectively.

The RJD, which kept 144 seats for itself, would accommodate two other allies JMM and VIP [before Sahni's move in protest] from its share, he announced.

Tejawshi said: "I thank all the



RJD leaders Tejawshi Yadav and Tej Pratap with Bihar Congress in-charge Avinash Pandey, VIP president Mukesh Sahni and Left leaders, in Patna on Saturday. PTI

EXPLAINED

VIP's walkout has potential to hurt

MUKESH SAHNI'S Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) walking out of the Grand Alliance could hurt the Opposition since the EBC leader has sizeable influence among Sahni Mallahs, which constitute about 2 per cent of the state's population.

allies for reposing faith in my leadership. I assure that I would live up to their expectations. We will try to offer a strong alternative. The double-engine government (of Nitish Kumar) has been in ICU... If we are voted to power, we will give 10 lakh government jobs in the very first Cabinet meeting."

Taking on Nitish Kumar, he said the government under him has failed to tackle issues of



DECISION 2020 BIHAR

poverty and unemployment. "No factory (in the state), farmers are being exploited. This government failed to stop

migration (of workers to other states). If people give us one chance, we will try to regain the lost pride and glory of Bihar," he said.

Tejawshi also said government job vacancy forms would be given free of cost.

Emphasising that alliance partners had made some sacrifice in seat-sharing, he assured them of an electoral victory: "I assure you it (sacrifice) would not go waste."

Congress screening committee chairman Avinash Pandey said: "Nitish Kumar had betrayed the mandate (received by the Grand Alliance in 2015); the people will not forgive him. Nitish Kumar had been insensitive towards migrants, denying return of his own people (to Bihar)... Tejawshi-ji had done well as deputy CM and had become the voice of the deprived."

Cong, Left drove hard bargain, RJD looked at social engineering

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 3

DESPITE TOUGH posturing by RJD, the Congress was able to bargain hard and get 70 seats to contest in the Assembly polls.

The Congress had contested 41 seats in 2015 elections and won 27. The JD(U) was then part of the Grand Alliance.

The RJD was said to be unwilling to give the Congress more than 60 seats, but eventually reconciled to 70 seats since it ostensibly did not want to let another ally go after RLSP and HAM(S) left Grand Alliance in the last two months over seat-sharing. Besides, the Congress has been RJD's most trusted ally.

But the numbers in themselves may not tell the whole story — as an RJD leader said, most seats given to the Congress have sitting JD(U) and BJP members. "About 40 seats of Congress have been strong

NDA areas. The RJD has done its social arithmetic before allotting these seats," the RJD leader said, adding that there were sharp differences over seat-sharing.

Among Left parties, CPI(M) succeeded in bargaining well. The party was allocated 19 seats due to its presence in Siwan, Arwal, Jehanabad, rural Patna and Katihar, RJD leaders said. The CPI(M) has three MLAs in the outgoing Assembly. "The RJD believes CPI(M) would help greatly in mutual conversion of votes, unlike RLSP or HAM(S). The Left parties could be an asset to the Grand Alliance," the leader said.

This is the first time CPI(M) has been part of an RJD-led alliance. The party had won six seats in 2000, seven in the February 2005 Assembly polls, and five in the elections in October the same year.

It drew a blank in the 2010 elections, when NDA won 206 of 243 seats



BSP, part of an alliance headed by RLSP's Upendra Kushwaha, on Saturday suffered a jolt after its Bihar unit chief Bharat Bhand joined RJD; here with RJD leader Tejawshi Yadav in Patna. PTI

Chirag hails Modi, seeks support for 'Bihar first' agenda

DIPANKAR GHOSE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

IN A move that will prolong the speculation about the LJP's future in the NDA, party president Chirag Paswan on Saturday released a statement in which he praised Prime Minister Modi for his work but remained quiet on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish

Kumar, the target of the party's several salvos till date.

Chirag stated that he is proud to have had "an opportunity" to work with Modi.

In what is seen as an indication that the LJP may go it alone in the Bihar Assembly elections, Chirag sought people's blessings for his "Bihar First Bihar First" manifesto. According to the statement, the LJP took inspira-



LJP chief's note did not mention Nitish Kumar

tion from the Prime Minister to prepare this vision document.

The note says that having taken inspiration from the Prime

Minister, the LJP has prepared a vision document called "Bihar First Bihar First". While asking for blessings, Paswan's note says that the vision document aims to restore "lost Bihar pride", and says that he hopes all his "candidates will strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister". There was no mention of strengthening Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Chirag Paswan and Nitish

Kumar have consistently sniped at each other, with the LJP leaders claiming that they were prepared to fight 143 seats in the Bihar Assembly polls, and to put up candidates where the JD(U) was fighting, and not the BJP. A senior LJP leader said, "It is almost certain we will not fight under Nitish Kumar. Until a formal announcement things can still change, but it seems difficult now."

9.02-km tunnel at 10,000 feet to cut Manali-Leh distance by 46 km

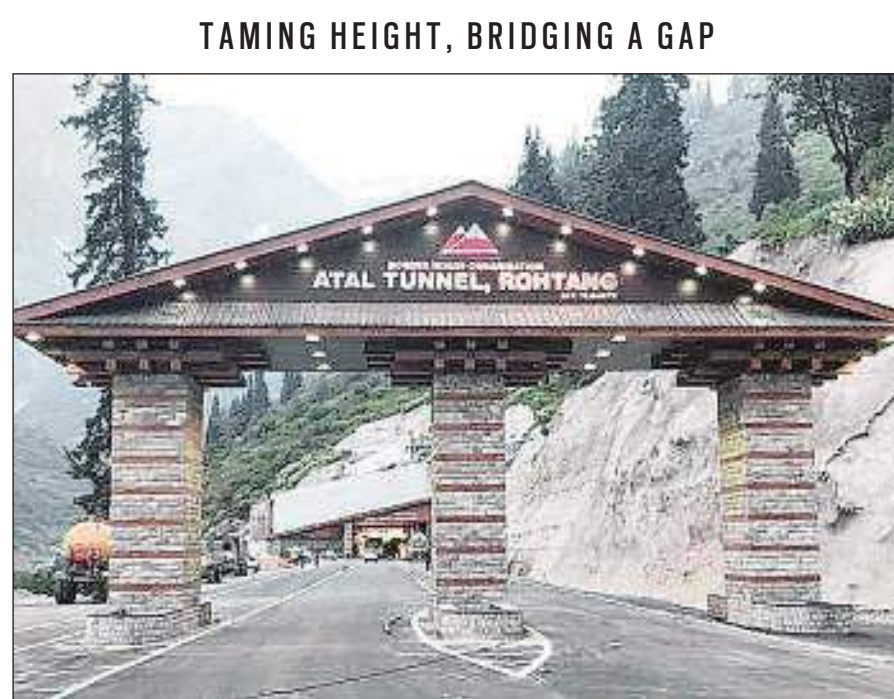
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 3

LYING BETWEEN 10,040 to 10,075 feet above the sea level, the Atal Tunnel at Rohtang — which bypasses the Rohtang Pass on the Manali-Leh route — is the longest tunnel above an altitude of 10,000 feet, according to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The tunnel does not lie directly underneath the Rohtang Pass (around 13,000 feet high), but three hills west of the pass. On the Manali side, it starts from Dhundhi in Solang valley, which lies around 11 km west of the Manali-Leh highway. It cuts through the lofty Pir Panjal range to emerge beside the Chandra river near Sissu in Lahaul on the northern side, where a bridge connects it to the Manali-Leh highway.

The tunnel cuts short the distance between Manali and Leh by around 46 km, and saves several hours of travel time. Double-laned and horse-shoe shaped, the tunnel was originally designed to be 8.8-km-long but was measured at 9.02-km-long upon completion.

Built at a cost of around Rs 3,200 crore, the tunnel was made by blasting rather than drilling. With a smaller escape tunnel built underneath, it has a telephone facility after every 150 metres, fire hydrant after every 60 metres, emergency exit after every 500 metres, turning cavern after every 2.2 km, air quality monitoring after every kilometre, a broadcasting system and an automatic incident detection system with CCTV cameras after every 250 metres.



Double-laned, the tunnel was originally designed to be 8.8-km-long; PM Narendra Modi (top) and Defence Minister Rajnath at the inauguration ceremony on Saturday. ANI



THE NUMBERS

9.02 km long | 10.5 metres wide | 5.52 metres high

MANPOWER: 750 permanent engineers and other technicians; 2,000-plus other workers

₹3,200 crore COST

DAILY TRAFFIC ESTIMATE:

3,000 CARS, 1,500 TRUCKS

ILLUMINATION: Auto adjusts as per light conditions outside for visual adaptation and energy saving

Oppn also thought of improving farm laws but lacked courage: PM Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, OCTOBER 3

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the Opposition, which is currently protesting against the new farm laws, had also thought of bringing improvements to the existing legislation but "lacked courage".

Addressing a public gathering at Solang near Manali after inaugurating the Atal Tunnel, Modi said that those who opposed the new laws had promoted commission agents and middlemen when they were in power. "Those opposing the laws want to live in the previous century. But the country is eager for change, and the laws are a historic improvement in the farm sector. Even they (the Opposition) thought of this improvement, but lacked the courage to introduce it," he said.

Modi's statement seemed to be a veiled dig at the Congress — the BJP has cited the opposition party's manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls to assert that it had also promised the same laws which the Modi government has enacted to allow farmers to sell their produce outside state-controlled mandis but is now criticising them for political reasons.

The Prime Minister said that thanks to the new farm laws, small and marginal farmers in Himachal Pradesh will now be able to get better prices for their produce. He pointed out that apple growers in Shimla, Kullu and

Kinnaur generally sell the fruit for Rs 40-50 per kg while the consumer in Delhi pays Rs 100-150 for the same.

"Where's the missing amount? Neither the farmer nor the consumer in the city gets it. And as the apple season peaks, prices fall drastically," he said.

Modi said that fruit and vegetable producers in Himachal will now be free to go directly to other states to sell their products, and can also choose to sell them in the local mandis.

Earlier, addressing the public on the northern side of the Atal Tunnel at Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district, Modi said farmers from Lahaul will now find it easier to take their produce to Manali via the newly-constructed tunnel, which reduces the distance between the two points by around 45 km and cuts the travel time by several hours. He said the new tunnel will also ensure connectivity during the winter months, when the Rohtang Pass is closed due to snow.

These were his first public rallies in more than six months, since the coronavirus pandemic forced a nationwide lockdown in March. People at both public meetings were seated as per social distancing protocols.

Modi said that Lahaul residents, who are generally cut-off during the winters, will be able to move out for studies, work and health services. The Atal Tunnel will also bring more tourists to the valley, which will generate employment opportunities, he said.

Cong, Left MPs took anti-farmer approach in House: Muraleedharan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 3

UNION MINISTER of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan on Saturday said the approach of the Congress and Left over the farm Bills, which were recently passed in Parliament, reeks of hypocrisy.

Addressing the media here, the BJP leader from Kerala said these farm Bills have no impact on farmers in Kerala. "But the approach of the Left MPs in Parliament was anti-farmer as



V Muraleedharan

well as cheating the farmers. People of Kerala should realise the hypocrisy of the MPs from the state, who have taken a negative stand towards the Bills. Left MPs' opposition to reforms is



Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha

Discriminatory: RJD's Manoj Jha moves SC over new farm laws

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

RJD RAJYA Sabha member Manoj Jha has approached the Supreme Court questioning the Centre's new farm laws, saying the "discriminatory and manifestly arbitrary" changes will expose marginal farmers to exploitation by big corporates.

Jha is the third legislator to challenge the new farm laws. Earlier, Congress MP from Kerala T N Prathapan and DMK Rajya Sabha member from Tamil Nadu Tiruchi Siva had moved the court in the matter.

In his plea, Jha has said, "The impugned legislations corporatise agriculture and ushers in an unregulated and exploitative regime. A farmer would not have the knowledge to negotiate the best terms with a private company. This leads to unequal bargaining position in negotiating the farm agreement with corporates and would lead to corporates monopolising the agriculture sector."

He alleged that the laws were passed "in breach of the Parliamentary Rules and convention", "in blatant breach of the principles of federal structure" and "violates the Basic Structure of the Constitution".

only a stunt to compete with Congress, as the Bills have no impact on farmers in Kerala where there is no APMC," he said.

Muraleedharan said Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has declared a three-day protest against the new farm laws. "Had he considered the opinion of farmers in his constituency Wayanad, he would not have decided on such a protest."

The Congress and the Left have adopted a double-standard on this issue, he said. "The propaganda that these reforms are anti-farmer is only vote bank politics. They want to shape new vote banks."

Cong charts route plan for Rahul to enter Haryana, Anil Vij adamant

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

HARYANA HOME Minister Anil Vij Saturday reiterated that Rahul Gandhi will not be allowed to enter the state if he leads a protest march even as the Congress continued to discuss possible routes that the senior leader can take to reach Haryana from Punjab on October 6 to lead a tractor rally against the three farm laws enacted by the Centre.

Gandhi's final tour programme will be finalised Sunday, but according to the party's preliminary plan he will finish his tractor rallies in Punjab's Patiala and attempt to enter Haryana through Pehowa on October 6. From Pehowa, he will reach Pipli in Kurukshetra, address a rally of farmers, shopkeepers and arhtiyas and then take the national highway to Delhi. Congress party is also exploring another route in Ambala for Gandhi's entry into Haryana.

The main Opposition party in Haryana is leaving no stone unturned to turn the rally into a show of strength.

Vij, meanwhile, reiterated that Gandhi shall not be allowed entry into state. "He can come to Haryana a thousand times. There is no ban on that. But, if he wants to lead a political rally from Punjab into Haryana and wants to disrupt law and order situation here, he will not be allowed to do so. The Disaster Management Act is still in force. Assembly of more than 100 persons at a given point is not allowed."



Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar and Cabinet minister Sukhjinder Randhawa inspect the arrangements for Rahul Gandhi's 'Kheti Bachao Rally' in Moga. Gurmeet Singh

5,000 tractors, gatherings of 10,000: Rahul to lead farm stir in Punjab today

DIVYA GOYAL & KANCHAN VASDEV
LUDHIANA, CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 3

WITH CONGRESS all set to hold massive public meetings and tractor rallies led by party leader Rahul Gandhi in Punjab beginning Sunday as a "show of solidarity for farmers against three farm laws enacted by Centre," the administration in at least one district, in a move to bypass the Union 5.0 guidelines, has termed it "an extension of the ongoing farmers' agitation in state".

Gandhi, who will be reaching Punjab Sunday, is expected to address two public meetings, each with a gathering of at least 10,000 farmers, in Moga and Ludhiana. He will also lead a tractor rally for which the party has arranged at least 3,000 tractors in Moga with another 2,000 to join as it enters Ludhiana.

Starting from Badhni Kalan in Moga, Rahul would be driving a tractor for 52 kms over the next three days and the convoy will move through rural and link roads, which are maintained by the Punjab Mandi Board utilising the funds collected by levying market fee and rural development fund (RDF) from the grain markets.

"Besides Rahul ji, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, general secretary incharge Harish Rawat, PCC chief Sunil Jakhar will be on the tractor," said Cabinet Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who is also the in-charge of party's programme at Badhni Kalan.

Asked if such gatherings are allowed as per Covid guidelines, minister Randhawa said, "Farmers might get saved from coronavirus but not from these black laws. Right now the issue we are raising is more important than coronavirus."

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, SANA HASAN D/O AMIR HASSAN ANSARI R/O 2724/25, 4th Floor, Gali Tehsildar, Kucha Chellan, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002, have changed my name to SANA HASSAN ANSARI.
0040550346-3

It is for general information that I, Ruma Choudhary W/o Paresh Choudhary, R/o H No. G-31, Gali No-13, Jagjit Nagar, Delhi-110053 declare that the name of my son has been wrongly written as Raj Narayan Choudhary his educational document and my name has been wrongly written as Roma Choudhary The actual name of my son is Raj Narayan Choudhary and my name is Ruma Choudhary respectively which may be amended accordingly.
0040550353-8

I, Vaghela Urvashi Amrutkumar, W/O Anil Sondagar R/O-C-1006, J.C. Colony, Hastals-Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 Have Changed my Name after marriage to Urvashi Sondagar
0040550351-4

I, Taranjit Kaur W/o Harvinder Pal Singh R/O D-2 Galaxy Apartment F-Block Vikasपुरी, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Taranjit Kaur.
0040550328-1

I, Himanshu Gupta S/o Shri V.K. Gupta R/o VK Gupta AWHO Gurjinder Vihar Near knowledge park-II Metro Station Sector-CH-II Kasana Gautambuddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh-201310 have changed my name to Himanshu V Gupta for all purpose.
0040550325-1

I, Hemant Ahuja, S/o Lt. Gopi Chand Ahuja, R/O B-300, Lok Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi inform everyone concerned that Hemant Kumar Ahuja and Hemant Ahuja are one and the same person.
0040550310-1

I, Varun Kumar S/o Virender Kumar Pathak R/o-2/7, Sheeta Colony, Gurgaon Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Varun Kumar Pathak Permanently.
0040550293-1

I, Tamandeep Kaur D/o Jasvinder Singh Saini, R/o L-Ext-185, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Tamandeep Kaur Saini.
0070716008-1

I, Suresh W/O Hemchand R/O village-Gothra, Bagpat, U.P., in my son, Satish Kumar, school certificates, my name has been wrongly written, as Baresh Devi, but my actual and correct name is, Suresh.
0040550338-1

I, Sukhvinder Singh S/o Trilok Singh Chona R/O B-35 Ground-Floor Surajmal-Vihar Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Sukhvinder Singh Permanently.
0040550293-4

I, Sneha Vaghela H W/o Nitin Kochher R/O-House No-418 Third-Floor City Homes Omaxe-City Bahadurgarh Haryana-124507, have changed my name to Sneha Vaghela Permanently.
0040550293-3

I, Vinny W/o Sunil Kumar R/O A-24/143, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Vandana
0040550317-1

I, Shikha Rani D/o Satish Kumar R/O Flat.No.1/6990 UG Floor, Shivaji Park Golchakar, Shahdara Delhi-110032 Have Changed My Name To Shikha.
0040550353-1

I, Seema Rani W/o Rajesh Kumar R/O-A-1/256 Ajanta-Flats Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Seema Permanently.
0040550293-2

I, Sarabjeet Singh S/O Late Tejinder Singh R/O-F-72A 3rd-Floor Mansarovar-Garden, N.Delhi-110015, have changed my minor son's name Yuvi Singh Jubbel to Jaspreet Singh, permanently.
0040550353-2

I, Sanya Kapur W/o Aman Wadhwa R/O H-529, Second Floor Near HDFC-Bank, Palam Vihar Choma-(62)Gurgaon Haryana-122017, have changed my name to Sanya Kapur Wadhwa Permanently.
0040550293-5

I, SUSHMA, Wife of, Ex Sgt JAGDISH LAL, Service.No.622128R, R/O-12/372, DDA-Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, have changed my Name, from SUSHMA to SUSHMA KUMARI vide-Affidavit dated-27-September-2020, at New-Delhi.
0040550349-4

I, SURINDER GAUR S/O-JASWANT SINGH GAUR, H.NO-WZ-72, SHADIPUR, PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008, HAVE changed my name to SURINDER SINGH GAUR.
0040550351-2

I, Rippan Sethi residing B-63, LIC Colony, near Sunder Vihar, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my daughter's name from Kashi Sethi to KAASHVI SETHI for all purposes.
0040550305-1

I, Ram Babu S/o Late Lila Dhar Sharma R/O Flat No.887, First Floor, Pocket-6, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed the name of my minor son from Shiv Sharma to Vishveshwar Sharma for all purposes.
0040550300-1

I, MANJEET SINGH HORA, R/O 12-A/25, WE A KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER'S NAME FROM ASHMEET HORA TO ASHMEET KAUR HORA FOR ALL PURPOSES.
0040550333-1

LOST & FOUND

I, KAVITA CHAUHAN, D/o Kanhaiya Chauhan R/o D-24/1 om-enclave part-2 sehtpur-Aman jawanpur gawanpur Fardiabad, HR-121003, have lost my original-certificate class-10th(2017) Rollno-8739976 Class-12th(2019) Rollno-9740620 CBSE-Delhi.
0040550349-9

I, yogesh S/o satyanarayan R/O.H.no-14, Harizan mohalla Banker, Delhi-110040, have lost my original certificate Class-10th Year-2016, Rollno-8669590 CBSE-Delhi.
0040550349-10

I, KUNAL Singh S/o Brij pal singh R/o 397/359 village & post rithala Rohini Delhi-85, have lost my original-certificate class-10th year-2018, Rollno-8186979 CBSE-Delhi.
0040550353-9

I, HARSHIT Luthra S/o Vijay kumar Luthra R/O A-34 Hastals vihar U.P, have lost my original-certificate class-10th year-2018 Rollno-8213459 CBSE-Delhi.
0040550353-10

PROPERTY

14 Marla (350Sqyds) Plot No 639, Sector 62, Faridabad, Genuine Buyers Contact : Mittal Associates 9417020849, 7307056265 00204116652-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public at large is hereby informed that my clients- Sh. Satpal S/o Lt. Barwan Lal and his wife-Smt. Renuka, both R/o H.No. 60, Gali No.3, Rajiv Colony, Narela, Delhi-110040, have severed all their relations from their son- Mr. Akshay, temporarily staying H. No. 50, Gali No.3, Rajiv Colony, Narela, Delhi-110040 for want of control and his extortive conducts and also have disowned him from their movable and immovable properties. Any person dealing with aforesaid- Mr. Akshay shall be doing so at his/her own risk and the same shall not be binding on my aforesaid clients in any manner, whatsoever.
Sd/- ANAND BHARDWAJ (ADVOCATE) ENR. No. D-312-1997 CH. NO. 51, CIVIL WING, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the general public that my client Sh. Uttam Shah S/o Sh. Kailash Shah R/o H.No. 16/776 H, Baga Nagar, Gali No. 9, Sector-17B, New Delhi-110005 has severed all social relations with his son namely Dhersar Kumar as he is not under the control of my client and my client shall not be responsible for his act in future, if any kind of dispute arises between him or with any third person and am debarring him from all my properties, movable or immovable and he shall have no right, title or claim on my properties (movable or immovable).
Sd/- ATUL KUMAR SHARMA ADVOCATE CH. No. 664, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
My both clients Mr. Kamla Prasad S/o Durga Prasad & Mrs. Vidhyawati Devi W/o Kamla Prasad R/O RZ-350/394, Gali No-8, Shivpuri, West Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046 both have disowned their son Om Prakash and his wife Asha from their movable & immovable property (s) and have severed all relations from them. Any person dealing with them will do so at their own risk. My both clients Kamla Prasad & Vidhyawati Devi are not responsible. **Praveen Ravesti (Advocate)**

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that we, Nawal Singh S/o. Ch. Mangra Ram and Smt. Vinita Devi W/o. Sh. Nawal Singh, R/O C-38, Laxmi Park, Nangloi, New Delhi-110041 have severed all their relationship from our sons namely Monu and his wife Seema, Sonu and his wife Madhu in context of their misbehaviour as well as to possess off. In our control. We disowned and debar our sons and their wife's from our movable and immovable properties and anyone deals with them shall do so at their own cost and consequences, my client will not be responsible for their any debts, liability and action.
Sd/- KUMAL KUMAR (ADVOCATE) Ch. No. 432, Lawyer's Chamber Block, Dwarka Court, New Delhi-23

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public at large that Clix Housing Finance Private Limited is going to create mortgage over property being Upper First Floor and Second Floor Built on property No.15, land area measuring 102 sq. yds., out of Khass No.35 situated in the area of village Nangli Jabab in Mahabir Nagar Extn., Pocket-1/2, on Najafgarh Road, Delhi based as EAK Road 10 to 16, WEST: Road 20 ft., NORTH: Plot no. 16, SOUTH: Plot no. 14, belonging to Mr./Mrs. Mrs. Tej Kaur (as claimed). In case if any person/Financial Institute / Bank / Authority / Board or any other entity having objection/contingent or vested interest over the same they may contact our advocate Mr. Vijay Kumar Giri within 10 days of this publication either through his Office phone No.01146513964 or through post or visit H.No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Mr. Parbhat Ram S/o Late Sh. Ram Dhan R/O WZ-91A, Inderpuri, New Delhi has disowned his both sons namely Mr. Lalchand and Mr. Madan Lal, their spouses and children from his moveable and immovable properties. Hence forth my client shall not be responsible for their any act or omission.
M.L. Pathwa, Advocate KU-76, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110088

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Anushree deep D/O Anurag Singh R/O Flat.No-41, DGS CGHS ltd., plot-no.6, opp.MTNI-office, sector-22, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Anushree.
0040550353-3

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Anamika W/o Anwar Jamal R/O 111A, Street No.7, Krishna Nagar Safadarjangan Enclave, Delhi-110029, changed my name to Anamika Srivastava.
0040550353-5

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Amrita W/O Ram ratan R/O-B-37/1 Govind-puri, kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, have change my daughter name, from SALONI to SALONI BAGHEL, For all future purposes.
0040550352-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, ARSALAN HASSAN S/O AMIR HASSAN ANSARI R/O 2724/25, 4th Floor, Gali Tehsildar, Kucha Chellan, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002, Have change my name to ARSALAN HASSAN ANSARI.
0040550346-2

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, AMIR HASSAN S/O NOORUL HASSAN R/O 2724/25, 4th Floor, Gali Tehsildar, Kucha Chellan, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002, Have change my name to AMIR HASSAN ANSARI.
0040550346-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Rakesh Sharma S/o Prahlad Singh R/O WZ-64, Todapur Village, New Delhi-110012 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar for future purposes.
0040550303-1

MATRIMONIAL

HINDU
Hindu Parents seeking Attractive Slim US Permanent Resident Girl 35-40 Years for US born Son 42, Lawyer, Issueless Divorcee, East Coast. Biodata Photo: spandee345@gmail.com
0080063180-3

OTHERS
UPSC IES Ramdasia Girl, Sep/92, 5'3", parents both working in Indian railway. Specifically IAS/IPS/IES well qualified groom required. 8146632817 (Whatsapp only)
0050169197-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that my client Shri. Shamraaj R/o Dm Late Sh. Akot Kumar Roy is lawful sole absolute owner & present in possession of the freehold property Flat No. 894/003, Q.P. Plot No. 65, Ahimanyu Apartments, Vasundhara Enclave, Jansewak CHS Ltd., Delhi-110086, by virtue of Gift Deed duly registered. Regd. No. 4887, Dated on 10/07/2018. 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 premature and / or objection to there of, He / She / they may lodge / notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof / court judgment within 15 days from the day of publication, said to be deemed to be clear and marketable without any defect, encumbrance, law and impediment.
Mithlesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch.No. 717, Dwarka Courts, Delhi-68

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Mrs. Afrooz Shaikh W/o Sh. Sirajuddin R/o H.No. A-59/14, Third Floor, Gali No. 14, Zakir Nagar, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have severed her all relations with her sister Ashu Saini @ Ayesha Bano W/o Kapil Saini, D/o Mohd Yaqub and her husband Kapil Saini and disowned/debarred them from her all moveables & immovable properties and assets. My clients shall not be responsible for any acts and deeds done by them in any manner.
Nadeem Ahmed (Advocate) Ch.No. 685, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Shri Durga Prasad Rai S/o Late Shri Ram Chander Rai H.No. 507, Gali No. 08, Block-1, Sarang Vihar, Dabri, New Delhi-110062 has disowned and debarred his son namely Ajit Kumar Rai @ Sunil from his all movable, immovable properties/assets, financial accounts and severed all his relations with him due to his misbehaviour/misconduct towards my client. If anybody deals with him in any manner will do so at his/her own risk, cost and responsibilities. My client shall not be responsible for any kind of act, conduct and liabilities done by his son in future.
Sd/- (SUSHIL YADAV) ADVOCATE CH.NO. 580, SAHIBULI, NEW DELHI-17 M. No. 921039947

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, on behalf of my client Lt Col Vinod Kumar Datta (Retd.), S/o Late Mehta Muk Raj Datta, R/O H.No. 911, Sector-17B, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana, hereby serve this notice to the public at large, that my client has debarred/disowned his son-Anish Saxena Datta, (Rajiv Singh), S/o Late Mehta Muk Raj Datta, R/O H.No. 911, Sector-17B, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana, and his legal heirs, shall have no right over the properties of my client. Anybody dealing with them in respect of my client's property shall do so at their risk and cost.
ARUN MISCHAL (Advocate) Ch.198, Patiala House Courts, N.D-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that my client(s) Shri Amit Varma & Smt. Sumeena Varma entered into to an agreement to Sell with the present Seller in respect of Entire Third Floor with its roof / terrace rights of the middle portion of the separately constructed building on the property bearing No. G-47, measuring 100 sq yds, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi. The present seller owned the complete property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 07.10.2019 executed by (1) Shri Surinder Singh @ Surinder Singh (2) Shri Balbir Singh in favor of (1) Smt. Surinder Kaur (35% share) (2) Shri Raj Kumar Kapoor (65% share) (3) Shri Sachin Chopra (HUF) (15% share) through his Karta Shri Sachin Chopra, duly registered vide regd. No. 12,935, dated 08.11.2019. 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 or otherwise or objection to thereof, he/ she/ they may lodge/ notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof / court judgment within 15 days from the day of publication of this notice. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or claim in possession of original documents, may write/ contact with above named person at above address/ phone No. 9818032307 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB/H) or Director (H-1), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, N Rajagopalan, son of, D.Narasimha Raju Bahari, owner of Flat No. 197, Second Floor with scooter garage, Pocket-C, Sec-A, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold. All the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, site Possession letter and NOC for electric and water connection issued by DDA of the above flat have been lost. An NCR/ FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or claim in possession of original documents, may write/ contact with above named person at above address/ phone No. 9818032307 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB/H) or Director (H-1), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

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Foreign Secy and Army chief head to Myanmar in bid to deepen ties

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

AHEAD OF polls in Myanmar early November, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and Army chief General MM Naravane are headed to the country for a high-level meeting focussed on politico-security issues of concern. They are expected to hold meetings with their counterparts on Monday.

On the agenda is early conclusion of the Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Civil and Commercial matters and Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, growing aerial and maritime security cooperation, economic development projects in the Rakhine state to enable the return of Rohingya, development of border region on both sides.

While Shringla has only visited Bangladesh during the Covid-19 pandemic, New Delhi's decision to send the Foreign Secretary and the Army chief together is a signal to Myanmar's leadership on India's two-pronged engagement with the power centres in the civilian and military establishment.

Shringla will meet U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar. Gen Naravane is likely to meet



Foreign Secy Harsh Vardhan Shringla; Army Chief General M M Naravane

Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing and discuss military and security cooperation.

Sources said the ongoing security cooperation continues to be robust and the two sides have remained sensitive to each other's security concerns. Myanmar's handling over of 22 Indian insurgents, sources said, has been deeply appreciated by New Delhi and "sends a strong message of deterrence to inimical elements on both sides".

In view of their special partnership, Delhi would request early conclusion of the Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Civil and Commercial matters and Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

As friendly neighbouring countries, they have maintained a peaceful and tranquil border, sources said, adding that they attach the highest priority to settlement of the remaining boundary

Shopian encounter: Bodies of 3 Rajouri labourers exhumed, handed over to kin

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 3

THE BODIES of the three labourers from Rajouri, who were killed in an alleged encounter by the Army in South Kashmir's Shopian in July this year, were exhumed in Baramulla in the early hours of Saturday and handed over to their families, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on Saturday confirmed that the bodies were exhumed.

Mohammad Yousof, father of Abrar Ahmad, one of the victims, told *The Sunday Express*: "Now they have given us the bodies, we demand the death penalty for those who killed them. It is my right. Let their families also feel what it means".

Guftar Ahmad Choudhary, a social activist from Rajouri who accompanied the families of the slain trio to Baramulla for the exhumation told *The Sunday Express*, "Right now, we are on way back to Rajouri."

The development came hours after Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh on Friday said that the legal process for the exhumation would be "completed soon".

"The exhumation took place



Their rented room. (Navveed Iqbal)

at around 5.30 am (Saturday)," Choudhary said. "The SSP (Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla), DSP and a magistrate were present during the exhumation."

Fathers of the slain trio were present. The families left for Rajouri in an ambulance with the bodies immediately after the exhumation process.

Imtiyaz Ahmad (20) and Mohammad Ibrar (16), residents of Dharsark village, and Abrar Ahmad (25) of Tarkasi village of Kotrakna, Rajouri, were killed in an alleged encounter in Amshipora village of Shopian, in south Kashmir, on July 18. The Army and the police had dubbed

Facing 'social media trial', Veteran activist, scholar Kerala doc found hanging

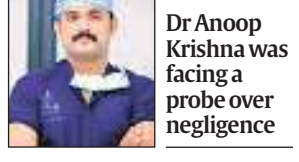
VISHNU VARMA
KOCHI, OCTOBER 3

AN ORTHOPAEDIC surgeon facing harassment on social media after the death of a patient was found hanging at his home in Kollam district on Thursday. Kiliolkollur police filed a case of unnatural death after Dr Anoop Krishna (35), who ran Anoop Ortho Care hospital, was found dead at his home in Kadappakada. The word 'sorry' was found scribbled on the walls of the bathroom.

Dr Anoop was being probed in a case of medical negligence after the death of a seven-year-old during surgery on September 23. The doctor was also harassed on social media platforms over the death.

A senior police officer said it was too early to say if the doctor's suicide had any connection with the child's death.

On September 23, a seven-year-old girl, admitted to the hospital run by Dr Anoop, suffered a cardiac arrest during a knee surgery which was led by Dr Anoop himself. She was taken to another hospital, but she died. The family of the deceased along with locals protested at the hos-



Dr Anoop Krishna was facing a probe over negligence

pital, holding Dr Anoop responsible. They also filed a case of medical negligence with Kollam East police station. The probe, led by Assistant Commissioner A Pradeep Kumar, was under way when Dr Anoop died.

When asked about the probe, Kumar said, "The investigation is at a primary stage. We cannot jump to conclusions."

He added, "We had been in touch with the doctor's office and asked him to contact us (if he was facing threats). Naturally, when there are incidents like this, a person would be mentally disturbed. He didn't personally tell me anything about it."

Several doctors voiced support for Dr Anoop, slamming the "trial by social media" that led to suicides of doctors. Dr Sulphi Noohu, ENT consultant and vice-president of the Kerala chapter of IMA, wrote on Facebook that Dr Anoop had agreed to the surgery after several doctors declined, perhaps citing Covid-19 risks.

EXPLAINED

Border concerns behind top level visit
THE DECISION to send a civilian and a military official was taken at the highest level, as New Delhi feels that India needs to strengthen ties, given the security challenges along the India-Myanmar border. The two sides are also expected to discuss the border development programme, which is in an advanced stage, and has seen the successful implementation of around 140 infra projects.

issues. A discussion on this issue is also expected to take place.

On the political front, the Indian side is approaching the Rohingya issue through an economic programme. This is crucial since Bangladesh wants New Delhi to lean on Myanmar to take back the refugees.

Shringla and Gen Naravane will convey New Delhi's commitment to the Rakhine State Development Programme.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

HC: Preventive detention pleas should be heard by division bench

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 3

WHILE QUASHING the order of a single judge of its court which dismissed a plea by a Bhuj resident challenging his preventive detention, a division bench of Gujarat High Court suggested that such matters be treated as habeas corpus petitions and should be heard by a division bench and not by a single judge.

The judgement by the division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice J B Pardiwala, dated September 18, arrived at the conclusion considering the aspect that a person detained under the preventive detention law is neither brought before a magistrate nor is the detainee entitled to consult a legal practitioner and when a person is deprived of his personal liberty as is guaranteed by the Constitution, "he gets the right to challenge such detention on the grounds available in law."

The petitioner, Haidarsha Pir, was placed under preventive detention on July 29 following an order to the effect passed by the district magistrate of Kutch-Bhuj on the ground of Pir being a "dangerous person".

This order was challenged on its legality and validity by Pir before a single-judge courtroom of Justice Bela Trivedi. However, Justice Trivedi had declined to look into the legality and validity of the detention order.

Their room on rent still as it was

Srinagar: At Chowgam, Shopian, the room where the three men last stayed are still bare, barring two blankets that lie crumpled on the floor. On the wall above, a shirt and a pair of pants hang from hooks. Two sets of slippers, a pair of socks lie strewn around the room. Their last half-eaten meal lies covered in a layer of fungus in the copper pot in which it was cooked. The

AMU doc's 'provisional opinion': 'Signs of use of force'

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, OCTOBER 3

A DOCTOR who conducted the medicolegal investigation on the 19-year-old Hathras woman at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital in Aligarh Muslim University on September 22 had given a "provisional opinion" that "on the basis of local examination, I am of the opinion that there are signs of use of force", reports show. The doctor had added: "However, opinion regarding penetrative intercourse is reserved pending availability of FSL reports."

The report also mentions, based on details provided by the woman, that there was "complete" "penetration by penis" of the "vagina".

The report mentions, based on details provided by her, that she was "gagged" and "strangled by dupatta". The section in the report, verbal threats, mentions: "Yes, threat to kill." The report also mentions the "assailants" as "Sandeep, Ramu, Luv Kush, Ravi".

The woman had been assaulted on September 14, and was able to provide the details after she regained consciousness on September 22. In a statement recorded before a magistrate then, she said she had been raped.

Following her statement, samples were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory, which received them on September 25. The Uttar Pradesh police has so far relied on the results on the FSL report to say the woman was not raped.

At a press conference, Prashant Kumar, ADG (Law & Order), had said, "As per the FSL (forensic science laboratory) report, no semen or sperm secretion was found in the viscera sample. The post-mortem report states that the cause of death was due to trauma caused by the assault. Despite the statements by officials, some wrong information was circulated in the media."

The woman's post-mortem report from Safdarjung Hospital meanwhile states that her "hy-men showed multiple old healed tears", and that the "anal orifice showed old healed tear".

Report also mentions, based on details provided by the woman, that there was 'complete' penetration by penis of 'vagina'

Amid spike in Covid cases, prohibitory orders across Kerala till Oct 31

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 3

WITH COVID-19 cases continuing to spike across Kerala, prohibitory orders under CrP Section 144 have been clamped across the state.

The ban on assembly of more than five persons will continue till the end of this month. However, there is no ban on mobility of people or functioning of offices and trade centres.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan warned of stringent measures and a steep hike in penalties for those violating Covid-19 protocols and social distancing norms. "There has been a lapse in vigil against the pandemic. Things have been taken without much seriousness. Hence, strict measures would be adopted. Testing would also be ramped up in the state in coming days," he said.

On September 27, Kerala's total active cases had been 56,709. Over the last one week, that figure grew to 80,818 as on Saturday.

Kerala, which has an alarming test positivity rate of 14.41 per cent, is the only state which has a larger share of active cases than recovered ones in the total confirmed cases.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Rahul, Priyanka meet Hathras victim's family: 'They just asked about our child'

SOMYA LAKHANI,
ANANYA TIWARI &
ASHNA BUTANI
HATHRAS, NEW DELHI,
OCTOBER 3

CONGRESS LEADERS Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who were on Thursday stopped en route to Hathras to meet the 19-year-old woman's family, managed to reach the village on Saturday and spent an hour at their residence.

"She (Priyanka) sat with me, asked me about my daughter, how she died, what happened on September 14.... She asked about her cremation," the victim's mother said after the Congress leaders left. "They just asked us about our daughter, and promised to help us get justice."

Social activist Yogita Bhayana, who was with the family when the two leaders met them, told *The Sunday Express*, "They asked the family whether they wanted a CBI inquiry, to which the family said no. They offered their condolences to the family and extended their support."

As the two leaders reached the family's residence, more than 50 UP Police personnel and joint magistrate Prem Prakash Meena were present. The victim's brother told *The Sunday Express*, "They reassured us help; they said they will do what they can."

Earlier in the day, Priyanka and Rahul had run into heavy police deployment on the DND while exiting the NCR. As their vehicle drove alongside a crowd



Uttar Pradesh Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Awanish Awasthi and Director General of Police H C Awasthi visited the victim's family in Hathras, Saturday. *Gajendra Yadav*

of Congress workers and moved towards the DND exit, some party workers were involved in clashes with policemen stationed at the toll gates.

As some Congress workers faced police batons, Priyanka got off the vehicle and attempted to shield them. She eventually pushed some police personnel and moved the barricades aside from one exit as the motorcade inched forward behind them.

Delhi state Congress chief Anil Chaudhary said he was injured in the lathicharge. "Congress workers will give blood for the safety of women, girls, and Dalit women of UP. We are not scared of the lathis or the

Modi-Yogi regime," he said. On way to the village Saturday, Rahul tweeted, "Nothing in the world can stop me from meeting this unhappy family of Hathras and sharing their pain."

Seja Kumari, former Union minister of social justice and empowerment, who was present at the DND, told *The Sunday Express*, "The UP government does not believe in justice. It believes in jungle raj, and this is a result of that. In a democratic country, anyone can meet anybody. Is there any democracy here? You do not see any evidence of that under the UP government."

Dr Sai Anamika, regional coordinator, member, AICC, said, "Party workers and a few senior politicians were injured (in police lathicharge). Among them was Kamal Kishor."

Senior party leaders K C Venugopal, Randeep Singh Surjewala and Adhir Ranjan Choudhury also accompanied Rahul and Priyanka.

Following the meeting with the family, Priyanka tweeted five "questions of the Hathras victim's family": "a judicial enquiry through the Supreme Court be done"; the Hathras District Magistrate be suspended; "why the woman's body was burnt using petrol without asking us";

VALMIKI COMMUNITY MEMBERS CLASH WITH POLICE IN AGRA

Agra: Members of the Valmiki community, who were protesting against the Hathras gangrape and murder, clashed with police in Agra on Saturday.

Police personnel were deployed at the clash site outside a municipal corporation office in Kothi Meena Bazaar area of the Taj city, officials said.

Some visuals purportedly showed members of the community reach the municipal corporation office and pelt stones at garbage collection vehicles. Later, dozens of policemen, reached the site and were pelted with stones too.

"Adequate police force has reached the incident site with senior officers. Efforts are underway to restore normalcy and law and order," a statement by Agra police said.

PTI

"why are we being misled, threatened again and again"; and "we picked flowers from the pyre for humanity's sake but how do we know whether the body was even our daughter's?" She tweeted, "Getting answers to these questions is the right of this family and the UP government will have to answer."

UP new information chief was crisis manager to 2 ex-CMs

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 3

NAVNEET SEHGAL, the 1988-batch IAS officer given additional charge of the Uttar Pradesh Information Department as Additional Chief Secretary in the latest bureaucratic reshuffle, is no stranger to being close to power and serving on relative sidelines under a new government.

Apparently brought in by the state government, facing fire over the Hathras death and alleged gangrape case, to firefight the crisis, Sehgal played similar roles under two previous governments.

Known for his "network" in bureaucratic circles, not just in UP or other states but even abroad, Sehgal comes from Chandigarh and is also a chartered accountant.

Picked by then Union MoS Akhilesh Das Gupta in 2006 to be his private secretary, Sehgal first

came into limelight in the bureaucratic circles when he was chosen by then UP CM Mayawati as Secretary to the CM. Many were surprised when Mayawati publicly praised him along with fellow IAS officer Durga Shanker for their work.

By 2012, aside from being Secretary to CM, Sehgal was also handling key departments such as State Urban Development Authority, Urban Development, Estate Department (which handles all government properties), Energy. He was also chairman/MD of UP Power Corporation Ltd and CMD of the State Industrial Development Authority.

In UP bureaucratic circles, it was rare for an officer to be given so many significant responsibilities together, that too of Secretary rank, sources said.

But after the Akhilesh Yadav government came to power in 2012, Sehgal, like most officers



Navneet Sehgal

close to the previous CM, was put on 'wait list'. He was eventually given charge of Religious Affairs Department, considered a side posting. According to officers, Sehgal came up with fresh ideas for developing religious places across the state, and promoted the idea of "religious tourism" — some projects on which work is still going on were proposed at that time.

Just before 2014 Lok Sabha polls, Akhilesh, then looking to promote "Brand UP", made Sehgal

head of the Information Department, giving him additional charge as Principal Secretary. Within months, he was given additional charge of State Highway Development Authority and made CEO of the newly formed UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority. He was also made additional resident commissioner in New Delhi.

In 2015, Sehgal is learnt to have played a significant role in organising an investors' meet to promote "Brand UP" in different parts of the country, and organising Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in Agra.

When he met a serious road accident in 2016, Akhilesh visited him in hospital and met his family. Later, then Governor Ram Naik also met him — a rare gesture for a bureaucrat.

Post-recovery, he was given charge of the state Tourism Department along with existing

responsibilities and made director general, Tourism. He was also entrusted with the Sports and Youth Welfare Department.

In 2017, as the Yogi Adityanath government came in, Sehgal was again put on the wait list in the first major administrative reshuffle in the state. All his posts were given to Awanish Kumar Awasthi, who was on central deputation before that. Awasthi is the officer Sehgal replaced on Wednesday's reshuffle as Additional Chief Secretary, Information.

In 2017, Sehgal was given charge of Khadi and Village Industries Department and in July 2019 additional charge of MSME, where he worked on promotion of the state government's ambitious "One district, One Product" scheme. During lockdown, the department acted as a link in connecting returning migrant workers with employment opportunities.

DOCTOR ON COVID DUTY IN GUJARAT'S JAMNAGAR

'Managed so many patients for first time... lesson on how to remain calm'



GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, OCTOBER 3

IT IS around 2.30 pm. Dr Kinjal Nadia, 25, slumps in a chair in the Highly Dependent Unit (HDU) of the dedicated Covid-19 hospital set up on the campus of Guru Gobind Singh Government Hospital (GG Hospital) in Jamnagar where she is posted as a senior resident doctor, after her eight-hour shift, which marked the end of the tenth week of her Covid duty on Saturday.

The doctor, who herself contracted the virus while deputed to Ahmedabad, says the weeks are now seeming longer.

"Spending eight hours in a PPE suit is the toughest thing to do. One can't even drink a glass of water though one has to speak loudly to be heard... On the other hand, one loses a litre of water to perspiration. On top of all this, the pulls and pressures of managing 30 patients in an HDU, especially the last hour of duty just doesn't seem to end," says the third-year resi-



Dr Kinjal Nadia at the end of one of her eight-hour shifts at Jamnagar's GG Hospital. *Express*

dent with the medicine department of the MP Shah Government Medical College, Jamnagar.

The GG Hospital is attached to MP Shah Medical College.

Barring a two-day leave to visit her parents in Ahmedabad, Dr Nadia has been at work without even weekly offs for the past six months — shifting between Covid and non-Covid duties every alternate week.

Besides the core team of 51 resident doctors and 24 consultants of medicine and anaesthesia departments, the medical college has pressed doctors from other departments also on Covid duty. "We are managing the workload of doctors by following rotation... Doctors do have liberty to go on leave. But everyone is

working very hard," says Prof Nandini Desai, dean of MP Shah Government Medical College.

Over the past six months, Dr Nadia has treated approximately 250 Covid patients, including three dozen in Ahmedabad civil hospital, as part of a team of 18 doctors and six consultants deputed at the facility.

"There were 50 to 60 patients in the suspected patients ward and I and another resident doctor from BJ Medical College had to manage all of them on our own. It was the first time I was managing so many patients in my life. It was also a lesson on how to remain calm..." she said.

However, her stay in Ahmedabad was extended by another week when her own

MP rape: Day after Dalit woman kills self, action against 3 cops

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, OCTOBER 3

A POLICE officer in Madhya Pradesh's Narsinghpur district was booked for disobeying the law while two others were transferred on Saturday, a day after a 32-year-old Dalit woman ended her life following a failed attempt to get her gangrape complaint registered with police.

The action came after Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan took cognizance of the issue and said, "Crime against women will not be tolerated in MP. These culprits are devils who do not deserve to live in civil society."

The woman, a resident of Narsinghpur district, was cutting grass in the fields when she was allegedly raped by three men. The woman and her husband approached the police to register a complaint but were asked to come the next morning for a medical

check-up. No complaint was filed despite the couple approaching the police over four days.

The woman's husband alleged that the police detained him instead and he was only allowed to leave after paying them Rs 5,000.

While the family struggled to file a case against the accused, the woman had to face taunts from her neighbours on Friday. After this, the woman went back home and hanged herself.

Narsinghpur SP Ajay Singh said, "We have arrested all three accused and booked the police official as well. There is also a case against two people for abetment to suicide based on the victim's husband's complaint."

While an assistant sub-inspector was suspended and booked, an Additional SP and an SDPO have been attached to the police headquarters in Bhopal.

Meanwhile, a team of the forensic department also visited the village.

UP: Dalit teen killed, 2 relatives held, say police

Lucknow: The Kanpur Dehat police on Saturday found the body of a 16-year-old Dalit girl, who had been missing since September 26, in a farm around a kilometre from her residence. The victim's father, a farmer, registered an FIR against his two elder brothers on charges of murder and destruction of evidence. The two accused were arrested and were being interrogated, police said.

"The father alleged the accused killed his daughter over a land dispute. He claimed that the accused had threatened him in the past," said Kanpur Dehat SSP Keshav Kumar Choudhary. **ENS**

Chhattisgarh: Two drug, rape minor; arrested

Raipur: Two people have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping and raping a 14-year-old girl in a village in Chhattisgarh's Balrampur. The accused allegedly drugged and assaulted the girl before raping her, according to the statement given to the police.

The incident took place on September 27 when the accused allegedly kidnapped the girl when she had gone to the forest, police said. "The girl's statement has been recorded before the magistrate... She said she was raped by the men who belong to her village. One of the accused also gave her drugs which rendered her unconscious," an official said. **ENS**

SUSHANT DEATH CASE

AIIMS medical board rules out murder, says death by suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

THE AIIMS medical board has ruled out murder in the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput and termed it "a case of hanging and death by suicide".

In a medico-legal opinion submitted to the CBI, the six-member team of forensic doctors has dismissed allegations of "poisoning and strangling".

"There were no injuries on

the body other than (that) of hanging. There were no marks of struggle/scuffle on the body and clothes of the deceased. It is a case of hanging and death by suicide," Dr Sudhir Gupta, chairman of AIIMS Forensic Medical Board, formed in the death case, told reporters.

The board had discussed its findings with the CBI, which is probing the case. "The complete examination of ligature mark over the neck was consistent with hanging," Dr Gupta said.

After treatment at five hospitals, savings depleted, ASHA worker's mother dies

TABASSUM
BARNAGARWALA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

THE 52-YEAR-OLD mother of an ASHA worker in Kolhapur died of post-Covid complications on Friday, and for hours after her death, the hospital refused to hand over the body to the family till the pending bill was cleared.

On August 27, Mahadevi Vajantri, along with other family members tested positive for the virus and was admitted in a local Covid care centre for 10 days and then discharged.

The night of her discharge on September 8, Vajantri developed breathing problems. A CT scan showed lung infection and pneumonia. Over the next 25 days, the family spent Rs 5.5 lakh and was bounced around five hospitals on Vajantri's treatment. Jyoti, the ASHA worker, said when their savings ran out, she started selling her jewellery.

Former civil surgeon Kempa Patil, who was transferred out of Kolhapur earlier this week, said, "The Covid care centre comes under corporation. I do not know about this case and have no comments to offer."

Kolhapur commissioner Manjunath Kalsheety said he would have to look into why the patient was not treated in a government hospital. Collector Dault Desai did not respond to calls.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

LOOKING FOR A 19-YEAR-OLD



She cannot tell her story. Instead, her grieving family, a tense village in Hathras riven by deep fault lines, and a sordid drama by police and the administration, have taken over the narrative.
SOMYA LAKHANI & JIGNASA SINHA report from her home

IT WAS a busy month on the sewing machine for the 19-year-old. On August 26, a baby was born, her brother's third daughter. Apart from the usual embroidery work she did, the woman had to turn old *dhotis* and *saris* into clothes for the baby. Her hands worked fast on the machine, recalls her sister-in-law, "ekdum tez".

Weeks later, the baby clothes lie unfinished. The sewing machine has been pushed to a corner and the swathes of fabric have been bundled onto a blue shelf in one of the three small rooms of the house in a village in UP's Hathras.

Three weeks after the baby's birth, her 19-year-old aunt was assaulted and allegedly raped by four upper-caste men in a bajra field that's a five-minute walk from her house. Two weeks later, on September 29, the woman, born into one of the five Valmiki (Dalit) families in the village, died in a Delhi hospital — 201 km from her house, her mother, and her nieces.

What followed the death was a surreptitious cremation done in the absence of family members, a village under siege by the police, allegations of threats by senior UP government officials, an Opposition on the roads, and the suspension of Hathras's top police officers.

The woman is now a statistic, the rear end of a speeding ambulance, a lit pyre. *The Sunday Express* went to the Hathras village looking for the 19-year-old woman.

Born to agricultural labourers, she was the fourth of five siblings. She was also the first woman in the family to attend school, briefly.

"She had to cross the highway just to get to the primary school. Trucks and buses moved at such speed... We pulled her out of school when she was in Class 5. We never let her go alone, we were afraid she might come under a car, or that someone might kidnap her... What we feared has come true. We couldn't protect her," says the woman's mother, sobbing into her veil.

On the morning of September 14, the mother says, the two of them had gone to the bajra fields to cut grass for their six buffaloes and cows. As the daughter worked a few metres away from the mother, she was allegedly dragged to a part of the field where she was allegedly gangraped and beaten up by Sandeep (20), Ravi (35), Luv Kush (23) and Ramu (26).

The mother says she found her daughter lying in a pool of blood, and the family rushed to a police station, followed by a local hospital. The woman was moved to a hospital in Aligarh, an hour away from the village, and then to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital on September 28. A day later, she died.

"A night before the incident, my daughter and I slept in the *aangan*, like we always did. She used to tell me every night how she can't fall asleep unless I am next to her. Imagine my misfortune that I wasn't allowed to see my daughter's face when she died. How will I ever sleep peacefully now?" she says.



The two-day blockade of the Hathras village was lifted Saturday; (top) site of the 19-year-old's hurried cremation. *Gajendra Yadav*

At 2.45 am Wednesday, from the small windows of its homes, a village shrouded in darkness and grief saw the smoke from a lonely pyre rise up into the sky as UP Police and the administration cremated the 19-year-old's body, without the family.

"People say the family is brave... We are not brave. What option do we have? After the government deprived us of the right to carry out our sister's last rites, fighting for justice is the only thing we can do," says one of the woman's cousins, sitting in her house that's teeming with mediapersons Saturday afternoon.

A two-day siege, with 300 UP Police personnel guarding every inch of the village, was lifted Saturday morning. With reporters camping outside the village for days, and news of her death making global headlines, the spotlight is suddenly on the small village and its 60 families. Of these, only about five households are of Valmikis, while the rest are of Brahmins and Thakurs.

A dirt track separates — or joins — the victim's home and that of the accused. But the events of the last few weeks have turned old fault lines into deep, cavernous divides.

"She's ruined our village's name... brought such disrepute. Who will marry their daughters into this village now?" says a Thakur resident of the village.

At the victim's home, a cousin says that despite the siege, he is aware of the "rumours". "If the SP can go on national TV and say she was not raped, what can one expect from the Thakurs of the village, who are convinced she lied. She gave a statement, why would she lie?"

The woman's sister-in-law says that like most women in the village, the 19-year-old mostly stayed at home. Even the rare visits to the market didn't always end well, she says. "She would come back angry... say the upper-castes say mean things about us, called her names... and so on," says the sister-in-law.

The year the woman was born, "a few days before wheat was harvested in 2001", Sandeep's grandfather had spent time in jail for allegedly beating up the woman's grandfather. "He broke his head with a hammer, a case was filed... Since then, this family has had a problem with us. They use caste-based slurs, the accused also threatened her in the past," says a family member of the 19-year-old.

For two days as the siege went on, police took over the village's fields, rooftops and lanes. With Section 144 of CrPC in place, most residents didn't leave their homes.

Also locked in was the 19-year-old's family. On Saturday, when police lifted the blockade, the media thronged the small brick house, occupying every conceivable inch of space in each of the rooms with mics and questions. "We haven't eaten all day, the children are soaking biscuits in water for lunch. Give us some space," the victim's sister-in-law says, overwhelmed.

The arrival of the 19-year-old's niece in August had brought the family together for the first time in over a year. The woman's two married sisters and their children had paid a visit.

"We all got together before *bhabhi's* delivery, hoping it would be a boy after two girls. *Par phir se ladki hui* (But it was a girl again)...,"

says the victim's elder sister.

It was the 19-year-old, says the sister-in-law, who convinced the family to celebrate the baby's arrival. "She was the only one who said it's a happy moment, that the baby has continued their tradition of three sisters in the family. I sometimes wonder, how did she get so wise?" she says.

In the house teeming with relatives and outsiders, the baby moves from one lap to another.

The sister-in-law says that with women in the village mostly confined to their homes, the 19-year-old had grown to become her best friend. "She was only 14-15 when I got married and came here. Such a baby. She still sucked her thumb while sleeping, her one hand on her eyebrow," she says, laughing.

As she grew older, the 19-year-old became the one the sister-in-law would turn to when in trouble. "She would advise me on how to tackle marital issues, how not to get angry over petty problems at home, how to always wear the *ghoonghat*... This is how it is in villages, girls grow up very quickly," says the sister-in-law.

A day after the 19-year-old's hurried cremation, a video had surfaced of the sister-in-law chasing a UP government official's vehicle in the village. "I can't eat or sleep... Look at what we have been put through. We might be poor, we might be Dalits but do we have no right over a loved one? They didn't even let us see her off peacefully," she adds.

In a village where most lips are sealed, where questions about the woman are either met with "woh bahut bhooli thi (she was very innocent)" or that "she is lying" — depending on who you talk to — it's hard to know what it is to be a 19-year-old growing up in a Dalit home in a UP village, where multiple fault lines run into each other. Of caste, gender, and countless others.

Who was this 19-year-old? From the family's accounts, she is someone who made the "perfect roti", whose world revolved around her nieces, who rarely left her home and depended on her brother, a wage labourer, to bring back "ladkiyo wala samaan" from the market for her. Yet, in the hours after her death, as politicians put out her videos doubting the veracity of her statement, her real story, her version of events, will remain unsaid.

What is confirmed, though, is a life snatched away at 19, and a mother's loss.

The mother says, "The last time I spoke to her was when she was in Aligarh hospital. She told me she missed me, her nieces, that she wanted to come back home. Even when she was in so much pain, she inquired about my health, asked if her nieces were eating well."

The mother says she hasn't mustered the courage to go to the spot where the 19-year-old's ashes still lie, unclaimed. "When I would complain about our struggles, poverty, she would always say that things would get better some day. How can there be better days with her gone at such a young age... And like this?"

FAMILIES OF THE ACCUSED

'Do narco test... Hang them if guilty or let them live their lives'

AMIL BHATNAGAR

FOR THE past five days, an entourage of media and police have been thronging the narrow dirt lane leading to the 19-year-old's house in Hathras. From the verandah of a house across this road, a few women, all relatives of the accused, peer out every now and then to catch a glimpse of the crowd.

As demands for justice for the 19-year-old grow, and a day after a UP government spokesperson said polygraph and narco tests would be conducted on the accused, the victim's relatives and even police officers involved in the probe, families of the accused say they want a fair trial.

While three of the accused, Sandeep (20), his uncle Ravi (35), and Ramu (27) are related, the fourth accused, Luv Kush (19), is Sandeep's friend. All four men are Shikhwat Thakurs whose families have been into agriculture for many generations. The farmers of the village mostly grow paddy and bajra.

Six months ago, Sandeep got a job with a private company in Delhi for whom he had to drive a courier vehicle. His family says that from the Rs 6,000 he earned every month, Sandeep sent some money home to his parents, who worked on 5 bighas of land. They say that he returned home a few days ago after developing a cyst on his foot.

"On the morning of the incident (September 14), Sandeep was lying in the verandah. His parents had come home after giving fodder to the animals. It was a regular day in the village," says Hariom, 30, Sandeep's cousin.

The victim's family has alleged that the 19-year-old was assaulted and gangraped by the four men while she was cutting grass in the fields around 8.30 am. The woman's mother has said that the accused fled the spot after she raised an alarm.

A few months ago, Ramu, one of the four accused, had got a job as a daily wage worker at a milk plant 10 km from the village. His family says he would cycle to the plants for two shifts — 7.30 am to 1.30 pm, and 4.30 pm to 8.30 pm. His family says, Ramu, who has studied till his Class 10, is hard of hearing.

"Ramu was working when the incident occurred. If there is a way to track a person's location, they will know where

EXPLAINED
E
Several question marks

THE EVENTS of the last few days in Hathras — the alleged rape and assault on a 19-year-old on September 14, her death on September 29, and a hurried cremation in the early hours of the following day — have cast an unfavourable light on the role of the UP Police and the administration whose handling of recent events, including the Vikas Dubey encounter, has come in for criticism.

he was. He came back home on his cycle around 11.30 am," says Rajwati, Ramu's mother.

A few metres away from Sandeep's home, Ravi's family says they have told his four children that their father is out on work and that he would return soon. The 35-year-old, a daily-wage labourer, would line up at a chowk 2 km away every day, hoping to get picked up for work. His family claims that on the day of the incident, he had gone to the chowk, looking for work.

Luv Kush took up odd jobs to sustain himself. Sandeep's family says Luv Kush is not involved in the crime and was helping his mother in a nearby field on the day of the incident.

"Some people say we have connections and that the police are protecting us. We are nobody, how can we influence the police? Ramu and Ravi have probably not been outside of Hathras their entire lives. People say we are from a higher caste... We are just labourers, farmers..." says Sandeep's cousin Hariom.

The families say they are now pinning their hopes on the narco test. "If there is a test where you can tell if a person is saying the truth or not, then we want nothing more than that. Let there be a fair trial. Hang them if they are guilty. If they are not, let them live their life," he adds.

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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Farm laws — not choice, just noise

FROM PRIME Minister Narendra Modi to the Agriculture Minister to the Finance Minister to the CEO, Niti Aayog to the BJP's president to the BJP's spokespersons, everyone is singing the same tune. Their argument is that farmers were 'tied' to the APMCs and, now, they have the choice to sell outside the APMCs. Of course, they will not support their argument with data.

Mr Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys, is reported to have said, "In God we trust. For everything else bring me data."

THE IRREFUTABLE DATA

What does the data show? They show

- that 86 per cent of farmers are small farmers and have a holding of less than 2 hectares;

- that farm holdings are being fragmented: according to the Agriculture Census, the number of farm holdings increased from 138 million in 2010-11 to 146 million in 2015-16;

- that small farmers have little surplus grain to sell, yet they will sell a few bags of paddy or wheat to repay the loan(s) taken or for urgent household needs;

- that only 6 per cent of farmers sell their produce in the APMC market yards; the remaining 94 per cent sell outside the APMC, mostly to local traders or a cooperative society or a processor;

- that there are no APMCs in Kerala, UTs except Chandigarh, and some Northeastern states. Bihar repealed the state's APMC Act a few years ago. In these states, agriculture produce marketing takes place outside APMCs;

- that the number of APMCs varies from 106 in Haryana to 145 in Punjab (with many sub-yards) to 283 in Tamil Nadu. While 70 per cent of wheat and paddy produced in Punjab and Haryana are procured by government agencies (mostly the FCI), the total turnover of APMCs in all agriculture produce in Tamil Nadu was only Rs 129.76 crore in 2019-20; and

- that, on average, a farmer in Maharashtra has to travel 25 km to find an APMC yard.

REINFORCING THE STATUS QUO

Whether a state has APMCs or not and whether an APMC is accessible or distant, the fact is that 94 per cent of the farmers have no choice except to sell their produce outside the APMC in an unregulated environment. From the Prime Minister to the spokespersons, none will explain why the farmer is portrayed as bound, hand and foot, to an APMC and the middlemen, when the fact is that 94 per cent of farmers are not. Hence, the argument that the new farm laws give a superior choice to the farmer, where none existed before, is a deeply flawed argument conclusively re-

butted by the data. The new farm laws actually reinforce the *status quo* with all its imperfections.

I support giving choices to the farmer (*Fooling All the People All the Time*, *Indian Express*, September 27, 2020). I also think that, eventually, the APMCs have to be phased out because, although they have served a useful purpose of being a safety net for a section of the farmers, they are trade restrictions. For reasons that have been documented well, the APMCs are not perfect markets, do not serve all farmers, extract too high a rent and are, in some cases, under the control of the traders and middlemen.

But before the APMCs are phased out, the farmers must be given a genuine choice. That choice can only be multiple alternative markets located in thousands of large villages and small towns, easily accessible to farmers, and lightly regulated by the state governments on weight and price of the commodity. Farmers can go to these alternative markets and sell, procurement agencies and private traders can buy, but the price shall be not less than the notified MSP. Thus, a very large proportion of farmers — unlike as at present — will get the MSP or a better price for their produce. False alarms are being raised that if there is a legal guarantee of MSP, it will require detecting violations, prosecution and jail for thousands of traders. That is nonsense. The legal guarantee will apply for the sale and purchase within the precincts of the farmers' markets.

The Modi government's new laws do not create these thousands of alternative farmers' markets. On the contrary, by allowing private traders including corporates to conclude private agreements, and installing a convoluted and bureaucratic dispute resolution mechanism (to the exclusion of civil courts), the government has tilted the scales even more against the farmers. Besides, once private unregulated trade outside the APMC is legalised, there will be a powerful incentive for traders to de-register themselves from the APMC.

LET STATES LEGISLATE

Each state is unique in terms of crops cultivated, marketable surpluses and behaviour of traders. Let the states legislate on the subject of trading in agricultural produce. Let there be a Punjab model and let there be a Bihar model. Let the state government, the farmers and the people of the state decide what is best for that state. That would be true federalism. Parliament-made laws on a subject that falls, arguably, within the State List of the Constitution in the vain hope of one-size-fits-all-states are invariably suspect.

The tearing hurry in which ordinances were promulgated and replaced by Acts without prior consultation or proper debate — and without a voting by division as demanded — deserves a deeper probe. The true motive of the government in enacting these controversial laws remains under a cloud.

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

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Hathras is a mirror

IF YOU live in India you learn to accept a degree of casual cruelty as normal. You learn to accept that just below that fragile surface of modernity lies brutality that is medieval. But, every now and then something so awful happens that it shakes us to the core. What happened in that Hathras village has done just that. Savage rapes of little girls and young women are so much the norm, especially in rural India, that we learn to look the other way most times.

Last week, within hours of the 19-year-old woman's death two other Dalit girls were killed in Uttar Pradesh. An 11-year-old was beaten to death in Bhadohi and a young woman was abducted and allegedly raped in Balrampur. But, it was the Hathras victim's story that caught our attention perhaps because she managed to survive for 15 days despite her attackers having broken her spine and cutting her tongue. Before dying she identified the monsters who attacked her and said clearly that she had been raped.

There is a Supreme Court judgment that says that if a woman says she was raped then this testimony is enough. But, Yogi Adityanath seems to have his own interpretation of the law, so after the Hathras victim died his officials and his police force went to extraordinary lengths to prove that she was not raped. Since she was cremated hurriedly, in the dead of night by the police, the only evidence is her dying declaration, but will it be enough to convict the four upper-caste men she named? Yogi's law enforcement officers have been busy spreading misleading stories, including one in which she was beaten nearly to death by her brother who discovered that she was having an affair with one of her attackers. If stories like this were true and the police had nothing to hide there would have been no reason for them to prevent the media and all politicians from entering the village in which her family lives.

Speaking of the media and politicians, it needs to be said that neither covered themselves in glory. The ludicrous attempt by the Gandhi siblings to 'march to Hathras' trivialised a terrible tragedy, and the silence from senior BJP political leaders has been deafening. Smriti Irani who was so vocal after Nirbhaya's death has said not one word on Hathras despite being the Minister in charge of Women and Child Development.

As for the media, it was only after she was dead that they discovered the victim. And, when they did, some of my esteemed brethren took to Twitter to say that the fuss over her death was only because her attackers were Hindus. In Balrampur, they tweeted, the attackers were Muslims so the incident was being ignored. Had this kind of rubbish come from politicians it would be bad enough, but for it to come from journalists is truly shameful.

The reason why the Hathras story has shaken us so deeply is because it has become a mirror in which we see the flaws of Indian democracy, and the sight is frightening. We see that the men in charge of enforcing the law have not discovered yet that their fundamental duty is to protect the people and not the government. They do not understand this because neither the training of the police nor that of the administrative service has changed since the British left. The British set up a system that was founded on the colonial idea that the duty of administrators and law enforcement officials was to protect the government. This is exactly what our officials still do.

Before Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, he made many speeches in which he talked of the need for India to change the rules of governance and to take a new road. Many ordinary Indians understood this to mean that they would no longer be ruled, but governed. Many whom I met on my travels in rural India said that they wanted officials, both elected and unelected, to realise that they should think of themselves as the servants of the people and not as masters. They said that they hoped that under Modi this change would happen because he was the son of a 'chaiwallah' and not someone who believed he was born to rule.

Had he brought about this change, his handpicked Chief Minister in Uttar Pradesh would not have spent this past week trying to obliterate the horror of Hathras, he would have been standing by the side of the Dalit family whose daughter died such a terrible death. Had change happened, the police officers and officials who have been involved in the sickening attempt to pretend that the victim was not raped would have been sacked. If they have not been then we have to assume that orders to prevent the truth from being made public came from the top.

Horrible though this tragedy has been, if it reminds the Prime Minister of the need for bringing the changes that are so desperately needed in the training of the police and our officials, it will be a small flicker of hope. It is more than time that we stopped accepting that if you live in India you have to learn to accept casual cruelty and medieval brutality as normal. What happened in Hathras has come as a grotesque reminder of how important it is for this to change.

Who am I? An oppressed Dalit, a suppressed woman?

Dalitality

PRANALI YENGDE



ON A usual morning in 2019, a notification flashed on my mobile. It was about the gangrape and murder of a veterinary doctor of my age in Hyderabad. A sudden lightning of fear rushed through my body as I was also in Hyderabad then. My mother called me to express her concern. I tried to convince her (including myself) that I am safe.

On Wednesday, I received a similar notification about the alleged gangrape of a 19-year-old Dalit girl in Uttar Pradesh. I was disturbed again, but a little less concerned. This time, I did not receive calls from anyone. It caught my attention when my brother brought up the different reactions from my side to the two cases of brutal assaults. I was more disturbed by the first incident. Was it because I was in the proximity of the incidence and that I could relate with it personally?

The reason is not as apparent. It is about how the issue is presented by mainstream media and how society prioritises its reaction to rape victims of different social backgrounds. Cases of rape against Dalit or tribal women are portrayed as unexceptional by the media. More often, narratives of such events tend to emphasise on the 'gender' aspect by disregarding the 'caste' identity of the victim. According to Ranjana Kumari, Director of the Centre for Social Research, although these incidents take place on a daily basis, there is no substantial caste-based data on sexual violence in India.

Yet, the victim's caste becomes inevitable, especially when rape, sexual assault are among the most common forms of violence used against marginalised castes. Culture writer Aditi Murti argues that "the victim's caste matters because it shines a spotlight on India's uncomfortable position as a casteist State and society that repeatedly terrorises individuals deemed lower caste with violence...". The way in which the 19-year-old was cremated by the UP Police is a testimony to how cases concerning Dalits are treated as opposed to dominant caste ones.

Psychologist Noam Shpancer detailed evolutionary psychological reasons for rape. Men rape women because they tend to be physically stronger by genetic design; therefore, they rape because they can with im-

punity. He further outlined five types of rapists, in which opportunistic rapists are the kinds who rape because they can, with low risk of punishment. There is a pattern of impunity in the attacks on Dalit women. On the one hand, Dalit women are regarded as impure, while at the same time, their bodies are used as a medium of rage/punishment against the community.

Every time such an incident takes place, we rush to add more measures to the existing laws. The Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, was changed to the Protection of Civil Rights in 1978. Due to its inability to curb atrocities against SCs and STs, a new Act called the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities), Act, 1989, was passed by Parliament. In spite of this, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Rita Izsák observed that massive underreporting of cases occurs due to society's tendency to blame the victim, especially when she belongs to a lower caste.

The latest NCRB data reveals that every day 10 Dalit women are raped. These are merely reported cases and there is a spike in atrocities against SCs (7%) and STs (26%). The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights, an NGO, revealed that over 23% of Dalit women report being raped.

When I see as a woman, the scope of my view towards rape and allied crimes is limited. It's merely psychological. However, being a Dalit woman, my understanding and relation to it goes much deeper. Attack on a Dalit woman from rural parts of India becomes an attack on myself. Her pain becomes my pain. My identity as a Dalit woman makes me a victim of a social construct that encourages the use of rape as a tool to punish and silence Dalits.

As a poet, I break disorganised worlds and let the words sink in my heart.

Who am I? / My consciousness / makes me human / and my thoughts build my identity / until 'that' news in the newspaper / calls out to the Dalit identity in me / The 'woman' in me is shaken / by the wounds created by breaking the ligaments of her body / The casteist beasts cut out her tongue / and here I feel helpless silence / My liberating thoughts fall apart in that moment / They are tainted by the cage of caste / and the helplessness of my femininity / And here I keep on asking / Who am I? / An oppressed Dalit, a suppressed woman / Or a human with free will?

Pranali Yengde, first generation Dalit woman journalist, is a writer and poet

Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column

My ISOLATION

A WEEKLY WINDOW INTO THE LIVES OF INDIA'S NEWSMAKERS AND IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON THEM

'Didn't let negativity in... Read up on earlier LS sessions, Speaker rulings'

What precautions are you taking to stay Covid-free?

As a vaccine for Covid-19 is still not available, taking precautions is the most effective way to protect oneself from infection. I have been following the guidelines and advisories issued by the Union government and other agencies. Wearing mask, social distancing, cleaning my hands frequently have all become part of my daily routine now.

You might have observed during the Monsoon Session of Parliament as well that I was repeatedly requesting all members to have their masks on at all times.

Have you got yourself tested for Covid-19?

Yes, I got myself tested before the commencement of the Monsoon Session.

Have you had to isolate yourself?

No, I got myself tested only to ensure that everybody around me is safe (in Parliament). I advise everyone to take adequate steps to stay healthy and get the Covid-19 test done as soon as symptoms begin to appear. Those affected must also isolate themselves.

What kind of gloves and mask do you use?

I use masks which meet the required standards. It is a bit uncomfortable to use them but they are absolutely essential for saving lives.

While interacting with people at work, what precautions do you take?

I try to do most of my work on the phone or virtually. However, being a representative of people, I cannot isolate myself completely from them. Whenever I meet people in Delhi or my parliamentary constituency (Kota-Bundi, Rajasthan), I make it a point to ensure social distance.

Have you had to stay away from family since the outbreak?

Fortunately, I stay in Delhi with my family. Having said that, people of Kota-Bundi are also my family. I try and stay in touch with them and meet them

whenever possible.

I have been in touch with my constituents through teleconferencing, audio conferencing, and other such modes of communication. We are going through difficult times, and it is very important to stay in touch with the people of my constituency. I consider it my responsibility.

Do you take any specific precautions while you travel?

During the lockdown period, I did not travel at all. Once the un-lock phase started, I travelled to my constituency. I followed all the specified safety protocols on the trip.

How much time do you spend in front of a screen?

Virtual communication has definitely increased since the Covid-19 outbreak. I have also been relying on it to carry out my day-to-day work. So far, I have attended more than 100 national and international programmes virtually. I have been communicating with the people in my constituency and attending office meetings online as well.

How do you keep your mind off the pandemic?

During the pandemic, I have never let negativity cloud my mind. I continued to work actively with a positive frame of mind. I interacted with people, undertook administrative work of the Lok Sabha and supervised preparatory work for the Monsoon Session.

I also went through the proceedings of the previous Lok Sabha sessions and the rulings given by my predecessors. I like to read. Reading inspires me, fuels my creativity and motivates me to remain positive.

What is the first thing you want to do when the pandemic is past?

I pray that the pandemic ends soon and the world becomes free from Covid-19 infection.

I hope that this happens at the earliest so that life can return to normal and economic, social, political and other activities can move forward around the world and in India too.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

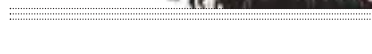
Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, 57, played a key role in conducting the Monsoon Session of Parliament, even as many raised apprehensions about attending the House in the middle of a pandemic. He urged all MPs to take Covid-19 tests and in the House often asked them to keep wearing masks. While the Session was cut short after many MPs tested positive for the coronavirus, Birla said that the Lok Sabha recorded "historic productivity" with, on an average, 370 MPs attending the House daily

INTERVIEW BY LIZ MATHEW

On the LOOSE

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THE COVID-19 pandemic has wiped out careers across industries, all over the world. The unpredictability of the virus means economic contraction is bound to continue, and those seeking employment face brutal challenges. So, when a recruiter for media content bemoaned that despite receiving a surfeit of applications she couldn't zero in on more than one candidate, her opinion on how people should present themselves in the post-Covid work world was worth hearing. Lavanya Mohan, a CA who works at Vuu.ai tweeted: "I really don't need to know you were 'raised by a single mom' and idgaf (I don't give a F***) about your Netflix preferences. This is a job application not a Roadies audition."

Rules of professional etiquette in 2020

Ms Mohan's blunt assessment brings to recall the other millennial phrase: TMI, baby, TMI. (Too Much Information.) I recently helped a young friend fix her CV where she had listed her participation at Shaheen Bagh during the anti-CAA protest. Save your woke-ness for Facebook, and ideally, not even that, I told her. A potential employer doesn't care if you battled icy February winds for your political beliefs. When she complained I was unnecessarily scathing, I did wonder whether my middle-aged point of view is outdated for a 24-year-old applying for her first job. Because the thing with this generation of 20-somethings is, their every meal and relationship status is meticulously recorded on social media anyway. Oversharing of personal information is so normalised, talking about your single mom in a CV for all I know, might be perfectly acceptable.

It turns out the (unwritten) rules of professional etiquette remain intact irrespective of whether it's 1990 or 2020. While today's cut throat environment might require a differentiator that marks one as unique, referencing difficult family situations as a show of resilience comes across as grossly entitled. Firstly, mentioning your single mom presumes that everyone who grew up in two parent homes had it perfect. A job application is not a competition for which person survived trauma best. Besides, this level of disclosure before a first meeting is alarming; nobody wants to be saddled with a colleague who needs an agony aunt. Unless the level of endurance is like the girl who took her father pillion on a cycle from Delhi to Bihar during the lockdown, best to keep family struggles out of a professional setting.

Undoubtedly, being a successful single

parent is a terrific achievement—for the parent, not the beneficiary. Perhaps, this ease with which young people wear damage as a badge of pride is a result of having grown up online, and communicating in 172 characters. Consuming bits of information from here and there and never deep diving into anything, has destroyed an instinct to know what to say, where. But the social contract applies to a career as much as it does to a personal life. Success is often knowing where to reveal one's authentic self (and where never to). The atmosphere at the modern workplace may be less hierarchical and more laissez faire but that doesn't mean the old cliché doesn't apply, of familiarity breeding contempt.

It appears though that the day is not far when flaunting single moms and the myriad other problems life throws at us will be up for discussion with HR in com-

panies, judging by the oh-so-woke, but actually very clever, PR move by tech giant Zomato. At the height of the Covid crisis, when almost nobody was going to an office, they announced paid menstruation leave for women every month (and were lauded by the international press for it). I fail to understand how all women being shovled into a generalised category of needing this time off can be seen as a step forward. Personally, I would prefer to shoot myself than discuss bodily functions with my boss. Again, TMI. Ask the women. They want equal opportunities for growth, not these insulting sops. Civility, even chivalry, is always welcome but the greatest courtesy anyone can receive in an office is an atmosphere free of gender-based complications.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films.

10 ECONOMY

CRUDE WATCH

OIL POSTS SECOND WEEKLY DECLINE

New York: Oil prices fell more than 4 per cent, and posted a second weekly decline after US President Donald Trump tested positive for Covid-19, roiling risky assets, and as rising global crude output threatened to overwhelm the market's weak recovery. **REUTERS**

STATES IN NEED OF FUNDS AS SECOND HALF OF FISCAL YEAR STARTS

Pending compensation dues to be a thorny issue at GST meet tomorrow

ANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

WITH THE states requiring funds to meet their expenditure at the onset of the second half of the financial year, pending compensation dues to the tune of over Rs 2 lakh crore are expected to be the contentious issue in the discussions with the Centre in the upcoming 42nd Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting slated for Monday.

While some of the 21 states which have already agreed for the option 1, involving borrowing of Rs 97,000 crore through a special window, have asked for expediting of the borrowing process and extension of the levy of compensation cess beyond the five-year transition period ending June 2022, Opposition-ruled states are still in disagreement with the options offered by the Centre to bridge the compensation gap.

Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi in a letter to

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that the Centre should act fast in the matter and enable those states who have listed their choice to borrow. "With GST revenue turning negative and the compensation having been delayed, I need not impress upon you the fact that all the states are in urgent need of funds. We will very soon be entering the second half of the current fiscal year and all of us need to do a lot of catching up on the activities planned for the current year and which have been on hold due to lack of sufficient funds...availability of funds, even if the same are in the form of debts, will enable cash-strapped states to once again kick start the development process which has come to a halt in the face of the ongoing pandemic," he said.

The Centre had enlisted support of 21 states and Union Territories for option 1 under its borrowing plan to meet this year's compensation deficit. Among the remaining 10

RISING DEPENDENCE

■ The dependence of states on compensation payments as a share of the protected revenues, or the amount they are entitled to get as per the GST (Compensation to States) Act, has shot up to nearly 58 per cent in April-July from 24.2 per cent seen in the previous financial year.

Opposition-ruled states, Kerala, Punjab and Chhattisgarh have already voiced their concerns that the majority view of the ruling party at the Centre is being adopted as the choice for all, even as these 10 states have still not opted for the borrowing options.

A renegotiation of the terms of the two borrowing options offered by the Centre in the previous Council meeting could happen with several states, including those who have already agreed

for option 1, having conveyed their concerns about the assumption of 10 per cent revenue growth in calculation of the estimates for compensation cess shortfall and the resultant borrowing amount, a senior government official said.

The Centre's estimates have pegged the GST compensation requirement to be around Rs 3 lakh crore this year, while the cess collection is expected to be around Rs 65,000 crore — an estimated compensation shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore (assuming a 10 per cent revenue growth over last year). Some states have pointed out the assumption of 10 per cent revenue growth for calculating revenue loss on account of implementation of GST could be high, given that gross GST revenue growth in FY20 was only 3.8 per cent as compared with FY19.

In the previous GST Council meeting held on August 27, the Centre had proposed two options to the states: to either borrow Rs 97,000 crore (shortfall only on account of GST implementation)

from a special window facilitated by the Reserve Bank of India or the complete shortfall of Rs 2.35 lakh crore (including Rs 1.38 lakh crore shortfall due to Covid-19 pandemic) from the market.

The dependence of states on compensation payments as a share of the protected revenues, or the amount they are entitled to get as per the GST (Compensation to States) Act, has shot up to nearly 58 per cent in April-July from 24.2 per cent seen in the previous financial year, with states such as Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh among the worst affected.

GST compensation to states has been pending for this financial year, amounting to Rs 1.5 lakh crore till July. Out of this pending payment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore, the states with the biggest chunk of pending payments are: Maharashtra (Rs 22,485 crore), Karnataka (Rs 13,763 crore), Uttar Pradesh (Rs 11,742 crore), Gujarat (Rs 11,563 crore) and Tamil Nadu (Rs 11,269 crore).

Govt waiver on levy of compound interest: How does it affect your EMIs?

SANDEEP SINGH & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

A WAIVER on levy of compound interest, or interest on interest, on MSME and personal loans of up to Rs 2 crore may come as a major relief to borrowers, especially those whose loans are in initial years of repayment as their interest component is a major chunk. This would help in reducing the burden on borrowers as they require to pay on the contracted rate of interest on loans.

Since the moratorium on loan repayments announced by the Reserve Bank of India was not a waiver, borrowers are liable to pay interest and interest on interest on the accumulated amount. While the central government has announced that it will foot the bill for compound interest, customers still have to bear the liability of interest accumulated in during the six of the moratorium period. Sources said this waiver is expected to cost the government around Rs 6,000-7000 crore. This is how it may work:

What has to be paid?

The first thing that consumers must understand is the

If you had a loan outstanding of Rs 50 lakh for a remaining term of 19 years (228 months) at the beginning of the moratorium period and your interest rate was 8 per cent, the interest cost for the six-month period of the moratorium would come at close to Rs 2 lakh. This will have to be paid

difference between interest and interest on interest. It must be clear that customers will have to pay the interest on their outstanding loan for the period for which they opted the moratorium.

So, if you had a loan outstanding of Rs 50 lakh for a remaining term of 19 years (228 months) at the beginning of the moratorium period and your interest rate was 8 per cent, the interest cost for the six-month period of the moratorium would come at close to Rs 2 lakh. This will have to be paid.

What gets waived?

Continuing with the above example, banks will not charge interest on this Rs 2 lakh interest amount from the customers and the government has proposed to pay it. So, the banks would not be adding the interest amount of Rs 2 lakh to your principal outstanding of Rs 50 lakh and will not calculate a fresh EMI at the prevail-

ing interest rate.

So how will one pay the interest amount accumulated during moratorium period?

Since, the government has offered to pay the interest on interest component, banks and housing finance companies can simply divide the interest component — Rs 2 lakh in this case over 228 monthly instalments. Which means your EMI may get increased by Rs 877 per month.

How much do you save?

Continuing with the above example, if the bank had added the interest component to your principal outstanding and charged 8 per cent for 228 months, your EMI would have increased by Rs 1,709 per month. However, since now there is no interest to be charged on that (as the government has proposed to pay it), your EMI may only go up by Rs 877 per month. So a monthly saving of Rs 832 for the period of 228 months in this case (on account of waiver on interest on interest).

BRIEFLY

RIL raises ₹7,350 cr from 2 investors

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd on Friday announced to raise Rs 7,350 crore from two investors — Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC and Global alternative asset firm TPG — by selling a stake in group's retail arm.

'Oxford vaccine could be rolled out in 6 months'

New Delhi: There is growing hope that the Oxford University vaccine candidate may be given the green light by health regulators by the end of this year to be rolled out for a vaccination programme in six months' time or even less, according to a UK media report. **PTI**

US probe into Vietnam currency

Washington/Hanoi: The United States is opening an investigation into whether Vietnam has been undervaluing its currency and harming US commerce, the US Trade Representative's office said in a statement on Friday. **REUTERS**

Lifetime achievement award for Tata

New Delhi: The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has presented the lifetime achievement award to business icon Ratan Tata as part of its recent global leadership awards. **PTI**

TACKLING COVID IMPACT

'EM central bank easing runs out of steam after 20 months of cuts'

Central banks in developing countries have cut rates for 20 straight months, though the pace of reductions continued to slow in September, as per a Reuters report

4 net cuts in September — the lowest number of reductions since June 2019
7 net cuts in August

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Interest rate changes have large impacts on consumer behaviour and the level of consumption an economy can expect. This is because higher rates translate to larger borrowing and financing costs.

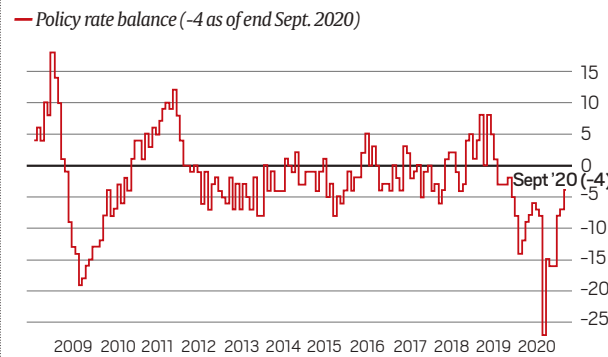
INTEREST RATE HIKES: Turkey raised benchmark rates since Czech policy makers sprang into action in February, Hungary's



central bank also unexpectedly raised the interest rate on its one-week deposit too
SHIFTING STANCE: A raft of recent monetary policy decisions — in Brazil, South Africa and Russia — suggest emerging market (EM) central banks are by no means as keen as they used to be to cut rates

EM CENTRAL BANKS KEEP CUTTING RATES

End-of-month policy rate balance between central banks raising interest rates and those cutting. A negative reading indicates more cuts than raises and vice versa.



Note: Central banks of the following 37 economies are included: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China ex-Hong Kong and Macau, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Egypt, Georgia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and Ukraine
Source: Reuters calculations via Refinitiv Datastream

India, South Africa ask WTO to waive off patents, IPs for faster Covid-19 care

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

INDIA AND South Africa have asked the World Trade Organization (WTO) to waive certain conditions of the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement that could impede timely access to affordable medical products to combat Covid-19.

The countries on October 2 asked the TRIPS Council to recommend, "as early as possible", a waiver from the implementation, application and enforcement of four sections of the second part of the agreement.

These Sections — 1, 4, 5 and 7 — pertain to copyright and related rights, industrial designs, patents and the protection of undisclosed information.

"The waiver should continue until widespread vaccination is in place globally, and the major-

THE DEMANDS

■ India and South Africa on October 2 asked the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Council to recommend, "as early as possible", a waiver from the implementation, application and enforcement of four sections of the second part of the agreement.

ity of the world's population has developed immunity hence we propose an initial duration of [x] years from the date of the adoption of the waiver," stated the countries in their communication.

"As new diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines for Covid-19 are developed, there are sig-

nificant concerns, how these will be made available promptly, in sufficient quantities and at affordable price to meet global demand. Critical shortages in medical products have also put at grave risk patients suffering from other communicable and non-communicable diseases," they said.

"There are several reports about intellectual property rights hindering or potentially hindering timely provisioning of affordable medical products to the patients. It is also reported that some WTO members have carried out urgent legal amendments to their national patent laws to expedite the process of issuing compulsory/government use licenses," they added.

According to the two countries, many countries, "especially" developing countries, may face institutional and legal difficulties when using flexibilities available in the TRIPS Agreement.

Mahindra launches new Thar



ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

MAHINDRA & Mahindra (M&M) has launched the all-new version of Thar, with prices starting from Rs 9.8 lakh (ex-showroom).

The company has introduced the model in two trims AX and LX with both petrol and diesel powertrain options.

"... the Thar has been a part of Mahindra's rich history and has found its way into the hearts of many as an object of desire," M&M MD Pawan Goenka said.

Betting on post-Covid rebound, Airbnb targets \$3 billion raise in IPO

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 3

HOME RENTAL company Airbnb Inc is aiming to raise around \$3 billion in its upcoming initial public offering (IPO), people familiar with the matter said on Friday, taking advantage of the unexpectedly sharp recovery in its business after the COVID-19 pandemic rolled the travel industry.

Airbnb will be one of the largest and most anticipated US stock market listings of 2020 which has already been a blockbuster year for IPOs, featuring the likes of record label Warner Music

AMONG LARGEST LISTINGS OF 2020

■ Airbnb will be one of the largest and most anticipated US stock market listings of 2020.

Group, data analytics firm Palantir Technologies and data warehouse company Snowflake Inc.

Airbnb said in August it had filed confidentially for an IPO with US regulators. The company's current plan is to make its filing publicly available in November after the US Presidential election.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

COMMERCE AND Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said quality, technology and scale of production will help India take its annual exports to \$1 trillion and not government subsidies.

He exhorted exporters and the industry as a whole to target \$1 trillion worth of shipments.

"Why can't we aim for \$1 trillion exports from India. We certainly can. I see no reason, (why) we cannot. For that we need to be clear on actionable items (and) subsidies are never going to get us there, I am very very clear about

'SUBSIDIES NOT THE SOLUTION'

COMMERCE MINISTER Piyush Goyal said in six years, he had not found subsidies to be the solution for India's problems. For a long term engagement with the world on subsidy, it is not going to work, he added.

that," he said. "At least in my six years of engagement, I have not found subsidies to be the solution for India's problems. I think it's quality, tech-



nology, growth, scale; and sometimes for a short period you may need to give a little thrust or support. But if they are looking at literally running a long term engage-

ment with the world on subsidy, it is not going to work," he said.

The minister was speaking at a webinar on strategies for alleviating policy constraints for exports in select sectors. He said there is a need to identify areas where sensible policies can help take exports to \$1 trillion.

The minister also released a study — Domestic Constraints for Exports in Select Sectors — published by the Export-Import Bank of India.

Indicators like positive growth in the country's exports in September and increase in GST collections show that India will bounce back to high growth levels, he said.

Quality, scale to help take exports to \$1 tn, not subsidies, says Goyal

Forex reserves fall \$3 billion from record high to \$542 billion

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 3

AFTER TOUCHING a lifetime high in the previous week, the country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$3.017 billion to \$542.021 billion in the week ended September 25, RBI data showed on Friday. In the week ended September 18, the reserves had increased by \$3.378 billion to a record \$545.038 billion.

During the reporting week, the decline in the forex kitty was mainly due to a fall in foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major com-

ponent of the overall reserves. FCAs decreased by \$1.523 billion to \$499.941 billion, the central bank data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were down by \$1.441 billion in the reporting week to \$35.999 billion, the RBI data showed.

The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dipped by \$10 million to \$1.472 billion. **WITHPTI**

IIFL group front running case: Sebi bans 6 people



Securities and Exchange Board of India. File

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has banned six persons — Santosh B Singh, Adil Gulam Suthar, Virendra Pratap Singh, Neha Virendra Singh, Gulammohammed Gulamabbas Shaikh and Mohammedidrish A Shaikh — from the securities market till further directions in a case involving 'front running' in the India Infoline group (IIFL group).

The six entities are permitted to settle the pay-in and pay-out obligations in respect of transactions which have taken place before the close of trading on the date of this order, Sebi said in an order. It also directed for impounding of the bank accounts of the entities to the extent of amount mentioned and deposit the proceeds from the front running trades. Front-running is trading in a stock or any other financial asset by a broker who has inside knowledge of a future transaction that is about to affect its price substantially.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Northrop Grumman's Antares rocket lifts off

USA

Radish seeds, meats, cheeses launched to ISS

A SPACE station cargo ship rocketed into orbit Friday carrying a 360-degree camera for space-walking, radish seeds for growing and a smorgasbord of fancy meats and cheeses for feasting. Northrop Grumman launched its capsule to the International Space Station (ISS) from the Virginia coast. The 3,600-kg shipment should reach the space station Monday. Stashed aboard the Cygnus capsule: pressurised air tanks to help offset a vexing leak at the space station, a new \$23 million titanium toilet custom fit for women, and a virtual reality camera to provide cinematic views of spacewalks and other outdoor shots. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

Bomb blast in eastern Afghan province kills 15

ATTACKERS SET off a truck bomb in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province on Saturday, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens, according to provincial officials, as violence continues in the war-torn nation despite peace talks taking place in Qatar. Attaullah Khugyani, a spokesman for the provincial government, said the number of casualties, most of whom were civilians, could rise and that dozens of people were also injured by the blast in Ghani Khel district. Obaidullah Shinwari, the Nangarhar provincial council's member, said 52 people were injured in the blast. **REUTERS**

THE CAUCASUS

Armenia says it is ready to work for ceasefire

ARMENIA SAID on Friday it would work with Russia, the US and France on renewing a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh as the death toll rose on the sixth day of fighting over the breakaway enclave in the South Caucasus. Azerbaijan, which is fighting ethnic Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, has not responded to a call for a ceasefire by the three countries. Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev ruled out talks with Armenia over the issue on Tuesday. **REUTERS**

CAMPAIGN MANAGER, SENATORS, ADVISERS AMONG TRUMP CONTACTS TO CATCH VIRUS

Trump's health raises concerns despite his doctor's word that he's doing well

Person familiar with situation says next 48 hours crucial for President

NYT & AP

BETHESDA, OCTOBER 3

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's vital signs on Saturday were concerning as doctors mounted an aggressive effort to treat him and he was not out of danger, a person close to the situation told *The New York Times*, even as the coronavirus infected an ever widening swath of the President's aides and allies.

While Dr Sean Conley, the White House physician, told reporters that Trump was "doing very well" after a night at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, they refused to provide critical details and left open the impression that the President was known to be sick a day earlier than previously reported.

Shortly after the upbeat briefing by the doctors, a person familiar with the President's health, on the condition of anonymity, gave a more sober assessment. "The President's vitals over the last 24 hours were very concerning and the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care," this person said. "We're still not on a clear path to a full recovery."

Two people close to the White House told *NYT* that the President had trouble breathing on Friday, prompting his doctors to give him supplemental oxygen while at the White House and decide to transfer him to Walter Reed.

Talking to reporters, Conley, the President's doctor, seemed to suggest that Trump was first diagnosed with the virus on Wednesday rather than Thursday night when Trump disclosed that he had tested positive on Twitter. While describing what he said was the President's progress, he said Trump was "just 72 hours into the diagnosis now," which would mean midday on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, some of Trump's

U.S. SENATE CANCELS WORK AS VIRUS SPREADS

SENATE REPUBLICANS have cancelled legislative work until October 19 as the coronavirus sweeps through their ranks and lawmakers increasingly call for comprehensive testing on Capitol Hill. But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said in a statement Saturday that confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett are still on, just since Friday. Senators Thom Tillis, Mike Lee and Ron Johnson announced that they have tested positive. **AP**

close allies who came in contact with him in recent days tested positive for the virus. Attention focused in particular on last Saturday's White House event introducing Trump's Supreme Court nominee, with several attendees announcing they had tested positive for the virus.

Among them: former White House counsellor Kellyanne Conway, the president of the University of Notre Dame, and at least two Republican lawmakers — Senator Mike Lee and Senator Thom Tillis. Though the ceremony announcing Judge Amy Coney Barrett's nomination was held outdoors, attendees sat closely together and few wore masks. Some also mingled at a smaller event inside the White House.

Also testing positive: Trump's campaign manager Bill Stepien. Stepien had joined Trump at Tuesday's presidential debate. Chris Christie, the former governor of New Jersey who for several days this week helped Trump prepare for the debate, also tested positive for the coronavirus.

Trump arrives at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, in Bethesda, Maryland, Friday. **AP**

Biden's campaign scrambles to adjust to new uncertainty in race

KATIE GLUECK, THOMAS KAPLAN & SYDNEY EMBER
OCTOBER 3

JOE BIDEN tested negative for the coronavirus and pressed on with in-person campaigning Friday as President Donald Trump's hospitalisation with the virus seismically altered the race and threw the government into upheaval.

Biden flew on Friday afternoon to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he delivered remarks about the economy and emphasised the dangers of the pandemic. He cast his opponent's positive test as a vivid illustration of the public health risks at play but offered Trump wishes for a speedy recovery. His campaign also moved to take down negative ads.

"This is not a matter of politics," said Biden, who revealed that he had been tested twice



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Friday. "It's a bracing reminder to all of us that we have to take this virus seriously. It's not going away automatically. We have to do our part to be responsible."

Biden campaign officials and allies said Friday the Democratic nominee planned to continue in-person travel, although Biden acknowledged cancelling an additional stop later Friday. "Based on the crowd size and an indoor — it was concluded by the docs that best not to do it," he said.

Biden had refrained from hold-

ing in-person events for months as the nation struggled to confront the virus. He had only recently — and cautiously — begun to campaign on the ground consistently in key battleground states.

Biden's wife, Jill Biden, campaigned Friday in New Hampshire and had several stops slated for Saturday in Minnesota. Democrats encouraged Biden to continue on the campaign trail.

"This is not a hiatus of the campaign," said Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia. "We're in the closing stretch of the campaign and they've got to be aggressively campaigning."

Jim Wertz, the Democratic chairman in Erie County, Pennsylvania, said Biden should continue holding in-person events. "The Democratic Party and the Biden campaign have always taken Covid precautions seriously and will continue to do so," Wertz said. **NYT**



NEW FLOOD BARRIER KEEPS VENICE DRY

A long-delayed flood barrier successfully protected Venice from a high tide for the first time on Saturday, bringing relief and smiles to the lagoon city following years of repeated inundations. "Today, everything is dry. We stopped the sea," city mayor Luigi Brugnaro said. The network of 78 bright yellow barriers that guard the entrance to the delicate Venetian lagoon lifted from the sea bed as the tide, driven by strong winds and rain, started to climb. **Reuters**

Nepal PM's 3 key advisers contract Covid

SHIRISH B PRADHAN
KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 3

NEPAL PRIME Minister K P Sharma Oli's chief adviser and his other two aides have contracted coronavirus that has claimed 528 lives and infected over 84,500

people in the country. During the tests conducted on Friday, Oli's chief adviser Bishnu Rimal, press adviser Surya Thapa, and foreign affairs adviser Rajan Bhattarai tested positive for Covid-19.

The key advisers confirmed the development through their

social media accounts. Posting on Twitter and Facebook, they requested all those who came in their contact to be cautious.

Nepal's Covid-19 tally jumped to 84,570 on Saturday as 2,120 new coronavirus cases were detected in the country. **PTI**

Sudan, rebel leaders seal peace deal in effort to end wars

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JUBA, OCTOBER 3

SUDAN'S TRANSITIONAL authorities and a rebel alliance on Saturday signed a peace deal that was initiated in August and aims to put an end to the country's decades-long civil wars.

"The next biggest challenge is to work with all local and international partners to preach the agreement and its benefits," Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok tweeted on Friday upon his arrival at Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

Reaching a negotiated settlement with rebels in Sudan's far-flung provinces has been a crucial goal for the transitional government, which assumed power after a popular uprising led the military to overthrow President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

Sudanese civilian leaders hope the deal will allow them to revive the country's battered economy by slashing military spending, which takes up much

Experimental drug part of treatment plan for President

REUTERS & AP
OCTOBER 3

THE WHITE House has said US President Donald Trump was given an experimental treatment designed to combat the coronavirus as well as a small array of treatments including aspirin.

Trump, 74, is considered vulnerable to developing severe Covid-19 due to his gender, age and weight, health experts said.

Experimental drug

One of the most anticipated classes of experimental Covid-19 drugs is monoclonal antibodies: manufactured copies of human antibodies to the virus. The injected antibodies are designed to begin fighting the virus immediately and are being developed to prevent and treat Covid-19.

The technique is already in wide use for treating a range of illnesses, but data so far is limited for Covid-19 antibodies. Trump is taking an antibody cocktail being tested by Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, which has reported improved symptoms in non-hospitalised Covid patients.

Other treatment

Trump's doctor said the president is taking several medicines, including:

- Remdesivir, an antiviral drug shown to help some Covid-19 patients recover faster.
- Vitamin D and mineral zinc, both of which are taken by some as immune system boosters.
- Heartburn drug famotidine, which is being looked into as a potential treatment for Covid-19.
- Melatonin, taken as a sleep aid.
- Aspirin, a fever reducer.

Blaming govt, journalist sets self on fire and dies in Russia

IVAN NECHEPURENKO
MOSCOW, OCTOBER 3

ARUSSIAN journalist who edited an independent news website died Friday, setting herself afire in front of police headquarters in the city of Nizhny Novgorod, a day after investigators had searched her home there.

Just before her self-immolation, Irina Slavina, 47, founder and editor of Koza Press, a local news site, posted a message on Facebook saying: "I ask you to blame the Russian Federation for my death."

Koza Press confirmed her death. The local branch of the Investigative Committee, Russia's equivalent of the FBI, said in a statement that the allegation that her death had anything to do with the search of her apartment was "groundless". The statement said the search had been conducted as part of a criminal case in which Slavina was considered a witness.

Slavina said on Facebook on Thursday that early in the morning 12 people, including members of a special police unit, had conducted a search of her apartment. The Facebook post said law enforcement agents had been looking for "brochures, leaflets, accounts" from Open Russia, an opposition organisation.

Before the search, Slavina had been continuously pressured by local authorities. She was fined for taking part in opposition demonstrations in Nizhny Novgorod and for mentioning Open Russia in her Facebook posts. "I lost jobs three times because I can say that I poked my nose too far," she said in an interview in September of last year. **NYT**



Jacinda Ardern

Advance voting begins in New Zealand election

PRAVEEN MENON
WELLINGTON, OCTOBER 3

EARLY VOTING began in New Zealand on Friday with Prime Minister and Labour Party leader Jacinda Ardern seen securing a second term in office on the back of her success in handling the coronavirus pandemic and other crises.

Voters can head to the polls with about 450 advance polling stations opened across the country in the lead-up to election day on October 17.

The election commission said advance voting has become steadily more popular. It accounted for 47% of all votes in 2017 and could reach as much as 60% this time round.

In a Facebook message, Ardern said she voted early on Saturday. New Zealanders are also voting on two other issues — legalising recreational cannabis and euthanasia — topics that have split opinions in the country.

A recent poll suggested Ardern's Labour Party might need a coalition partner to form a government as her rival National Party leader Judith Collins is clawing back support. **REUTERS**

THE 17-YEAR-OLD WAS AMONG 17 KILLED IN 2018 MASSACRE AT MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL IN FLORIDA

Parents of teen who died in school shooting create AI video of son to spur voters

KELLI KENNEDY
FORT LAUDERDALE,
OCTOBER 3

WEARING HIS signature hoodie and beanie, an earbud casually hanging from one ear, passionate Parkland teen Joaquin Oliver urges his peers to vote for lawmakers who will end gun violence in a new video released Friday. Next month's election would have been his first chance to vote.

The 17-year-old's mannerisms and vernacular "yo, it's

me" are shockingly life like, but it is just a mirage — a realistic, almost eerie artificial intelligence re-creation of the teen who was among the 17 killed in the 2018 Valentine's Day massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, the worst school shooting in history.

From the grave, the teen is now begging his peers to cast the vote that he will never cast.

"I've been gone for two years and nothing's changed, bro. People are still getting killed by guns," he implores in

the video created by his parents' charity to end gun violence. "You've got to replace my vote."

After their son's death, Manuel and Patricia Oliver founded the organization Change The Ref to empower young people to make changes through education and activism on a variety of issues, most notably gun violence.

They helped craft every detail of the video, from their son's wardrobe to his mannerisms and what he would say, relying on his Twitter account



This computer-generated image, taken from video created through artificial intelligence, shows a depiction of Joaquin Oliver, a teenager killed in the Parkland school massacre. **AP**

and other musings to help guide them.

"It's something where you just put the dots together if you see his posts, the way he thinks, he was still thinking, the way he was expressing his frustration about situations," his mom said in a phone interview Friday.

The teen, affectionately known as Guac, was affected by racism at a young age and protective of his Hispanic immigrant parents. When he was 12-years-old he wrote a letter to gunmakers asking why they

didn't support universal background checks.

"We are letting Joaquin grow into his ideas... and how he will be reacting to things that are happening today," his father said.

"We know our son so well and we knew exactly what he wanted from life."

The lifelike image is also painful to watch for the grieving parents.

"I couldn't even breathe well," his mother said of the first time she saw the video. "Of course we know that is not

Joaquin, but they did such an amazing job with the technology that you can't say, 'Oh my God, how I wish that could be the real Joaquin there talking to everybody.'"

For Manuel Oliver, he's harnessed that pain to create change. The artist has traveled the country on Joaquin's behalf, painting a mural on his son's birthday outside the National Rifle Association's headquarters and leading a rally at the headquarters of Smith & Wesson.

"I wouldn't describe this as painful but as powerful." **AP**



SPOTLIGHT

Gandhi in 2020

In this year of churn, artists reimagine the Mahatma

FILMS

Bend it like Women

Filmmaker Alankrita Shrivastava and actor-director Konkona Sen Sharma on the allure of stories about the complex inner lives of women



Living History

AN INDIAN EXPRESS COLLABORATION WITH RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

The Power and the Glory

Marking Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, *The Indian Express* begins a series in partnership with the Rashtrapati Bhavan, which will give a tour of little-known anecdotes, records and rarely-seen-before photographs that document stories of history, heritage and culture from the seat of power to the people. First up, two insiders on the monument and its brush with the Mahatma

Ajay Singh

IF THERE is one monument that epitomises modern Indian history, it is the Rashtrapati Bhavan. It has been witness to the high noon of colonialism, negotiations of a painful Partition, the dawn of Independence, and countless events that have shaped the republic since.

As a symbol of the seat of power, its majesty is overwhelming. A report published in *The Daily Telegraph* of London on December 12, 1928, said that the palace that Lord and Lady Irwin would occupy contains "340 rooms, 227 columns, 35 loggias, 37 fountains, 14 lifts, 45 lac bricks, 14 lac cubic feet of stone, 7,500 tons of cement and 1,350 tons of iron and steel". Its architecture, though European in concept, was executed predominantly with Indian motifs and craftsmanship. Spread over 330-odd acres, it is also called a "geometrical extravaganza" because of chief architect Edwin Lutyens' fascination with a mathematical balance in architecture. This is why it is bound by a distinct thread of sound logic.

While the grandeur of the Rashtrapati



COURTESY: RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

Bhavan is often assumed to be out of bounds, President Ram Nath Kovind in his addresses has often extended an invitation to people to visit the monument, where his own residence is confined to a portion of the estate. "It is your place" has been his refrain.

Over the years, historians and architects have done their part in familiarising people with the place. Yet, there are many stories that have remained confined within these sandstone walls. Those who have worked with the President's Secretariat for years have lived and jostled with these stories. That sense of history is quite palpable, be it the cabinet room where every detail of Partition was discussed, the Durbar Hall, the Ashoka Hall and the array of places across the estate.

For the first time, long-time staffers share behind-the-scenes anecdotes of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. *The Indian Express* has partnered with the President's Secretariat to launch this series as a platform for the stories of this splendid building.

Ajay Singh is press secretary, President of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan

Praveen Siddharth

ONE OF the popular exhibits in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum is an interactive experience called 'Walk with the Mahatma'. Visitors see themselves projected on a screen walking alongside Mahatma Gandhi across the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. It is an instant favourite with those who delight at the experience of feeling part of history.

But did the Mahatma really visit Rashtrapati Bhavan? This question led me to pore over some old records. Technically, of course, he did not, since this magnificent building became the Rashtrapati Bhavan only in the 1950s. Before that it was the "Viceroy House" and "Government House". If we leave the semantics aside though, things become interesting.

Construction of the Viceroy House began in 1912 and was complete only by 1929. Lord Irwin became its first resident sometime in February 1931 and one of the early visitors to the Viceroy House was, in fact, Mahatma Gandhi. On February 17, 1931, he held the first of his famous meetings with Lord Irwin. Having just been jailed for the Dandi March and Salt Satyagraha, he is famously said to have carried his own salt in a packet and used it to mix in his nimbu pani. Gandhi met Irwin eight times until March 5, 1931, leading ultimately to the Gandhi-Irwin pact. Images of the modestly-clad Gandhi at the grand new Viceroy House rankled several important people in London. Winston Churchill, during an address to the Council of the West Essex Unionist Association on February 23, 1931, lamented, "It is alarming and also nauseating to see Mr Gandhi, an Inner Temple lawyer, now become a seditious *fakir* of a type well known in the East, striding half-naked up the steps of the Viceregal Palace, while he is still organising and conducting a defiant campaign of civil disobedience, to parley on equal terms with the representative of the King-Emperor."

Ironically, today, just outside the walls of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the salt march is immortalised in bronze in a sculpture popularly known as *Gyarah Murti* by the eminent sculptor Devi Prasad Roy Choudhary (1899-1975).

The other prominent visit of Gandhi occurred on October 12, 1939. World War II had broken out. Along with Rajendra Prasad and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Gandhi met the viceroy Lord Linlithgow about the Indian participation in the British war effort. The meeting wasn't successful and Linlithgow in a statement on October 17 refused to commit to the demands for independence in return for



RENUKA PURI



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE EMPIRE

Mahatma Gandhi never visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan as it is now, yet his legacy looms large over Lutyens's marvel

THE MAN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

(Left) A Gandhi portrait in a banquet hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan; Mahatma Gandhi with Lord and Lady Mountbatten

India's support in the war. Commenting on this episode, Gandhi remarked, "We had gone to ask for bread and instead got a stone."

The launch of the Quit India movement in 1942 led to Gandhi being jailed in Pune at the Aga Khan Palace between 1942 and 1944. Meanwhile, on October 20, 1943, Linlithgow left India and Lord Wavell became the new viceroy. Writing in his journal, Wavell records that that everyone in London commented that he was lucky compared to his predecessors. The biggest decision they had to face was "whether and when to lock up Gandhi,"

whereas Wavell would find him already locked up. The issue that would actually worry Wavell was the spectre of famine over India. In this grim scenario, the former American President Herbert Hoover visited India on April 24, 1946, to discuss American aid to tide over the crisis. Wavell invited the nationalist leaders to the Viceroy House to meet Hoover. Gandhi and Nehru accepted, but not Jinnah. After the meeting, in a statement to the press on April 26, Gandhi said, "Mr Hoover's flying visit to India has excited considerable interest and possibly hope. Whilst all the help that America and

other countries can send to India, struggling against starvation, must be welcome, my endeavour has been to find ways and means to make ourselves self-supporting...nature never fails those who will help themselves." Words that would find resonance today as we aim to build an "atmanirbhar Bharat".

One of the more popular images of Mahatma Gandhi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan is, perhaps, of his meetings with the viceroy Lord Mountbatten in April 1947. Gandhi met him on April 1, 2 and 3, for discussions on the composition of the interim government. An

aide of Mountbatten noted that during one of these meetings Gandhi "stayed on for afternoon tea, which was arranged on the lawn and did not touch either the cakes or the sandwiches, but chose to eat a bowl of goat's curd which he had brought with him."

On June 2, 1947, Mountbatten again invited Gandhi and other national leaders to the Viceroy House to win their support for his plan for Partition. Gandhi's support was considered the most crucial. Mountbatten feared that his plan stood no chance if Gandhi spoke publicly against it. As Dominique Lapierre and Larry

Collins recount in their book *Freedom at Midnight* (1975), what followed was certainly the most bizarre visit. June 2 happened to be a Monday — the day of the week when Gandhi observed a vow of silence. After listening to the earnest persuasions of Mountbatten, he scrawled a cryptic note on the back of a used envelope, "I am sorry I can't speak. When I took the decision about the Monday silence, I did reserve two exceptions, i.e. about speaking to high functionaries on urgent matters or attending upon sick people. But I know you don't want me to break my silence...if we meet again, I shall speak." The next day Mountbatten announced the Partition of India, over radio, after obtaining the consent of Jinnah and Nehru.

Gandhi's untimely death in 1948 meant that he never visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan to meet an Indian president. However, fate provided a short and beautiful window of opportunity. In November 1947, Mountbatten left for England to attend the royal wedding of his nephew Philip with Princess Elizabeth, elder daughter of King George VI. C Rajagopalachari was announced as the acting Governor-General and he moved in temporarily to the Government House, which the Viceroy House had now come to be called. Gandhi visited him on November 20, and, for the first time in history, he saw an Indian reside in the building. The visit was even sweeter since Gandhi and Rajaji had become co-fathers-in-law by then.

In retrospect, Gandhi's visits to the Rashtrapati Bhavan were never really just visits. Rather, they were encounters between an empire, symbolised through a colossal structure, and the moral force of a nation embodied in one scrawny and frail man. These encounters, slowly but surely, tilted the balance of power and chipped at the foundations of the British colonial rule. At the same time, the encounters also changed the character of the Rashtrapati Bhavan itself. From being a sign of British domination, it became a structure epitomising our unity and national spirit.

Decades before any of these encounters took place, educator and missionary CF Andrews wrote on February 21, 1924, "There is a ruler of India here, Mahatma Gandhi, whose sway is greater than all imperial power. His name will be remembered and sung by all the village people long after the names of the modern governors in their palaces in New Delhi are forgotten...for there is a spiritual palace which Mahatma Gandhi built out of an eternal fabric. Its foundations are deeply and truly laid in the kingdom of God." No words have proved to be more prophetic.

Praveen Siddharth is private secretary to the President of India

OCTOBER 4, 2020



WONDER WOMEN

B Narayanaswamy (left) and MD Pallavi

No One Killed Desdemona

A play seeks to interrogate why women need to rescue themselves

Dipanita Nath

AT THE end of *Othello*, Desdemona is murdered in her bedchamber on the suspicion of being unfaithful. Yet, when asked the identity of her killer, Desdemona responds, "Nobody; I myself". The Shakespearean tragedy is usually enacted as the saga of a troubled Moor. Now, a group of Bengaluru theatre practitioners borrow Desdemona's last words to study history and mythology's missing women.

"Why does Desdemona say nobody killed her? The death was the act of punishment because of the notion: if the woman has betrayed a man, she's to be killed. There are parallels in our own stories. Sita has to keep paying for somebody's illusions about her sanctity. Desdemona doesn't fight back by even naming Othello. Sita, similarly, accepts her punishments as a woman's need to prove herself free of guilt," says actor-singer MD Pallavi.

The play, *Desdemona Rupakam*, explores relationships between famous couples of classic literatures by probing the bedroom as a site of vicious power struggle. It will be filmed in an empty hall and streamed globally as part of the annual Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival. Though unintended, *Desdemona Rupakam* opens at a critical time, when national anger surrounding the Hathras (alleged gang-rape and murder) case has trained the lens on misogyny in India. "The incident is deeply disturbing. It isn't outrightly mentioned in the play but the text is about these events," says Pallavi.

The first place that the politics of a play is reflected in is the rehearsal room. Abhishek Majumdar-directed *Desdemona Rupakam* is dominated by women — actors Pallavi and Bindhumalini Narayanaswamy, dramaturge Irawati Kamik and production manager Veena Appiah. "So many times," says Majumdar, "the women in the room said, 'Are we ending up saying that Othello is a bad guy?' Gender negotiations aren't as simple as calling the guy bad. "There are bigger things, which we have been trying to explore," he adds.

Using folk forms like *Harikatha*, *yakshagana* and *yellamma nataka*, and Tishani Doshi's poem *The River of Girls*, the script includes stories of Shakuntala and Dushyanta, where a ring is a proof of a woman's identity, and Renuka and Jamadagni, where the wife is cursed for desiring a celestial being flying above her. "Women face brutality every day. It's unfortunate that this line still holds good. Why do some of them stay silent? We need to rescue ourselves because no one else will," says Appiah, who has worked as a production manager for over two decades.



ENRICO FABIAN

He Walked Among Us

Artists visualise Mahatma Gandhi and his ideals in these uncertain times

GULAMMOHAMMED SHEIKH

THINKING OF Gandhi today leaves you in a state of despair, as the voices of sanity and civilised conduct in our public life have been pushed into the margins, if not extinguished. We watch with utter disbelief how aggression and violence govern every walk of our life, how every form of dissent is muzzled, how freedom continues to be curtailed, leaving the civilised populace in a helpless limbo. Let's not forget that Gandhiji practised a humane behaviour in his public and private life, listened to those who often reviled him, upholding their right to differ with respect and humility. His absence is sorely missed in this world that has turned increasingly violent. I've often turned to Gandhiji in my work. I quoted him in a dialogue with Kabir, with both at opposite ends of an ark floating in an endless ocean. *His Satyagraha and Ours* (2006) shows Gandhiji as a young lawyer before he returned to India from in South Africa. In the triptych *Gandhi and Gama* (2014), Vasco da Gama faces a young Gandhi contemplating the collapse of the British rule across a *mappa mundi*.

GIGI SCARIA

WHEN I think about Mahatma Gandhi in 2020, my heart beats so much from the permanent wound inflicted by the intense communal politics played out in this country that it will never recover. Gandhi, through his life and actions, analysed the idea of 'truth' in a diversely



MANISH MEHTA

religious, ethnic, cultural, philosophical and political core of this land. His vision was based on democratic principles. What have we become? For us, truth has become a myth. We have systematically removed each and every stone laid by the Mahatma. This is a country where women are being raped and killed, migrant workers are a non-existing entity and a historical monument of religious importance is crushed to the ground. We have created our banana republic, one where we shouldn't utter the Mahatma's name.

REENA KALLAT

The world over, democracies are under increasing strain, facing new challenges. It becomes more urgent for us to revisit Gandhi's ideals — of tolerance, truth, equality, justice. In this multi-channelled video installation *Blind Spots*, viewers en-



RIS DREAMS/REENA KALLAT STUDIO AND CHEMOULD PRESCOTT ROAD

GENTLY SHAKE THE WORLD

(Clockwise from top) Gandhi's mural on the Delhi Police Headquarters, painted in 2014 by German graffiti artist Hendrik Beikirch and Varkey; Kallat's 13-channel installation *Blind Spots* (2017-19); Scaria's *Men at Work* (2015), watercolour and automotive paint on paper; Sheikh's *The Ark* (2007), digital collage on archival paper

counter 13 pairs of Snellen eye charts through the disjointed letters that form the preambles to the Constitutions of countries such as US-Cuba, Serbia-Croatia, Sudan-South Sudan, India-Pakistan, Bangladesh-India, North and South Korea, amongst others. In the act of reading, as the founding promises of equality, justice, liberty, common to preambles of both nation-states are revealed, they morph into braille-like dots. The work invites reflection on how we seem to have lost sight of these shared human values and universal aspirations, which cut across the idea of sovereign nation-states.

ANPU VARKEY

In this time of strife and unrest around the world, Gandhi the pacifist — who stands tall on the exteriors of government buildings that uphold the law — and his views of negating violence as a means to subdue conflicts are even more relevant now.

AS TOLD TO VANDANA KALRA

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

The Mighty and the Meek

Ape a gorilla's dignity or a bonobo's peacekeeping methods

AT A chimpanzee's enclosure in any Indian zoo, young men are found hooting, shrieking, pulling faces and offering the chimps cigarettes and even bits of broken bottles. It's difficult to tell who the real chimpanzees are. That's how closely related we are to the great apes. Back in the very old bad days, a highlight of any circus act was the chimpanzee tea party where the chimps would end up throwing tea cups at each other and shriek much like what happens in the hallowed halls where the laws of the nation are framed.

Of the 13 species of apes in the world (excluding us), four are the "great" apes, the others, "lesser" apes, a distinction made solely on the basis of size. Three of the former are found in Africa and one in the rainforests of Southeast Asia — which is also the realm of the lesser apes.

The granddaddy of them all is the gorilla — a growling, frowning giant with the gentlest eyes imaginable. Our behaviour towards them (and other great apes) has been horrendous and shameful: they've been poached, driven from their jungles, trapped for the pet trade and zoos (babies are taken after shooting the mothers) and starred in hideous films. Thankfully, they had mentors, needless to say, who were women. The late Dian Fossey inveigled herself into gorilla clans in the Virunga Forests of the Congo living there for decades before she was murdered for the protection she tried giving animals, lying buried next to her favourite, Digit, a giant silverback killed by poachers.

Gorilla families are ruled by a grand silverback, who maintains order and discipline with firmness and dignity. He has his harem and his young guns are quickly shown their place by chest-thumping and mock charging. There can be trouble, though, when an outsider silverback — equal in weight and size, tries to take over as head honcho.

Except when babies, gorillas don't usually throw tantrums, they're just too big and dignified for that. The leaf-eating vegetarians move as slowly and silently as smoke through their habitat. Big daddy silverbacks (the hair in the middle of their backs is silver) occasionally indulge their babies, which is why there was such an uproar when Harambe, the captive silverback in the Cincinnati



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

OLD MAN OF THE FOREST

The gentle-eyed orangutans are hugely shrewd

zoo, was shot in 2016 when a toddler fell into his enclosure. The jury is out on whether the animal was just checking out the unconscious child or about to harm him. Gorillas are having a hard time surviving in the wild, and several zoos (like in Jersey and San Diego) have captive-breeding programmes for them.

Our closest cousins, however, are the chimpanzees — and they've paid the price for it in medical laboratories. Jane Goodall has studied them for over 60 years (she first discovered their tool-making prowess) and now spends her time espousing their cause. Sure, toddler chimps are cute, laugh hysterically when tickled, and very, very smart. But adults are prone to shrieking temper tantrums, and young studs throw around their weight (and whatever's at hand). Chiefly vegetarian, they do occasionally indulge in hunting monkeys and other small animals, and to see the way a party of males sets out on a hunt is truly chilling. Having torn a kill (say, a colobus monkey) to shreds, the alpha male may distribute the meat among his acolytes.

While the common chimpanzee is highly strung, and groups will often go to war with one another, they have a smaller relative, the bonobo, which believes in (very) free love above all! These hippie chimps keep the peace by making love as often as they can, caring two hoots about the exclusivity of partners.

The "old men of the forest" — orangutans of Borneo and Sumatra and the Indonesian islands — too, have a mentor in a Dutch lady, Birute Galdikas, and they too have suffered hideously at our hands. These gentle-eyed, rust-coloured apes are hugely shrewd, spending more time in the trees than any of the others. Long ago, I fell for a doe-eyed orangutan called Pinky at the Delhi Zoo. We met when she was taking a walk: she twined her arms around my legs and looked up at me with those soulful eyes. Upsetting her would be foolish because the strength in those arms could easily snap both my legs as if they were matchsticks. Appalled by this budding romance, her keeper hastened her away and I never saw her again.

On another visit, the ringing cries of the hooleck gibbon — *hoola-hoola-hoola* — rising to a crescendo welcomed me. The gibbons (all nine species) are the "lesser" apes — and our very own hooleck is found in the Northeastern rainforests. They swing (brachiate) like trapeze artists and, every morning and evening, the gents and ladies will sing, each protecting its partner from covetous eyes. These swinging singers are also losing out to rampant habitat destruction. If you're down in the dumps, listen to the gibbons' song and you'll be up swinging with them!

The Hands that Guide

A note of gratitude for the lessons in love and tolerance that parents impart to their children

SLICE OF LIFE



Suvir Saran

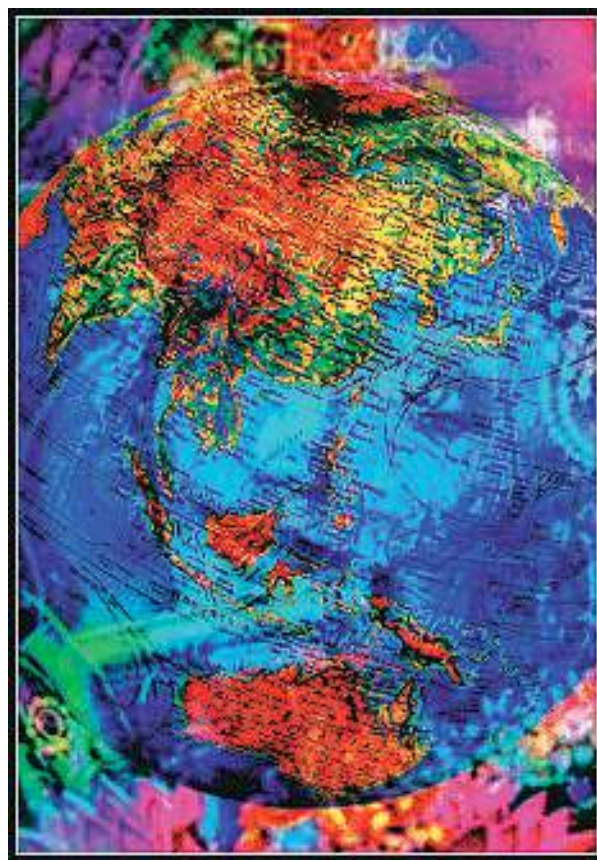
Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

AFTER 47 years of life, I have many endearing memories of my parents. Winding through and colouring them all is the immense feeling of gratitude I have for the constellations and stars, the planetary movements, and the human intersection in their crossroads that led to my birth in the Saran home in Delhi. My good fortune to have been a child to my incredible parents and through them having been blessed with remarkable extended families. Families that socialised me early in life for handling whatever the world sent my way.

Fifty-three years ago, on October 7, my parents were married. A love marriage in a soci-

ety where arranged marriages were the norm. An inter-caste marriage, too — two families from regions of India that are proud of their marked differences. A Punjabi woman and a UP-wallah man, they made a most incredible couple and even more brilliant parents. They ignored the murmurs of disapproval and unkind gossip that followed their marriage. They encouraged their children to step above such simplistic narrow-mindedness and forgive the perpetrators as being misguided, not malicious. But in our home's privacy, they acknowledged the damaging behaviour, the smallness of actions, and the lack of civility in the message that came with the insults directed at us. They encouraged us to rise above and forgive the wrongdoer, to remember our hurt and use it as our moral compass when we saw others being impugned as we were. For that tutelage, I thank my parents daily. They were bold outliers in a world where silence and tolerance of familial wrongs often turns into tacit acceptance and approval of bigotry, sowing seeds of hatred and robbing society of decency and cohesive civility.

Across our four ancestral units between the two parents, ours was a rare household where religious holidays of the Hindu calendar were celebrated as if we were living in the 19th century. My parents and grandparents were believers, but in a most agnostic way. To my parents, festivals and religious holidays — of all faiths — were moments to teach us and our relatives and friends the customs and traditions of yore. They even kept alive recipes that would otherwise have easily gotten lost. These times were celebrations of life and living, of sharing and caring and, most importantly, moments to cook and feed, indulge mindfully, respect traditions past, and engage with them as authentically as our present times could afford. Religion was not dogmatic



SUVIR SARAN

in their hands. Prayer was a way of being and growing. Growth that they hoped would make us better versions of ourselves with each day we lived, each act we committed. Their mindset and adherence to old traditions made us some of the more popular school kids. Beloved, not because of our academic per-

formance, but because we strove to respect others and put their needs ahead of our own.

"You are Hindu! There are no prescriptions or rituals that a Hindu must perform. Hinduism is about having peace and serenity in your mind by leading a life of dharma (conscience) and reaching a realisation that all conscious beings are one and equal. This enables you to grow out of groups and isms into a world where we are all one family and the world a global village. This is Hinduism. It is practised through thought, word and deed." With these words, penned to help us understand religion at a tender age, my mother freed us from the tyranny of empty ritual and connected us with the planet at large. If one person suffers, we all suffer. If one goes hungry, we all go hungry. My parents taught me that I must give of myself to protect the world beyond my safe space. That, regardless of who joins me, there may come a time when I will be compelled to step out, alone, and effect change. Unbeknownst to me, my parents made me a member of civil society.

Papa is no more, but mom has found even more of her own voice. A voice that mirrors Papa's in both clarity and content, in daring and humanity. A relative recently said to her, half-jokingly, "I didn't know you had your own personality and thoughts!" For mom, soul-mates with syncretic beliefs didn't both need to speak — it was smarter for one to take the back seat. When Papa was alive, mom was content to let him shine. She's always been secure in her own intellect and had no need to push her way into the spotlight.

As we get ready to celebrate the wedding anniversary of two bold humans with unmatched empathy, I find myself in awe of Mom (and Dad, whom she sounds more and more like today) as deeply now as I was as a kid. I also find her words, selfless living, and inclusive, generous spirit a poetically human example of what *Bhagavad Gita* and Krishna's teachings are all about. She's the living embodiment of "the hands that serve are holier than the lips that pray", although she does both in great measure. When we can live with such values, we can learn to embrace and accept the other and truly be global citizens of a 21st-century world void of the isms that divide us.

EYE SPY

EVERY FORTNIGHT, WE PICK, YOU WATCH

Do Not Go Gentle

The 1985 film *Buddies* was a poignant look at the AIDS crisis

Shubhra Gupta

DEADLY VIRUSES have always been a magnet for the movies. In the worst of times, we need stories filled with hope, and such films as Steven Soderbergh's 2011 *Contagion*, which some claim predicted the arrival of the coronavirus, end with the discovery of a vaccine. Prescient it may have been, but *Contagion* was strictly fiction. The truth was revealed much more recently, at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), in *76 Days*, a terrific documentary directed by New York-based Hao Wu.

The film gave us never-before access to the hospitals in Wuhan, where COVID-19 is said to have originated. The title refers to the number of days Wuhan was in lockdown, as doctors and medical workers struggled to contain the rising number of deaths in an atmosphere of fear and official crackdown on information. Wu worked with two filmmakers on the ground, creating a film which crackles with urgency and heroism. There will, doubtless, be many more films made on this pandemic, but *76 Days* will always have the first-mover advantage.

In the panic spread by this most recent scourge, we have nearly forgotten how lethal HIV was in the early '80s. It was a story that never left the news pages in those years, because there seemed to be no end to the deaths.

A few days back, I chanced upon the first feature made on the AIDS crisis by Arthur J Bressan Jr. The 1985 *Buddies*, available on MUBI, begins with the clattering of a telex machine, spilling out the names of the dead. The action shifts to a Manhattan hospital room where 33-year-old Robert is shown lying in bed, looking sick and spent, perking up only when a "buddy" shows up.

David, 25, a volunteer with a New York-based agency, finds Robert annoyingly "personal" to begin with: the latter asks pointed questions about the former's partner (they've been together for five years), how "hot" he is, and how "it" (sex) is between the two of them. But, soon, David (David Schachter) sees, like we do, that the life in front of him is already ebbing. He realises that there can be nothing more intimate than sharing someone's death, especially someone who has been comprehensively abandoned by his parents, his partners and the state.

Essentially a two-hander (we only hear the voices of the other characters), this low-budget film, shot over nine days, is poignant and political. Conservative authorities in the US were not willing to allocate funds for research when the first victims were found to be gay men. Hollywood was chary about addressing the issue, and Bressan Jr's film was a pioneering effort to counter that hypocrisy and unease. Both the director and the actor who played Robert (Geoff Edholm) died soon after, of complications from AIDS.

The first big-budget Hollywood film on AIDS was the 1993 *Philadelphia*, starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington. In Bollywood, Onir made *My Brother...Nikhil*, with Sanjay Suri and Purab Kohli, in 2005. With the help of technology, it's taken no time at all for filmmakers to respond creatively to COVID-19, even with a worldwide lockdown. Clearly, it will be reel magic which will keep us going till we see the end of this pandemic in real life.



Women of Many Parts

Alankrita Shrivastava and Konkona Sen Sharma on *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare* and the allure of stories about the complex, inner lives of women

Alaka Sahani

WHEN writer-director Alankrita Shrivastava ran into Konkona Sen Sharma at her neighbourhood salon in Versova, Mumbai, one afternoon in 2018, the former mentioned a new script that she had written. The two had become friends while working on *Lipstick Under My Burkha* (2016) and understood each other's creative worlds. When the script, titled *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare* reached her inbox soon after, Sen Sharma read it and was impressed. Dolly is a woman who aspires to a picture-perfect life while hiding her conflicts behind an effervescent manner. When Shrivastava, 40, offered her the role, Sen Sharma agreed immediately.

"As you grow older — I am 41 now — you get fewer meaty and fulfilling roles. For most of my career, I have played women who are strong, morally upright and responsible. Often, that's boring and not very truthful. Women are complex. It is nice to play a character who is not always making the right decisions or is always likeable," says Sen

Sharma, who has acted in movies like *Mr and Mrs Iyer* (2002), *Omkara* (2006), *Luck By Chance* (2009) and *Ek Thi Daayan* (2013).

A theme that runs through much of both Shrivastava and Sen Sharma's work is gender. Sen Sharma's directorial debut *A Death in the Gunj* (2016) is a tender yet unsettling exploration of masculinity, while all three of Shrivastava's directorial ventures — *Turning 30* (2011), *Lipstick Under My Burkha* (2017) and *Dolly Kitty...* — have women characters and their desires at their heart. "I inevitably find myself drawn to the interior, complex world of women. The moment you start exploring those characters, issues related to gender crop up. I try to look at these characters honestly and holistically," says Shrivastava.

According to Sen Sharma, what's interesting about these stories is the conflict that's generated when social expectations are at odds with individual desires. But a lot of women, she says, are unaware of this conflict themselves, while some are only just beginning to understand it. "Many women can't do anything about it as they don't have choices. I also find it interesting how men behave (in such scenarios)," the actor-director says.

A growing number of storytellers, includ-



WHAT THE HEART WANTS
(Top) Konkona Sen Sharma with Alankrita Shrivastava; Sen Sharma and Bhumi Pednekar in a still from *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare*

ing Sen Sharma, Shrivastava, Meghna Gulzar, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari and Anvita Dutt, are telling stories from women's point of view and talking about women's desire. This is a significant step for the Hindi film industry that often doesn't make much space for women characters as the centre of their own stories or allow them to celebrate their imperfections. Shrivastava's characters aren't formulaic, whether it's the elderly Rosy from *Lipstick...* who enjoys erotica and has sexual fantasies, or the young Kitty in the new film, who has just arrived in Noida from Bihar and is struggling to make her own choices.

"Women's desire, historically, has not been looked at. By and large, women are seen as objects of male desire. That (women's desire) is a direct threat to patriarchy. This could also be because women are not viewed as individuals, but as those who fulfill certain reproductive and sexual urges," says Sen Sharma. Shrivastava echoes her thought: "There is very little sexual agency that women enjoy. That is kind of suppressed. It's also about (the suppression of) other desires, like wanting to go watch a film or on a

Sunday outing," Shrivastava, who wrote the first draft of *Dolly Kitty...* in 2014, started shooting it towards the end of 2018 and the movie premiered at the Busan International Film Festival last October.

Key to the exploration of desire — both female and male — is the sensitive, meaningful depiction of sex, as seen in both *Lipstick...* and *Dolly Kitty...*, as well as Sen Sharma's directorial debut, *A Death in the Gunj* (2016). "In *A Death in the Gunj*, sex scenes communicate many more things. It shows how Shutu (Vikrant Massey) is feeling when he has sex for the first time and how he is going to react to Mimi (Kalki Koechlin) later, and how sex between a married couple is different. Usually, a sexual act has layers (that are) unspoken," says Sen Sharma.

Good narrative intentions apart, such scenes also require great care because, as Sen Sharma says, they might make an actor "feel vulnerable". She says, "A musician will have an instrument, a cameraperson has a camera. As an actor you have the body and you can't just give it away to be used as a prop. What's an actor's relationship with his/her body? Your body is yourself and it also belongs to the character you are playing." For Shrivastava, making her actors comfortable in these scenes is important, so she uses fewer shots and takes. "I don't want to use the camera for titillation but for expression. The gaze is empathetic, not voyeuristic," she adds.

A significant part of the narrative in Shrivastava's new film is Pappu, Dolly's younger son who loves to dress up as a girl and play with dolls. Gender non-conforming characters are rarely treated sensitively in Indian cinema, barring a few exceptions, such as Zoya Akhtar's *Sheela Ki Jawani*, a part of the anthology film *Bombay Talkies* (2013). Wouldn't it be wonderful if Pappu were to get his own story? "In the world of *Dolly Kitty...* he is an aspect of Dolly's life. In accepting Pappu, Dolly accepts herself," says Shrivastava.

As two of his documentaries — one new and one old — stream online, Anand Patwardhan, 70, talks about reason, censorship, caste politics, and the Babri Masjid verdict

Tanushree Ghosh

YOU ARE almost as old as independent India. Were you a '70s 'angry young man' who was making films to channel his anger?

While on a scholarship in the US, I first filmed anti-Vietnam war protests that landed me in prison twice. On returning to India in 1972, I joined a voluntary rural development and education project in Madhya Pradesh, then moved to Bihar in 1974 when the JP (Jayaprakash Narayan) movement began and picked up the camera again to record police violence. Our film *Waves of Revolution* (1974) went underground in 1975 during the Emergency. I later made a film on political prisoners (*Prisoners of Conscience*, 1978). So the journey began.

Cinemapreneur.com is screening *Jai Bhim Comrade* (2011), and a docu-short *Heart to Art: Across Borders* (2020), completed during the lockdown, using footage of an India-Pakistan art exchange you shot in 2004. What do you make of such platforms?

They are very welcome. At first, we lugged heavy 16 mm projectors and even generators to venues where electricity was scarce. During the video era, equipment became smaller, and now, in the digital age, new possibilities emerge. But the problem of how to attract eyeballs remains. Today, the internet is oversaturated and attention spans tiny but every new initiative is good.

***Jai Bhim Comrade* features the only documented song of Dalit poet-activist Vilas Ghogre (who hung himself to**

protest the death of 10 Dalits in the 1997 Ramabai Colony police firing). Did you know him? It also features the Kabir Kala Manch (KKM), whose members were recently re-arrested.

I met Vilas in the early 1980s when we fought against illegal slum demolitions. The song in *Jai Bhim Comrade* was first shot when *Bombay: Our City* (1985) was made. I recorded many of his other songs but filmed just one. Vilas's protest suicide shocked me into looking at the extent of atrocities on Dalits and to explore their poetry of resistance. The film took 14 years to make and includes a range of amazingly powerful storytellers. KKM was one such. When they were hounded by the police, we helped them face trial. They were finally granted bail by the Supreme Court in 2017. Today, they are charged for visiting Bhima Koregaon while upper-caste alleged instigators of violence like Sambhaji Bhide and Milind Ekbote walk free.

You have expressed disappointment in Prashant Bhusan's contempt verdict. His fine of Re 1 was criticised as being pro-savarna as the same treatment wasn't extended to Dalit judge CS Karnan in his 2017 contempt case.

Speaking out against an authoritarian, majoritarian, casteist system is necessary.

Whether it's a Bhusan or a Karnan, all resistance is bravery.

You've struggled against censorship for long. Aren't your detractors tired of you?

We won seven court cases, once to get a Censor certificate for *War and Peace* (2002), the rest to force Doordarshan to broadcast my films that had won National Awards (*Bombay: Our City*; *In Memory of Friends*, 1990; *Ram ke Naam*, 1992; *Father, Son, and Holy War*, 1994, the latter going to court three times). Advocate (PA) Sebastian in the high court and Prashant Bhusan in the Supreme Court ensured the telecasts. Arguing *pro bono*, they never allowed the state to cut a single frame.



SPEAK OUT, SING OUT

(Above) The late Dalit poet-activist Vilas Ghogre in *Jai Bhim Comrade*; Patwardhan

Recently, you and documentary filmmaker Pankaj Rishi Kumar

petitioned the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) against dropping your respective films, but then withdrew.

Few judges today have the backbone to rule against the state but we still wanted to test the waters. *Reason/Vivek* (2018) had won top prize at IDFA (Amsterdam), one of the best-regarded festivals in the documentary world. Pankaj's film (*Janani's Juliet*, 2019) had won the top prize at (IDSFFK) Kerala. Both films had qualified for the Oscars. But after lecturing the government

against censorship, the judge indicated that he would not interfere with MIFF. So, we withdrew rather than set a losing precedent. Press coverage did, however, expose the blatant backdoor censorship.

***Father, Son and Holy War* speaks of our culture of machismo (touching upon Roop Kanwar's sati in 1987). Does the hounding of actor Rhea Chakraborty illustrate this?**

Of course! Apart from the media lynching, when all else failed they caught Rhea for marijuana! Then, why is *bhaang* sold at temples? What do *sadhus* imbibe?

'Unlike religion, which believes in a final truth, science is an endless search for truth,' said the rationalist, the late Dr Narendra Dabholkar (shot dead in 2013) featured in *Reason*. Is the assault on reason exclusively true of today?

Religion and blind faith have dominated the world for thousands of years. The Age of Reason dawned in the West around the 16th century but in India, Charvaka and the Buddha were early advocates.

Doordarshan's 1997 telecast of your *Ram ke Naam* (on the Babri Masjid demolition) saw a heated Rajya Sabha debate, and even today the film's screenings are disrupted. How do you react to the Ayodhya bhoomi puja and the court verdicts?

Ram ke Naam was submitted as evidence before the Liberhan Commission looking into the Babri dispute. Obviously today's courts have ignored it. Our constitutional law has been replaced by a Hindutva version of sharia law.

'ALL RESISTANCE IS BRAVERY'



PHOTOS COURTESY ANAND PATWARDHAN

BRIDGE

In a suit with nine cards missing the queen it is usual to play the ace and king, but the odds change dramatically after an opponent pre-empt in another suit. You are South, declarer in 4H.

NORTH			
♠ A76			
♥ A986			
♦ 43			
♣ KQ6			
SOUTH			
♠ K54			
♥ KJ753			
♦ A95			
♣ 107			

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	3D	dbl	Pass	4H
	Pass	Pass	Pass	

West opens 3D. This is a preemptive bid showing a hand with seven diamonds and less than an opening bid. Your partner doubles, showing a good opening hand with a shortage in diamonds and support for the other suits. You have close to an opening hand with five hearts, so you jump to 4H which becomes the final contract.

West leads the DK. How will you play the hand?

You have one loser in spades, two in diamonds, one in clubs and a possible loser in hearts. One diamond loser can be nullified in dummy so you would like to avoid losing a trick in trumps.

You win the DA in your hand, East following suit. There is no reason to postpone drawing trumps so you lead the H3 to the ace, both opponents following suit, and lead the H6 from dummy. East follows with the ten. Which card do you play from your hand—the king or the jack?

There is an old bridge adage "eight ever, nine never". This means that with eight cards missing the queen you should always finesse but with nine cards you should play for the drop. Playing for the drop here means cashing the ace and then the king hoping that the queen will fall. The "eight ever" part is generally true but the "nine never" is a big exaggeration. With nine cards missing the queen the odds slightly favour the drop, but it is still close to even money.

Here you know that West started with seven diamonds and East must have started with only one. So East has much more room in his hand for the HQ than West. Because of this you should assume that East has the HQ and play the HJ from your hand. The jack wins and you then draw the queen with the king.

Now you can lead a club from your hand towards the king and queen in dummy. If West has the ace (very unlikely after his pre-empt), you can discard your spade loser on a club. That doesn't work here, so by the spade finesse. Play the AK, then lead a small one towards dummy and insert the jack. This also fails here but you are still able to ruff a diamond in dummy and make ten tricks.

NORTH		SOUTH (YOU)	
♥ 742	♠ 963		
♥ 1098	♥ AQJ732		
♦ AQ32	♦ 6		
♣ 864	♣ AKO		

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	Pass	Pass	dbl	
2♣	Pass	Pass	3♥	
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	

West's 1S opening comes around to you, South, in fourth seat. Whereas a simple overcall normally shows up to about 16 HCP, that is too much for an overcall here. To show a strong hand you double and then bid your long suit. North raises to 4H. West leads the SK, overtaken with AS by east who then returns a club. How do you play the hand?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2289

QUICK CLUES

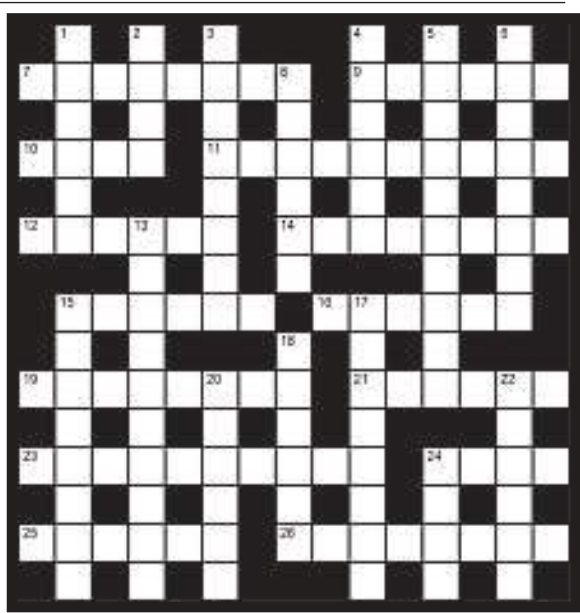
- ACROSS**
- Gable over portico (8)
 - Weirder (6)
 - Knave (4)
 - Sanctions or establishes officially (10)
 - Put away (6)
 - Respite (8)
 - Long, usually angry speech (6)
 - Mars (6)
 - The syrup produced from sugar (8)
 - Trafalgar victor (6)
 - Not losing the hue! (10)
 - Flout (4)
 - Exercises (6)
 - French region, cross (8)

DOWN

- Edit (6)
- Cheat (4)
- Sent back the prisoner to jail by court orders? (8)
- Recover (6)
- Fake (10)
- Isowed (8)
- Private teachers (6)
- Pathological toiler (10)
- One hundred and twenty minutes? (3,5)
- Perforate (8)
- Attack (6)
- Mr Raina of Indian cricket (6)
- Upset, transgress (6)
- Beloved (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Country lovers (8)
 - A cheering word (6)
 - Realised there would be a fresh announcement (4)
 - It's difficult on boats if they adopt such a tough attitude (4-6)
 - Soundly examine a bill of exchange (6)
 - For "dote" best change to "be infatuated" (8)
 - Fragile copy (6)
 - Obscure return on method of identifying an island (6)
 - Has ordered factory-made walking stick (3,5)
 - Hunting for sex? (6)
 - It's used on watch (6-4)
 - Throw up the top of the ear and get the other part (4)
 - Make it back to where you started (6)
 - Note old story cropping up about previous



tax system (8) tackling the weeds (6)
 22. How revolting so to be, in short, in the roundabouts (6)
 24. Hangs around criminals (4)

Solutions to 2288

- QUICK CLUES Across:** 1 Danish, 4 Hijack, 9 Adah, 10 Prospering, 11 Telugu, 12 Niggards, 13 Ingenuity, 15 Firm, 16 Inch, 17 Reports, 21 Sidelist, 22 Hubbub, 24 Diabolical, 25 Alan, 26 Ganns, 27 Cochon, Down: 1 Dudgeon, 2 Nehru, 3 Seppuku, 5 Impugn, 6 Aerialist, 7 Kingdom, 8 Round the clock, 14 Excalbur, 16 Inking, 18 Othello, 19 Reunion, 20 Otello, 23 Beach.
- CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 1 Vision, 4 Primal, 9 Brio, 10 Change down, 11 Unchip, 12 Straw hat, 13 Palpitante, 15 Fried, 16 Made, 17 Tea breaks, 21 Plumbing, 22 Inked, 24 Wall street, 25 NATO, 26 Sangli, 27 Proist, Down: 1 Veranda, 2 Spool, 3 Octopus, 5 Rogers, 6 Made worse, 7 Lowland, 8 Raise the money, 14 Pademelon, 16 Millais, 18 Blister, 19 King Tut, 20 Patel, 23 Kings.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday October 4
You know what you think, but you may not be right. This is one of those moments when a little humility would come in handy, if you insist that wishes are granted.

Monday October 5
You've been getting your slice of the action, and are ready to reap your share of the rewards. Hopefully, life will slow down, giving you the chance to reflect.

Tuesday October 6
Make maximum use of your assets. If you're at work today, you are well in tune with your stars. If it's a day off, you may end up twiddling your thumbs.

Wednesday October 7
You may be happy to know that the current Jupiter alignment augurs well for your artistic aspirations. You'll be willing to compete and prepared to put in sufficient hard work to come first.

Thursday October 8
You're trying to find your way through a personal maze, but there's still a long way to go before you reach the end. Save what you can and prepare for future prosperity.

Friday October 9
Today's Venus pattern is yet another of those romantic alignments that encourages sensitive individuals to fall in love. Many become entranced by an idea or interest, rather than another person.

Saturday October 10
Neptune is enjoying a brief renaissance, revealing all sorts of confusing feelings. You must find a way to express your desires without creating a false impression.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The approaching series of lunar alignments is bound to stir up your emotions, making you feel that it's time for a few changes. By the end of the week you should realise that you're in for a fortunate spell, but working Aries may be rather perplexed by colleagues' unpredictable behaviour.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
As I've said so many times before, your home and family affairs seem to be perpetually riddled with complications and contradictions. Yet now it is time to look out to the world around you, involving yourself in your community and seeking help for your private goals.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Venus is still cruising merrily along through influential sectors of your chart, raising hopes of a better social life. Time is running out and I strongly suggest that you revive any plans that have been left on the back-burner. Take the initiative — don't wait for people to get in touch.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Far-sighted Scorpios have arranged an adventure or interesting outing for the next week. You see, Jupiter, the planet which represents all your outgoing qualities, will draw you to foreign climes and fascinating places. Scorpios who have relations active in higher education, should see these lucky people come a step closer to attaining their aims.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Your social life is being affected by a bout of secrecy. Have you perhaps been entrusted with information which must in no circumstances be passed on? Despite your tendency to blurt things out you must always remember that this is a time for discretion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
Everything looks bright and sunny. One planet arouses your romantic feelings, another brings new friendships and a third is determined to boost your prosperity. Sagittarians in the property market are set for a stroke of luck, perhaps a chance to make a new beginning.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The Sun and the Moon, the two most significant bodies in your chart, don't always agree. But this week they pile the pressure on at home and in all your most personal affairs. This is a significant moment, and you can begin to chart a new course in family matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The Moon aligns itself with a number of helpful regions in your chart, one of which is your seventh solar house. In plain terms this means that you are in for a remarkable and pleasurable social phase. Hopefully, there'll be plenty of entertaining and the possibility of putting new friendships on a more permanent basis.

Friday October 9
Today's Venus pattern is yet another of those romantic alignments that encourages sensitive individuals to fall in love. Many become entranced by an idea or interest, rather than another person.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
You are about to be pulled between two extremes. You may either go all out for worldly success. Or you may tuck yourself away out of sight and out of mind. Actually, there is a middle way: work quietly behind the scenes, laying the foundations for future achievements.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Mercury, planet of communication, has the claim to be the most helpful planet in your celestial sphere at the moment. This is because it is feeding you with a series of special ideas and it will be much easier for you to persuade people that you are right and much more difficult for them to show that you are wrong.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
By all means continue to make professional plans, if that is what concerns you. However, you are too big a person to imagine that your ambitions can be refined down to whatever happens at work. Indeed, many of you must now realise that your true personal ambitions are yours alone.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
The only cloud to be a possibility of additional costs. Indeed, you may be throwing good money after bad unless you take drastic measures. Still, you may feel that entertaining and generous gestures are worth it, if they raise your morale and make you feel wanted.

JUMBLD 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.

_____ is the incapacity to use one's intelligence without the guidance of another. - Immanuel Kant (10)

AURIC	EEGLMU
█ █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █	█ █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █
GHITT	HISWMY
█ █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █	█ █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █

ANSWERS: CURIA, TIGHT, LEGUME, WIMSH, LUMINOUS
 Another - Immanuel Kant
 The incapacity to use one's intelligence without the guidance of another.

Difficulty Level 4s
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 4250

6	2	1	5	7	3	8	9	4
5	3	4	1	8	9	2	6	7
8	7	9	4	6	2	1	5	3
4	9	6	2	3	5	7	8	1
7	8	3	9	1	6	4	2	5
2	1	5	7	4	8	6	3	9
1	6	8	3	5	4	9	7	2
9	5	7	8	2	1	3	4	6
3	4	2	6	9	7	5	1	8

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APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Capital First Limited now IDFC FIRST Bank Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 06.11.2020, for recovery of INR 2146845.37 As on 10.10.2019 due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Home Finance Limited) from Deepak Kaushik, Pushpa Kaushik, (Borrower-Coborrower(s)).

The Reserve Price will be INR 14,50,000/- and the Earnest Money Deposit will be INR 145000/-

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IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
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E-bidders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class II Digital Signature and registration on REPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence -S No. - Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. S. N. 1. 07201719, (50 10 2020), Short Description: Rubber Adhesive, P.L. No. 29728381, Qty: 1811 Liter, S. N. 2. 07191101B, (19. 10.2020), Short Description: (i) Reflective Tape Yellow, (ii) Reflective Tape Red Orange, P.L. No. (i) 29670423 (ii) 29670421, Qty: (i) 90 Set (ii) 12848 MTR, S. N. 3. 07201715, (28. 10.2020), Short Description: 3M (1"x 50 MTR) Masking Tape, P.L. No. 84134689, Qty: 1152 Nos., S. N. 4. 02202409, (03. 11.2020), Misc. Hardware Items Kit for T&S ASM, P.L. No. 29408490, 597 Set, S. N. 5. 02201342, (03. 11.2020), Misc. Hardware Items Kit for T&S CAB, P.L. No. 29408507, 597 Set, S. N. 6. 01201085, (15. 10.2020), Exhaust Duct, P.L. No. 14020452, 811 Nos., S. N. 7. 05201034B, (15. 10.2020), Plastic coated flexible, Part No. 12520550, 10 Set, S. N. 8. 07201713, (23. 10.2020), Short Description, Nitrogen Gas, P.L. No. 81040259, Qty. 1151 cum. Note: Details terms and conditions can be seen and Hindi version also on website www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in & <http://www.reps.gov.in> and tender can fill up on the same website. Corrigendum Notice: Date: 29.09.2020, Bid Inv No.: 42, Tender No.: 05198076C, Existing due date: 30.09.2020. Revised due Date: 20. 10.2020. Corrigendum Notice: Date: 25.09.2020, Bid No. E-23, Tender No.: 06201237, Rev. 02, Existing Due date: 29.09.2020, Revised Due Date: 29. 10.2020. Note: All other terms & condition shall remain unchanged.

PROB/WS-51 PCMM

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पश्चिमंचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिं.,
विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना निम्न निविदाये ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से दिनांक 19.10.2020 को अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिनके विविदा भाग-प्रथम, उसी दिन साय 4:30 बजे खोले जायेंगे - अल्पकालीन ई निविदा संख्या-41/वि०कार्यशाला मं०/मेरठ/2020-21 (नि०मू० ₹ 3,540 (जी.एस.टी. सहित)। शरो०र० ₹ 46,000) के द्वारा Egyptian Cotton Taps, मात्रा-12000 किग्रा० अ०नि०सं०-42 (नि०मू० ₹ 3,540 (जी.एस.टी. सहित)। शरो०र० ₹ 25,000) के द्वारा (1) Gasket Set made of Rubberized Cork Sheet (i) for 25-100 KVA T/F, मात्रा-35000 सेट व (ii) for 250-4000 KVA T/F, मात्रा-2000 सेट अ०नि०सं०-43 (नि०मू० ₹ 3,540 (जी.एस.टी. सहित)। शरो०र० ₹ 24,000) के द्वारा (1) Neoprene Oil Seals suitable for (i) LT Side T/F (M-12), मात्रा-50000 नम (ii) LT Side T/F (M-20), मात्रा-6000 नम, (iii) HT Side T/F (M-12), मात्रा-40000 नम (2) LT Bushing Rod (brass), मात्रा-6000 नम अ०नि०सं०-44 (नि०मू० ₹ 3,540 (जी.एस.टी. सहित)। शरो०र० ₹ 18,000) के द्वारा (i) Niwar Tape, Size 1.25"x40 Mtr. Long, मात्रा-5000 किग्रा० अ०नि०सं०-45 (नि०मू० ₹ 1,180 (जी.एस.टी. सहित)। शरो०र० ₹ 5,000) के द्वारा Al. Sleeves, मात्रा-50000 नम को आपूर्ति। निविदा हेतु वॉलेंट धरोहर राशि व निविदा शुल्क (अप्रतिदेय) को विभागीय खाते में जमा कराये जाने एवं निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य समस्त विस्तृत विवरण/जनकारी/संशोधन/तिथि विस्तार इत्यादि हेतु वेबसाईट <https://etender.up.nic.in> लॉग इन करें। विद्युत सम्बन्धी शिकायतों को सूचना "1912" पर दी। राष्ट्र हित मे बिजली बचाये अशीर्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत कार्यशाला मण्डल, मेरठ, पत्रांक 2318/वि० कार्यशाला मं०/मेरठ दिनांक: 01/10/2020

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MANE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Liverpool forward Sadio Mane has become the second player to contract the coronavirus at the English Premier League champions this week. Mane, who scored in a 3-1 victory over Arsenal on Monday, will miss Sunday's game against Aston Villa. Midfielder Thiago Alcantara is also out of the game after contracting COVID-19. AP

Miami find no answers to LA Lakers' scoring spree



LeBron James is a contender to be named the Finals MVP. AP

THE MIAMI Heat played better than their Game 1 showing and it still wasn't enough as they went down 114-124 to go 0-2 in the 2020 NBA Finals to LeBron James and Anthony Davis' Los Angeles Lakers at Disney World in Orlando. Both LeBron (33) and Davis (32) combined for 65 points in the win while Heat's Jimmy Butler had 25 points, 13 rebounds and right assists in the loss.

A tussle for Finals MVP

For all talk of where this series is going, it's starting to look like the real competition is for who will be the Finals MVP. Both Anthony Davis and LeBron James are neck-and-neck in the race, especially considering the duties they have taken up for the Lakers. James secured a 33-point near triple double with nine rebounds and nine assists but Davis was not far behind with 32 points and 14 rebounds. What differentiated the two though was Davis taking defensive responsibility for the Heat's best player in Jimmy Butler.

Volume drowns efficiency

If there was a game that would break the Heat's back, it would have been Game 2. Miami were 50.7% from 2s, 40.7% from 3s and 91.2% from the free throw line. How many teams can achieve a 50-40-90 stat in an NBA Finals game and still lose? Simply put, Miami's efficiency was on point but their volume wasn't. The Heat attempted 26 fewer shots than the Lakers and on an overall made 13 shots fewer than the Lakers. The loss of Miami's defensive fulcrum Bam Adebayo to injury in the first game has hurt them.

Faltering defence

A reason for the Lakers offense managing to get by volume and three-point shooting (attempted 47, made 16) in the NBA Finals simply comes down to Miami's misfortunes. The Lakers' greatest scoring threat is Anthony Davis and with no Bam Adebayo in Game 2 to guard him, the four-time All-NBA First Team player took the Heat apart. Davis made 15-20 shots with most of them coming directly under the basket and only one of those shots being a three-pointer. Myers Leonard and Kelly Olynyk were most definitely not the answers to the questions that Davis kept putting up. Heat's Tyler Herro might be the youngest player in history to play in the NBA Finals, but it's tough to fathom how the rookie can defend players with length in the paint. SHASHANK NAIR

SYNOPSIS

Iyer's night at Sharjah. Nortje complements.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY OCTOBER 3

KOLKATA KNIGHT Riders outscored Delhi Capitals in the Powerplay. But they were up against a record chase and DC tightened the screws the middle overs, which eventually did the job for them. Eoin Morgan threw the kitchen sink towards the end and Rahul Tripathi played a brilliant hand. In the end, though, chasing 229 to win, KKR went down by 18 runs.

Iyer's night

Prithvi Shaw scored an excellent half-century, Rishabh Pant played a lovely little cameo, but if fans were allowed inside the stadium, Shreyas Iyer would have made them dance in the aisles at Sharjah, to paraphrase Tony Greig. DC ran riot after being sent in. Since the mid-1980s, Sharjah has always been a chasing ground, with batting-friendly pitches and short boundaries. The venue has lived up to its billing in this IPL also. Shikhar Dhawan and Shaw put on a 56-run opening partnership before the impressive Varun Chakravarty, who bowled two overs inside the Powerplay, dismissed the left-hander. Shaw carried on and scored his sixth IPL half-century. Iyer's 38-ball 88 not out, with seven fours and six sixes, oozed cultured aggression. Iyer and Pant added 72 runs off 31 balls for the third wicket.

Nortje complements

Anrich Nortje cleaned up Sunil Narine in the second over during KKR's chase, but Shubman Gill and Nitish Rana were going strong. Amit Mishra put the handbrake on after the Powerplay and removed Gill. Andre Russell came and Iyer intelligently brought back Kagiso Rabada. The South African neutralised the threat, and as Dinesh Karthik came in ahead of Morgan, the DC captain used up Harshal Patel, who removed Rana (58) and Karthik off consecutive deliveries to put KKR under serious pressure. Nortje returned to dismiss Cummins and then got the big one of Morgan, when the England white-ball captain's blitz was threatening to take the game away.

BRIEF SCORES: Delhi Capitals 228/4 in 20 overs (S Iyer 88*, P Shaw 66, R Pant 38; A Russell 2/28) beat Kolkata Knight Riders 210/8 in 20 overs (N Rana 58, E Morgan 44; A Nortje 3/33, H Patel 2/34) by 18 runs

Playing tonight: MI vs SRH, 3.30pm, KXIP vs CSK 7.30pm; Star Sports Network

Delhi routine

Capitals survive scare again, this time against KKR; Iyer's knock the difference



Captain Shreyas Iyer scored a 38-ball 88 to propel Delhi to a total of 228/4 against KKR in Sharjah on Saturday. BCCI/IPL

Royals hardly a challenge for Bangalore

SYNOPSIS

Princely Padikkal and regal Kohli decide the battle of the Royals.

SANDIPIG OCTOBER 3

As the tournament is unfolding, all the missing blocks in the puzzle are picking themselves for Royal Challengers Bangalore. Devdutt Padikkal and Yuzvendra Chahal continued their impressive start to the season, while Virat Kohli rediscovered his touch as his side eviscerated Rajasthan Royals by eight wickets to log in their third victory.

Princely Padikkal

Of all the magnificent strokes at Devdutt Padikkal's disposal — and he has a full quiver — the cut stands out for its sheer majesty. It's almost Caribbean in its nonchalance, in the insouciance with which the tall left-hander picks the ball, gets on top of the bounce and dismisses it in front of point. It's a blend of velvet and power.

His vertical-bat strokes are gorgeous, but

it's those with the horizontal blade that make him not only exciting to watch but also mark him out for the future. The height helps, so does the youngster's gliding feet, soft hands and a mind bristling with confidence and energy.

Equally instructive of Padikkal's sumptuous game was a nudge past short fine-leg for a boundary. The Jofra Archer delivery was not short enough to be pulled, was quick and climbing onto him, but with nothing more than a gentle twirl of his wrists, he nudged the ball off his hips for a boundary.

Just the second delivery he faced, he creamed the experienced Jaydev Unadkat over square leg, by just swaying a bit to the off-side to get under the ball and propel it to the intended destination. A ball later when the bowler erred on the shorter side, Padikkal unleashed a front-foot pull, a la Yuvraj Singh in his pomp.

With his third half-century in four innings, he's hurriedly ticking the boxes that could parachute him into international limelight. His fluency also afforded time for Kohli to restore some form.

Royal Kohli

Such are the high standards that Kohli has set for himself that three ordinary outings

were enough to rake up doubts about his form. But normal service was restored with a pugnacious knock, his first half-century of this campaign. The setting was perfect — nearly pressure-less as they were chasing a middling target and Padikkal was pounding the runs — for the RCB skipper to get some time in the middle.

Unlike in the previous outings, Kohli didn't look to impose himself on the bowlers, but waited for them to drop short or bowl too full. He essayed some gorgeous strokes, none perhaps more eye-catching as the off-drive off Tom Curran or the six over extra-cover off Riyan Parag.

He had a terrific day as a captain too. He introduced leg-spinner Chahal straightaway when Sanju Samson walked in, and it bore instant result, as the batsman tried a casual drive and spooned a return catch. Chahal picked two more, as the Royals creaked before they were resuscitated by Mahipal Lomror's 47 and a 40-run blitz by Rahul Tewatia and Archer. But 154 was not adequate to even test RCB's determination.

BRIEF SCORES: Rajasthan Royals 154/6 in 20 overs (M Lomror 47; Y Chahal 3/24, I Udana 2/41) lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore 158/2 in 19.1 overs (V Kohli 72*, D Padikkal 63; Archer 1/18) by 8 wickets

A calculative cricketer who knows his multiplication table

DEVENDRA PANDEY MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

"DID YOU see how he hit a six with a sweep shot and next ball, he chose to play it late to third man. That showed how match-aware and calculative he is," says the coach Sanjay Rastogi, a day after his student Priyam Garg scored a match-winning 51 from 26 balls that pulled Hyderabad Sunrisers out of the hole against Chennai Super Kings. The inning of high maturity that received high praise from experts could prove to be a breakthrough knock for the 19-year-old.

But nothing about Gary's knock surprises Rastogi. The unflustered temperament that soaked up the pressure that must have escalated after Kane Williamson's annoying cry of 'C'mon boy!' at a mix-up, the impeccable shot-selection or the awareness to manoeuvre the field.

Rastogi turns indulgent and veers the talk to multiplication tables. In an endearing Indian way, where reciting multiplication tables is considered a hallmark of a kid's intelligence, Rastogi talks up Garg's skills. Even here, though, Garg genuinely stands out. "You can ask him any table, he will tell you in one flow. Once during under-15 selection, a selector (who was told of Garg's skills) asked him to recite the table of 38 and 67, and Garg answered it correctly. The selector put two tick marks beside his name — one for his batting and other for his education," Rastogi recalls. "Not many cricketers are educated but Priyam is good at studies too."

On Friday, Garg added 77 runs in seven overs with his friend Abhishek Sharma to enable Sunrisers Hyderabad recover from the depths of 69 for 4 to the match-winning 164. Rastogi says he has witnessed many such games where Garg has overcome obstacles.



PRIAM GARG. BCCI/IPL

"He is just 19 but he has the mindset of someone in his 50s. He is very matured." Rastogi points out Garg's ability to focus as the key strength. "His focus is tremendous; he is a natural player. He has extra time to play his shots as compared to the others."

Practice under lockdown

Garg trained at his village Quila Prikshitgarh, 20 kilometres from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh during the lockdown. Not just Garg but players like Bhuvneshwar Kumar and the leg-spinner Karn Sharma too would drop in at the practice sessions conducted by Rastogi. "Luckily the administration wasn't that strict here, so we managed to play practice games in Victoria Park. We did match simulation and if any player could not reach the set target, he had to buy everyone a glass of juice!" Rastogi says.

Garg remembers the days when his father used to sell milk from door to door during the day and slip a Rs 10 note to him at night so that he could travel to Meerut for cricket nets. Then, there were days when money was tight and Garg would travel on the roof of buses to pursue his dream. During those lonely journeys, the budding batsman

would wonder whether he would ever make enough money to help his father.

"My father did most of the hard work, he did all the odd jobs that you can imagine... selling milk, driving school vans, loading goods, he ensured that I got a good life. He went through all that just to see me become a cricketer one day. He took me to Meerut and made sure that got into a decent academy," Garg had said in an interaction before last year's U-19 World Cup where he captained India.

At the age of 15, Garg used to bat against bowlers like Praveen Kumar and Bhuvneshwar, who were playing for India. It was in those sessions that he really impressed the coach with his maturity, game-awareness and courage like standing well outside the crease to negotiate the swing of Bhuvneshwar. Now Rastogi awaits the day when Garg breaks the jinx of Meerut by becoming the first batsman from the city to play for India.

How infection risk can be reduced for swimmers

SHIVANINAIK MUMBAI, OCTOBER 3

INDIA'S ELITE swimmers will now be able to train within the country and prepare to qualify for the Olympics. Earlier, two swimmers had been permitted to train in Dubai and will return by October 19, having experienced the protocols first hand, which could help India set down its own practical guidelines — starting from effective chlorination to how soon to push the top gear in training.

Why were India's best swimmers training in Dubai for the past month?

While the Swimming Federation of India was trying for permissions in India, which came through in Unlck 5, India's top swimmers were hamstrung as the pandemic raged on and authorities remained skeptical about opening pools to the larger population of recreational swimmers. While most other countries had opened up, they were not too keen on inviting foreign swimmers given the situation. UAE did open up visas for 80 countries, paving the way for 800m freestyle specialist Kushagra Rawat and ace back-stroker Srihari Nataraj to head to Dubai at a facility where India's national coach Pradeep Kumar has a training stint

with a local club at a state-of-the-art school pool. It was an asset in setting down protocols.

What were the pre-requisites of swimming pools operating in Dubai that can be followed in India?

Water maintenance is central to resuming training for elite swimmers in India. UAE's government guidelines dictate that chlorine pH levels ought to be 7.4/7.6, for a 2 parts per million proportion of chlorine to water to be maintained at all times. Water temperatures ought to be regulated at 27-28 degrees Celsius. "Rules need to be followed point-by-point with no compromise. Effectiveness of chlorine levels wears off after a period of time. So that can't be allowed to drop," coach Pradeep says. Re-chlorinating regularly while checking on pH levels is most important.

What are the risky areas?

Overcrowding will spell ruin, and while pools closed for all these months may attempt to make up for lockdown losses, the temptation to allow more than specified number will need to be resisted, even strictly legally enforced. Strict protocols for lane discipline —

number of swimmers, direction in which to swim, minimum distance to be maintained will need to be followed. For while the water will get disinfected, swimmers do come up for air and exhale.

"Restrict the number of people. Check athletes' temperatures before they enter pool. Sanitise pool after every use. Holding grills, ladders, change rooms need to be sanitised frequently. Showers must be avoided if possible," he says, adding that protocols for before stepping into and after stepping out of the pool on land, can't be emphasized more.

What protocol was followed in Dubai?

Coach Pradeep says rules were non-negotiable at the international school facility used by Indian swimmers to train. "Thermal tests were done to check for any symptoms. Even 0.01 rise in temperature saw swimmers kept in an isolation room and being re-tested with thermal scanners after 10 minutes," he said. There were two levels of this thermal testing — one by school authorities and one by pool gatekeeping staff. Sanitisers were used freely and mask was compulsory till just before entering the pool.

What precautions should returning elite swimmers take in terms of their physical conditioning?

You never forget to swim, but elite swimmers sure lose the 'feel.' "It can happen with some swimmers that even after the 50th day, they don't regain that catch, grip, resistance, pull-of-water rhythm smoothly. One part is rhythm, another is technique of the stroke. Some swimmers might have gained weight, which reduces feel too. You don't get the distance in one stroke, fatigue sets in quick. Elite swimmers might be in some level of minimum fitness, but water conditioning will be back to square one," the coach said.

What about India's top swimmers?

Someone like Kushagra Rawat (400m/800 freestyle) needs much more aerobic training and Srihari Nataraj (200 metres backstroke) will take longer to reach optimum fitness. Unlike a sprinter like Viradhawal Khade, who will find it quicker. Kushagra might be doing 20 times 100m freestyle with 70 seconds per lap in a normal season. But when starting, I'd give him 100 seconds, then 90 and build it gradually to bring the aerobic level up. There are huge losses in aerobic conditioning, similar to a 400 metre/800 track runner, Pradeep explains.

Jabeur becomes first Arab woman to reach Round 4 of French Open

REUTERS PARIS, OCTOBER 3

TUNISIA'S ONS Jabeur became the first Arab woman to reach the fourth round of the French Open as she beat eighth seed Aryna Sabalenka 7-6(7) 2-6 6-3 on Saturday.

The 30th seed displayed her trademark court craft to undermine Sabalenka's raw power as she surpassed her previous best third round showing at Roland Garros in 2017. Sabalenka saved three set points at 5-6 in the first set, then led 5-1 in tiebreak, but a series of unforced errors allowed 26-year-old Jabeur to snatch it. Jabeur's level dipped in the face of some fierce Sabalenka hitting as the second set slipped away in little over 20 minutes.

But the Tunisian, who became the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final in Australia this year, re-grouped and forged 3-0 ahead in the deciding set. She also had points for a 4-0 lead, but Belarusian Sabalenka upped her intensity and the decibels to keep herself in contention.

Sabalenka saved three match points at 2-5, then had a break point in the next game. But Jabeur remained composed as she brought up a match point and showed great



Tunisia's Ons Jabeur defeated eighth seed Aryna Sabalenka 7-6(7) 2-6 6-3.

touch to angle away a short forehand, then sealing the win with a first serve.

Jabeur, who made her debut in the world's top 50 this year, said the key to her win was staying calm and weathering the storm. "Today was about staying calm, to be honest. She was screaming, like fighting every point, screaming in some very important points. Especially when she got back at 6-6," the Tunisian said. "Before, maybe I gave up too early. Even like today at 5-1 (down in the tiebreak), probably the old me would have given that up. I'm progressing, I'm growing up as a person."