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G20: PM calls for a new global index in post-pandemic world



PM Narendra Modi addresses the 15th G20 Summit via video-conferencing, in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

SHUBHAJIT ROY
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THE COVID-19 pandemic is an "important turning point" in the history of humankind and the "biggest challenge" since World War II, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told G20 leaders, as he called for a new global index based on transparency in governance and the creation of a vast talent pool. He also called for decisive action to preserve the planet.

Modi, who attended the G20
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CHHATH AT THE TAJ

Chhath Puja against the backdrop of the Taj Mahal in Agra on Saturday. PTI

INSIDE

FORMER ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER TARUN GOGOI CRITICAL **PAGE 6**

5-year jail term for 'offensive' post: Kerala's chilling law

SHAJU PHILIP
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 21

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif Mohammad Khan has given his approval to a draconian ordinance by the LDF government amending the Kerala Police Act that provides for jail term for any social media or cyber post that is deemed "offensive" or threatening.

Khan's office Saturday confirmed that he had signed the ordinance that incorporates a new Section, 118 (A), in the Kerala Police Act. Accordingly, any person who creates or sends any information that is offensive or is intended to offend or threaten another person, through any means of communication, is liable to face imprisonment of five

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DDC polls: India tells Pak ready for all steps on terror

SHUBHAJIT ROY & ARUN SHARMA
 NEW DELHI, JAMMU, NOVEMBER 21

EXPRESSING SERIOUS concern over "continued terror attacks" by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, New Delhi warned Islamabad Saturday that it is "firmly and resolutely committed

to take all necessary measures to safeguard its national security in the fight against terrorism".

The Ministry of External Affairs, which summoned Pakistan's acting envoy, lodged a

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FAROOQ WRITES TO STATE POLL OFFICER **PAGE 7**



Kranti Salvi competing in the 2018 Berlin Marathon

Whole nine yards: Berlin to Mumbai, Salvi's sari run

SHIVANI NAIK
 MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 21

HAVING FINISHED her marathon, Kranti Salvi was seated in the waiting lounge with Kenyan great Eliud Kipchoge as TV crews set up

their camera rigs in the media room at Berlin. It was September of 2018 and Kipchoge, already running royalty by then, had just set the marathon world record. Mumbai resident Salvi, celebrating turning 50 that year, had decided to run her milestone

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Farmers relent, trains set to start in Punjab Monday

KANCHAN VASDEV
 CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 21

THE NEARLY two-month-long train blockade in Punjab looks set to end, after farmer unions said they would allow movement of both passenger and goods trains starting Monday evening, following a meeting with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Saturday. However, they said they were suspending their agitation for only 15 days, and would resume if the Centre did not meet their representatives regarding the new farm laws.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED **E** The high cost of a blockade

THE TWO-MONTH-LONG rail blockade has meant all the thermal plants in the state have been forced shut due to the lack of coal, shortage of fertilisers even as silos overflow with grains, Rs 30,000 crore loss to the Covid-hit Punjab industry, Rs 2,200 crore loss to the Railways, as well as an impact on Army supplies.

ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSE From lack of beds to rise in poverty, House panel flags Covid concerns

Points out lapses in surveillance and management, recommends steps

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

UNEXPECTED SPENDING on health after being hit by Covid-19 may have pushed many families below the poverty line, a Committee of Parliament has observed. Delivery of healthcare services was severely impacted after outpatient departments (OPDs) in hospitals were shut during the lockdown, and women bore the brunt of the disruption, the panel has said in its report.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare assessed the response of the government to contain the novel coronavirus

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KEY FINDINGS

HEALTH EXPENSES may have driven families below poverty line

CLOSED OPDs during lockdown hit women and seriously ill worst, may have caused deaths

DIGITAL divide may have jeopardised the future of millions of students; concerns over long confinement

SUICIDE RISK may have increased due to depression, loss of livelihood, and economic fallout of lockdown

SUNDAY STORY



PAGE 11
'IF I CAN'T STUDY, I CAN'T LIVE...'
 What college meant for Aishwarya Reddy, and her cries for help

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CANDIDATE CORONA TO KING KONG: MANY SHADES OF KERALA'S LOCAL BODY POLLS

Three weeks from now, Kerala's 2.71 crore eligible voters will head to the polling booths to elect their representatives to 1,199 self-governing local bodies across the state. For many, it is a debut election. For past candidates, it is a test if they will increase or reduce their previous margins.

COVID-19



FINE FOR VIOLATIONS
Depending upon the situation, state govts increase and decrease fines from time to time

TECH



THE APPLE TIMELINE
From iPhone 12 to M1 processor, everything Cupertino has released in 2020

EXPRESS AUDIO

The trouble with Androids

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In the latest episode of Our Own Devices, we talk about Android's fragmentation problem and what does and doesn't work in a pure Android phone.

FROM PAGE ONE

PM attends G20

virtual summit hosted by Saudi Arabia, posted on Twitter afterward: "Had a very fruitful discussion with G20 leaders. Coordinated efforts by the largest economies of the world will surely lead to faster recovery from this pandemic."

The Prime Minister said "Spirit of trusteeship towards planet Earth will inspire us for a healthy and holistic lifestyle."

An official statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said Modi called for a "new global index for the post-Corona world that comprises four key elements — creation of a vast talent pool; ensuring that technology reaches all segments of the society; transparency in systems of governance; and dealing with Mother Earth with a spirit of trusteeship".

According to the MEA, the PM said that while the emphasis over the past few decades has been on capital and finance, the time has come to focus on multi-skilling and re-skilling. "This would not only enhance the dignity of citizens but would make our citizens more resilient to face crises."

According to the statement, Modi said that dealing with the environment and nature as trustees rather than owners would inspire us towards a holistic and healthy lifestyle.

"Work from Anywhere" is a new normal in the post-Covid world, the PM said — and suggested that as follow-up action, a G20 virtual secretariat be created as a repository of documentation. "At the G20 Summit, I put forward a need to develop a new global index based on talent, technology, transparency and trusteeship towards the planet," Modi tweeted.

He also said: "We offered India's IT prowess to further develop digital facilities for efficient functioning of the G20."

Chinese President Xi Jinping said, "China will always be a builder of global peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of international order. On the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, China stands ready to pursue peaceful coexistence and common development with all countries. We may bridge differences through dialogue, resolve disputes through negotiation, and make a joint effort for world peace and development."

Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who was in the chair, said, "Although we are optimistic about the progress made in developing vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics tools for Covid-19, we must work to create the conditions for affordable and equitable access... At the same time, we must prepare better for any future pandemic. We must also continue to support the global economy and reopen our economies and borders."

The two-day G20 leaders' summit brought together the world's largest economies that make up 85 per cent of the global GDP, and is expected to lay the foundations of an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. Heads of State/Government of 19 member countries, the EU, and other invited countries and international organisations, attended the summit. United States President Donald Trump was one of the attendees.

The 15th summit of G20 leaders will continue on Sunday.

DDC polls

protest after the latest Jaish bid to carry out terror strikes in J&K ahead of the District Development Council elections.

It demanded that Pakistan desist from its policy of supporting terrorists and dismantle the terror infrastructure on its terri-

tory. The Pakistan Foreign Ministry also summoned the Indian chargé d'affaires in Islamabad to reject what it called were allegations to "implicate Pakistan in some alleged planned attack in Nagrota".

The Indian warning of taking "all necessary measures to safeguard its national security" came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi pointed to cross-border terror from Pakistan and thanked security forces for having "defeated a nefarious plot" to target grassroots democracy in J&K.

India carried out surgical strikes on terror launch pads along the Line of Control after the Uri attack in September 2016, and air strikes in Balakot after the Pulwama attack in February 2019.

In a statement Saturday, the MEA said, "A major terror attack was foiled by Indian security forces in Nagrota, Jammu and Kashmir on 19 November 2020. Initial reports indicate the attackers to be members of Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), a terrorist organization proscribed by the United Nations and several countries. The Government of India expressed its serious concerns at continued terror attacks by JeM against India."

"JeM has been part of several attacks in India in the past, including the Pulwama attack in February 2019. The huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosive material indicate detailed planning for a major attack to destabilise peace and security in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, in particular, to derail the ongoing democratic exercise of conduct of local District Development Council elections," it said.

"Pakistan CdA was summoned by the Ministry of External Affairs and a strong protest was lodged at the attempted attack, which was only prevented from happening by the alertness of the Indian security forces. It was demanded that Pakistan desist from its policy of supporting terrorists and terror groups operating from its territory and dismantle the terror infrastructure operated by terrorist outfits to launch attacks in other countries."

"India reiterated its long standing demand that Pakistan fulfil its international obligations and bilateral commitments to not allow any territory under its control to be used for terrorism against India in any manner," the MEA said.

"The Government of India is firmly and resolutely committed to take all necessary measures to safeguard its national security in the fight against terrorism," it said.

Meanwhile, an Army Havildar was killed and another soldier injured as Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked mortar shelling and small arms fire Saturday along the Line of Control in Rajouri district of J&K.

Army spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand said ceasefire violations from across the LoC took place in the morning and again in the evening.

He said Havildar Patil Sangram Shivaji of Kolhapur was killed in action in the Nowshera sector. "He was a brave, highly motivated and a sincere soldier. The nation will always remain indebted to him for his supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty," Lt Colonel Anand said.

Officials said another soldier sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment at a military hospital. The Army, officials said, retaliated effectively to silence the Pakistani guns.

According to an ENS report from Pune, 38-year-old Patil of 16 Maratha Light Infantry hailed from Nigave Khalsa village in Karvir taluka of Kolhapur dis-

House panel flags gaps in pandemic response

pandemic and mitigate its impact. The Committee has submitted its report, titled "The Outbreak of Pandemic COVID-19 and its management", to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu.

"The report is among the first official assessments of the fall-out of the pandemic. It takes a look at almost every aspect of the government's handling of the crisis, including hospitals, the cost of treatment, surveillance, and testing; issues of frontline workers, school-going children, women, and mental health; and offers recommendations to the government."

"The purpose of the report is not to criticise the government's course of action... but to identify the implementation gaps," Prof Ram Gopal Yadav, Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare, has said in the report.

HOSPITALS

The committee has noted that the "number of Government hospital beds... was grossly inadequate keeping in view the rising incidence" of cases. "As the numbers... were on the rise, a frantic search for vacant hospital beds became quite harrowing. Instances of patients being turned away from overburdened hospitals due to lack of vacant beds became the new normal," it has said.

"The Committee is aggrieved at the poor state of healthcare system and therefore, recommends the Government to increase the investment in public health and take appropriate steps to decentralize the healthcare services/facilities in the country."

The Committee has underlined that "the closure of OPD services in government hospitals... crippled the healthcare delivery system in the country" — and "non-Covid patients especially female patients and the patients with chronic and lethal diseases were the worst sufferers".

"The Committee notes that disruption of medical services for Non-Covid patients during lockdown paralyzed the delivery of essential healthcare services. Particularly, the diagnosis and treatment of other services did take a backseat which even led to many non-Covid deaths," it has said.

COST OF TREATMENT

The Committee has said it "apprehends that amidst the pandemic and the uncertainty in the treatment protocol", out-of-pocket expenditure on health "may have further

driven many families to below poverty line".

According to the Committee, "arriving at a sustainable pricing model to treat Covid patients could have averted many deaths". The government "should have strategized a better partnership with the Private Hospitals under PPP model."

The Committee has said that given the reports of "private hospitals charging exorbitant medical fees" that were beyond the reach of many, "free Covid treatment under PMJAY could provide a sigh of relief to the entitled beneficiaries and the economically weaker sections of the society". It has recommended to "the Ministry to constantly make efforts to minimise the out of pocket expenditure of patients due to Covid and update the details of the beneficiaries on the scheme's IT System".

SURVEILLANCE

The Committee has noted that "poor contact tracing and slow testing in the initial phase of pandemic led to the increased number of infections", and that it was "constrained to observe the failure of NCDC-IDSP (National Centre for Disease Control-Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme) in generating the required response...".

"The Committee feels that NCDP-IDSP should have been utilized in a more effective manner especially when the sole objective of IDSP is to respond to outbreaks in the early phase through trained Rapid Response Teams," it has said.

The Committee has said it would like the Ministry to launch IDSP in states other than the nine in which it is in place, and that "there is an urgent need to assess the financial requirement".

The Committee has said while it "appreciates" measures like the janta curfew, "there have been [a] few glaring lapses... like shortage of emergency supplies, red-tapism, shortage and quality of testing kits, delay in domestic production."

TESTING

The Committee said it is "worried at the use of less reliable diagnostic tests which increase the chances of false negatives". The government "must assess the veracity of Rapid Antigen Test vis-à-vis RT-PCR and other diagnostic tests... to bring forth the true picture of the testing capacity in the country". It has "strongly recommended" that testing facilities are ramped up "for more accurate tests".

Also, the Committee has noted, "testing facility is only limited to bigger districts and cities", and "lack of testing facilities in rural areas has also resulted in underreporting of cases". The Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres "are still largely devoid of any testing facilities and the required technical workforce", it has said, and "strongly recommended" that a "strong network" of Viral Research & Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) be set up in the country.

FRONTLINE WORKERS

The Committee has expressed anguish over instances of mistreatment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers engaged in contact tracing, and has said it is "pained to note that community health workers were denied wages even though they are the foot soldiers of the healthcare system".

"It is too much to expect from the community health workers to accomplish big task without proper training, incentives and support from the health system," it has said. "The Committee strongly advocates for strengthening the network of ASHAs, ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Widwives), and other community health workers."

The Committee has also highlighted "large numbers of vacancies in secondary and tertiary public hospitals which considerably increases the dependence on private providers and contractual workers". There is "urgent need for capacity building and maintaining the pool of health resources to fight against the outbreak of the pandemic", it has said.

WOMEN

The pandemic has not "only adversely affected women's social and mental well being but also disrupted access to healthcare services especially sexual and reproductive healthcare services", the Committee has said.

"Access to contraceptives or healthcare services became difficult which led to many unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends the Government to chalk out specific course of action for rescuing the women out of mental trauma by resuming the sexual and reproductive healthcare services and allocating the resources to improve women health services."

The Committee has observed that "restrictive social norms, gender stereotypes, home quarantining and diver-

sion of resources to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic can limit women's ability to access health services which makes them more susceptible to health risks".

Also, "violence against women increased during the lockdown period as the perpetrators of violence and susceptible both stayed at home", it has said. "The Committee strongly recommends the Government to identify such women who have been the victims of sexual and domestic violence during the pandemic and rehabilitate them. The Committee would like the Ministry to create specific hotlines, telemedicine services, rape crisis centres for women."

CHILDREN

The Committee has expressed concern over the "confinement of the school-going children due to prolonged closure of education institutions" and, equally, at the "existing digital divide in the country which has jeopardised the future of millions of students from the weaker section of the society". It has observed that "with the shift in education method from classroom to online medium, the education of the students residing in areas with poor connectivity has been compromised".

It has recommended that the government should "strengthen its network for digital and online classes and once the normal classes resume, provision for extra special classes should be made especially for students from the economically and socially weaker section".

MENTAL HEALTH

There has been "a considerable rise in mental health issues during the lockdown", the Committee has said. "Sudden loss of employment and social isolation aggravated the psychological burden among the masses, it has said.

"There is no denying the fact that staying in touch with friends or family is a typical mechanism for coping with stress but during the lockdown in the absence of any coping mechanism, working-age adults, students etc who live alone, were more prone to depression."

The Committee has specifically highlighted the "increased risk of suicide during the pandemic which may be attributed to social isolation, fear of the pandemic, loss of livelihood and other economic and health fall-outs", and "strongly urged" the government to make suicide prevention and mental health a priority.

threatening their wheat crop. The industry, just emerging from the Covid setback, is estimated to have suffered losses to the tune of Rs 30,000 crore in this two-month period, with Amarinder Singh claiming on Saturday that six lakh migrant workers had left due to units shutting down. Over 13,500 containers carrying export materials alone are stranded at Dhandari Dry Port in Ludhiana.

The blockade has also impacted the supply of 40 lakh metric tonnes of parboiled rice from Punjab to Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh for PDS distribution, with Punjab's silos full with foodgrains.

Singh said the rail blockade was also impacting urgent Army supplies to the Valley and Leh-Ladakh.

Darshan Pal said they didn't want to inconvenience anyone, and were hence conceding on the issue of trains while continuing their agitation. "For now, we have the support of the common people. But industrialists are suffering due to disruption in the supply of raw material, labourers are losing jobs."

At least one farmer organisation, the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee that is protesting on the Amritsar-Delhi tracks near Jandiala Guru, Amritsar, however, said it would not backtrack. "We will not let any passenger trains resume," said Sawarn Pandher, the leader of the committee that had earlier too boycotted meetings with Central ministers and officers.

Since the Punjab deadlock began, 2,352 passenger trains have been either cancelled or diverted, while 3,850 freight trains could not be loaded and 230 loaded freight trains remain stranded outside the state. The total loss to the Railways since September 24 is estimated at Rs 2,220 crore.

Kerala's new law

years or a fine of Rs 10,000 or both. It is feared that the amendment could have a chilling effect on free speech giving more power to the police and restricting freedom of the press. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has claimed the decision was guided by growing abuse on social media targeting individuals.

Kerala-based advocate Anoop Kumar, who moved the Supreme Court in 2015 against another Section, 118(D) of the Act, said he would move the High Court against the ordinance. "The government claims that Section 118(A) is meant to protect people, particularly women, from social media abuse. But in reality, the new law would be used by the government against those who criticise them," he said.

Striking down Section 118(D) of the Kerala Police Act, the Supreme Court had declared it unconstitutional for violating the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression. An official release last month announcing the Cabinet's recommendation to the Governor regarding the ordinance had said the Kerala High Court had earlier directed the state police to take steps against hate campaigns and attacks through social media.

The CPM-led government had also claimed a rise in crimes, fake propaganda and hate speech on social media since the outbreak of Covid-19, and said the existing legal provisions were inadequate to fight them. It had argued that while the Supreme Court had repealed Section 118 (D) of the Kerala Police Act as well as Section 66-A of the IT Act, the Centre had not introduced any other legal framework to replace them. "In this scenario, the police are unable to deal effectively with crimes committed through social media," the government had

claimed. **Salvi's sari run** marathon on Berlin's fast and flat course. But she found herself exchanging small talk with Kipchoge in that quiet lounge because she ran Berlin wearing a sari, setting a Guinness record for being the fastest to complete a marathon in the nine yards. German TV networks were mighty keen to talk to her.

On Sunday, as a 21-km 'Pinkathon' in its ninth edition is run remotely across the country, to create awareness about breast cancer, 15 others from Mumbai will hit the roads in saris and sneakers, inspired by Salvi. A veteran of 15 full-distance marathons (42.195 km), including Berlin (3 hours 57 mins) and Boston (3:50), Salvi has decided to participate in Mumbai picking out yet another Khandeshi Silk.

"A bunch of us from Girgaon will commemorate Rani Laxmibai's birthday (November 19) belatedly by running 3 km, 10 km or 21 km in saris," she says, stressing that what started out as a sartorial statement at Berlin is now simply a clarion call inviting women to not be deterred from running because of what they wear. Shoes are what's most important in running, she insists.

Salvi has fashioned a nine-yard drape that is most comfortably suited to running, and has spoken of how women in rural Maharashtra carry out just about any task in the unfussy nouvari effortlessly. "Berlin Marathon organisers help you record the run in a native costume. I had watched women run in Mumbai decked out in saris, though over a short distance of 7 km. I decided to go the whole hog at Berlin including wearing the *nathni* (a traditional nose ring)... And a lipstick. Why not?"

She matched her sari with a breathable running vest fashioned into a dressy blouse, and a choker around her neck and shinning studs. To avoid any chance of tripping, she tucked in the ends of the sari into long socks. A customised pouch that goes with the sari holds, apart from the usual water bottle, a bunch of safety pins for quick fixes and special vaseline tubes to apply in case of a rash due to the fabric rubbing against the skin. Still, the interest Berlin media showed in her surprised her, Salvi says.

On Sunday, the runners in sari will choose their own adornments.

Married to a Merchant Navy captain, Salvi says running is her entry into a world away from home and its responsibilities. "It's not easy, no matter your family background."

Salvi's last run was the London Marathon in September, organised remotely due to the pandemic, along Marine Drive. The 52-year-old ended up inspiring her pacer Abbas Shaikh to finish the whole 42 km. "He's a good pacer and initially I thought he would help me manoeuvre the Sunday evening crowd, because it was a novelty — running a marathon in loops. There were children playing on the promenade, I didn't want to bump off any of them!"

Her fondest memory though remains finding herself face to face with Kipchoge, the divinity of marathons, that September of 2018. "I think I told him, They (TV reporters) don't actually know me. It's just the sari."

Focusing on hydration and pacing ahead of Sunday's run, like all her marathons, Salvi says, "Any major marathon day is like a wedding day for a runner. You are completely zoned into the run and finishing a run is special. There are a thousand worries until you actually start to run, and then that's my territory."

And when she is there, she adds, it's easy to forget the sari.

44.16% OF POPULATION CONTAINED IN SOUTH DELHI ALONE

Change in strategy: More sealed areas but fewer people in containment zones

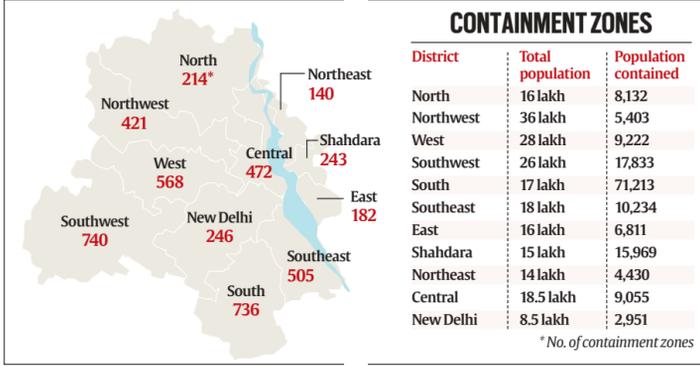
SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

OVER THE months, there has been a major dip in the population under strict containment in Delhi — from over 4 lakh in July to 1.6 lakh in November — a period during which the number of sealed areas rose from 700 to over 4,500. A district-wise break-up shows that 71,213 or 44.16% of the population that remains contained in Delhi is in the South district alone. The remaining 90,040 are spread across the remaining 10 districts, records show.

The numbers reflect the change in the city's containment zone strategy. While the focus during the first wave of the pandemic was to lock down entire neighbourhoods throwing up fresh cases, authorities now mostly seal the building or room housing infected persons.

The capital reported 5,879 cases and 111 deaths Saturday, taking the tally to 5,23,117 and the toll to 8,270.

According to official data, as on November 15 when the city had 4,467 containment zones,



1,61,253 people were under complete lockdown. In contrast, on July 26, there were 714 containment zones, housing a population of over 4 lakh. As on November 21, there are 4,633 containment zones.

"The situation is a little tricky. While it is good that people are not being inconvenienced like before, in the complete absence of restrictions, it's mostly up to the infected individuals or neighbours to follow norms on their

own. The policy of pasting stickers outside the houses of infected persons has also been done away with to destigmatise the discourse around Covid-19. It has resulted in a situation where people are often in the dark about the prevalence or spread of the infection around them. The strategy is being reviewed," a senior Delhi government official said.

The official added that the containment zone strategy in Delhi has reached a stage where

it resembles home isolation in most cases.

The Health Ministry guidelines state that the objective of cluster containment is to break the cycle of transmission and decrease morbidity and mortality due to Covid. At containment zones, a stricter lockdown and surveillance mechanism is mounted by the administration for tracing and isolating Covid cases and curbing its spread.

The break up shows that af-



The door-to-door survey to identify suspected Covid cases underway at Raghuraj Nagar, Saturday. Praveen Khanna

ter South, which leads the chart with 736 containment zones housing 71,213 persons, Southwest ranks a distant second with 17,833 persons in 740 containment zones. New Delhi, with 246 zones, has the least number of people, 2,951, under lockdown, while Northeast district, much bigger in size and population, has 4,430 people in lockdown in 140 such zones.

To identify and isolate suspected Covid positive cases, a mega five-day survey began in Delhi Friday with several three-member teams, mostly compris-

ing ASHA workers, primary school teachers and civil defence volunteers, fanning out across containment zones and areas with high caseloads.

"The door-to-door survey is also covering containment zones. Efforts are being made to trace each person who may have contracted the infection. We are trying to screen the entire city so that no person remains unaware that he or she may have been infected, especially since the virus often does not trigger any symptoms," Health Minister Satyendar Jain told reporters Saturday.

Gurgaon, Faridabad to test at borders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21



At Gurgaon border. Express

FOLLOWING A surge in Covid cases in Delhi, Gurgaon and Faridabad have started testing people at its borders, said officials. Earlier this week, authorities had started random testing at the Delhi-Noida border.

In addition to two existing camps on the roads, six new camps have been set up in Gurgaon, said Dr Virender Yadav, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Gurgaon. "It is not compulsory, but people are encouraged to get tested as cases are rising. Testing began in these six camps on Friday," said Yadav, adding that in case of a positive result, the person will be advised home isolation or be admitted to the hospital, depending on whether they are symptomatic or not.

The camps have been set up across locations like Kapashera

border, Labour Chowk and a few other bus stands and markets.

Since the aim is to test commuters on the move, rapid antigen tests are being conducted. If someone is symptomatic but has a negative antigen result, they will be asked to take an RT-PCR test in a nearby lab.

Gurgaon Saturday saw 939 new cases and Faridabad 630 new cases. Recently, the Haryana government decided to ramp up testing in the seven districts with a positivity rate higher than the state average of 6.86%.

Public gatherings at Noida, Ghaziabad capped at 100; hotels, halls stare at losses

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, NOVEMBER 21

PUBLIC GATHERINGS in Noida and Ghaziabad will be capped at 100 persons in the wake of rising Covid cases. The orders were issued Saturday by the state administration after a review meeting of UP's Covid situation by CM Yogi Adityanath. The change in guidelines, however, has left hotel and banquet owners in the lurch.

A similar decision was taken by Delhi earlier this week, cap-

ping the number of guests at weddings from 200 to 50.

"Keeping in mind rising Covid cases, it has been directed to all officials and authorities that no more than 100 persons will be allowed in any wedding or public function. This applies to both outdoor and indoor functions. Action will be taken against those who do not comply..." read the order by District Magistrate Suhas LY.

A similar order was issued by Ghaziabad DM Ajay Shankar Pandey limiting gatherings in the district to 100 people. Earlier,

permission for up to 200 persons was granted for weddings and public functions.

Hotel and banquet owners say the reduction of guest lists often leads to cancellations, implying further losses for businesses already hit by Covid. "As guidelines keep changing, people don't know what to do at the last minute... The new orders will mean difficult times for us and for families as our bookings were keeping in mind a set number of people," said Kishor Bhagat of Ambrosia Banquet, having a ca-

capacity of more than 1,000 people.

"Besides weddings, corporate clients regularly hold functions. Those bookings have nearly stopped. Birthday parties and other events are also moving away from banquets. The best we can do is convince those who have already booked to continue with their functions," said a banquet owner in Noida's Sector 16.

On Saturday, Ghaziabad saw 157 cases, taking the district's tally to 21,348 cases with 90 deaths. Noida saw 137 cases, with a total of 31,232 cases and 75 deaths.

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| Sr. No. | Section | From Km/Chainage | To Km/Chainage | Date of Energisation |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | HDL-KSV-CHJ 4 th Line | Km. 1427/5A Ch.121.40 | Km.1448/9A Ch.276.59 | 25.12.2020 |

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इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Stressed Asset Management Branch, Near Kotwali Police Station, Budh Marg, Patna, Bihar-800001

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 **Symbolic** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Stressed Asset Management (SAM) Branch, Patna, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **23.12.2020**, for recovery of bank's dues from the following borrower and guarantors.

| Sl. No. & Branch | Name of the Account | Description of the Charged/Mortgage Property | Name of the Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s) | Amount of Secured Debt | Reserve Price (in Rs) | Earnest Money Deposit |
|------------------|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1. SAMB Patna | M/s Vaishali Automobiles, Prop: Smt. Pratima Devi W/o Sri Chandra Bhushan Prasad Singh, Sri Chandra Bhushan Prasad Singh, W/o Dharikshan Singh, both add-H. NO.78A, Dighi Khurd, Hazipur, Vaishali, Bihar-844102, Sri Kapil Dev Narayan Singh, S/o Sri Mahendra Singh, Village-Gainsig Tola Ghatara Lalganj, Vaishali, Bihar-844119 | 1) Eq Mortgage of residential property bearing Mauza-Ghatara, Pragana-Bisara, P.S & Sub Reg.-Lalganj, Division-Hajipur, Circle-Lalganj, Dist-Vaishali, Halka No.4, Khata No.2263, Khesra No.6863 and 6898, in the name of Sri Kapildev Narayan Singh. Sale Deed No.6818 dt. 11.12.2002, 5588 dt. 14.10.2015, 5589 dt. 14.10.2015, 5590 dt. 14.10.2015. Total Area 13.58 Decimal. Boundary of land (as per deed no.6818): North-Ratan Saha, South-Farikar Manmokir & Number Haja, East-Survey No.6884 & Road, West-Birender Singh. Area-8.75 decimal. Boundary of land (as per deed no.5588): North-Krisna Singh & Ram Shankar Singh & Kharidar Manmokir, South-Ram Shankar Singh & Bedar Manmokir, East-Bedar Manmokir & PWD Road, West-Krishna Singh & Birender Singh. Area-1.61 decimal. Boundary of land (as per deed no.5589): North-Krisna Singh & Ram Shankar Singh & Kharidar, South-Ram Shankar Singh & Bedar Manmokir & Number Haja, East-Bedar Manmokir & Number Haja & PWD Road, West-Krishna Singh & Birender Singh. Area-1.61 decimal. Boundary of land (as per deed no.5590): North-Krisna Singh & Ram Shankar Singh & Kharidar, South-Ram Shankar Singh & Bedar Manmokir & Number Haja, East-Hajipur Lalganj Road, West-Krishna Singh & Birender Singh. Area-1.61 decimal. | 1. Sri Kapildev Narayan Singh 2. Sri Chandra Bhushan Prasad Singh | ₹19684424/- (Rupees One crore ninety six lakhs eighty four thousand four hundred twenty four only) as on 30.12.2019, with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon. | ₹79,91,000/- (Rs. Seventy nine lac ninety one thousand only) | ₹7,99,100/- (Rs. Seven lac ninety one thousand one hundred only) |
| | | 2) Regd Mortgage of landed property bearing Mauza-Chakalgaj Chhrida Diyara, Thana-Ganga Bridge Hazipur, Dist-Vaishali, Hajipur in the name of Sri Chandra Bhushan Prasad Singh, Area-4.50 decimal, Thana No.192, Halka No.9, Khata No.89, Khesra No.88, Jamabandi No.93. Sale Deed No.1016 dt. 05.02.2013. Boundary: North-Plot No.65, South-15 th Wide Road the Apartment, East-Plot No.89, West-Govt. Land. | | ₹27,00,000/- (Rs. Twenty seven lac only) | ₹2,70,000/- (Rs. Two lac seventy thousand only) | |
| | | 3) Regd Mortgage of landed property bearing Mauza-Kajipur Thathan, Pargana & Sadar Thana & Sub Registry Office-Hajipur, Dist-Vaishali in the name of Sri Chandra Bhushan Prasad Singh, area measuring 6.50 decimal, Thana No.58, Halka No.4, Jamabandi no.319, Khata No.191, Khesra No.1119. Sale Deed No.5449 dt. 31.07.2014. Boundary: North-10 th wide Niz Rasta Umesh Kumar Gupta, South-Md Mustkim Marhum, East-Ranjeet Kumar Singh, West-Ranjeet Kumar Singh. | | ₹30,88,000/- (Rs. Thirty lac eighty eight thousand only) | ₹3,08,800/- (Rs. Three lac eight thousand eight hundred only) | |
| | | 4) Regd Mortgage of landed property bearing Mauza-Kajipur Thathan, Pargana & Sadar Thana & Sub Registry Office-Hajipur, Dist-Vaishali in the name of Sri Chandra Bhushan Prasad Singh, area measuring 6.50 decimal, Thana No.58, Halka No.4, Jamabandi no.319, Khata No.191, Khesra No.1119. Sale Deed No.5452 dt. 31.07.2014. Boundary: North-10 th wide Niz Rasta Umesh Kumar Gupta, South-Md Mustkim Marhum, East-Ranjeet Kumar Singh, West-Ranjeet Kumar Singh. | | ₹30,88,000/- (Rs. Thirty lac eighty eight thousand only) | ₹3,08,800/- (Rs. Three lac eight thousand eight hundred only) | |
| | | 5) Regd Mortgage of landed property bearing Mauza-Kajipur Thathan, Pargana & Sadar Thana & Sub Registry Office-Hajipur, Dist-Vaishali in the name of Sri Chandra Bhushan Prasad Singh & Sri Ranjit Kumar Singh, area measuring 4.50 decimal, Thana No.58, Halka No.4, Jamabandi no.319, Khata No.191, Khesra No.1119. Sale Deed No.5448 dt. 31.07.2014. Boundary: North-10 th wide Rasta, South-Sri Ranjeet Kumar, East-4 Lane, West-Chandrabhushan Prasad Singh. | | ₹27,90,000/- (Rs. Twenty seven lac ninety thousand only) | ₹2,79,000/- (Rs. Two lac seventy nine thousand only) | |

Detail of encumbrance, Outstanding Dues of Local Govt, Electricity, Property tax, Municipal Tax, etc. if any known to the Bank: Not Known

Last Date & time for Registration and Submission of EMD amount: 21.12.2020 through <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi> Till 5.00 PM.

Date & Time of e-auction: 23.12.2020 from 11.00 AM to 3.00 PM at the platform of <http://www.mstcecommerce.com> with unlimited extension. Bid incremental amount is Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only). Property ID No. 1. IDIB1215A, 2. IDIB1215B, 3. IDIB1215C, 4. IDIB1215D, 5. IDIB1215E

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For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: (i) <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> (ii) <https://www.ibapi.in>

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstcecommerce.com) of our e-auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance please call MSTC HELPDESK No.033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapiin@mstcecommerce.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://ibapi.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001020526' and '011-41106131'.

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| 03 Jaipur (S) | |

BID START: 08 Dec., 2020 (10:00 AM) | BID END: 10 Dec., 2020 (05:00 PM)

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| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 02 Abu Road | 12 Jhalawar |
| 02 Balotra | 21 Bhiwadi-II |
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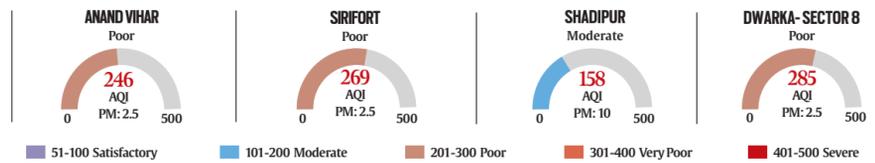
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New Delhi



BRIEFLY

Air quality to turn very poor from Tuesday

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality is expected to turn 'very poor' Tuesday onwards as meteorological conditions that helped improve it last week are forecast to turn adverse. The Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor SAFAR said in a bulletin Saturday that high surface wind speed that is helping improve the air quality index would become calm after Monday. On Saturday, the minimum temperature increased to 8.5 degrees Celsius but was still four degrees below normal. It is forecast to be 7 degrees Celsius Sunday, as per the IMD.

Nigambodh to get 3 more CNG furnaces

New Delhi: With the spike in number of Covid bodies entering Nigambodh Ghat, the crematorium will soon add three CNG-based furnaces, said officials. The ghat has around 110 wood-based funeralers and four CNG units. Officials said in the last week, approximately 100 bodies were cremated every day, of which around 20 were Covid victims.

Woman robbed at gunpoint

New Delhi: A woman was allegedly robbed at gunpoint by two unidentified men in East Delhi's Vinod Nagar Friday. Police said the woman was walking near the market when the accused came on a bike and robbed her gold chain. When she screamed for help, they threatened to attack her with a pistol and fled the spot. Senior police officer said they are scanning CCTVs to identify the men.

1,321 fined in Noida for not wearing mask

Noida: Noida Police Saturday fined 1,321 persons and collected fines worth Rs 1,31,200 for violation of Covid regulations. Police said they were found not wearing masks in public. **ENS**

Riots claims commission inaugurated

New Delhi: Supreme Court Justice Surya Kant Saturday inaugurated the North East Delhi Riots Claims Commission (NEDRCC) for providing compensation to victims of the communal violence that took place in February. Around 750 cases have been registered and 1,200 persons arrested in matters related to the riot. **PTI**

At the night shelter in Sarai Kale Khan, Saturday. *Gajendra Yadav*

GEARING UP FOR A TOUGH WINTER

Covid means precautions — and more space — for those at night shelters

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THERMAL SCANNERS at a night shelter in Sarai Kale Khan, mask distribution at one near AIIMS, and instructions to maintain social distancing at portacabins for the homeless in Kashmere Gate. As temperature drops and Covid cases rise in the national capital, night shelters — temporary homes to thousands — are gearing up for a tough winter ahead.

At the Kashmere Gate night shelter, set up by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), there are four portacabins to accommodate 120-150 men each. Says caretaker Khushi Chand, "Before the pandemic, we could accommodate 400

men per day but now we can only use half the beds and space available to us because we also have to ensure that people don't get infected."

Around 8 pm, as men returned to the shelter after work, volunteers instruct them to maintain distance while standing in a queue at the entrance. "Mask peheniye, doori banaye rakhe," they say. Caretakers say that those who reach after 10 pm are shifted to shelter homes in South Delhi. "DUSIB will make two more portacabins here as the number of people goes up a lot in December every year," says Chand.

As the night chill sets it post-dinner, Ajay (27), who works at a restaurant in Chandni Chowk, says, "I sleep here daily and now there is a lot of space because of

Covid — unlike earlier when there would be too many people. I leave for work in the morning and return by 7 pm. They've given us masks and soap so we don't get the virus... I am worried about December when it will get colder and more people will come. I don't want to get infected — I'm the sole breadwinner and send money back home in Bihar." Ajay's worry resonates with several men across the three shelter homes *The Indian Express* visited.

DUSIB runs 300 night shelters in Delhi. The board's advisor, Bipin Rai, says, "We will set up 250 more tents and cabins to accommodate more people, while keeping the Covid situation in mind."

At the Sarai Kale Khan shelter home, caretakers stand with

thermal scanners ready as the evening sets in. Each person is stopped, his temperature checked, and only then is he allowed in. In case of fever, the person is tested and isolated in another room. If the person tests positive, he/she is shifted to a quarantine center. The same exercise is repeated in the morning before they leave for work.

Moni (38), a tiffin box seller, says, "I've been living here with my family for over a year, but we've been concerned ever since the virus. Not that we can afford to rent a house. Thankfully there is a restriction on how many people can stay here."

Last month, when Moni had fever at the night shelter, he got tested. "The result came back negative. Every day, we get

screened here." The Sarai Kale Khan night shelter also houses people injured in road accidents. P.K. Gagan, a caretaker, says most patients are tested for Covid before they are sent to the shelter. "We send them back to the hospital if they have fever because we can't let others get infected. As of now, we have 19 people... We use hydrochloric solution to sanitise rooms and cabins."

At the night shelter near AIIMS, only 10 men occupy the massive space late Saturday night. Dinner has been served, quilts are ready and the lack of people has meant everyone has a mattress. Says the caretaker: "Most beds are vacant because everyone has gone back home for Diwali or Chhath... They will come back soon."

OBE results pending for many, DU tasks nodal officers in colleges to resolve issue

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

DELHI UNIVERSITY has asked nodal officers at the college and department levels to "handle" pending cases of students who have been marked absent in the online open book exams (OBE) or are still awaiting results. Nodal officers have been asked to get such copies evaluated in consultation with principals. The move has drawn criticism from a section, which said this was the varsity's way of "evading responsibility"

and would create issues as teachers who taught students would now be marking answer scripts.

In a November 19 notification, Dean Examinations D S Rawat said, "In view of the unprecedented circumstance due to Covid, it is hereby notified that issues of 'Absentees (not resolved yet) or Result Awaited (RA)' of OBE 2020 result will be handled by department/ colleges/ institutions/ Centre level." Students whose results have "not been rectified or are shown absent or result awaited cases in any paper(s)" will have to submit their application to nodal

officer of respective departments/ colleges/ institutions/ centre". "Nodal officer shall send only marks of students with details (like roll number, subject code, paper title, etc) to EDP (electronic data processing) cell of examination wing. All such grievances should be disposed of at college/department level," it reads.

Rakesh Pandey, a nodal officer at Kirori Mal College, said college level evaluation hasn't happened before: "We were earlier advocating for internal assessment, but DU went ahead with OBE. Now this is a kind of internal

assessment. The same teachers who taught students are now being told to evaluate. DU has transferred its problems to colleges."

Kumar Ashutosh, nodal officer at College of Vocational Studies, said: "This entire processing of coordinating with principals and teachers will take more time." Rawat, however, said the decision was taken due to "multiplicity" of answer sheets being received from colleges: "Our biggest concern right now is how fast we can solve problems of students; we felt it can be solved fastest at the college level."

22 injured as UP bus rams into tree



The driver is on the run

New Delhi: Twenty-two people were injured when an Uttar Pradesh Roadways bus rammed into a roadside tree in Southeast Delhi's New Friends Colony early Saturday. Twelve passengers were taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre, where they are recuperating, and others were discharged after first-aid treatment.

DCP (Southeast) R P Meena said they received a PCR call around 3:22 am about the accident near Central Road Research Institute at Sukhdev Vihar.

"The errant bus driver managed to flee after the incident. An FIR has been registered. Raids are underway to nab the driver," he added. **ENS**

Gulfisha gets bail in riots case, still in jail under UAPA

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

A DELHI court granted bail to student activist Gulfisha Fatima, arrested in a Northeast Delhi riots case, in connection with the death of an 18-year-old man.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat granted bail to Gulfisha on furnishing a personal bond in the sum of Rs 30,000 with one surety of the like amount. The court observed that there was nothing to suggest that witnesses were under threat or that she was a flight risk. However, she will remain at Tihar jail, where she is currently lodged as she is in judicial custody in a UAPA case, being investigated by the Special Cell.

Gulfisha has been in custody in this case since June 3. She is alleged to have participated in and instigated the unlawful assembly which then committed riots in which a man identified as Amaan died.

"There is nothing to suggest that the witnesses are under threat from the concerned applicant. In any case, two public witnesses are protected and their identity has been concealed. The rest are police personnel," the court said.

When police argued that Gulfisha was also under investigation for the larger conspiracy in the UAPA case, the court said, "We will cross the bridge when we come to it. The present stage is of bail and not acquittal or conviction. Nothing is shown to suggest that the applicant is a flight risk."

The court also considered the period of the custody of the applicant and the ground of parity as co-accused Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal were also granted bail by the court.

Police had also argued that a co-accused Tafsil has been declared a proclaimed offender. The court said, "The present applicant

Court grants bail to minor

New Delhi: A Delhi court Saturday granted bail to a 17-year old student, saying there were no public eyewitnesses who have attributed his role in the case related to rioting in Welcome area during which one Sajid received bullet injuries to his head. Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat granted bail to the minor on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 15,000 with one surety of like amount. The court said the statement of constable Pushkar given on April 19, though the incident was of February 25, was not a strong piece of evidence. **ENS**

can't be refused bail for the act and conduct of Tafsil, who will face consequences under the law."

Gulfisha's lawyer Mehmood Pracha had told the court that she "has been falsely and maliciously implicated in the present case without any evidence".

"No role has been attributed to the applicant except vague and unsubstantiated allegations which have no nexus with the alleged crime," Pracha argued.

Rajeev Krishan Sharma, special public prosecutor appearing on behalf of the state, told the court that Gulfisha was seen in video clips "controlling, instigating and provoking local rioters as well as managing non-resident rioters". "They used code words with their group members to convey secret messages regarding further line of their protest/riot in front of common people. They also gave hate speeches at Jafrabad Metro Station and continuously stayed there till last," Sharma told the court.

False allegation of impotence amounts to cruelty, says HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THE DELHI High Court has held that levelling false allegation of impotence against a spouse amounts to cruelty, while upholding a trial court ruling of granting divorce to a man by a Southeast district family court in February.

The division bench of Justices Manmohan and Sanjeev Narula termed the allegation grave and serious and said it was likely to impact the person's self-image and adversely affect his mental well-being. It was hearing an appeal filed by a woman against the grant of divorce to her husband.

"Thus, having regard to the law on the subject, we find no infirmity in the findings and observations of the trial court that the allegation of the appellant in the written statement with respect to the impotency clearly falls within the concept of cruelty as defined under law," the court said.

In the case before it, the bench said it agrees with the trial court observation that it was imperative for the wife to produce positive evidence to substantiate and

prove the allegations made in her written statement in order to counter the evidence and the expert witness produced by her husband — the doctor had deposed that the man was found to have no problem of impotence.

"If it is established from the evidence that the allegations were evidently false, then such baseless allegations made in the written statement can amount to cruelty and the Court can pass a decree of dissolution of the marriage," the judgment reads.

Rejecting an argument that the wife was justified in making the allegation since he in his petition was casting aspersions on her sexual behaviour, the court said it cannot allow the parties to be so casual about the averments made in the pleadings. "There can be no justification for any party to retaliate by making untrue and false allegations regardless of how provocative the allegations may be," it added.

The court had granted the husband divorce on grounds that his wife made false allegations in her statement regarding his impotence and dowry harassment and ill treatment by his family.

RENOVATIONS TO WRAP UP BY MARCH

For Central Vista revamp, IGNCA to get a new home — Janpath Hotel

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THE INDIRA Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) on the Rajpath area, which will be demolished as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project, will be temporarily shifted to the now unoccupied The Janpath Hotel. Renovations at the hotel will wrap up by February-March next year.

The Janpath Hotel was an India Tourism Development Corporation-owned enterprise

before it became office for the ministry of tourism. It was handed over to the ministry of housing and urban affairs in late 2017.

On January 23 this year, the Central Public Works Department floated a tender for the renovation and repair of the hotel. The Dee Vee Projects Ltd, a Raipur-based construction company, had won the tender for Rs 90 crore, said an official at the ministry.

Work on the renovation of the 5-floor hotel had begun this March, but was delayed due to the lockdown, said an official

from the company Saturday.

As part of the renovations, the building will be freshly whitewashed and painted, floors will be re-tiled, landscaping will be added and retrofitting measures will be taken.

"The hotel has auditoriums and galleries, in fact better ones than the IGNCA. A team of specialists will be hired to ensure that it is retrofitted in the right manner," said the official.

The IGNCA, an academic and cultural institution, was established by Prime Minister Rajiv



The Janpath Hotel under renovation, Saturday

Gandhi in remembrance of Indira Gandhi on November 19, 1985.

In 1987, American architect Ralph Lerner won the international design competition for the IGNCA.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Trust was constituted and registered on March 24, 1987. The founder trustees of IGNCA were Rajiv Gandhi, President R Venkataraman, then union minister PV Narasimha Rao, cultural activist Pupal Jayakar, bureaucrat HY Sharada Prasad and leading cultural

scholar Dr Kapila Vatsyayan.

The current chairperson of the trust is Padma Shri awardee Ram Bahadur Rai, a Hindi journalist and former editor of Jansatta. Hindi lyricist Prasoon Joshi, art scholar of miniature paintings and Jain art Saryu Doshi, Bharatanatyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam and others are part of the trust.

The Centre hosts an array of events such as dance and art performances, exhibitions, seminars, festivals and lectures related to Indian culture. It houses

various lecture rooms, seminar halls and an auditorium.

In 1993, Jasbeer Sawhney was appointed the associate architect and construction commenced in 1994-95.

In 2001, then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee inaugurated the arts library. "In 2002, the second building went into construction but no funds were provided. Around 2009, an estimate was provided to the then government to begin the third building but again no funds were provided," said Jasbeer Sawhney.



सत्यमेव जयते



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नरेन्द्र मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा

(वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से)

योजना एवं लाभान्वित होने वाले राजस्व ग्राम

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गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

आनंदीबेन पटेल

राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

गजेन्द्र सिंह शेखावत

मंत्री, जल शक्ति
भारत सरकार

हरदीप सिंह पुरी

राज्यमंत्री, आवास एवं शहरी कार्य एवं
नागरिक विमानन (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)
वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग (एम.ओ.एस.), भारत सरकार

डॉ. महेन्द्र सिंह

मंत्री, जल शक्ति एवं नमामि गंगे
तथा ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति, उत्तर प्रदेश

अनुप्रिया पटेल

सांसद
मीरजापुर

रमा शंकर सिंह पटेल

राज्यमंत्री, ऊर्जा एवं अतिरिक्त ऊर्जा स्रोत, उत्तर प्रदेश

अरुण सिंह

सांसद, राज्यसभा

पकौड़ी लाल कोल

सांसद, राबर्ट्सगंज

राम शकल

सांसद, राज्यसभा

रत्नाकर मिश्र
विधायक, मीरजापुर

शुचिस्मिता मौर्या
विधायक, मझवां

राहुल प्रकाश कोल
विधायक, छानबे

अनुराग सिंह
विधायक, चुनार

भूपेश चौबे
विधायक, राबर्ट्सगंज

डॉ. अनिल कुमार मौर्य
विधायक, घोरावल

संजीव कुमार गोंड
विधायक, ओबरा

हरी राम चैरो
विधायक, दुब्डी

दिनांक : 22 नवम्बर, 2020 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे | मुख्य कार्यक्रम स्थल : ग्राम पंचायत-करमांव, विकास खण्ड-चतरा, जनपद-सोनभद्र

कार्यक्रम का लाइव प्रसारण देखें [DD National/Uttar Pradesh](#), [Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh](#) यूट्यूब एवं [UPGovtOfficial](#)

[f](#) CMOUTtarpradesh [t](#) CMOfficeUP सोशल मीडिया हैण्डल्स पर या लाइव स्ट्रीम से जुड़ें [pmindiawebcast.nic.in](#) पर

नमामि गंगे तथा ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

New Delhi

6 GOVT & POLITICS

Baghel: Are BJP leaders, their children also in 'love jihad' ambit

GARGI VERMA
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 21

CHHATTISGARH CHIEF Minister and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday raised questions on the intent and timing of the proposed law against "love jihad" in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Speaking a day after at least five Opposition-ruled states registered their protest against the proposed law, calling it an encroachment on personal liberty and attempt to create a communal divide, Baghel asked if BJP leaders who were in interfaith marriages "like Subramaniam Swamy and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi" would also be considered to be under the ambit of "love jihad".

Bhupesh Baghel

"I want to ask BJP, if their own leaders and their children who have married out of faith, come under the ambit of love jihad," Baghel told the media on Saturday. He told *The Sunday Express*, "Love jihad is an attempt at communalising the society, raised with clear intention of gaining votes in West Bengal election. They want to divide the voters on the basis of religion and attract Hindu voters."

He said there are laws already to deal with issues related to marriage. "This new law is only a political move. How many people's marriages will they scrutinize? And if they are scrutinizing marriages, would they do it with their own party members as well," the Chief Minister asked.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the convocation of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University on Saturday. Mukesh Ambani (left), who is the president of Board of Governors of the university, was also present. PTI

Bid to double oil refining capacity, quadruple natural gas usage: PM

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said Saturday efforts were on to double India's oil refining capacity in the next five years and multiply the usage of natural gas by four folds in this decade.

The Prime Minister, who was addressing the 8th convocation ceremony of Gandhinagar-based Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU) via video-conference, said the country was also moving forward to reduce its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent.

A total of 2,600 students received their degree certificates during the convocation ceremony. During his address, Modi recalled his experience of battling "pre-conceived notions" as the former chief minister of Gujarat. He told the students how he had helped to separate feeders supplying electricity to domestic and agriculture consumers, and thus ensured round-the-clock and efficient power supply in the state.

"This experiment changed the mindset of all our officers at that point in time... If I had stuck to the preconceived notions, this would not have become a possibility. I had a clean slate and I used to think in a new way," he said. Under him, the PM said, the Gujarat government had "gambled" with solar power and purchased it at Rs 12-13 per unit even when thermal power was available at Rs 2.50 to Rs 3 per unit.

"You (students) all know of today's fashion to create a ruckus and find fault in small matters. I used to face a lot of problems then (as Gujarat CM). The issue came before me

about power producers selling at (thermal power) Rs 2-3 per unit and (solar power) Rs 12-13 per unit. I was confronted with a moment where I had to worry about my reputation or worry about my future generations. I knew that this type of decision will be blown up by the media and will invite charges of corruption. But I had a clean heart. I genuinely believed that we had to do something to change our lifestyles. Finally, we decided to go for solar energy. And we made this decision with honesty, did it for a bright future with a vision. Solar plants began in Gujarat and in large numbers," Modi said.

Solar energy, the PM added, has now become "a movement in the country" and the cost of solar power has "dropped below Rs 2 per unit". "Keeping in mind our energy needs, it is our endeavour to increase the proportion of natural gas by four times in this decade alone. In the next five years, efforts are being made to double the country's oil refining capacity," Modi said.

Modi told the graduating students that they were entering the energy sector at an "opportune time".

"Today, there are unlimited opportunities in the energy sector in India. You (students) all have reached this sector at the right time. In this decade, in just the oil and gas sector, there will be crores of investment... there are ample opportunities, from research to manufacturing," the PM said.

During his virtual address, the PM also urged students to become the soldiers of "Atmanirbhar Bharat". "Today's India is passing through a big phase of transition... Think about what a golden period you are in," he said.

MP: 'Gau cabinet' to discuss cow cess today

IRAMSIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 21

THE FIRST meeting of the gau cabinet on Sunday is set to discuss the introduction of a cow cess for promotion and conservation of cows. The move is aimed at providing adequate funds for the maintenance of the 1,200 odd gaushalas in the state and facilitate the smooth construction of at least another 2,400 gaushalas.

"With this (cow cess), the government will be able to get sufficient amount for cow rearing and everyone will participate in this 'sacred work'," stated an official release from the state government.

"A decision based on a proposal prepared by the finance department and animal husbandry based on the experiences in other states will be taken soon," said an official from the state government. A similar proposal was considered by Kamal Nath-led Congress government in 2019.

With the formation of a cow cabinet, including five ministers and six departments, the state government is working to set up a modern cow research centre at its cow sanctuary in Salaria at Agar-Malwa. Chouhan is expected to hold a meeting with about 14 cow experts, besides other members



CM Chouhan will hold the first meeting in Bhopal

of the gau-cabinet, in Bhopal and then reach Salaria to address farmers and conduct puja at the cow sanctuary on Sunday.

According to officials from Animal Husbandry department, there is an annual requirement of Rs 300 crore to provide fodder and maintenance of about 2.40 lakh bovines that are housed in 1,200 gaushalas in the state. With another 2,400 under construction, the yearly maintenance is expected to reach close to Rs 600 crore.

If approved, Madhya Pradesh will be the fifth state in the country to implement a cess for cow protection after Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The percentage varies across states.

UP imposed a 0.5 per cent

cess on excise items and 2 per cent on Mandi Parishad and other profitable corporations. Punjab was the first state to impose a cow cess in 2016 with varying slabs for -- Rs 1,000 on purchase of a four-wheeler, Rs 200 on two-wheeler, Rs 1,000 on booking of an AC marriage hall and Rs 500 on a non-AC hall. It also has this cess on items such as cement bags, oil tankers and two paise per unit of electricity.

The Vasundhara Raje-led government in Rajasthan introduced a 20 per cent cow cess on liquor after increasing the stamp duty charges from 10 per cent to 20 in the name of cow protection.



Tamil Nadu Deputy CM O Panneerselvam greets Home Minister Shah at an event in Chennai. PTI

Shah in Chennai, AIADMK says alliance with BJP will continue

Amit Shah lays foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 67,000 cr

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 21

UNION HOME Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah on Saturday laid foundation stone for projects worth Rs 67,378 crore on the first day of his two-day visit to Chennai, with the venue of his key official event also witnessing the first official announcement that the AIADMK-BJP alliance is set to continue for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly polls. The visit comes days after signs of fissures in the alliance over the BJP's Vel Yatra.

Shah praised the AIADMK government for the "best performance" in fighting Covid across the country and accused the opposition DMK of dynasty politics and corruption.

Shah sprang a surprise here when he got out of his vehicle and briefly walked on the busy GST Road outside the Chennai airport to greet party functionaries, minutes after he landed here around 2 pm. He received a rousing welcome from BJP and AIADMK

cadres outside the airport, with Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy CM O Panneerselvam among those who welcomed the minister on the tarmac along with BJP leaders. BJP national general secretary C T Ravi and state president L Murugan accompanied Shah on the way to the hotel.

Late on Saturday, Shah was scheduled to meet senior BJP functionaries at the hotel where he is staying. Palaniswami and Panneerselvam also met Shah at the hotel on Saturday night. Shah's reported meetings with actor Rajinikanth and late DMK supremo M Karunanidhi's elder son M K Alagiri were not confirmed until Saturday evening.

In the evening, Shah reached Kalaivanar Arangam to inaugurate a slew of government projects, including Phase II of Chennai Metro Rail project and Chennai's fifth reservoir, worth Rs 380 crore, at Theruvoy Kandigai. He laid foundation stones for several projects, including the elevated highway project in Coimbatore, water irrigation project for about 4,000

acres of land in Thanjavur, Chennai Trade Centre expansion, and three Indian Oil Corporation projects.

At the event, Deputy CM O Panneerselvam told the audience that the alliance with BJP will continue in the Assembly polls. CM Palaniswami asserted the alliance will win more seats in the 2021 polls.

Shah praised the AIADMK government for their performance in tackling the pandemic and said the recovery rate of Tamil Nadu was better than other states.

Listing out Central projects and schemes that benefited the state, Shah said the NDA government is committed to extend maximum support for the Tamil Nadu government. Shah targeted the DMK, and challenged those who were in power during the UPA tenure to list out steps taken for Tamil Nadu. Taking a dig at both Congress and DMK, Shah asked what moral right the two parties had to talk about corruption after committing "scams such as 2G" when they were in power.

Tarun Gogoi's health worsens, on ventilator support

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 21

THE HEALTH condition of three-time former Assam CM Tarun Gogoi, 85, deteriorated on Saturday evening with post-Covid complications and he was put on ventilator support, at the time of filing this report on Saturday night.

Gogoi was diagnosed with Covid in August end and was administered plasma therapy when his condition worsened. After testing negative for Covid, Gogoi has been battling post-Covid complications.

Doctors at the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where Gogoi is under treatment, have termed his condition as critical as of now. GMCH superintendent Abhijit Sarma has said that Gogoi was intubated and was "very critical". He was on non-invasive ventilation since November 2, but on Saturday was put under invasive ventilation.

Assam's health minister



Former Assam CM Gogoi

Himanta Biswa Sarma, who visited the hospital on Saturday, said, "From today evening, his health has deteriorated. He is suffering from multi-organ dysfunction. He is unconscious and is on ventilator support. He is unable to recognise anyone." Sarma added that doctors were regularly in touch with Gogoi's family.

Doctors of GMCH are in constant touch with medical experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, but said that Gogoi was not in a position to be shifted out in this condition. Gogoi's treatment is following the module set by doctors from AIIMS.

After quota for govt school students, DMK, AIADMK compete to pay their fees

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 21

AHEAD OF the Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu, DMK chief M K Stalin on Saturday announced that his party will pay the tuition fees of those admitted to private medical colleges under the quota for government school students, with the AIADMK government clarifying hours later that it will create a revolving fund for the same under the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation.

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami also accused DMK of staging a "political drama" and said the DMK announcement had come after the government had made it clear that the post

matric and other financial aid will be appropriately taken care of for such students.

In a surprise move last month, the AIADMK government took to the executive route and passed a government order reserving 7.5 per cent of undergraduate medical seats -- for students who have studied from Class 6 to 12 in government schools and cleared the NEET -- after delay on part of Governor Banwarilal Purohit in giving assent to the quota law unanimously passed in the Assembly.

Stalin's announcement and the government's clarification comes amid several reports about difficulties faced by students who are beneficiaries of the new quota policy.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Notice of Invitation Tender
Divisional Railway Manager, N.W.Rly, Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender for the following works on the date shown as below. Tender No. S&T/BKN/ET/187, Name of Work with its Location: "S&T associated work in connection with TRR work in BTH&SR Section of the Bikaner Division." Approx. Cost of Work: 3940138.69. Earnest Money Rs.: 78800/-. Date & Time for submission of Tender & opening of tender: Up to 15.00 Hrs. of 14.12.2020. Website from which complete Tender details can be seen & download: www.ireps.gov.in. [846-VM/20] Please join us on [Facebook icon] [Twitter icon] [LinkedIn icon] [Instagram icon] [YouTube icon] [NWRRailways]

J&K PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD
(A J&K Govt. Undertaking)
OFFICE OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER, UNIT 9th, Doda.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No: 14 of 2020-21 of JKPCCL Ltd. Unit 9th, Doda Dated:- 17/11/2020.
For and on behalf of the Managing Director JKPCCL, J&K union territory e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State/Union territory Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:

| Sr. No. | Description of Work | Approx. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) | Earnest Money | Tender Cost | Time of Completion |
|---------|--|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Construction of Balance work of District Court Complex Doda by way of construction of Mahikana Watchman room, balance work of Lawyers chamber, Main gate with Security post, Internal Roads with Parking, R/Walls and Boundary wall. | Rs. 123.37 Lacs | Rs. 2.47 Lacs | Rs. 2,000/- | "Super Class/ AAT/AY Class with HMP" |

Note:
1. Qualification criteria, critical dated for bidding, scope of work, tender document, BOQ and all other terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded on www.jkpccl.com from 19.11.2020 1600 Hrs to 09.12.2020 upto 1600 Hrs.
2. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of Deputy General Manager, JKPCCL Ltd. Unit 9th, Doda during Office Hours.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager,
JKPCCL Ltd. Unit 9th, Doda.

NO.: JKPCCL/Doda/1233-41 Dated:- 17.11.2020
DIPJ-2633

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS PROJECTS
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

1. The Executive Engineer (NH) Division HPPWD Nahani invites Bid for construction of work detailed in the Table.

| Sr. No. | Name of Work | Name of Division | Approximate Value of Work (Rs.) | Bid Security (Rs.) | Cost of Document (Rs.) | Period of Completion |
|---------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Road safety audit and suggesting rectification measures for identified black spot at (1) Main Thapal (2) Moginand (3) Sainwala (4) Kolar on NH 72 (New NH 07 on Kala Amb Pasonta Dehradun road Km 46/0 to 103/0) in the State of Himachal Pradesh, (SH: Improvement of Black Spot at (1) Main Thapal between Km 46/700 to 46/900 (2) Moginand between Km 50/00 to 50/500 (3) Sainwala between Km 56/200 to 56/700 (4) Kolar between Km 77/400 to 77/900) | NH Division Nahani | Rs. 2,84,16,840/- | Rs. 5,68,400/- | 12000/- | 06 Months |

2. The period of availability of online bid / date and time of Pre-bid meeting / date and time of on line bid submission and date and time of opening of bids are given below.

| Availability of Tender online for Bidders | Start and End Date and Time for online Submission of Bid | Deadline for Physical submission of Bid | Date & Time of Opening of Bids |
|---|--|--|---|
| From To | Date and Time of pre-bid Meeting | Technical Bid | Financial Bid |
| 01.12.2020 at 1100 hrs. | 21.12.2020 at 1100 hrs. | 01.12.2020 at 1130 hrs. to 21.12.2020 at 1100 hrs. | 22.12.2020 at 1100 hrs. 22.12.2020 at 1130 hrs. |

3. Bidding documents can be downloaded from the web site https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app the documents downloaded from the web site should not be tampered and if any such tampering is detected before or after the opening of bids, the bidder shall be penalized and black listed.

4. The bids can be deposited in electronic format on web site https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app, before time specified in table above and Bid must be accompanied by the cost of the bidding documents (non-refundable) of Rs. 12,000/- each through electronic mode via NTRP Portal i.e. www.bharatkosh.gov.in as per Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure Office of the Controller General of Accounts (I.T. Division) Mahalakshmi Niyantarak Bhawan New Delhi Office Memorandum No. MFCG/ANTRP/01/2017-18/1224 dated 12.03.2017 in favour of "Regional Pay & Accounts Officer, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways") payable at Chandigarh for the work at Sr. No. 1. Before submission of on-line bids, bidders must ensure that the scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid. The detail of cost of documents bid security specified in tender documents should be the same as submitted on-line (Scanned Copy) otherwise bid will summarily be rejected. The department does not take any responsibility for the delay caused due to non-availability of internet connection or network, traffic jam etc., for on-line bids. Other terms and conditions shall remain same as given in the bid document which can be seen on the website.

Signature of authorized officer
Executive Engineer
HPPWD NH Division Nahani
Distt Sirmour H.P., Tel/Fax: 01702-222202
on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
4457/HP

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JUDICIARY
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C: 8800662140, 8800660301
CLAT
FOUNDATION: 4 DEC WEEKEND: 5 DEC
C: 8800660380
न्यायिक सेवा
फाउंडेशन: 28 JAN, 2021
C: 8800662130
IAS (LAW)
FOUNDATION: 15 JAN, 2021 TEST SERIES: 8 NOV
C: 8800662140
Prebook Bare Acts of AMBITION PUBLICATIONS in new form which are full of recent cases, amendments, simple meaning. C: 9312548656
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23276901, 23282028 (M): 92122008155, 921265841.

BAR BRIBERY CASE

Ahead of local polls, Kerala govt moves to probe Oppn leader

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
NOVEMBER 21

THE CPI(M)-LED Kerala government has revived the bar bribery scandal in the run up to the local body elections, moving to investigate Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala and two other senior Congress members in a case that had dealt a blow to the previous UDF dispensation in the state.

The decision came after a liquor baron, Biju Ramesh, recently alleged that he had bribed Chennithala, the then Kerala Congress unit chief, and K Babu and V S Sivakumar, former excise and health ministers, respectively, during the tenure of the Oommen Chandy government to reduce the annual licence fee for hotels selling Indian-made foreign liquor.

Government sources said Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) had completed a quick verification of the allegations. The government will soon seek the sanction of the governor to register the case and initiate a probe against them.

The bar bribery scandal had revolved around K M Mani, the late former finance minister and regional Kerala Congress (M) leader, who al-



Ramesh Chennithala

legedly pocketed Rs 1 crore as bribe to allow the functioning of bars serving sub-standard liquor. The VACB, under both the UDF and LDF, had probed the allegation and submitted closure reports as many as four times. A court ruled that there was no evidence to show that Mani had taken bribe. The latest closure report was filed in March 2018, a year before Mani died.

Mani's son Jose K Mani, a Rajya Sabha member, recently joined the LDF. Days later, the bar owners' association leader Ramesh raked up the scandal again, giving a new twist.

Ramesh alleged that bar hotel owners had paid Chennithala Rs 1 crore, Babu Rs 50 lakh and Sivakumar Rs 25 lakh to reduce licence fees. Ramesh had also alleged that Jose had offered him Rs 10 crore to withdraw the bribery al-

legation against his father.

Congress state president Mullanappally Ramachandran lashed out at the government for reviving the scandal, saying Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had "lost his mental balance" amid the gold smuggling controversy. "Why Vijayan is reluctant to order a preliminary probe against Jose K Mani on the allegation that he had offered Rs 10 crore to Biju Ramesh to withdraw the allegation against Mani," he asked.

Chennithala said he welcomed any probe as he had not taken bribes from bar owners. "Four times, vigilance had probed the bar bribery case and found the allegation baseless. The present move is an outcome of the conspiracy of the Chief Minister's office," he said.

The CPI(M) government, which has been in the thick of controversy, has been either reviving or speeding up cases against senior UDF leaders in recent times.

A few days back, former minister V K Ibrahim Kunju was arrested in connection with a corruption case pertaining to construction of a bridge during his term as public works minister.

The government is also looking to register rape cases against UDF leaders based on the allegations of a woman said to be involved in the solar scam, which had rocked the previous government.

LS Speaker on winter session: Secretariat prepared; Cabinet panel decides dates

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

AMID SPECULATION over holding the Winter Session of Parliament amid a rising number of Covid cases in Delhi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday said the Lok Sabha secretariat is ready to hold the session and dates are decided by the government.

At a press conference here, he said the Monsoon session was held with all precautions amid the pandemic and the parliament standing committees have also been meeting regularly. "The Lok Sabha secretariat is prepared to hold the parliament session. As far as dates are concerned, it is decided by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs," Birla said in reply to a question about holding the Winter Session of Parliament.

The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs decides the dates of the session and the government discusses with opposition parties as well, the Lok Sabha Speaker said.

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha Secretariat, in a statement, said that President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the 80th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC), scheduled for November 25 and 26 in Kevadia, Gujarat.

The theme for this year's AIPOC is 'Harmonious coordination between Legislature, Executive and Judiciary - Key to a Vibrant Democracy', it said.

The statement said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the valedictory session of the conference on November 26.

HC clears way for arrest of Jay, Jagi Panda in Dalit 'land grab' case

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21



Baijayant Panda, Jagi Panda have denied the allegations

IN A setback to BJP national vice-president Baijayant Panda, the Orissa High Court has refused to intervene in a case of alleged grabbing of land belonging to people belonging to the Dalit community by a company owned by Panda.

The case is being investigated by Odisha Police under various sections of IPC and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The court also cleared the way for the arrest of Panda and his wife Jagi, co-promoter of the company, Odisha Infotech Pvt Ltd (OIPL), by vacating all earlier interim orders. The HC had earlier passed an interim order granting them protection against arrest.

The Pandas had moved HC for quashing the FIR against them and OIPL.

On Saturday, the Pandas denied all allegations against them and blamed the development on Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's vendetta politics.

"...There has been no wrongdoing by us and we are confident that this will ultimately be proved in the courts," Jagi Panda said in a statement.

In the order pronounced on Friday, Justice B P Routray said: "I

am not inclined to interfere with the criminal proceedings, more particularly at the stage of pending investigation. Accordingly, the prayer of the petitioners is rejected and the Criminal Misc. Case is dismissed. All interim orders passed stand vacated."

The Pandas had alleged in their petition that the FIR was a result of "malice" and "ulterior motive" at the behest of "the ruling political party". The court rejected the allegation on the ground that "the same is not found with supported materials".

On October 31, the Economic Offence Wing of Odisha Police had registered an FIR alleging that one Rabindra Kumar Sethi, a person from Dalit community who was once a driver with Panda's company ORTEL Communication Ltd, was allegedly pressured by the Pandas to purchase 7294 acres of land from 22 Dalit people in

Odisha's Khurda district between 2010 and 2013. This was to allegedly circumvent state laws that prevent purchase of land owned by Dalits by non-Dalits.

The land was allegedly purchased at 50 per cent of the market value, according to the FIR. This land was later taken over by OIPL for real estate development from Sethi for declared consideration of Rs 65 lakh, even though no amount was allegedly paid to Sethi, according to the FIR.

Sources said Sethi was shown to have purchased this patch of land - falling in between a 100-acre plot that Pandas were developing - with his monthly salary of Rs 8,000.

A senior Odisha Police officer said, "Sethi and others (from whom land was purchased) have already recorded their statements before a magistrate."

In Odisha, under the Land Revenue Act, Dalits are not allowed to sell their entire land holding to non-Dalits without permission of the district collector.

In a statement, Jagi Panda said: "In the past two months Odisha police have registered about 20 false cases against OTV, its sister companies, employees and my family members, including my 84-year-old father... We vehemently deny these allegations... We assert that these cases are being orchestrated by the 21-year-old BJD government in Odisha, because of CM Naveen Patnaik's personal vendetta against us."

On allegations in the FIR, the court order stated, "In the context of the allegations, it is seen that the petitioners used opposite party No. 3 (Sethi) as an instrument or to say, as the 'sham purchaser' to get the land in their favour. When the investigation is still continuing and at the beginning [initial] stage, the contention that materials are not justifying for investigation is thus not found correct. It also cannot be said that the allegations are so absurd or inherently improbable."

The Pandas argued in court that none of the offences under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is made out or constituted, but it has been deliberately added to deny them the benefit of anticipatory bail. The court rejected this and observed that the allegations "definitely fall within" specific clauses of the Act.

The Pandas had submitted that the FIR had been registered to settle a score, as OTV, owned by them, had broadcast a conversation of two friends relating to their experience at a Covid hospital.

J&K DDC ELECTIONS: FAROOQ ABDULLAH WRITES TO POLL OFFICER

'PAGD candidates not allowed to canvass... security can't be excuse'

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21



Gupkar Alliance chief Abdullah; PDP leader Mufti

FORMER JAMMU and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah on Saturday accused the administration of "interfering" in the democratic process, claiming that security is being used as a pretext to impede candidates for the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls from canvassing.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti has also raised the issue, claiming that the Centre is 'sabotaging' participation of non-BJP parties in DDC polls, and has called for an intervention by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The eight-phase DDC polls are set to begin on November 28. Abdullah, who is the president of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), in a letter to J&K Election Commissioner K K Sharma said, "A strange and a unique feature has come to the fore. Candidates put up by the PAGD are immediately whisked away to 'secure locations' in the name of security and confined to those 'secure locations'. They are not allowed to canvass, they are completely out of touch with those from whom they are supposed to seek votes."

In an apparent reference to BJP candidates, Abdullah wrote, "The current state of affairs in the realm of security is blatantly oriented towards providing security to a select few and confining others. This comes across more as an attempt to interfere in the democratic process than any real concern for the wellbeing of the contestants. Security cannot and should not be

used as a tool or an excuse to interfere in democratic processes." Abdullah said that it is job of the government to provide security to the candidates contesting the DDC polls. "Security is a challenge and it is for the government of the day to counter that challenge in a manner which is fair and transparent. Providing security to a select few and literally interfering the rest is a gross interference in democracy."

Saying that the journey of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir is soaked in blood, Abdullah has termed the government's "interference" in the polls as a "desecration of those sacrifices".

"May I add that the evolution of democracy in J&K is distinctive compared to any other part of the country. The journey is a bloodied journey, soaked in the blood of thousands of political workers who have laid down their lives for the sake of democracy. It is a desecration of those sacrifices when the very conflict that consumed their lives is used as an alibi to customize democracy," Abdullah wrote.

"Democracy is still in a state of fragility in J&K. Governments come and go. No government has the right to alter the institutional foundations of democracy in J&K,

nourished by the sacrifices of thousands of political workers," he added. Abdullah said since the constituent parties of the PAGD have been in power in the past, they are aware of the security challenges in Jammu and Kashmir. "Our parties have been in power in the past and have had the opportunity to head and run the government. We are aware of the challenges posed in the realm of security in a place beset by violence," his letter read. "These challenges are not new but have been painfully persisting for the last three decades. But the government had structures in place which ensured security for all contestants irrespective of the ideology they espoused or the parties they represented."

Meanwhile, the PDP chief claimed that the Centre was "sabotaging" the participation of non-BJP parties in the DDC polls. "GOI sabotaging participation of non-BJP parties in DDC polls. PDPs Bashir Ahmed despite having adequate security has been detained at Pahalgam on the pretext of security. Today is the last day for filing nominations & have spoken to DC Anantnag for his release," she tweeted, tagging Lt Gov Sinha in the post.

SC upholds HC order on Centre's exotic animals scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THE SUPREME COURT has upheld the Allahabad High Court order which said that no one can be prosecuted upon declaration of acquisition or possession of exotic wildlife species between June and December, under the Centre's amnesty scheme.

The government's amnesty scheme is aimed at developing

an inventory of exotic live species within India, regulating their import and maintaining stock of imported exotic live species, to maintain statutory records of stock, change in stock due to any death, transfer within India, and acquisition of further stock.

The Allahabad High Court held that it will not be open for DRI, or any other agency, to investigate and prosecute anyone making such declarations dur-

ing the six-month window.

"The Central Government, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, through Wildlife Division has already introduced the 'voluntary disclosure scheme' in wider public interest by announcing immunity for a limited window of six months to promote and invite voluntary disclosure declaration from all concerned. The scheme so introduced by the Central Government shall be promoted

by all the departments in wider public interest," the HC had earlier said.

"In this period of six months, whoever declares the stock of exotic species and thereby submits himself to registration and further requirements of the scheme, shall have immunity from any inquiry into source of licit acquisition or possession of the voluntarily declared stock of exotic species" the High Court had ruled.

Delhi supports PCA mandate to resolve disputes: Foreign Secy

SHUBHAJITROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

IN A veiled reference to China's non-compliance of the Permanent Court of Arbitration's (PCA) order on South China Sea, India on Saturday said New Delhi supports the PCA's mandate to resolve international disputes and upholding international law is central to India's diplomacy.

Delivering the third Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)-India Conference, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Saturday said, "As a strong proponent of a peaceful and rules-based international legal order, it is no surprise that India supports PCA and its mandate to resolve international disputes. Upholding of international law is central to our diplomacy and, in fact, our worldview."

On January 22, 2013, the

Philippines had instituted an arbitral proceeding against China in the PCA under Annex VII of the UN Conventions on the Laws of the Seas (UNCLOS). After more than three years of deliberations, the Court awarded its judgment on July 12, 2016, in favour of the Philippines, which China has refused to comply with.

India has always advocated freedom of navigation in South China Sea.

Shringla said, "On numerous occasions, India has availed and continues to avail the services of the PCA and can perhaps be termed as one of the largest users of PCA's services. India has sought to resolve certain disputes with its neighbours through arbitration, conciliation and expert determination, has resolved international disputes with States, and has availed of the services of PCA in this regard."

TMC's 'outsider' dig at BJP may land Bengalis in trouble in other states: Ghosh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 21

WEST BENGAL BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Saturday said that Trinamool Congress's "outsider" jibe at the Opposition party may land Bengalis in trouble in other states.

TMC leaders have used the "outsider" tag to target the BJP since the party depicted central leaders to the state in the run-up to next year's Assembly polls.

"Freedom fighters of Bengal never fought for only Bengal's independence. Those who have lost the trust of people here are talking about outsiders. Is the prime minister an outsider? Is the home minister an outsider? When they visit other states like Tripura, Assam, UP and Jharkhand to fight [polls] they are not considered outsiders," Ghosh said at a press conference.

He said, "Bengal has over 40 lakh people who are working in different states... What will happen if people of those states say that they are outsiders? If they are forced to return, will the government give them jobs here?... She (chief minister) is putting Bengalis working outside in danger."

Governor slams Bengal govt for bureaucracy 'in political captivity'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 21

WEST BENGAL Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday targeted the state government over the state home department raising questions over a few statistics - on crime and highlighting law and order issues - posted by him on social media. He said this indicated a "bureaucracy in political captivity".

Dhankhar posted a letter through which he has sought a response from the additional chief secretary (home) within a fortnight. He also said a similar letter to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee generated no response. "Accusatory tweets @HomeBengal qua Governor factually untenable and beyond justifiability. Flagged issue @MamataOfficial. Still non-responsive. These unfortunate transgressions are actionable. Targeting Constitutional head indicative of bureaucracy in 'political captivity.'" Dhankhar tweeted on Saturday.

"Such emasculation, capitulation and politicisation of police @WBPolice and bureaucracy @MamataOfficial unfortunate and augurs ill for democracy..."

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Special Trains will be revised due to operational constraints/speed enhancement as under:-

| Revised Timings of 02417/02418 Prayagraj - New Delhi - Prayagraj Special Superfast Train (Daily) | | | | | |
|--|-------|----------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| Train No.: 02417 | | | Train No.: 02418 | | |
| ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS | ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS |
| ---- | 22:10 | PRAYAGRAJ | 07:00 | ---- | ---- |
| 23:16 | 23:18 | FATEHPUR | 04:50 | 04:52 | ---- |
| 00:25 | 00:30 | KANPUR CENTRAL | 03:50 | 03:55 | ---- |
| 04:15 | 04:17 | ALIGARH | 23:55 | 23:57 | ---- |
| 06:13 | 06:15 | GHAZIABAD | 22:42 | 22:44 | ---- |
| 07:00 | ---- | NEW DELHI | ---- | 22:10 | ---- |

Revised Timings effective from : 02417 from Prayagraj from 25.11.2020 to till further advice and 02418 from New Delhi from 25.11.2020 to till further advice.

| Revised Timings of 02275/02276 Prayagraj - New Delhi - Prayagraj Humsafar Spl. Superfast Train (Daily) | | | | | |
|--|-------|----------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| Train No.: 02275 | | | Train No.: 02276 | | |
| ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS | ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS |
| ---- | 22:30 | PRAYAGRAJ | 06:20 | ---- | ---- |
| 00:35 | 00:40 | KANPUR CENTRAL | 03:20 | 03:25 | ---- |
| 06:10 | ---- | NEW DELHI | ---- | 22:30 | ---- |

Revised Timings effective from : 02275 from Prayagraj from 25.11.2020 to till further advice and 02276 from New Delhi from 25.11.2020 to till further advice.

| Revised Timings of 02451/02452 Kanpur Central - New Delhi - Kanpur Central Special Superfast Train (Daily) | | | | | |
|--|-------|----------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| Train No.: 02451 | | | Train No.: 02452 | | |
| ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS | ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS |
| ---- | 23:55 | KANPUR CENTRAL | 06:00 | ---- | ---- |
| 00:13 | 00:14 | PANKI DHAM | 05:09 | 05:10 | ---- |
| 05:50 | ---- | NEW DELHI | ---- | 23:55 | ---- |

Revised Timings effective from : 02451 from Kanpur Central from 25.11.2020 to till further advice and 02452 from New Delhi from 25.11.2020 to till further advice.

| Revised Timings of 04131/04132 Prayagraj - Udhampur - Prayagraj Special Superfast Train (Bi-Weekly) | | | | | |
|---|-------|------------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| Train No.: 04131 | | | Train No.: 04132 | | |
| ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS | ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS |
| ---- | 16:00 | PRAYAGRAJ | 13:00 | ---- | ---- |
| 17:10 | 17:12 | FATEHPUR | 11:10 | 11:12 | ---- |
| 18:12 | 18:17 | KANPUR CENTRAL | 10:15 | 10:20 | ---- |
| 19:40 | 19:42 | ETAWAH | 08:38 | 08:40 | ---- |
| 20:53 | 20:55 | TUNDLA | 07:40 | 07:42 | ---- |
| 21:43 | 21:45 | ALIGARH | 06:42 | 06:44 | ---- |
| 22:30 | 22:35 | KHURJA | 06:10 | 06:15 | ---- |
| 23:00 | 23:05 | BULANDSHAHR | 05:10 | 05:15 | ---- |
| 00:00 | 00:05 | HAPUR | 04:15 | 04:20 | ---- |
| 00:55 | 01:00 | MEERUT CITY | 03:40 | 03:45 | ---- |
| 01:37 | 01:39 | MUZAFFARNAGAR | 02:20 | 02:22 | ---- |
| 02:40 | 02:45 | SAHARANPUR | 01:20 | 01:30 | ---- |
| 04:00 | 04:05 | AMBALA CANTT. | 23:40 | 23:45 | ---- |
| 05:58 | 06:08 | LUDHIANA | 21:45 | 21:55 | ---- |
| 07:18 | 07:23 | JALANDHAR CANTT. | 20:42 | 20:47 | ---- |
| 09:11 | 09:16 | PATHANKOT CANTT. | 18:35 | 18:40 | ---- |
| 11:25 | 11:35 | JAMMU TAWI | 16:47 | 16:55 | ---- |
| 12:35 | ---- | UDHAMPUR | ---- | 15:40 | ---- |

Revised Timings effective from : 04131 from Prayagraj on every Tuesday & Saturday from 28.11.2020 to till further advice and 04132 from Udhampur on every Wednesday & Sunday from 29.11.2020 to till further advice.

| Revised Timings of 02033/02034 Kanpur Central - New Delhi - Kanpur Central Spl. Train (6 Days a Week) | | | | | |
|---|-------|----------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| Train No.: 02033 | | | Train No.: 02034 | | |
| ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS | ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS |
| ---- | 06:00 | KANPUR CENTRAL | 20:50 | ---- | ---- |
| 07:15 | 07:17 | ETAWAH | 19:05 | 19:07 | ---- |
| 09:05 | 09:07 | ALIGARH | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| 10:33 | 10:35 | GHAZIABAD | 16:24 | 16:26 | ---- |
| 11:20 | ---- | NEW DELHI | ---- | 15:50 | ---- |

Revised Timings effective from : 02033 from Kanpur Central from 25.11.2020 except Sunday to till further advice and 02034 from New Delhi from 25.11.2020 except Sunday to till further advice.

| Revised Timings of 02229/02230 Lucknow Jn - New Delhi - Lucknow Jn Mail Special Train (Daily) | | | | | |
|---|-------|--------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| Train No.: 02229 | | | Train No.: 02230 | | |
| ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS | ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS |
| ---- | 22:00 | LUCKNOW JN | 06:50 | ---- | ---- |
| Pass | 22:25 | ALAM NAGAR | 06:16 | 06:17 | ---- |
| 23:37 | 23:39 | HARDOI | 04:43 | 04:45 | ---- |
| 00:38 | 00:40 | SHAHJEHANPUR | 03:45 | 03:47 | ---- |
| 01:43 | 01:45 | BAREILLY | 02:37 | 02:39 | ---- |
| 02:38 | 02:40 | RAMPUR | 01:40 | 01:42 | ---- |
| 03:25 | 03:33 | MORADABAD | 01:05 | 01:13 | ---- |
| 05:02 | 05:05 | HAPUR | 23:22 | 23:25 | ---- |
| 05:59 | 06:01 | GHAZIABAD | 22:43 | 22:45 | ---- |
| 06:45 | ---- | NEW DELHI | ---- | 22:00 | ---- |

Revised Timings effective from : 02229 from Lucknow Jn. from 25.11.2020 and 02230 from New Delhi from 25.11.2020.

| Revised Timings of 02217/02218 Varanasi Jn - New Delhi - Varanasi Jn Mahamana Express Special Train (Tri-Weekly) | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| Train No.: 02217 | | | Train No.: 02218 | | |
| ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS | ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS |
| ---- | 18:55 | VARANASI JN | 08:25 | ---- | ---- |
| 19:48 | 19:50 | JAUNPUR CITY | 06:18 | 06:20 | ---- |
| 21:06 | 21:08 | SULTANPUR | 05:11 | 05:13 | ---- |
| 21:56 | 21:58 | NIHALGARH | 04:31 | 04:33 | ---- |
| 23:48 | 23:58 | LUCKNOW | 03:05 | 03:15 | ---- |
| 03:23 | 03:25 | BAREILLY | 23:06 | 23:08 | ---- |
| 04:55 | 05:02 | MORADABAD | 21:40 | 21:47 | ---- |
| 07:18 | 07:20 | GHAZIABAD | 19:23 | 19:25 | ---- |
| 08:05 | ---- | NEW DELHI | ---- | 18:40 | ---- |

Revised Timings effective from : 02217 from Varanasi Jn. on every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday from 26.11.2020 and 02218 from New Delhi on every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, from 25.11.2020.

| Revised Timings of 02055/02056 New Delhi - Dehradun - New Delhi Jan Shatabdi Express Special Train (Daily) | | | | | |
|--|-------|---------------|------------------|-------|----------|
| Train No.: 02055 | | | Train No.: 02056 | | |
| ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS | ARR. | DEP. | STATIONS |
| ---- | 15:20 | NEW DELHI | 11:05 | ---- | ---- |
| Pass | 15:28 | TILAK BRIDGE | 10:44 | 10:45 | ---- |
| 15:53 | 15:55 | GHAZIABAD | 10:16 | 10:18 | ---- |
| 16:32 | 16:34 | MEERUT CITY | 09:21 | 09:23 | ---- |
| 17:12 | 17:14 | MUZAFFARNAGAR | 08:40 | 08:42 | ---- |
| 17:32 | 17:34 | DEOBAND | 08:20 | 08:22 | ---- |
| 18:09 | 18:11 | TAPRI | 07:5 | | |

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, KM Rooma Masih D/o Masih Lal R/o H.No.C-2ND-430, Sangam Vihar, Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Roma Bux. 0040555341-3

I,VIKASH SHARMA S/O DEV PARKASH SHARMA R/O B-698, JJ COLONY, HASTSAL,UTTAM NAGAR,DELHI-110059. CHANGED MY NAME TO VIKAS SHARMA. 0040555761-1

I,Swati Gupta D/o Shri Ram Gupta,W/o Saket Rohatgi R/o-G-84,Indraprastha Apartment,Plot.No.1,Sector-14,Rohini Delhi-110085,have changed my name to Swati Rohatgi. 0040555763-3

I,Tara Shanker,S/o Pan Dev Joshi R/o-107-B, Pocket-C1,Mayur Vihar,Phase-3,Delhi-110096,have changed my name to Tara Shanker Joshi. 0040555761-6

I,Shakuntla Devi,W/o No-1441438 P SPR Mal Singh (Late),R/o 183-A,S,F,Flat.No-201,Arjun Nagar,Safdarjung-Enclave,New Delhi-110029,my correct date-of-Birth is- 12/06/1950 instead of- 24/01/1948. 0040555763-1

I,Rajeev Lawa S/o.Khushala Ram Lawa R/o-9/703,Plot.No.B-9/3, Shakti Kunj-Apartment Sector-62, Noida-U.P.,My name has been wrongly-written as Rajeev Lawa in my educational documents, the Actual name of mine is Rajeev Lawa 0040555728-1

I,Jitender Pal Singh s/o Attamjeet Singh Bindra R/o-RK-69, 4th-Floor,Gali- No.21,Bhagwati-Garden, Uttam+Nagar,New Delhi-110059,have change my name to Jitender Pal Singh Bindra, for all purposes. 0040555761-3

I,Gurdeep S/o Nekk Ram R/o 8/8, Indra Vikas Colony,Delhi - 110009, have changed my name to Gurdeep Bindra for all future purposes. 0040555763-4

I,Gurcharan Singh S/o Darshan Singh R/o-X/2838 Gali No.5 Raghubarpara No.2,Gandhi Nagar Delhi-110031,have changed my name to Gurcharan Singh for all purposes. 0040555761-5

I,Chander Mohan S/o A.P.Marwaha R/o-C-65, Shri Radha Apartments,Plot-3,Sector-9,N.Delhi-77,have changed my name to Chander Mohan Marwaha. 0040555763-2

I,Anju Malik,W/o Sudhita Kumar Malik R/o B-225 Sarita Vihar Delhi have changed my name after-marriage to Anjee Malik. 0040555761-2

I, Surender Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Kishan R/o GI-789, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi-110023 inform that I have changed my name from Surender Kumar to Surender Mehta for all purposes. 0040555748-1

I,Siddharth Munjal S/o Indra Munjal R/o A/1, Krishna Nagar Colony, Metro Gali Ratu Road, Hehal, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834005, have changed my name to Siddharth Malhotra 0070721606-1

I, Sanandana D/O Deepak Agnihotri R/O 185B Pocket A Mayur Vihar Delhi 110092, have changed my name to Sanandana 0050172055-1

I, Ram Lal S/o Bhanwar Lal R/O House No.-66, Prajapat Ka Bas, Pareu, Vill-Pareu, Teh-Gida, Dist-Barmer, Rajasthan-344032, have changed my name to Ramesh Prajapat 0070721601-1

I,Prakhar Dawer S/O Tilak Dawar, R/O 432/2 Shalimar Garden Ext 1 Ghaziabad have changed my name to Prakhar Dawar 0050172054-1

I, Narsi Kumar S/o Baij Nath R/O RZ-62 Gali No-3 Nangli Vihar Nangli Dairy Najafgarh New Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Narsi Kumar Prajapati 0070721599-1

I, Mohd. Rafi S/O Gulam Mohammad R/O-Prop.No.983, First Floor, Ward.No.7, Mehrauli, New Delhi-30, have changed my name from Mohd. Rafi to Abu Torab alias Mohd. Rafi for all future Purposes. 0040555765-4

I, Miss Payal Prashant Fulzele R/O Nagpur, have changed my religion from Buddhism to Islam and become Muslim, and also changed my name from Payal Fulzele to Payal Husain for all Purposes by Affidavit sworn before Public Notary. 0070721618-1

I, Deepak S/O Rajender Singh, R/O-31-A, West Sujan Singh Park Sonapat, have changed my name to Deepak Malik for all purposes. 0040555765-5

I, Ashwani Goyal S/O Raj Kumar Goyal R/O 2A 02, CC Grand, Vaibhad Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201014 have changed my name to Ashwini Kumar Goyal. 0040555741-1

I, Radha W/O Sh. Ashok Kumar Batra R/O WZ-1179-3, Nangal Raya, New Delhi-110046 have changed my name to Sunita Bala for all purposes. 0040555725-5

I, Hitesh Shivnani S/O Sh. Jagdish Shivnani R/O Flat No. 6, GH-14, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 have changed my name to Ved Oberoi for all purposes. 0040555726-6

I, SARFRAZ MOHAMMED GULAM,S/O GULAM MOHAMMAD R/O H.NO-234 2ND FLOOR MAIN ROAD ZAKIR NAGAR, JAMIA NAGAR, DELHI-110025 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO SARFARAZ MOHAMMAD 0040555761-4

LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the information that my Original Marksheet and Migration Certificate of Main, Secondary Examination of Year 2015 and Roll No. 8187522 and Original Qualifying Examination Certificate, Marksheet, Migration Certificate of Main, Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2017 and Roll No. 9194023 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate- SHEEL SAURABH, Flat no. 233, Munirka Vihar, Delhi-110067 (Mob.-9910665031) 0040555740-1

I,Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh,S/o Mohammad Yousof Sheikh,R/o Pandan Nowhatta Srinaagar,have lost my Adhar,ATM, Voter-Card, Pan-Card,DL anybody found cont-8899226858. 0040555763-6

LOST & FOUND

I, Ved Prakash Goyal, S/O Ram Pratap Goyal, 528 Katra Nagpur, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006, have lost our Property Documents of 120 SOYD of Kharsa No. 32/2 Swaroop Nagar, Libaspur, Delhi, i.e. Affidavit of SHIPAL, Payment Deposit Receipt of Electricity No. 530303 of ₹6840/-, Notorized Agreement to Sell between Shishpal and Ved Prakash Goyal, Notorized SPA by Shishpal in favor of Ved Prakash Goyal, Registered Payment Receipt of ₹2000/- by Shishpal in favor of Ved Prakash Goyal, Registered Will of Shishpal in favor of Ved Prakash Goyal, Notorized GPA by Shishpal in favor of Ved Prakash Goyal, Agreement To Sell, Affidavit Will, Registered Sale Deed of Kavita Sharma in favor of Shishpal. The Information Report in this regard has also been filed with Delhi Police vide LR No. 74694/2020 dated 20.11.2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is informed to all that my Client Anshu Dhupar S/O. Late Sh. Amar Nath Dhupar R/o. F-52, FF, (Adjoining property No. 51) Moti Nagar, New Delhi-16 has lost the original property documents in respect of Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Relinquishment Letter, Sub-lease and substitution Letter etc. place of lost Moti Nagar, on dated 18.11.2020. That my Client undertakes to produce the same documents if found in his and my client shall not incur the same and further undertakes the same documents shall be sent to the same address. NCR SO No. 4202000 L.R. No. 74507/2020 Advt. No. F-52, FF (Adjoining property No. 51), Moti Nagar, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sd/- (G.S. MANKEN) ADVOCATE 3A/58, WEA, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the public at large that my clients Shri. Dhara son of Late Shri Ranjit Lal and Smt. Mani Devi wife of Shri Dhara both resident of House No. 143, Gali No. 8 Najafgarh, Dindur Pur Flat No.1103 has hereby severed all relations with their daughter Ms. Ashya wife of Haroon Ali, Son of Late Haroon Ali son of Jaloo and their relations, namely, Shalimar, Nadeem, Sahana, Parvez and Suhana all children of aforementioned Haroon and Ashya and any other children that the said Haroon and Ashya may have in future. All their movable and immovable properties, past, present and any property that they may acquire in future and heretofore shall have no relation whatsoever with any one of them or of their unborn child and any child who shall be born hereafter, shall do as of their own risk and responsibilities.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my clientless Smt. Maya Devi W/o Late Sh. Chandra Dahiya R/O Flat No. 95, Pocket A-1, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have severed all her relationships with her son Sandeep R/Dahiya, his wife Sharmila Devi & grandson Ashok, all presently R/O Flat No. 103, Plot No. 176, Kirti Apartments-II, Ghazipur Colony, Gurugram, Haryana, from all her properties movable and immovable, whatsoever and wherever situated and also severed all her relations, social and economical, with them for their misbehavior and adamant attitude. Anybody dealing with them shall be at his/her/their own risk and my clientless shall not be responsible for the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the general public information that my client Jagjeet Kaur W/o Sh. Rawail Singh R/O C-181, Lalpat Nagar-1, New Delhi-110024 severed (debarred/dismantled and break down) all the relationship and debarred from his movable and immovable properties situated in India to his son namely Gurthaj Singh and his family due to their misbehavior and misconduct, my client have no concern with his above said son and his family in any manner whatsoever if anybody will deal with them in any manner they will be held responsible for the same and my client will not be responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Sarawati Joshi W/o Late Shri P. D. Joshi, R/o D-61/49 A, Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have disowned her son Saitish Joshi and daughter-in-law Kiran Punia, debarring them from all her movable and immovable properties due to their misbehavior and misconduct. If anybody dealing with them whatsoever shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility. My client will not be responsible in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Be it known to the general public that my client, Smt. Girish W/o Late Sh. Ram Bilash Singh aged about 56 years along with her younger son namely Amit and daughter namely Lata R/O C-2/185, Gali No.07, Harsh Vihar Delhi-110093, has severed her relationship with his son namely Ankit and his wife, Smt. Santoshina as a result of sufferings and harassment due to unsocial, aggressive, and inhumane act & behavior of her aforementioned son and his wife. If anybody keeps any relation or deals with them in any manner whatsoever, he/she would be doing solely at his/her own risk and consequences and my client shall not be responsible for the act of Ankit and his wife.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ashok Thagel (Advocate) Chamber No.477 (Lg), Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054 M. 98189243

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that the Public Property Flat No. 424, Car Garage No. 69, Ph.C-2, Phase-I, Shaikh Sarani, N.Delhi-17, is subject for Equitable Registered Mortgage with State Bank of India (Other Bank) Pl. the above said property at present status owned by Shri/Mrs. J. Shail Agarwal, W/o Sh. N.K. Agarwal, by virtue of Conveyance Deed duly Registered vide Regd.No.4699, dated on 08.09.2003. The Original Documents pertaining to the aforesaid Flat i.e.(1) Allotment Letter, dated on 13.02.1983, (2) Possession Letter-29.05.1984 dated on (3) NOC for Electric & Water Connection - 05.12.1983 & Payment of Receipt of the 1st to 10th installment & Allocation of Car Garage Date 23.05.2003 have been lost & FIR has been lodged in Police Station No.20, Noida, Dist.G.B.Nagar, U.P. on 01.10.2002. It is further submitted that my client Sh. Ravinder Kumar Verma (Sd/-K.V.) R/o H.No.17083 Silver Park, Shalimar, Delhi-32, (belly to purchase the above said Flat Property & affected Person) shall claim within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice on Mobile No. 8130401098. If found by anyone kindly return to the aforesaid person/ client. Mithilesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 717, District Courts Rohini, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform general public and all connected with my client Sh. Gurpreet Singh S/o Late Sh. Akhtar Singh R/o E-37, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, that my client had entered into an agreement to sell with owner the Sh. Raman Kapoor S/o Sh. Sham Sunder Kapoor R/o D-55, Balli Nagar, New Delhi-110015 in respect of One Hall with latrine, bath admeasuring approx.1050 sq.ft., on the First Floor out of Prop. bearing No.40, Raja Garden, New Delhi. My client has already made a part payment in respect of this property and is ready with the balance payment as well. General public is hereby informed not to deal with the Seller/Owner in respect with this property and if someone deals with owner, he/she shall do it at his/her own risk responsibility. IGBAL SINGH (Advocate) Off.-cum-Resd-16, Sarawati Garden, New Delhi-110015

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the general public information that my client Rawail Singh S/o Sh. Gurcharan Singh R/o C-161, Lalpat Nagar-1, New Delhi-110024 severed (debarred/dismantled and break down) all the relationship and debarred from his movable and immovable properties situated in India to his son namely Gurthaj Singh and his family due to their misbehavior and misconduct, my client have no concern with his above said son and his family in any manner whatsoever if anybody will deal with them in any manner they will be held responsible for the same and my client will not be responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the general public and all concerned for and on behalf of my clients Arvind Goyal S/O Late Ishwar Prasad Goyal and Mrs Meena Goyal W/O Arvind Goyal R/O A-505 Mansara Apartments, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096 that they are no more in control of their son Mukul Goyal and Daughter-in-Law Naina Surat Rawat as they do not care for them at all and misbehave with them, therefore they hereby disown them from all their movable and immovable properties with immediate effect. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk and my clients will not be responsible for their acts.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Naveen Sharma Advocate-On-Record, Supreme Court Office: H-35, L.G.F. Jangpura Extension New Delhi-14

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Court urges Ramani and Akbar to settle; little chance, says her lawyer

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

A DELHI court Saturday urged lawyers of former Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar and journalist Priya Ramani to consider settling the defamation case he has filed against her since the offence was compoundable in nature, with Ramani's lawyer saying there was little possibility of this.

This was the first hearing in the case by Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ravindra Pandey, who took over the case after the transfer of ACMM Vishal Pahuja by the Delhi High Court along with over a hundred judges on November 18.

The case before Pahuja was in the last stages of hearing, with



Akbar had filed defamation suit against Ramani

both sides having completed their final arguments. Akbar's lawyer, Senior Advocate Geeta Luthra, was about to complete her rebuttal to the final argument when Pahuja was transferred.

At Saturday's hearing, ACMM Pandey said, "The dispute between the two parties is compoundable in nature (a less serious criminal case). You are senior lawyers and have settled disputes

over the years. Is there possibility of a settlement? I don't know much about the case. I don't know the level of the dispute. Prima facie what I understand is that it is compoundable in nature. Both sides should decide, otherwise I will keep this for final arguments."

Bhavook Chauhan, who appeared on behalf of Ramani, said, "I actually don't see any possibility of compounding this complaint in particular. I believe that the stakes are high... The accused has said that what all she has said was the truth and in public interest."

ACMM Pandey then asked Luthra, "Is there possibility from your side for a settlement?" Luthra said, "I will have to check that with the briefing counsel."

ACMM Pandey said, "Then I am keeping it for arguments... But

if there is possibility of a settlement... out of 100 per cent, if there is even 0.5 per cent possibility of a settlement, then please both senior lawyers talk among each other." The magistrate said both sides would have to make efforts in this regard and said he would "try to complete the final arguments as soon as possible."

Luthra told the court that she wanted to start with her final arguments at the Saturday hearing itself, which was allowed by the court provided it was a brief introductory statement. Following this, Luthra told the court, "She (Ramani) wrote an article in Vogue in which she said a lot of such things which are derogatory... One year after this, she said that what she said in that article in 2017 was on Mr Akbar." Luthra

said Akbar's reputation was tarnished because of this.

"She has said that her article has one portion on Mr Akbar and the other portion is general. She has taken this defence for the first time in court... The law says that if you are alleging the truth, then the truth should be whole... She says that she is a journalist. I say that a journalist has a greater responsibility... They know that for a person his reputation is more important than their life," Luthra told the court.

Akbar has sued Ramani for defamation over allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment. With several other women coming forward with similar allegations against the former journalist, Akbar had resigned from the Council of Ministers.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

264 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 90,50,597
RECOVERED: 84,78,124
DEATHS: 1,32,726
TESTS: 1,30,657,808
DOUBLING RATE: 161.71**



| KEY STATES TO WATCH | TOTAL CASES | SURGE IN 24 HOURS | 7-DAY AVG GROWTH* | DOUBLING TIME** |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Maharashtra | 17,68,695 | 5,640 | 0.23% | 312.84 |
| Kerala | 5,51,669 | 6,018 | 1.01% | 71.02 |
| Delhi | 5,17,238 | 6,608 | 1.23% | 58.56 |
| West Bengal | 4,49,131 | 3,626 | 0.80% | 89.66 |
| Haryana | 2,12,355 | 3,104 | 1.17% | 61.73 |

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

| CASE FATALITY RATIO | POSITIVITY RATE | DAILY IN, DAILY OUT |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.47 | 7 DAYS EARLIER: 7.07 | DETECTED TODAY: 46,232 |
| NOW: 1.47 | NOW: 6.93 | RECOVERED TODAY: 49,715 |

Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths

Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease

Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on November 20, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive



Police personnel stationed in the old city area of Vadodara after the clash on Saturday night. Bhupendra Rama

Vadodara: On first night of curfew, clash between two communities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, NOVEMBER 21

A CLASH broke out between two communities in the old city area of Vadodara Saturday, the first evening of the Covid-19 curfew. The two communities, both Scheduled Castes, pelted stones in the Navi Dharti area. Police said they have been at odds for the last three months after a man and a woman from each side

eloped. Police brought the situation under control.

Central team visits as cases surge

Ahmedabad: A Central team Saturday met senior officials in Gandhinagar in view of rising Covid cases. Authorities have clamped curfew in Ahmedabad between 9 pm on November 20 and 6 AM on November 23. Besides, night curfews will remain in Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot.

57 officer trainees test positive at civil services academy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 21

As many as 57 officer trainees at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), the training institute for the civil services in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, have tested positive for Covid-19 since Friday. Twenty-four of the cases were reported on Saturday, the institute said.

LBSNAA tweeted from its official handle that the affected officer trainees have been quarantined in a dedicated Covid-19 care centre. It also said that more than 162 RT-PCR tests have been conducted since Friday. Institute Director Sanjeev Chopra was not available for comment despite multiple attempts to contact him.

"Today on 21st Nov, 24 fresh positive cases have been reported, taking the total number of cases to 57. All Covid related protocols are being followed in this regard," LBSNAA tweeted. Protocols relating to social distancing, frequent hand wash and wearing of mask are being strictly followed, it said in another tweet.

A total of 428 officer trainees are present at the campus for the 95th foundation course. "Academy is taking every measure to break the chain of Covid-19 spread... Food and other necessities are being delivered to the Officer Trainees in their hostels by staff who have been equipped adequately," it said.

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Website: www.kvic.org.in

EXPRESS OF INTEREST (EOI)

Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India intends to operate its six Departmental Sales Outlets (Khadi Gramodyog Bhavans) located at premium areas of Kolkata, Patna, Mumbai, Goa, Ernakulam & Bhopal under Private Public Partnership (PPP) mode through bonafide entities. It is expected that the private partner will source Khadi & Village Industry products for sale from the approved manufacturing institutions/units of KVIC and the sales to be effected through the KIMIS software, using the existing infrastructure. All expenses of operation, maintenance, services, rent etc to be borne by the partner, leaving a percentage of sales turnover to KVIC, supported with security deposit/bank guarantee. Interested entities are requested to convey their terms and conditions, with a profile of existing business activities to us and email the same to mktng.kvic@gov.in captioning 'EOI for PPP operation of DSOs'. By considering the EOI points made, we will finalise the Request For Proposal (RFP) for bid process. For any clarification, please e-mail to us.

Dy. Director (Marketing)

BRIEFLY



Swapna Suresh

KERALA

Crime Branch to probe 'voice clip' of Suresh

Thiruvananthapuram: The Crime Branch will conduct a probe into the voice clip purported to be of gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh, now in judicial custody, alleging that central agencies were putting pressure on her to give a statement against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. An SIT of the crime branch has been entrusted to conduct the preliminary enquiry, police sources said. The direction in this regard was issued by DGP Loknath Behera Saturday. In the clip, released by an online portal Wednesday, Suresh, lodged in a women's prison here, purportedly said that the investigation agencies allegedly tried to force her to name Vijayan, which she refused to do. **PTI**

MAHARASHTRA

Pune schools to remain shut till December 13

Pune: Two days before schools in Pune were to reopen, the civic bodies of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad decided to postpone the reopening. While Pune Mayor Murlidhar Mohol announced that all schools in the city will remain shut till December 13, PCMC Commissioner Shrawan Hardikar said all schools in civic limits will remain shut till November 30. On Friday, Maharashtra state school Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad had announced that local officials, such as municipal commissioners and district collectors, will discuss the situation in their respective areas and reopen schools accordingly. **ENS**

GOA

Schools partially reopen with SOPs in place

Panaji: Schools partially reopened in Goa on Saturday eight months after they were shut due to the pandemic, with students of Classes 10 and 12 resuming their studies. According to the government, most classes with 30 per cent of the syllabus already shelved should be running by December. The decision to reopen schools comes after Chief Minister Pramod Sawant gave his nod for the move after ensuring that all SOPs are in place, like thermal screening of students, sanitising, wearing of masks, social distancing etc. **ENS**

A vehicle in flames during the protest at Panisagar in North Tripura district. **PTI**

TRIPURA

Violence over Bru resettlement, protester killed in police firing

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, NOVEMBER 21

A HIGHWAY blockade in Tripura against the resettlement of Bru refugees Saturday spiralled into arson and clashes between protesters and the police, who then opened fire on the gathering "in self-defence" and killed one of the demonstrators.

At least 20 people—including police and Fire Services personnel—suffered injuries in the clashes at Panisagar of North Tripura district.

The blockade of National Highway 8 was the latest flash-point in the indefinite strike called Monday by the Joint Movement Committee (JMC)—a forum of local ethnic civil societies including Nagarik Surakhsha Mancha and Mizo Convention—in the district's Kanchanpur subdivision. The joint body is against

the decision to settle over 5,000 Brus out of the total of 32,000 refugees in Kanchanpur.

These refugees, who fled Mamit, Kolasib and Lunglei districts of adjoining Mizoram in 1997, are being resettled in Tripura as part of an agreement among the two state governments, the Centre and Bru migrants.

During the indefinite strike, a water supply pump operator had been severely assaulted and around 20 families fled a village in panic.

On Saturday morning, a large group of people gathered on the NH 8 at Panisagar and blocked it, demanding the withdrawal of the resettlement formula.

The group soon turned violent. After a clash, the police baton-charged and fired upon the mob, killing 40-year-old Srikanta Das, a carpenter who joined the protests.

Additional Director General of

Police Rajiv Singh told *The Indian Express* that the police was compelled to fire in self-defence since the crowd had turned unruly and tried to snatch weapons from law enforcement personnel.

"The crowd obstructed the National Highway since morning without permission. We tried to dissuade them from the move and after they became violent, we tried mild lathi-charge, blank firing but the crowd went unruly and tried to snatch weapons. Police fired in self-defence," he said.

Singh said one person was killed in the police firing and a few others were wounded. He added that at least nine Tripura Police and Fire Service personnel were injured by the protesters.

JMC convenor Sushanta Baruah claimed they were protesting peacefully and that the police opened fire without provocation.

2008 BENGALURU SERIAL BLASTS

Key accused fled to Saudi using visa obtained 5 months before blasts, investigation reveals

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, NOVEMBER 21

A 35-YEAR-OLD man who was "informally deported" from Saudi Arabia and arrested at the Thiruvananthapuram airport on September 21 in connection with the July 2008 serial blasts in Bengaluru fled India 12 years ago, using a Saudi visa he obtained five months prior to the blasts, investigations by the police have revealed.

Shuhaib Kattukalanthakath alias Faizal, who was arrested by the Bengaluru Police upon his arrival at Thiruvananthapuram, was part of a group that planted nine IEDs around Bengaluru and was physically present when some of the devices were planted, officials said.

Some of the IEDs, which were made using printed circuit boards as timers, failed. However, one exploded at a bus stop in south Bengaluru's Madivala, causing the death of a 32-year-old woman.

The probe after Shuhaib's arrest has revealed that he was in possession of a visa for Saudi Arabia several months before the bombings. "He left the country within a few days of the blasts. He had planned it well in ad-

advance," police sources said.

The mystery behind the bombings unravelled in October 2008 when four youths from Kerala were shot dead by security forces in Kashmir while they were allegedly attempting to cross over to Pakistan to join a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) training camp. The investigations from Kashmir revealed that the four youths -- Abdul Raheem, Mohammad Fayas, Md Fayas and Md Yasin -- were among a group of men from Kerala who were funded by the LeT to carry out blasts in Bengaluru.

As many as 32 persons were subsequently arrested by police and agencies, including prime accused Tadiyandavede Nasir and his associate Shafas Shamsuddin, who had escaped to Bangladesh. After their arrest, Bengaluru Police in December 2009 said in a statement, "The Bangalore city serial blasts were carried out with the financial assistance and guidance of the LeT. Nasir and Shafas were assisted financially by the LeT during their stay in Bangladesh."

One of the high-profile personalities arrested for the conspiracy to execute the Bengaluru bombings is firebrand Kerala political leader Abdul Nasser Madani.

The case is currently in the trial stage and a separate chargesheet will be filed against Shuhaib, police sources said.

A key suspect still missing in the case is Kerala resident K P Sabeer, a former SIMI leader with strong connections to the LeT. Sabeer, who fled India on a fake passport in November 2008, is reportedly living in Pakistan, according to information obtained by security agencies in April 2016.

The NIA's investigations in a case related to the 2008 recruitment of Kerala youths for terrorism has revealed that Sabeer took five youths -- Raheem, Fayas, Fayis, Yasin and Abdul Jabbar -- to Kashmir in September 2008 and handed them over to an LeT operative. The five were reportedly taken to an LeT camp for training, but Raheem, Fayas, Fayis and Yasin were shot dead by security forces. Jabbar, who managed to escape, was later arrested by the Kerala Police.

It is suspected that Sabeer's escape was facilitated by the then LeT commander Rehan alias Wali alias Abdul Aziz alias Rashid Abdullah, a Pakistani national, who has also been linked to the November 26, 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Agra dentist murdered at her home, children left injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

A 38-YEAR-OLD dentist was on Friday murdered at her home in Agra, and her two children left injured, by a man who entered the house on the pretext of repairing a TV set-top box, the police said.

While the children escaped with minor injuries, Dr Nisha Singhal died during treatment at a local hospital.

The accused, identified as Shubham Pathak, 26, was arrested past Friday midnight and a bag of cash and jewelry, which he had allegedly robbed from the Singhal residence after the murder, was recovered from him, the police said on Saturday.

Dr Nisha ran a dental home clinic and was a private practitioner. Her husband, Dr Ajay Singhal, a plastic surgeon specialising in burns and transplant, was not home at the time of the crime, the police said.

SP (City), Agra, Botre Rohan Pramod said: "We received information that a man had murdered a doctor in her home in Kaveri Kunj, Kamla Nagar. We

At victim's residence: police say robbery was motive. **Express**

formed teams and carried out surveillance. We received information on his (accused) whereabouts and traced his bike. Late Friday night, he was arrested after a brief encounter in which he received an injury."

Pramod said police suspect the accused, Shubham, had planned to rob the house, and "it appears a resistance to the robbery led to the crime".

According to police, Shubham comes from Sitanagar in Agra and was known to the victim's family for the last more than a year. He ran an electronics shop in the lo-

cality, and the Singhals often called him to recharge their TV sets, the police said.

Around 3.30 pm on Friday, when Shubham came to their house, as Ajay had asked for some repair in the set-top box, Nisha did not have any reason for suspicion since he had come there on multiple occasions earlier, police said. Their two children -- aged 4 and 8 -- were in another bedroom, they said.

"During investigation, we found Shubham had taken a loan recently and was finding it difficult to repay. It appears he

planned to rob the house (to repay the loan). The accused does not have a prior criminal history," SP Pramod said.

Shubham allegedly had an argument with Nisha, as she objected to giving him money, after which he attacked her with a knife, police said. He got the knife from the house itself and stabbed at Nisha's throat, leading to excessive bleeding. As the children had seen it, Shubham attacked them, too, banging their heads against the wall, the police said.

"The children showed presence of mind. When the accused tried to hurt them, they lay on the ground, pretending to be injured or dead. The accused spared them thinking they had been incapacitated," Pramod said.

Shubham subsequently emptied the cupboards for cash and valuables and left in about an hour, the police said.

According to the police, Shubham was identified through CCTV cameras installed on the staircase and opposite the Singhals' house. CCTV images showed him purportedly entering the house, wearing a black helmet, and leaving the area later on a motorcycle, the police said.

Perarivalan hopes revive: Centre says CBI has no role, up to Governor

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, NOVEMBER 21

RAJIV GANDHI assassination case convict A G Perarivalan overcame a major hurdle in his legal fight for remission of his sentence on Friday, with the Centre telling the Supreme Court that the CBI has nothing to do with his petition and that it was an issue between the petitioner and the office of the Tamil Nadu Governor.

Saying that the Governor can "take a call on the issue whether remission is to be granted or not", the Centre said, "In so far as relief is concerned in the present matter, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has no role."

Earlier this month, the state had told the Supreme Court that Governor Banwarilal Purohit was awaiting legal consultation before giving assent to a recommendation by the Tamil Nadu government in 2018 to release all the seven convicts serving life term in the 1991 killing, including Perarivalan.

It was in December 2015 that Perarivalan first applied for pardon to the then governor. When no action was taken, a plea was filed on his behalf by his mother in the apex court. In September 2018, the Court directed the governor to decide the pardon plea as he "deemed fit". Within three days, the Tamil Nadu Cabinet recommended to the Governor to release all the seven convicts.

However, the Governor has since sat on the recommendation, despite it being asserted twice in the Cabinet in the past two years. All political parties in the state, which goes to polls soon, had welcomed the order recommending the release of the seven, with the issue having much resonance in the state.

Earlier this month,

Perarivalan's case came up before the Supreme Court again, with the petition pointing out that Governor Purohit was yet to take a decision on the matter. The Court frowned upon the Centre's submission that the probe by a CBI-led Multi Disciplinary Monitoring Agency into the assassination was still on, noting that the investigation was about the "larger conspiracy". "It is not for them [people already convicted]." It also pulled up the CBI for failing to make any significant progress in its investigation.

While constitutionally, the Governor cannot reject a Cabinet decision, the statute does not prescribe a time limit for disposal of a mercy petition by either the Governor or President.

Prabu Ramasubramaniam, Perarivalan's counsel in the Supreme Court, told *The Sunday Express* that they wanted to bring to the Court's attention the long delay on the part of the Governor. "Perarivalan has overcome a major hurdle (on Friday)," he said.

Perarivalan was 19 when he was arrested in June 1991 for the killing. He was accused of having bought two battery cells for Sivaranas, the LTTE member who masterminded the assassination. Perarivalan was on death row for 23 years until the Supreme Court commuted his death sentence along with two other convicts, Murugan and Santhan, to life, in February 2014.

In 2017, Perarivalan came home for the first time since his arrest on parole.

Incidentally, in November 2013, V Thiagarajan, a retired CBI SP, revealed that he had altered Perarivalan's statement in custody to "qualify it as a confession statement". Even though Thiagarajan submitted the same before the Supreme Court, the statement was never revisited.

UP cop, kin killed over garbage dispute; 4 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 21

A POLICE constable, his sister and their mother were killed by their relatives using blunt and sharp-edged weapons following an argument over garbage disposal in Uttar Pradesh's Banda district on Friday night. Four people have been arrested.

The deceased have been identified as Abhijeet Verma (25), his mother Rameshwari and younger sister Nisha Verma. Abhijeet was posted as a police constable in Prayagraj.

Police said the argument started between the two families after the accused dumped leftovers in front of victims' residence. It soon turned violent and the accused attacked the victims with sticks and blunt objects. The injured were sent to a nearby government hospital where they were declared dead.

"Both the sides are related to each other and have houses nearby. They had some enmity, and around 11.30 pm on Friday, one Devraj threw dinner leftovers in front of Abhijeet's house. They objected to it, but the accused did not stop. This led to an argument between them, and soon, their family members joined," said district SP Siddharth Shankar Meena.

The SP added that a friend of Abhijeet, identified as Dileep, was also beaten up when he tried to intervene. While the accused left the injured, they were rushed to the hospital by other locals. The three were, however, declared brought dead. Meena added that later in the day around 2 am they sent teams which arrested four of the accused.

"Four persons -- Devraj, his two brothers and a sister -- have been arrested, and we are trying to identify and trace other accused," he said.

Man shot in birthday party at UP MLC's flat; 4 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 21

A 35-YEAR-OLD man was shot under mysterious circumstances during a birthday party at Samajwadi Party MLC Amit Yadav's official residence under the Hazratganj police station limits in Lucknow on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.

Flat caretaker Pankaj Singh, Vinay Yadav, Gyanendra Kumar and Aftab Alam have been arrested under the murder charge and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The men, in their early 30s, were celebrating Vinay's birthday. According to police, MLC Amit Yadav was not part of the party.

Police said they are investigating how victim Rakesh Rawat, an

accountant, was shot with an unlicensed .32 bore pistol allegedly belonging to the caretaker. However, a preliminary interrogation revealed that a bullet hit Rakesh while the pistol was being handed over by him to Vinay.

Lucknow DCP (Central) Somen Barma said, "The accused said the pistol went off when Vinay was seeing it. On further interrogation, they said that the pistol and two magazines belonged to caretaker Pankaj Singh and were in the house before the party started. When they were drunk, Pankaj brought the pistol from another room. When Rakesh was seeing it, Vinay asked for it. That's when it went off and a bullet hit Rakesh. He was taken to the KGMU Trauma Centre in Aftab's car. He died on the way." Pankaj has been living in the flat as a caretaker for the past five years.

Tata Literature Live: Chomsky-Prashad discussion cancelled hours before event

SURBHI GUPTA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

A DISCUSSION between linguist and social critic Noam Chomsky and historian-editor Vijay Prashad, part of the ongoing week-long Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest, was cancelled hours before the event on Friday, the two said in a joint statement. Scheduled to take place on Friday evening, over the online platform Zoom, it was to be live streamed on various social-media platforms.

The move follows the duo's decision to read a statement



Chomsky, Prashad

against "corporations such as the Tatas, and the Tatas in particular", responding to a joint appeal by 50 activists and civil society members, urging them to not participate in an event sponsored by the company.

In their statement, the academics said that the organisers

got in touch with them in September to participate in a conversation around Chomsky's latest book, *Internationalism or Extinction* (2019, Routledge).

Speaking to *The Sunday Express*, Prashad said, "Both of us agreed to hold this dialogue because we believe that the themes in the book, be it the dangers of nuclear war, climate change, and the erosion of democracy, require debate and discussion."

The US-based Prashad added that they were only informed of the cancellation on the day of the event, without citing any reason.

Responding to the incident, a senior member of the festival's

organising committee said, "The different programmes at the festival give an insight into the kind of diversity of views and subjects being covered, which in the present political climate, would be considered absolutely anti-establishment... However, the idea of the festival is to have a free exchange of ideas, and not a free exchange of anyone's agenda."

Festival director Anil Dharker in a statement late Saturday expressed respect and admiration for Chomsky, but said the decision to cancel the session "was necessary to protect the integrity of the festival".

Global Sustainability Film Awards announced

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

A NETFLIX documentary on an octopus, a BBC production on a man who turned farmland into a rainforest and a WWF film on the link between deforestation and food were among the winners at an awards presentation for films based on the environment, organised by UK-based charity TVE (Television for the Environment).

The Global Sustainability Film Awards 2020 (GSFA), organised with Difficult Dialogues, picked out winners under eight competitive and two nominated categories. The online awards presentation was complemented by four panel discussions on themes

related to global sustainability.

TVE GSFA, which is in its ninth year, awards films both on their creativity as well as on the sustainability impact. It had received over a hundred film submissions from 17 countries. The five-day long online event, focused on current environmental issues, was attended by sustainability experts, filmmakers, businesses, not for profit organizations and youth leaders.

Surina Narula, MBE, Founder of Difficult Dialogues and the TVE GSFA said: "The last week has been a roller coaster ride showcasing the collection of shortlisted and winning films and incisive discussions on developing a more sustainable world including difficult dia-

logues with businesses because of the dilemma of profit over sustainability. This year going virtual over five days gave us more time to provide a better experience for filmmakers and the visibility to showcase our youth ambassadors and their work."

The award winners of the competitive categories included *Once You Know* (Pulp Films) and *Our Planet: Our Business* (WWF-UK), *Helping People Put the Planet First* (BBC StoryWorks), *BREEF and Rolex Preserve and Protect Nature* (The Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation), *10 Myths about Deforestation and Food* (WWF-UK), *A Failure of the Imagination* (The Progress Film Company), *Turning the Tide* (Stramash

Films), *The Man who grew his own Amazon Rainforest* (BBC, People Fixing the World) and *Traces* (Sébastien Pins).

My Octopus Teacher (Directed by Pippa Ehrlich and James Reed) won in the nominated awards category along with Coronavirus Pandemic: Making Safer Emergency Hospitals (CineTecture Ltd) in the category for Artificial Intelligence.

My Octopus Teacher is a Netflix Original documentary released worldwide in September 2020. It captures the daily experiences of free diver Craig Foster off the coast of South Africa and his observation of an octopus in her natural habitat and her ability to battle predators and adapt to her environment.

11 SUNDAY STORY

This photograph was taken on October 26, a week before Aishwarya's death, at Telangana's Kondapochamma reservoir, which she visited with her friend Varshini and her family. She had spent almost all of October at Varshini's, returning home on November 1. She killed herself the following day.



'If I can't study, I can't live...'

On November 2, Aishwarya Reddy, a student of Delhi University's LSR College, killed herself, citing financial troubles. SUKRITA BARUAH in New Delhi & RAHUL V PISHARODY in Hyderabad tell the story of the 19-year-old — the front bencher for whom the campus opened a world of possibilities — and her desperate cries for help

FOR 19-YEAR-OLD Aishwarya Reddy, the future glittered with possibilities — her civil service dreams, a scholarship to her name, and trips with friends to Old Delhi and the Taj Mahal. Yet, there was a looming spectre, of financial distress, that she feared would snuff out all else.

Over a year ago, she had catapulted from the one-bedroom home that she shared with her sister and daily-wager parents in Telangana to the red-brick corridors of a college in the national capital, one of the premier institutions in the country. On November 2, she died by suicide at home, far away from Lady Sri Ram College (LSR) for Women.

In her final note, she wrote, "I am a burden for my family. My education is a burden. If I can't study, I can't live." Her family says she had been stressed about a notice from college asking her to vacate her hostel room, and her family not being able to afford a laptop for her to attend online classes.

Aishwarya's family first realised the full breadth of her academic potential when she stood first in her school in Class 10 with a 9.5 CGPA. In recognition of her potential and the family's financial constraints, she was offered free schooling at the senior secondary level by a private institution in Shadnagar. In Class 12, she stood second in the town with 98.5%. With some push from her teachers and others close to the family, Aishwarya applied for a Bachelor's degree in Delhi, hoping that it would be a boost for her UPSC preparations.

Her high percentage secured her a seat in the B.Sc. (Honours) Mathematics programme at LSR, the second highest-ranked college in the country in 2020, according to the Central government's National Institutional Ranking Framework.

At the time of her admission, her father Ganta Srinivas Reddy, a motorcycle mechanic, mortgaged their home for Rs 2 lakh to support her education. Today, he has to pay back the loan with an interest of 24.54% at an EMI of Rs 4,904 till July 2026. Aishwarya's 16-year-old sister Vaishnavi dropped out of school after Class 7 to let the family accommodate her elder sister's education. While Reddy says he would have gone to any extent to support Aishwarya's studies, the truth is

he had already given most of what he had.



In many ways, Aishwarya was part of a shift taking place in some of the top colleges of Delhi University, with their balance of student population now heavily tilted towards students from outside Delhi, a significant number of them from the southern states, and many from families with first-generation college-goers.

"When she first met me and found out that I'm from Kerala, she immediately said, 'Thank god I got someone from South India!' She probably meant it as a joke... I'm not sure," says Hana Fathima, Aishwarya's room-mate in the hostel at LSR.

"We were both completely new to Delhi. My Hindi was quite weak and I had trouble communicating. Aishwarya's Hindi was better than mine though not great. But that didn't bother her and she spoke with confidence," she says.

Aishwarya's friends talk of her as the front-bencher with a fierce focus on studies, but for whom the campus and hostel had thrown open a world of possibilities.

"She was a brilliant student. We used to sit in the first row in almost every class... All our teachers knew her. In our first year, we had a maths department festival and she was part of the organising committee," says Indu, Aishwarya's classmate and one of her closest friends in college.

"She was quite childish and even careless sometimes. I remember scolding her once — we were in an auto in a crowded area and she had her phone almost hanging out. But when it came to studies, she was completely focused and tidy. She would study day and night during exam season," says Hana.

Even with her focus on studies, it was the hostel which became the centre of her life.

Her friend Varshini recalls how they first met. She and her parents were in the college queue at the time of admission when Aishwarya's father heard her family speaking in Telugu. He walked over, introduced the two girls and asked Varshini to look after his daughter. Shy and reticent at the start, Aishwarya went on to spend almost all her time in Varshini's room.

"We used to spend a lot of time in the hostel. Sometimes we would hang out until late



Aishwarya's father Srinivas, a motorcycle mechanic, had mortgaged their home for Rs 2 lakh to support her education

to the hostel lawns. Most of the time, we just chilled in my room, chatting, studying, watching movies. In fact, we spent so much time there that we told each other that when we came back to Delhi, we must not waste more time like this and must explore the city before we got busy with preparations for competitive exam. We had been to the Mughal Gardens and explored North Campus, but we also wanted to see Old Delhi and maybe even go to Agra to see the Taj Mahal," says Varshini.

For all the unevenness of the city and the world outside, the hostel, Varshini explains, was a safe, familiar space for the girls.

"Many of us from South India have studied in state education board schools, and in our departments and in college sometimes, we can sense that we are considered not good enough. People think state boards mark liberally, which is why we get high marks in Class 12. But in the hostel, there are girls from everywhere and not just elite city schools. Those of us from similar backgrounds formed a really tight group and the hostel was a safe space for us," she says.

However in March, close to the end of her first year of college, as students returned to their homes because of the nationwide lockdown in response to Covid-19, Aishwarya's life upended completely.



Aishwarya was closest to her father Srinivas. Yet, her last few months at home had been filled with arguments, unspoken guilt and resignation. Just before the lockdown, Srinivas, who worked at a bike-mechanic shop in the town, had borrowed money to open his own shop. The lockdown meant that Srinivas's business never took off and his wife Sumathi's tailoring work dried up too.

In August, Delhi University began its third semester in online mode, and Aishwarya's college began conducting classes from morning till 5 in the evening. As a science student, she also had online practical papers.

Sumathi says that over the last few months, Aishwarya had been stressed about her online classes and not being able to submit her assignments because she didn't have a laptop. Besides, she received a message from the college hostel authorities asking her to vacate her room by the end of October. "She wanted to go to Delhi. But we did not have money to afford her train ticket. How could we have got her a laptop?" Sumathi says.

As per LSR hostel's policy, only first-year

to my financial condition but somehow with the encouragement given by my mentors and to pursue my dream (IAS), (I was) admitted in Lady Sri Ram College for Women and now I got into debt..."

A month earlier, on August 6, Aishwarya had received a provisional offer letter from the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research's (INSPIRE) Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE), offered by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), but was unsure if she would receive the money.

"I may be able to get SHE-scholarship by next year (processing and not sure), but I am requesting you to help me through this difficult time so that I don't have to drop out of college," she wrote in the email to Sood.

Attaching copies of bank statements and other documentary proof, she further wrote: "If you are really willing to help I will show my sincerity through my results."

Less than two months later, Aishwarya killed herself.

While her death has rekindled the conversation around the digital divide and how online learning has widened existing fault lines, it has also thrown into sharp focus the need for colleges to introspect the limits of their structures.

While questions are being raised about whether LSR did its bit to address the digital gap and if it went too far in implementing its hostel policy given these times, besides larger issues of how well, if at all, colleges are equipped to handle structural exclusivity, LSR authorities have been maintaining that Aishwarya never approached her teachers, the college counsellor, or the administration for help.

Hostel warden Ujjayini Ray says, "She did not in any way communicate... to the hostel seeking an extension in dates for collecting her luggage, nor communicate her financial problems... Several students had applied for an extension, each application was discussed and a general extension given till November 10. Even after that, extensions have been given to students on genuine grounds like cancellation of trains, illness, etc." After Aishwarya's death, the college has indefinitely postponed the hostel vacating process.

The *Sunday Express* reached out to LSR Mathematics Department Teacher-in-Charge Monika Singh and another senior teacher, Jyoti Darbari, to ask about Aishwarya's academic performance and whether the department had been tracking if any of their students had been falling behind with the shift to online mode. However, neither responded to the queries.

At the end of her first year, Aishwarya had a CGPA of 7.91. A mathematics teacher in another DU college said while a 7.91 CGPA would not be at the top end of a competitive classroom, it would still be considered "good, consistent score".

Aishwarya's friends said she appeared to be "satisfied" with her scores. While the college has now announced some steps to offer relief to its students, including making hostel rooms available to second-year students on a 'need' basis and expediting the process of disbursing income-based free-ship amounts, a teacher at LSR, not among Aishwarya's teachers, said that over and above

college-level interventions, Delhi University must also rethink the way it has transitioned to the online mode.

"Students have approached us saying that they are finding it hard to cope with the long hours of online classes but we have explained to them that there is nothing we can do about that because there are a certain number of credits we need to complete over certain hours of classes. The university has simply sought to transfer whatever was happening offline to the online mode," the teacher said.

In September, the LSR Students' Union had raised the students' concerns over long online classes by conducting a survey of over 1,400 students. Aishwarya was among the 95.5% respondents who said that the classes were affecting their mental and physical health. The survey found 27.5% respondents without access to laptops, of whom 91.6% responded saying college authorities had not reached out to help with alternatives.

Union general secretary Unnimaya says the college didn't do enough to reach out to students. "LSR is structurally a very elite space and students from socially and economically marginalised backgrounds feel alienated... I don't know how the administration can say that they weren't aware that this student was having a difficult time when student representatives have been pointing out to them that there were certain issues which were distressing students during the lockdown," she asks.



'LSR is a very elite space... those from weak backgrounds feel alienated... How can administration say it wasn't aware of her issues,' says a student union leader

Aishwarya had spent almost all of October, the month before her death, with Varshini, who lives in a town around four hours from hers.

"I spent nine days in her house in October and then we came to my house. She was with us till November 1. We celebrated Dussehra together and spent the month

in each other's company since we had met after so many months. At no point did she share that she was so distressed. We even had a plan on how to vacate our hostel rooms — some of us would rent a flat and keep our things there and since Aishwarya was having a hard time, she needn't have paid the rent till her issues were sorted. My uncle works in a bank and my mother had said she would help her with an education loan... All that I'm reading and hearing now feels so far removed, so distant, from our last days together," she says.

On her last night in Varshini's house, the two girls had had a chat with Indu — who was at her home in Andhra Pradesh.

"We had spoken about our practicals but it was a very optimistic conversation. We had spoken about how we weren't alone in our problems and that our teachers are understanding and wouldn't force us with submissions we couldn't do," says Indu.

She now often wonders why Aishwarya gave up; she was, after all, the most optimistic among her friends.

"At the beginning of our first year, there were times when I would feel really low because of how new everything was to me. But Aishwarya would be the one who would encourage me... She would do her best at anything she was part of and she was strong, brave and joyful."

EXPLAINED

Systemic gaps

AISHWARYA'S DEATH points to larger systemic gaps in the university and college set-up with respect to students and their wellbeing. In the weeks and months before her death, Aishwarya had sent out several SOS — filled up a college survey, in which she was among 95.5% respondents who said that online classes were affecting their mental and physical health, and even responded to an offer of help by actor Sonu Sood.

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM
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According to Dr Panagariya, the champions were P V Narasimha Rao and A B Vajpayee, and Mr Narendra Modi belongs to that league of two while Dr Manmohan Singh does not. Most economists of the world, including Dr Panagariya's mentor, Prof Jagdish Bhagwati, would be shocked by that conclusion

Reforms for what — growth or glory?

I WELCOME the manner in which Professor Arvind Panagariya has joined the debate on reforms and growth. In answer to my column *Reforms and Growth* (*The Indian Express*, October 18), he has penned an article 'Defending Modi's Reforms Record'. I am happy that he has kept the debate at a scholarly and civil level.

In my column, I had analysed the five reforms trumpeted by Mr Modi's supporters. I had concluded that "the ultimate test of a reform is whether it adds to or accelerates the rate of growth of GDP". I was reminding Dr Panagariya of the gold standard of reforms; I had not "shifted the goalpost", as contended by him.

Having crossed that diversion, let me turn to the meat of Dr Panagariya's argument: who delivered most reforms? Note the word "most". According to Dr Panagariya, the champions were P V Narasimha Rao and A B Vajpayee, and Mr Narendra Modi belongs to that league of two while Dr Manmohan Singh does not. Most economists of the world, including Dr Panagariya's mentor, Prof Jagdish Bhagwati, would be

shocked by that conclusion. Be that as it may, since Dr Panagariya has used the word "most" — a quantitative measure — we have to list and count the reforms under each prime minister. I had already noted the five reforms that Dr Panagariya attributed to Mr Modi:

1. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
2. Farm Laws
3. Labour Reforms
4. Reforming Medical Education
5. Liberalising FDI

For some reason, Dr Panagariya under-emphasised the botched-up GST and hid the disastrous Demonetisation. For the sake of completeness, we must add the two to the five. So, that makes it seven 'reforms'.

I shall not, once again, get into the argument whether 'Reforming Medical Education' by constituting the National Medical Commission is a 'reform' or whether 'Liberalising FDI' can be attributed solely to Mr Modi as if he allowed FDI for the first time. Remember, we are doing a quantitative count, not a qualitative assessment. The score is seven.

Let me now list and count the reforms under Dr Singh as prime minister (2004-2014). Before you read the list, here are several caveats. I have left out reform measures that had run their course, for example, the Banking Cash Transaction Tax that had tracked large withdrawals and deposits of cash. I have also left out measures like the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council and the Investment Commission that were very person-centric. Some reform measures were initiated by the UPA but are now known by different names, and they are included. I have followed the tests of longevity and durability of the reform measure.

I shall accept the growth rate numbers given by Dr Panagariya: Narasimha Rao 5.1 per cent, Vajpayee 5.9, Dr Singh 7.7 and Mr Modi 6.8. Number-wise, the record of Dr Singh's two terms of five years far exceeds the record of any prime minister. (To be fair to Dr Singh, many of the seminal reforms ushered in during the tenure of Narasimha Rao should also be attributed to Dr Singh who, as finance minister, was the real author.)

Here is a severely limited list of reforms during 2004-2014:

1. VAT, 2. MGNREGA, 3. Aadhaar, 4. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), 5. 'No frills' or 'Zero Balance' bank account, 6. Consolidation of Regional Rural Banks, 7. Right to Education Act, 8. National Rural Health Mission; ASHA, 9. National Urban Renewal Mission, 10. National Horticulture Mission, 11. Weather-based crop insurance, 12. Model law on APMC, 13. National Skills Development Mission & Corporation, 14. CENVAT on all goods and services, 15. Long Term Capital Gains on securities abolished, 16. Introduction of STT, 17. FDI in retail, 18. Private participation in coal mining, 19. Eliminating subsidies for Petrol & Diesel, 20. Gender Budget, 21. Demutualisation of stock exchanges, 22. PFRDA Act, 23. Companies Act, 24. National Food Security Act, 25. Right to Fair Compensation (LARR) Act, 26. Forest Rights Act.

"I did reforms" is for self-glorification. "My reforms brought growth" is for the people and for posterity. You be the judge.

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH
Twitter: @tavleen_singh



Dangerous dog whistles

WE HEARD two political dog whistles last week. Both ugly and both dangerous but the one from the Home Minister more so, because he has the capacity to do more harm than the former Chief Minister of the former state of Jammu & Kashmir. The first murmurings of political activity in Kashmir since the revocation of Article 370 have just begun with district-level elections. And, it is possible that this is what provoked the dog whistles.

The first came from Amit Shah who took to Twitter to declare that the 'Gupkar Gang' was trying to invite foreign powers to interfere in the Valley's politics. What he said was wrong on several levels. It was wrong for the Home Minister to describe a coalition of Kashmiri political parties as a 'gang'. It was wrong for him to diminish the high office he holds by speaking in the language of a streetfighter. And, it was wrong for him to indicate to his Hindutva base that in the view of the Government of India these Kashmiri political parties were all acting against the interests of India, thereby 'anti-national'. Within hours of his tweets, the BJP's more venomous spokesmen popped up on prime-time talk shows to hurl invectives at the 'Gupkar Gang' and to charge them with that ultimate term of Hindutva abuse, 'Pakistani, Pakistani'.

Mehbooba Mufti's dog whistle came when she told the Kashmiri people about a plot to settle 'outsiders' on land that belonged to Kashmiri nomads. It was a signal that since her release she has thrown in her lot with the Islamic fundamentalists and the jihadi terrorists who have collaborated to bring ruinous, religious changes in the Valley in the past 30 years. Mehbooba seems to have forgotten that until just the other day she headed a government that was a coalition with the BJP. Her political statements are all dog whistles. After being released from 18 months of house arrest she said that the Indian flag would only be allowed in Kashmir when "we get our own flag back". What she has not noticed is that it is exactly this kind of language that the BJP's Hindutva base wants to hear so that they can make all political battles in India about 'nationalism'.

Speaking of which, I recently read Shashi Tharoor's new book, *The Battle of Belonging*, and found that the most interesting thing about it was the distinction he makes between patriotism and nationalism. And, how 'nationalism' is being used by the BJP and its Hindutva followers to make a distinction between those they consider India's real citizens and those they consider lesser citizens because they do not meet their definition of 'nationalism'. It is assumed that the decision to decide someone's 'nationalism' remains in the hands of those who believe that aggressive Hindutva qualifies them instantly to win their nationalism badge.

So when Anurag Thakur, a minister in Modi's government, uses an ugly slogan that says 'traitors should be shot', he passes his 'nationalism' test with flying colours. But when at the same time Muslim women, afraid of losing their right to be Indian, gather for days with the Constitution held high, to protest against the amendment to the citizenship law, they are labelled 'traitors and Pakistanis'. This happened, please remember, after a dog whistle from the Home Minister. The minute he declared that (Hindu) voters should push the button so hard on the EVM (electronic voting machine) that the 'current' would be felt in Shaheen Bagh, his acolytes in the media and his party spokesmen wasted not a moment in declaring the women of Shaheen Bagh 'Pakistanis'.

Is it any wonder that in Modi's India dissidence is being seen as sedition? Is it any wonder that journalists writing against government policies are being labelled Congress party 'durbars'? Is it any wonder that in the eyes of the world India is now being seen as descending into illiberalism? Personally, I believe that we have not got there yet but as someone who remembers well the halcyon days when we were a truly liberal democracy, I can see how much things have changed, and the changes are worrying. It is time for Modi and his 'gang' to realise that it is the patriotic duty of those who love India to speak out when they see signs of illiberalism. It is the patriotic duty of judges who are brave enough to speak the truth to speak out about the pressures they increasingly endure. It is the patriotic duty of journalists to speak out against policies that they consider harmful to India. The Prime Minister and his Home Minister have recently declared that they believe in a 'free press', so we have sanction from the top.

True patriots always show the courage to speak out when they see something wrong. As someone who considers myself a true patriot, I would like to end by saying that I believe that our level of political discourse has descended to dog whistles that incite the worst emotions in the worst people in India. When it comes to dog whistles it is true to say that both Hindu and Muslim 'leaders' are guilty. But, it is those who hold high office in Modi's government who have the highest platforms and the loudest whistles, so they need to show the highest responsibility. Sadly this is what we do not see yet.

inside TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



CURIOUS DELAY

THE CITIZENSHIP (Amendment) Act was passed by Parliament in December last year with much fanfare, and notified shortly afterwards amidst protests. Surprisingly, the government has yet to frame rules under the Act, although these have to be issued within six months or else an extension has to be sought. In August, the government applied for a three-month extension, but the rules are yet to be declared. There are two explanations for the tardiness in implementing what the ruling party proudly proclaims as a landmark legislation. The BJP's political opponents fear that the government wants to bring out the rules during the West Bengal election campaign to polarise the atmosphere. Another reason for dragging feet on a follow-up could be concerns over antagonising friendly neighbour Bangladesh President Sheikh Hasina. She has voiced her disapproval of the controversial law. In fact, three Bangladesh ministers had cancelled official visits to India subsequent to the passage of the law. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Bangladesh on its 50th anniversary in March next year and would not want to sour the atmosphere before his trip.

MISSING JAITLEY

JD(U) members are sorely missing Arun Jaitley, a long-time supporter of Nitish Kumar. The friendship of the two men, along with Sushil Modi, dates back to their years together in the JP Movement. In fact, Nitish is the only politician to erect a statue to commemorate the late Finance Minister in Patna. The JD(U) reckons that if Jaitley were alive, he would never have permitted Chirag Paswan to undercut Nitish so brazenly in order to strengthen the BJP. Nitish may have been sworn in as Chief Minister again, but the vibes between the two allies are far from amicable. Nitish demonstrated his defiance by insisting on installing his old friend Mewalal Choudhary as minister, even though there were corruption cases against him during his days as vice-chancellor of Bihar Agriculture University. Now an embarrassed Nitish has had to suffer a rebuff and been forced to drop Choudhary following Opposition noises. If the BJP pushes Nitish too far, his going the Maharashtra way and sewing up an alliance with the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan cannot be completely ruled out.

LOSING MORE PERKS

There was a time when many senior politicians pulled rank and felt they were entitled to special protocol while boarding an aircraft. They did not stand in queues for security checks or board the passenger shuttle from the airport to the tarmac. They were driven down in a separate vehicle. But under the Modi dispensation, such special privileges have vanished. The new airport security rules state that even former SPG protectees, except former prime ministers, are not exempt. So the Gandhis, who lost SPG cover in November last year after 35 years, are required to stand in a queue and board the aircraft along with the hoi polloi.

NOT OUT OF ACTION

Because Amit Shah did not campaign in Bihar for a single day, rumours abounded of a serious health condition. Another surmise was that he apprehended a dismal outcome for the NDA. Both conjectures turned out to be incorrect. The truth is Shah stayed away on doctors' advice because of low immunity after the coronavirus attack. Shah has now bounced back and attends the Home Ministry regularly besides supervising campaign strategies for the forthcoming West Bengal and Tamil Nadu elections. A section of the BJP was misled by the Bihar exit polls into assuming that the party was losing and party spokespersons at the briefing before the poll results were even given talking points to make on television in case of a defeat. They were unaware that Shah, though not physically present, was regularly in touch with general secretary in-charge of Bihar Bhupender Yadav who carried out his instructions.

LOST ENTHUSIASM

NRI businessman Shalabh "Shalli" Kumar was missing during the US presidential campaign this year, whereas in 2016, Shalli was a central figure who came to the rescue of the Indian government in opening doors for Indian officials to connect with the incoming Trump team. Then the MEA was caught completely off guard as it had expected Hillary Clinton to win. Kumar, who formed the Republican Hindu Coalition, and first came up with "Ab ki baar Trump Sarkar" was, however, less interested in Trump's return this time. He wanted a firm commitment first on issues such as residency rights for grown-up children of long-pending green cardholders, and over the CAA and Article 370. Shalli, once the most visible Indian-origin supporter of Trump, was also disillusioned with the US President's refusal to endorse wearing of masks against Covid. In addition, Shalli seems to have been ignored by Modi. He was not a visible presence at the Howdy, Modi! rally in Texas. When Trump failed to win the electoral college, Kumar offered no commiserations.

She SAID

ALAKA M BASU
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IT IS becoming near impossible to parse language these days. In the past, when someone used a phrase or figure of speech that one did not quite understand, one knew that it was usually one's own ignorance and not someone else's deeper conspiracy to mislead.

Later, as language became more politicised and more opaque, new or unfamiliar phrases and figures of speech became easier to understand not with a dictionary, but by association. Thus anyone with some knowledge of the US knows, for example, that being 'pro-life' is not about being against war. The term is instead a shorthand expression used by conservatives to describe their opposition to a woman's right to abortion. And 'pro-choice' is the self-description of those who believe that a woman has the right to decide on her own reproductive trajectory.

But what do we do now that such associative meanings are no longer clear-cut either? What do we do when an allegiance to 'democratic principles' is affirmed by those who believe that democracy means bowing to the will of the majority as well as by those who believe that democracy entails protecting the rights of the minorities? All that we can say is that the word 'democracy' obviously has some inherent connotation if such opposite positions want to claim its banner.

I was reminded of this co-opting of morally or emotionally compelling language a few weeks ago upon reading about the official launch of something called the 'Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family'. My immediate reaction was a yawn; one more United Nations Declaration — toothless, even if it is signed on by most nations of the world, and bound to be boring, longwinded and politically correct on top of that.

This first conclusion was supported by a glazed glance at the document — each clause and paragraph began with one of a handful of words over-used in UN Declarations — reaffirm, emphasise, recognise, ensure, improve and secure, build, advance, support, engage. What's not to like about the UN's noble intentions and its difficult, underlying task of usually getting some 150 governments to sign on to what it sets its mind to — human rights, HIV and AIDS, universal health coverage, rights of indigenous peoples, and so on.

But then the bells started to ring. Too many things about this declaration did not seem quite right. First, its launch was co-hosted by an avowed enemy of the UN — the US government. After all the bad-

Reading between the lines as language is co-opted



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

mouth and resource-cutting of the UN that President Trump has engaged in, it seemed very odd that his government would actually host the launch of a UN declaration. Secondly, it was signed by just 32 countries — one of the important reasons for the blandness of many UN resolutions is that these documents have to be greatly watered down to arrive at a consensus among its 193 member states.

But its most puzzling feature was its title itself: Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family! These — Women, Health, Family — are all important keywords that the UN would not have any ostensible problems with, at least at first glance. As a member of the Guttman-Lancet Commission on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, I have a special academic as well as policy interest in these questions, and so it soon seemed a duty to read this Declaration more fully. And what an eye-opener it is — it uses the progressive language of the UN and of women's rights advocates to press for exactly the opposite. In essence, this document is a call to increase the restrictions on women's reproductive health, mainly on abortion, and a call to reject any non-conventional non-heterosexual rights to building and belonging to a family.

These are its central propositions, couched in the unimpeachable language of human rights and human security and the family as the 'natural and fundamental group unit of society'. The document also uses the more socially acceptable lan-

guage of 'equal rights of men and women to all civil and political rights'.

The central regressive slant of the Declaration explains both the small number of its signatories and their questionable record of protecting the reproductive rights of women or the human rights of sexual minorities — in addition to the US, the list includes Hungary, Brazil, Indonesia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia. Poland recently further tightened its already restrictive abortion laws. Within the US, President-elect Joe Biden will have to press hard to suppress similar initiatives.

Other governments with very different agendas can also feel more emboldened by such smart 'moral' messaging to push different forms of intrusions into the private lives of individuals. Using the language of altruism, we already have waiting parliamentary Bills about the need for 'population control' in India, even as we also have the more naked assertion by extra-parliamentary members that it is in fact the reproductive rights of certain groups that should be suppressed.

By sprinkling their document with the words, phrases and sentences long considered the preserve of socially advanced groups, the signatories of this Geneva Declaration can now claim the moral high ground. For we are all human rightists now. Haven't we just said so?

The writer is Professor, Cornell University. National Editor Shalini Langer curates the fortnightly 'She Said' column

My ISOLATION

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

'I would like to play in a stadium full of supporters'

What precautions are you taking?

I am currently in a bio-secure bubble with my club, Bengaluru FC, in Goa for the football season. Every precaution that one can imagine is being taken. We get tested regularly and have zero contact with anyone from outside the bubble that we have created. We wear masks at all times, and are doing all the small and big things right.

Have you got yourself tested for Covid-19?

Yes, we get tested every three or four days. It might seem rather regular, but that is the level of precaution that is being taken.

Have you had to isolate yourself?

Yes, through the lockdown, and the pre-season. My wife and I have been isolating and taking every possible precaution.

What kind of mask do you use?

Nothing in particular. Just a regular mask.

On Sunday, Bengaluru FC plays its inaugural match of the Indian Super League, which kicked off on November 20 in Goa. Through the lockdown months, club captain SUNIL CHHETRI, 36 — also captain of the national football team and India's all-time-highest goal scorer — says he has been keeping up with training

INTERVIEW BY AMITAVA CHAKRABORTY



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

While interacting with people at work, how do you ensure your safety?

There is a long list of safety protocols that we follow. Football is a contact sport. So, on the pitch, it isn't possible to maintain distance like you can in an office job. However, once off it, we wear our masks all the time, space ourselves out at team meals and meetings, and avoid being together in large numbers in small spaces.

What precautions do you take while travelling?

I haven't really travelled anywhere since the lockdown was announced. I made trips to Bellary and then Goa in the team bus. We usually travel in one bus. But this time, we chose to travel in two so that we can maintain social distance when seated.

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

I don't have a number for that. But it's rather minimal. I don't spend too much

time on my phone, laptop or television. However, I do occasionally watch documentaries and shows on streaming platforms.

How do you keep your mind off the pandemic?

Training and resting takes up most of my time. I like my fair share of board games. I have also been catching up on a lot of reading too.

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

I would like to play in a stadium full of supporters in Bengaluru or with the national team — whichever comes first.

Since the un-lockdown, what have you been doing?

We're moving closer to the season. I was spending most of the time training hard and resting as much as I could. Football and fitness aside, I have been playing a lot of Ludo.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Kyle Rittenhouse at court. Reuters

USA

Teen charged in Kenosha shootings released on \$2 million bond

KYLE RITTENHOUSE, the teenager charged with fatally shooting two men and wounding a third at a demonstration in Kenosha, Wisconsin, was released on Friday on a \$2 million bond, a spokesman for the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department said. The teenager was freed after his attorneys posted the bond for murder and other charges stemming from the Aug. 25 shootings. It was unclear where the money came from but his attorneys had led a drive to raise money from donations. Rittenhouse, 17, is accused of shooting people at a protest following the fatal shooting of Jacob Blake by police days earlier. **REUTERS**

USA

8 injured in Wisconsin mall shooting

POLICE SEARCHED Friday evening for the suspect in a shooting at a suburban Milwaukee mall that left seven adults and a teenager injured. Wauwatosa Police Chief Barry Weber gave no motive for the attack at the Mayfair Mall. He said the extent of the eight victims' injuries was unknown, but all were alive. He added that the shooter was "no longer at the scene" when authorities arrived. "Preliminary statements from witnesses indicate that the shooter is a white male in his 20s or 30s," Weber said. **AP**

LEBANON

5 prisoners die following mass jail break

FIVE ESCAPING prisoners died on Saturday when their car hit a tree after more than 60 detainees broke out of a Lebanese detention centre outside the capital Beirut, Lebanon's Internal Security Forces (ISF) said in a statement. The ISF statement did not say how the 69 prisoners had escaped from the facility, which a security source said holds pre-trial detainees and is part of Baabda district prison near Beirut. The ISF said 15 prisoners had been caught while four others turned themselves in. The car crash in which the five died was described as an accident. **REUTERS**



BRAZIL: VIOLENCE ERUPTS AFTER MAN KILLED AT STORE

More than 1,000 demonstrators attacked a Carrefour Brasil supermarket in the southern Brazilian city of Porto Alegre on Friday after security guards beat to death a Black man at the store. The killing, which has sparked protests across Brazil, occurred late on Thursday when a store employee called security after the man threatened to attack her, cable news channel GloboNews said, citing the Rio Grande do Sul state military police. Amateur footage of the fatal beating and tributes to the Black victim were published on social media. He was identified in local media by his father as 40-year-old Joao Alberto Silveira Freitas. **Reuters**

Rockets hit Kabul, at least 8 killed, 31 injured

REUTERS
KABUL, NOVEMBER 21

SEVERAL ROCKETS hit residential areas in the early rush hour in the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday, killing at least eight civilians and wounding 31, police officials said.

The explosions, some close to the diplomatic enclave, sent warning sirens blaring from embassies and it comes two days before a major donor conference for Afghanistan in Geneva.

Tariq Arian, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, said at least eight civilians had been killed in the attack and 31 wounded. A



Afghan security personnel check a vehicle destroyed in the rocket attack in Kabul on Saturday. AP

health ministry official said five bodies and 21 injured were taken to the hospital from the incident.

Arian said "terrorists" mounted 14 rockets in a small truck and set them off, adding

that an investigation is going on to find out how the vehicle came inside the city.

Some residents filmed the rockets being fired and posted them on social media. Several pictures circulating on Facebook showed damaged cars, shattered windows and holes in residential homes.

A picture of a young brother and sister, whom officials said were killed in their home, was widely shared on Facebook.

One of the rockets landed in the vicinity of the Iranian embassy and several fragments hit the main building but there were no casualties among the staff, the embassy said in a statement.

Tibetan political leader visits White House for first time in six decades

REUTERS
SHANGHAI, NOVEMBER 21

THE HEAD of the Tibetan government in exile has visited the US White House for the first time in six decades, a move that could further infuriate Beijing, which has accused the United States of trying to destabilise the region.

Lobsang Sangay, President of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), was invited to the White House to meet the newly appointed U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues, Robert Destro, on Friday, the CTA said in a press release.

"This unprecedented meeting perhaps will set an optimistic tone for CTA participation with US officials and be more formalised in the coming years," said the CTA, which is based in India's Dharamshala. Tibet has become one of the areas of dispute between the United States and China, with relations between the world's two biggest economies at their lowest point in decades.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Beijing in July of violating Tibetan human rights and said Washington sup-



Lobsang Sangay, President of the Central Tibetan Administration. Reuters file

ported "meaningful autonomy" for the region.

Beijing officials have since accused the United States of using Tibet to try to promote "splitism" in China. China has also refused to engage with Destro.

China seized control over Tibet in 1950 in what it described as a "peaceful liberation" that helped it throw off its "feudalist past", but critics led by the exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama say Beijing's rule amounts to "cultural genocide".

Chinese President Xi Jinping said in August that China needed to build an "impregnable fortress" in Tibet in order to protect national unity. **REUTERS**

Ethiopia rejects African mediation, pushes toward rebel-held Tigray capital

REUTERS
NAIROBI/ADDIS ABABA, NOVEMBER 21

THE ETHIOPIAN government rebuffed an African effort to mediate on Saturday, saying its troops had seized another town in their march towards the rebel-held capital of northern Tigray region.

More than two weeks into Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's offensive, the government says Tigrayan forces are bulldozing roads and destroyed bridges to hold up the advance on regional capital Mekelle, home to about

half a million people.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, have died and more than 30,000 refugees have fled to Sudan since the conflict erupted on Nov. 4. The fighting has spread beyond Tigray, whose forces have fired rockets at the neighbouring nation of Eritrea, spurring concern of a wider war.

On Friday, the African Union bloc appointed former presidents of Mozambique, Liberia and South Africa as special envoys to seek a ceasefire and mediation talks. But Abiy, who won the Nobel Peace Prize last year for a peace pact with Eritrea, aims to capture Tigray leaders before holding talks.

Protests across France against Bill on police images

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, NOVEMBER 21

RIGHTS CAMPAIGNERS and journalists organisations staged street protests in Paris and other French cities on Saturday against a security Bill that they say would be a violation of the freedom of information.

The proposed measure would create a new criminal of-

fense of publishing images of police officers with intent to cause them harm.

The government has said it is intended to protect police officers from online calls for violence. Critics fear that, if enacted, the measure would endanger journalists and others who take videos of officers at work, especially during violent demonstrations.

Saturday's protests were called by Reporters without Borders,

Georgia, Michigan deliver blows to Trump bid to reverse election results

Georgia is first contested state to certify Biden as winner; Michigan GOP lawmakers say no reason to alter outcome

RICHARD FAUSSET,
NICK CORASANTINI &
MAGGIE HABERMAN
ATLANTA, NOVEMBER 21

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's attempt to undo the election results was undercut twice by fellow Republicans on Friday, as Georgia became the first contested state to certify Joe Biden's victory and Michigan lawmakers — after meeting with the president — said they would not intervene in their state's election certification process.

After complaints by Trump about the Georgia vote count and a methodical hand recount, Georgia's secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, declared Friday, "I live by the motto that numbers don't lie," and made official the final tally showing Biden had defeated Trump by 12,670 votes.

Hours later, a delegation of seven Michigan Republicans, who had met with Trump at the White House at his request, said they had no information "that would change the outcome of the election in Michigan." Biden beat Trump in the state by nearly 3 percentage points.

"We will follow the law and follow the normal process regarding Michigan's electors, just as we have said throughout this election," the state's top two Republican leaders said in a statement issued by the legislature. "The candidates who win the



During a recount of ballots in Atlanta, Georgia, last week. NYT

Latest bid running out of steam

WITH BALLOT recounts and lawsuits having so far failed to help Trump reverse results in any of the crucial states, the President's latest plan, according to reports, is to try to get Republican members of boards that certify results in states to stall the certification, so that eventually the state legislature will have to step in and appoint their representatives to

EXPLAINED

the Electoral College. Key states such as Pennsylvania, Georgia, Michigan and Wisconsin have Republican-controlled legislatures, so Trump hopes they would select electors who would back him. But he has already faced setbacks to this plan, with Georgia already certifying Biden's win, and Michigan lawmakers saying they will not intervene.

most votes win elections and Michigan's electoral votes," the statement said. Trump's outreach to state Republicans amid the ongoing vote certification process was condemned by Democrats as a dangerous intrusion into the election process. Though Trump has tried mightily to stymie the process, his failure to bend lawmakers in

Georgia and Michigan to his will signals a vanishing path for his efforts to subvert the election system. Georgia's certification is the leading edge of a series of battlegrounds that over the next five days could officially declare Biden the winner, with Michigan and Pennsylvania facing a deadline of Monday and Nevada scheduled to certify Tuesday. **NYT**

Twitter to hand over @POTUS account to Biden on January 20

Los Angeles: Twitter will hand control of the @POTUS account to US president-elect Joe Biden the moment he is sworn in on January 20, even if President Donald Trump has not conceded, the company has said.

The @POTUS account is the official account of the President of the United States and is separate from the @realDonaldTrump account that Trump uses to tweet. Biden, 78, will be the 46th US President when he is sworn in.

The handover requires no sharing of information between the outgoing Trump team and the incoming Biden team, Twitter said, adding that all existing tweets on those accounts will be archived and Twitter will transfer the accounts — reset to zero tweets — to the Biden White House that day. **PTI**

Donald Trump Jr tests positive for coronavirus

MAGGIE HABERMAN
NOVEMBER 21

DONALD TRUMP Jr, the US President's son, tested positive for the coronavirus last week and has been isolating since Monday, a spokesman said on Friday.

He added that Trump Jr has shown no symptoms and is following virus protocols. Trump Jr is the latest person close to the President who has tested positive for Covid-19. Barron Trump, the President's youngest son, tested positive last month. Melania Trump, the first lady, also tested positive in October. In July, Trump Jr's girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle, had tested positive for the virus.

President Trump tested positive for the virus in October and was hospitalised as his symptoms worsened. The President underwent a series of invasive therapies typically reserved for people seriously sick with Covid-19. After an exposure to the virus, symptoms can take up to 14 days to appear, if they ever appear at all. In that time, the virus can still spread from person to person. In recent months, Trump Jr has questioned the seriousness of the pandemic, saying that since deaths from the virus had dropped to "almost nothing" the outbreak was under control. That day deaths in the US topped 1,000. **NYT**



Donald Trump Jr

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THROUGH OVER 4 DOZEN BOOKS, SHE EXPLORED FOREIGN LANDS, HER OWN BRITAIN AND HER EXPERIENCE AS A TRANSGENDER WOMAN

Jan Morris, celebrated journalist, travel writer and historian, dies at 94

JONATHAN KANDELL
NOVEMBER 21

JAN MORRIS, the acclaimed British journalist, travel writer and historian who wrote about history's sweep and the details of place with equal eloquence and chronicled her life as a transgender woman, died on Friday in Wales. She was 94.

Her son Twm Morys said in an email that she died in a hospital near the village of Llanystumdwy, where she lived. He did not give the cause. As James Morris she was a

military officer in one of Britain's most renowned cavalry regiments and then a daring journalist who climbed three-quarters of the way up Mount Everest for an exclusive series of dispatches from the first conquest of that mountain, the world's highest.

She continued a brilliant writing career with reports on wars and revolutions from a score of countries, and with much-admired books like *Pax Britannica*, the first of a three-volume history of the British Empire. Morris also married and had five children.

But she became increasingly despondent over the issue of

gender identity. At age 46, she underwent transition surgery, explaining the reasoning in a well-received 1974 memoir, *Conundrum*, which was written two years after the operation under a new byline, Jan Morris.

"I was three or perhaps four years old when I realised that I had been born into the wrong body, and should really be a girl," the book began, a riveting narrative of being transgender, which was misunderstood at the time and rarely discussed.

"I thought of public success itself, I suppose, as part of maleness, and I deliberately turned



Jan Morris in Wales in 2018. NYT

my back on it, as I set my face against manhood," she wrote.

In all, Morris wrote some four dozen books. Among the best-known early titles were *The Hashemite Kings* (1959) and

Heaven's Command: An Imperial Progress (1973).

In a 1957 review of *Islam Inflamed: A Middle East Picture*, Phoebe-Lou Adams of *The Atlantic* wrote that Morris "de-

scriptions of cities and countryside are equally vivid" and that her writing conveyed "the emotional tone of a place as sharply as its shape and colour".

Venice (1960) won Britain's prestigious Heinemann Award for Literature. In *The New York Times* Book Review, Italian author Carlo Beuf called the book "one of the most satisfactory and delightful works on the City of the Lagoons to appear in recent years."

Morris was born on October 2, 1926, in Clevedon, a town in Somerset, England. Her father, Walter, was gassed during World War I and died when Morris was

12. Her mother, Enid Payne, was a concert pianist.

After joining *The Times of London*, she became a roving correspondent in Europe, the Middle East and the US. But it was her coverage of the first ascent of Mount Everest in 1953 that established a reputation as one of the shining journalists of a generation.

The Times secured the exclusive rights to cover the Everest expedition, which was led by Sir Edmund Hillary, a New Zealand explorer, and Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa guide from Nepal, and picked Morris to join the team. Filing dispatches by using

guides as relays between the expedition's overnight camps and the city of Kathmandu in Nepal, she wrote of deep snow dragging at the explorers' feet, sweat trickling down their backs, their faces burning from cold, ice and wind. But Morris stopped short of the summit, allowing the expedition leaders to claim the limelight.

"I think for sheer exuberance the best day of my life was my last on Everest," she wrote. "The mountain had been climbed, and I had already begun my race down the glacier toward Katmandu, leaving the expedition to pack its gear behind me." **NYT**

14 ECONOMY

RESERVES AT \$572.7 BILLION IN WEEK-ENDED NOVEMBER 13

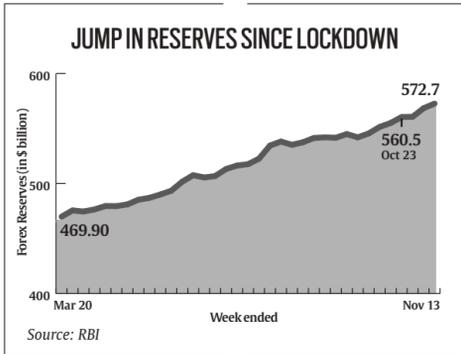
In eight months, forex reserves rise by more than \$100 billion

SANDEEP SINGH & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THOUGH THE Covid-19 pandemic has hit the economy on different fronts over the last eight months, the foreign exchange reserves have risen by over \$100 billion when the lockdown was announced in March-end. This jump of 22 per cent has come following a sharp decline in imports alongside strong foreign investment inflows in the second half of the calendar year.

While the forex reserves stood at \$469.9 billion in the week ended March 20, 2020, it has risen by \$102.8 billion since then and to touch \$572.7 billion in the week ended November 13, 2020. RBI data released on Friday shows that reserves grew by \$4.2 billion in the week ended November 13.

Between April and November, while foreign portfolio investments (FPI) amounted to Rs 1,40,295 crore (nearly \$19 billion), the net FDI between April and September aggregated to \$22.85 billion. Besides this, a sharp decline in imports of crude oil, electronics and gold due to a lockdown in many parts of the world



between March and May, prevented even normal drawdown of reserves.

According to data available with the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the net crude oil import declined sharply between April and September this year to \$19.3 billion. It was as high as \$83.2 billion for the full year 2019-20.

Similarly, the value of gold imports during April-October 2020 fell to \$9.2 billion compared with \$17.6 billion in the corresponding period last year according to data

obtained from the Ministry of Commerce. The value of electronic goods imports too declined from \$34.7 billion in April-October 2019 to \$28.6 billion during April-October 2020.

Rising foreign exchange reserves provide for external sector stability and also cover for imports. Almost six months back when reserves had risen to \$487 billion in the week ended May 15, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had noted they are "equivalent to 12 months of imports."

Economists say a rise in foreign exchange reserves in combination

EXPLAINED
Reserves provide comfort

AS GDP growth remains a concern for 2020-21, rising forex reserves provide comfort to the government and the RBI. It sufficiently covers the import bill of the country. Reserves also provide confidence to markets that the country can meet its external obligations and has reserves for national disasters or emergencies.

with benign oil prices and tepid imports, has helped the Indian rupee remain broadly stable since mid-March 2020. There has, however, been deterioration in not just the growth prospects but some other macro parameters such as retail inflation and fiscal deficit. While the rupee hit a low of 76.97 against the dollar on April 21, 2020, it has recovered over the last eight months and closed at 74.16 Friday. High reserves provide the central banks the ability to intervene

in the currency markets if required to stabilise volatility in rupee-dollar exchange rate, and also use it as a tool for inflation management. With higher foreign investment inflows, RBI has been buying dollars from the market and in doing so, it releases an equal amount in rupees through issuance of bonds and securities and LAF operations, resulting in higher liquidity.

"Accumulation of dollars is enhancing liquidity in the banking system, keeping bond yields in check and supporting effective transmission on the back of purposeful dollar buying by RBI, rise in gold reserves and foreign currency assets, India's foreign exchange reserves stood high at \$560.53 billion as on 23rd October, 2020, covering more than 13 months of imports," the finance ministry said in its October monthly economic review.

India's foreign exchange reserves started rising significantly from September 2019. While the foreign exchange reserves stood at \$428 billion in the week ended September 20, 2019, it has risen by \$144 billion over the last 14 months to hit a high of \$572.7 billion in the week-ended November 13.

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION BILL

Tech policy groups, civil societies seek wider consultation from JPC

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

IN AN attempt to seek wider consultations on data protection policy and related issues, tech policy groups and civil societies are planning to write to Meenakshi Lekhi, the chairperson of the joint parliamentary committee (JPC) on the personal data protection bill, according to sources.

While some groups such as Software Freedom Law Centre (SFLC) India have written a letter to Lekhi urging the JPC to call them and other tech policy groups for consultations, others are likely to send in their letter over the next week.

In its letter, SFLC India has said that while social media intermediaries, fintech companies, travel aggregators had been called by the JPC for oral consultations, civil societies have not been given the chance to represent themselves and share their ideas.

"Through this letter, we sincerely hope that the Joint Parliamentary Committee, under your chairmanship, will invite civil society organisations that defend rights of citizens in the digital space for consultation on

SFLC INDIA WRITES TO CHAIRPERSON

■ While some groups such as Software Freedom Law Centre (SFLC) India have written a letter to Meenakshi Lekhi, the chairperson of the joint parliamentary committee (JPC), urging it to call them and other tech policy groups for consultations, others are likely to send in their letter

over the next week. ■ In its letter, SFLC India has said while social media intermediaries, fintech firms, travel aggregators had been called by the JPC for oral consultations, civil societies have not been given the chance to represent themselves and share their ideas.

the draft Data Protection Bill," SFLC said in its letter to Lekhi.

The JPC on data protection bill, however, is likely to move to clause by clause consultation and discussion from the next meeting onward and may not call any tech policy groups or civil societies for consultations, sources said.

"The committee wants to wrap up consultations as soon as possible and submit its recommendations so that the bill is given a final shape. It may not be possible to invite more stakeholders for face-to-face consultations," a senior government official said.

Over the last two months,

global internet conglomerate Google, e-commerce giant Amazon and payments systems aggregator PayTM's representatives have deposited before the JPC on personal data protection bill.

Google's representatives had in their meeting with the JPC said India should avoid data localisation requirements, which had irked the members of the committee, while Paytm had said data generated in India should be parked in the country.

Cab aggregators, such as Ola and Uber whose representatives had also appeared before the JPC earlier this month, have supported data localisation norms.

BRIEFLY

Punjab & Sind Bank to raise up to ₹5,500 cr

New Delhi: State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank on Saturday said its board has approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 5,500 crore by issuing shares on a preferential basis. The board approval is in line with the government sanction to infuse an amount of Rs 5,500 crore in the bank towards contribution of the Centre in the preferential allotment of equity shares during FY2020-21. PTI

Mnuchin denies trying to limit Biden's options

Washington: US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin denied on Friday that he is attempting to limit President-elect Joe Biden's options for reviving the pandemic-damaged economy by ending several emergency loan programs being run by the Federal Reserve. AP

Zurich Insurance nears deal for MetLife unit

New York: Switzerland's Zurich Insurance Group AG is in advanced talks to acquire MetLife Inc's US property and casualty (P&C) car and home insurance unit for close to \$4 billion (3.01 billion pounds), according to people familiar with the matter. Zurich Insurance issued a statement late on Friday confirming it was in discussions to acquire MetLife's US property and casualty business and cautioning that no deal was certain. REUTERS

PANDEMIC IMPACT

'Economic consequences of Covid on South Asia greater than healthcare challenges'

The economic consequences of Covid pandemic on South Asia are proving to be even greater than the healthcare challenges in the region, according to a report compiled by the Hudson Institute

WHAT IS THIS REPORT?

Titled "Nine Months of COVID-19: The Impact on South Asia", the report released by the Hudson Institute think-tank, is co-authored by Husain Haqqani, former Pakistan ambassador to the US, and Aparna Pandey

COVID-19 on South Asia are proving to be even greater than the healthcare challenges in the region ■ Different South Asian countries have dealt with the pandemic in various ways, but the economic costs overall seem to be higher than the healthcare consequences

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? All these countries have poor

OF FINDINGS:

■ The economic consequences of



TAKE ON INDIA: While the India-US relations "remain on an upward trajectory"

healthcare infrastructure and are home to large numbers of people living below the poverty line, setting the foundation for uphill battles when tackling health crises

WAY OUT: In order to ensure a safe return to normal life and a resumption of economic activity, South Asian governments would benefit from focusing more on the

country, "India's democratic credentials face challenges SOURCE: HUDSON INSTITUTE/PTI

development of human capital

PAKISTAN had managed to curtail the spread of COVID-19 cases, but the country is once again facing a rise in infection

CURTALMENT OF media and Opposition, an economy in crisis, and increasing role of the military being seen in the last 9 months

Adverse reaction in Covaxin participant 'investigated', unrelated to vaccine, says co

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

A PARTICIPANT in the early stages of Bharat Biotech's trial for Covaxin had developed an adverse reaction reportedly leading to hospitalisation. However, the issue was "investigated thoroughly" and was found not to be related to the Covid-19 vaccine, the company said on Saturday.

The adverse event, reportedly a case of the participant developing viral pneumonitis, was found in the first phase of the trials and the company claims it followed the proper protocols of reporting the issue. "The adverse event during phase 1 clinical trials during August 2020, was reported to the CDSCO-DCGI (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation-

The adverse event, reportedly a case of the participant developing viral pneumonitis, was found in the first phase of the trials

Drug Controller General of India), within 24 hours of its occurrence and confirmation...As per the guidelines, all adverse events were reported to the site ethics committee, CDSCO-DCGI, Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) and Sponsor." Bharat Biotech's spokesperson told *The Sunday Express* in emailed responses about the issue.

"The adverse event was investigated thoroughly and deter-

mined as not vaccine related," the spokesperson added.

Bharat Biotech did not respond to queries about whether it had halted the trials while it investigated the issue. Queries sent to DCGI Dr VG Somani and Indian Council of Medical Research Director General Dr Balram Bhargava about this issue also remained unanswered by press time on Saturday.

In the last three months, companies like AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson have announced that they were temporarily halting recruitment and vaccination in late-stage trials of their vaccine candidates while they examined unanticipated serious adverse events. The companies resumed trials after it was confirmed the issue was not caused by their vaccine. Other investigators who

conducted first phase of the Covaxin trial at different sites were not apprised of the issue, *The Sunday Express* has learnt.

"All such issues are required to be reported to the DSMB and, accordingly, the DSMB has to take a decision. It is not necessary that everything should be reported to every site," said one of the principal investigators in the phase 1 trial of Covaxin. Another principal investigator told *The Sunday Express* the adverse event seems to have occurred after most participants for the phase 1 trial had been recruited, considering it was reported in August. Recruitment and vaccinations in first phase of this trial began in mid-July and the second shot for this was administered by the end of the month, after DSMB approved safety data collected from first 50 participants.

Decoding the drop in diesel consumption in Nov

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

DIESEL CONSUMPTION in the first half of November fell 5 per cent year-on-year, after growing in October for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic-related travel restrictions were imposed in March. Diesel consumption is a key indicator of economic activity since it is used not only as a transportation fuel but also for industrial and agricultural activity.

What has the trend of petrol and diesel consumption been since Covid and its related

DROP IN CONSUMPTION

5%

■ Diesel consumption in the first half of November fell 5 per cent year-on-year, after growing in October for the first time since the Covid-19-related travel restrictions were imposed in March.

lockdowns?

The consumption of both diesel and petrol crashed when the government imposed travel

restriction across the country on March 25 to curb the spread of Covid 19. Diesel and petrol consumption crashed by 56 per cent and 60 per cent, respectively, in April. The sales of both petrol and diesel recovered as lockdown restrictions were eased, with diesel sales in June falling only 15 per cent short of diesel sales in the year-ago period. However, increased curbs on movement imposed by states in July pushed back the recovery in diesel consumption, which remained 20 per cent below pre-Covid levels in July and August.

Does the fall in diesel consumption in November

indicate a reversal of the growth trend?

The fall in diesel consumption in the first half of November doesn't indicate a reversal in the move of diesel consumption to pre-Covid levels, according to analysts, who noted that it may be a result of an unusual pattern of diesel consumption around the festive season. Experts noted that there is increased consumption of diesel in the weeks leading up to the festive season, which then reduces during the festive period itself - which may have brought down consumptions for early November.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

G20 determined to use all tools to contain pandemic, save jobs

REUTERS
BRUSSELS/WASHINGTON,
NOVEMBER 21

G20 NATIONS are determined to continue doing everything possible to contain Covid, warning in a draft communique the global economic recovery remains "uneven, highly uncertain, and subject to elevated downside risks".

Bringing the pandemic under control is the key to supporting a global economic recovery, the G20 leaders said in the draft.



'Family Photo' for the annual G20 Summit World Leaders is projected onto Salwa Palace in At-Turaif, one of Saudi Arabia's UNESCO World Heritage sites, in Driyrah. Reuters

Petrol, diesel price hiked for 2nd day in a row

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

PETROL PRICE on Saturday was hiked by 15 paise per litre and diesel by 20 paise, the second straight day of increase in rates after firming international oil rates broke nearly a two-month-long hiatus in price revision.

The price of petrol in Delhi was hiked to Rs 81.38 per litre from Rs 81.23, according to a notification from oil marketing companies.

Diesel rates went up from Rs 70.68 to Rs 70.88 per litre.

On Friday, petrol price was raised by 17 paise per litre and diesel by 22 paise.

This is the first revision in petrol prices since September 22. Diesel rates had not changed since October 2.

Public sector oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd - revise rates of petrol and diesel daily based on benchmark international oil price and foreign exchange rate.

They have, however, resorted to calibrating the rates since the pandemic broke out with a view to avoiding volatility in retail prices.

The 58-day hiatus in petrol price revision and the 48-day status quo on diesel rates were preceded by no change in rates between June 30 and August 15 and a 85-day status quo between March 17 and June 6. WITHPTI



Jodhpur Development Authority, Jodhpur

E-Auction Programme Nov.- Dec. 2020 of Residential, Mix Land Use Plots in Jodhpur

| S. No. | Property Details | Measurement | Area (Sq. Mtr.) | Minimum Sales Price per sq.mtr | EMD (Rs.) @ 2% | Starting Date for Depositing EMD and Bid Start Date | Last Date For Depositing EMD | Bidding Close Date |
|--------|--|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Residential Plot No -67 Vijayaraje Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 40x91.4 | 339.64 | 25000 | 169900 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 1/12/2020 11:00AM | 2/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 2 | Residential Plot No -71 Vijayaraje Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 40x91.4 | 339.64 | 25000 | 169900 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 1/12/2020 11:00AM | 2/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 3 | Residential Plot No -79 Vijayaraje Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 40x91.4 | 339.64 | 25000 | 169900 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 1/12/2020 11:00AM | 2/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 4 | Residential Plot No -83 Vijayaraje Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 50+33/2x50 | 192.84 | 25000 | 96500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 1/12/2020 11:00AM | 2/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 5 | Residential Plot No- 55 Sector-1, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 30x64 | 178.37 | 15000 | 53600 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 1/12/2020 11:00AM | 2/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 6 | Residential Plot No- 76 Sector-1, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 62+46/2x66.5 | 333.61 | 15000 | 100100 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 2/12/2020 11:00AM | 3/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 7 | Residential Plot No- 133 Sector-1, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 34x89 | 281.12 | 15000 | 84400 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 2/12/2020 11:00AM | 3/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 8 | Residential Plot No- 149 Sector-1, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 34x92 | 290.60 | 15000 | 87200 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 2/12/2020 11:00AM | 3/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 9 | Residential Plot No- 181 Sector-1, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 30x64 | 178.37 | 15000 | 53600 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 2/12/2020 11:00AM | 3/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 10 | Residential Plot No- 167 Sector-1, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 30x64 | 178.37 | 15000 | 53600 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 2/12/2020 11:00AM | 3/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 11 | Residential Plot No- 180 Sector-1, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 30x64 | 178.37 | 15000 | 53600 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 3/12/2020 11:00AM | 4/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 12 | Residential Plot No- 13 Sector-4, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 72+43/2x89 | 475.43 | 16000 | 152200 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 3/12/2020 11:00AM | 4/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 13 | Residential Plot No- 14 Sector-4, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 88+48/2x89 | 562.24 | 16000 | 180000 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 3/12/2020 11:00AM | 4/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 14 | Residential Plot No- 23 Sector-4, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 48+80/2x89 | 529.17 | 16000 | 169400 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 3/12/2020 11:00AM | 4/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 15 | Residential Plot No- 44 Sector-4, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 28+52.33/2x69 | 257.47 | 16000 | 82400 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 3/12/2020 11:00AM | 4/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 16 | Residential Plot No- 45 Sector-4, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 58+36/2X64 | 279.45 | 16000 | 89500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 4/12/2020 11:00AM | 7/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 17 | Residential Plot No- 56 Sector-4, Ramraj Nagar Yojana Gram Chokha, Jodhpur | 33+25.5/2X64 | 173.91 | 16000 | 55700 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 4/12/2020 11:00AM | 7/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 18 | Residential Plot No -01 Sundar Singh Bhandari Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 41.6X69 | 266.12 | 17500 | 93200 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 4/12/2020 11:00AM | 7/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 19 | Residential Plot No -28 Sundar Singh Bhandari Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 41.6X69 | 266.12 | 17500 | 93200 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 4/12/2020 11:00AM | 7/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 20 | Residential Plot No -112 Sundar Singh Bhandari Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 30X64 | 178.44 | 17500 | 62500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 4/12/2020 11:00AM | 7/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 21 | Residential Plot No -120 Sundar Singh Bhandari Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 30X64 | 178.44 | 17500 | 62500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 7/12/2020 11:00AM | 8/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 22 | Residential Plot No -171A Sundar Singh Bhandari Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 23+30/2X64 | 157.62 | 17500 | 55200 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 7/12/2020 11:00AM | 8/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 23 | Residential Plot No -192A Sundar Singh Bhandari Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 30X64 | 178.44 | 17500 | 62500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 7/12/2020 11:00AM | 8/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 24 | Residential Plot No -215 Sundar Singh Bhandari Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 20X45 | 83.64 | 17500 | 29300 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 7/12/2020 11:00AM | 8/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 25 | Residential Plot No -335 Sundar Singh Bhandari Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 30X64 | 178.44 | 17500 | 62500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 7/12/2020 11:00AM | 8/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 26 | Residential Plot No D-671 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 47X60 | 262.08 | 16500 | 86500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 8/12/2020 11:00AM | 9/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 27 | Residential Plot No E-112 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 20X40 | 74.55 | 16000 | 23900 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 8/12/2020 11:00AM | 9/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 28 | Residential Plot No E-271 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 34.9X60 | 193.77 | 16000 | 62100 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 8/12/2020 11:00AM | 9/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 29 | Residential Plot No E-272 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 34.9X60 | 193.77 | 16000 | 62100 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 8/12/2020 11:00AM | 9/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 30 | Residential Plot No E-451 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 35X60 | 195.16 | 16000 | 62500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 8/12/2020 11:00AM | 9/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 31 | Residential Plot No F-107 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 47X60 | 262.08 | 16500 | 86500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 9/12/2020 11:00AM | 10/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 32 | Residential Plot No H-75 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 31.3X60 | 174.25 | 16500 | 57600 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 9/12/2020 11:00AM | 10/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 33 | Residential Plot No H-302 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 35X60 | 195.16 | 16500 | 64500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 9/12/2020 11:00AM | 10/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 34 | Residential Plot No H-322 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 35X60 | 195.16 | 16500 | 64500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 9/12/2020 11:00AM | 10/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 35 | Residential Plot No I-60 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 30X60 | 167.28 | 16000 | 53600 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 9/12/2020 11:00AM | 10/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 36 | Residential Plot No I-40 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 38.3X70 | 248.84 | 16000 | 79700 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 10/12/2020 11:00AM | 11/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 37 | Residential Plot No L-59 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 35.6X60 | 197.95 | 16000 | 63400 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 10/12/2020 11:00AM | 11/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 38 | Residential Plot No J-216 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 35X60 | 195.16 | 16000 | 62500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 10/12/2020 11:00AM | 11/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 39 | Residential Plot No J-217 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 35X60 | 195.16 | 16000 | 62500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 10/12/2020 11:00AM | 11/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 40 | Residential Plot No K-01 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 29.9X60 | 165.89 | 15500 | 51500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 10/12/2020 11:00AM | 11/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 41 | Residential Plot No L-01 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 29.9X60 | 164.49 | 15500 | 51000 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 11/12/2020 11:00AM | 14/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 42 | Residential Plot No L-10 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 35X60 | 195.16 | 15500 | 60500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 11/12/2020 11:00AM | 14/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 43 | Residential Plot No M- 256 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 17X30 | 47.39 | 15500 | 14700 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 11/12/2020 11:00AM | 14/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 44 | Residential Plot No M-239 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 15X30 | 41.82 | 15500 | 13000 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 11/12/2020 11:00AM | 14/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 45 | Residential Plot No N-36 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 30X50 | 139.40 | 15500 | 43300 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 11/12/2020 11:00AM | 14/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 46 | Residential Plot No N-67 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 30X50 | 193.40 | 15500 | 60000 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 14/12/2020 11:00AM | 15/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 47 | Residential Plot No N-68 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 30X50 | 193.40 | 15500 | 60000 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 14/12/2020 11:00AM | 15/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 48 | Residential Plot No O-129 Vivek Vihar Yojana, Jodhpur | 39.9X60 | 221.65 | 16500 | 73200 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 14/12/2020 11:00AM | 15/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 49 | Commercial Plot No - 08 Khasra No 269, Kudi Bhagtasani Main Pali Road, Jodhpur | - | 862.91 | 25000 | 431500 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 14/12/2020 11:00AM | 15/12/2020 12:30PM |
| 50 | Commercial Plot No -11 Vijayaraje Nagar Yojana, Jodhpur | 20X45 | 83.61 | 50000 | 83700 | 28-11-20 11:00 AM | 14/12/2020 11:00AM | 15/12/2020 12:30PM |

प्रभारी अधिकारी (नीलामी शाखा)

निर्देशक चित्र

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण जोधपुर

फोन - 0291-2656355, 2656356

मोबाईल नं. - 96723-54150 97990-42125, 94148-73715

नीलामी की मुख्य शर्तें जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट: www.jodhpurjda.org देखें या सम्पर्क करें।

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRISONS PRISONS HEAD QUARTER: NEAR LAJWANTI GARDEN CHOWK JANAK PURI : NEW DELHI

F.X./LO/PH/LPG/PNG(CMC)/2017-18/CD-3480510/665 Dated: 18.11.2020
Tender Id.: 2020_CJT_196679_1

e-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of India, Tihar Open e-tender (On Line Tenders) are invited for CMC (including spare parts) of LPG/PNG System installed in all 09 jails at Tihar jail Complex, New Delhi, Distt. Jail Rohini, 10 Company of TSP at Tihar Jail Complex and 06 Jail at Mandoli Jails Complex for the period of Two years from the date of issue of contract (Extendable upto one year). The NIT has been uploaded and available alongwith terms and conditions and detailed specifications. All the tenderers should apply online before the Last Date and Time.

Estimated Cost : Rs. 13.00 Lakh (yearly)+GST
Date of release of tender through e : 13.11.2020

Procurement solution
Last date/time of receipt of tender : 07.12.2020 at 11.00 AM
through e-Procurement solution

Date of re-encryption (Opening) of on : 07.12.2020 at 11.30 AM
line pre qualification bids

Date of re-encryption (Opening) of on : 07.12.2020 at 03.00 PM
Line Financial bids

Pre Bid meeting on : 01.12.2020 at 03.00 PM

Further information can be seen at : <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
& tihar@nic.in

Sd/-
Superintendent of Prisons
Prisons Head Quarter
Tihar, New Delhi

DIP/Shabdath/0446/2021

Office of the Additional Director General of Police Communication, Logistics And Modernization No. 1, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone : +91-80-22864626, Email: spwireless@ksp.gov.in

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement Portal)

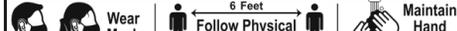
Tender No: 02/MDN/STS/W/DIGITALVHF/EQPTS/2020-21 Date: 13/11/2020

Additional Director General of Police, Communication, Logistics & Modernization, Bengaluru invited tender for Design, Supply, Commissioning and Maintenance of Digital VHF Radio Communication Network for the Districts of Tumakuru and Bengaluru Districts through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: Rs. 152 Lakhs. Pre-bid meeting on 26/11/2020 at 11.30 Hrs. The Last date and time for tender submission 14/12/2020, 17.00 Hrs. Further details can be obtained by visiting e-procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. For more information, please contact the above office.

Sd/-
Additional Director General of Police
Communication, Logistics And Modernization

DIPR/IDU/SSC/1763/2020-21

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



NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location: 30-ELECT-14-T-2020-21-E-3: Provision of new fire alarm system in Rail Niwas & Baroda House New Delhi.

Address of the office: Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Approx. cost of the works in: Rs. 67.26 lacs

Earnest Money: Rs. 134500.00

Date & time of submission of tender: 17.12.2020, 13.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender: 17.12.2020, 13.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

2614/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED (SIPCOT)

19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Tender Notice No.88/CW/DO/T.No 92/2020-21 Dt.19.11.2020

Sealed tenders are invited for hiring of Water Tanker Lorries for SIPCOT Industrial Parks/ Growth Centres at Irungattukottai, Oragadam, Pillaipakkam, Sripurambudur and Vallam Vadagal. The details of the tender are as follows:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Tender Inviting Authority | The Managing Director, SIPCOT Ltd., 19-A, Rukmani Lakshmi Pathy Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008. |
| 2 | Name of work | Hiring of Water Tanker Lorries of 9000 Litres and 6000 Litres Capacity on Contract Basis for Three Years for SIPCOT Industrial Parks/ Growth Centres at Irungattukottai, Oragadam, Pillaipakkam, Sripurambudur and Vallam Vadagal. |
| 3 | Purchase of tender documents | Tender document can be obtained from SE, SIPCOT Head Office, Chennai-08 at free of cost from 22.11.2020 to 07.12.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. Tender documents will not be sent by Post. Alternatively, the tender schedules can be downloaded from the Government website and SIPCOT website www.tenders.in.gov.in at free of cost. |
| 4 | Earnest Money Deposit | Rs. 10,000/- per vehicle in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai (in the tenderer's name only) |
| 5 | Last date and time for submission of bid documents | 08.12.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. at the above mentioned address in SI No 11 |
| 6 | Venue, Date and time of opening of bids | 08.12.2020 at 3.30 P.M. at the above mentioned address in SI No 11 |

DIPR/ 4349 /TENDER/2020 Managing Director

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const/SERD-II, Northern Railway, 2nd floor, NDCR Building, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Name of work and location: | Hiring of 01 Non AC vehicle such as Jeep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo type of vehicle for AXEN/ C/SERD-II for 24 months. |
| 2. | Completion period of the work | 24 (Twenty Four) months. |
| 3. | Approx. Cost of work: | Rs. 10.95 lakhs |
| 4. | Earnest Money to be deposited | Rs. 21900.00 only |
| 5. | Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender | Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 15.12.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the Technical cum Commercial cum financial Bids of which will be opened at 11.30hrs on 15.12.2020. |
| 6. | Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document: | The detailed e-tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in from 24.11.2020 to 15.12.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office. |

Tender Notice No. 53-Acs/HV/02Y/ Dy. SERD-II Dated-21-11-2020
2612/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA- JAJPUR

No. Tender Online RCK-09/20 Letter No. 1692 e-Procurement NOTICE Date: 16.11.2020

- Name of the work: Infrastructure development of Derabis College & Olaver College under World Bank Assistance Programme OHPEE (Phase-1) in the District of Kendrapara.
- Class of Contractor: B & A Class as specified in the column 6 of the Annexure.
- Time for Completion: As Specified in Column- 7 of Annexure.
- Detail Projects: As per annexure attached
- Other details: As per annexure attached

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of Tender on-line for bidding | | Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification | Date & Time of opening of tender | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|----|--|----------------------------------|---------------|
| | | From | To | | Technical Bid | Financial Bid |

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eye



SPOTLIGHT Miracle Worker

Director Atanu Ghosh remembers the late actor Soumitra Chatterjee and how he represented the best in Bengali cinema



BOOKS

- Review of Arun Shourie's *Preparing For Death*
- Review of John Zubryzcki's *The House of Jaijpur: The Inside Story of India's Most Glamorous Royal Family*
- Interview with Women's Prize winner Maggie O'Farrell



ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

Break the Mould

Unlike many other megacities in the world, in Delhi, one is always a creature of habit and limited imagination

Monica Narula

Open City

Public life, as we knew it, has come to an unprecedented standstill. A historian, a social scientist and an artist reimagine form and functionality in the cities that nurture us

Room for Us All

A reimagination of cities will require the collective involvement of the people whose needs it should represent

Manju Menon

SOMETIMES, I go cycling with a 13-year-old. The roads are uneven but empty these days, especially if we manage to get out early enough. Will the scent of the *shaitaan* bloom be able to pierce our masks? It's coming to that time of the year. The trees are green and we are able to feel the gentle slide of the seasons. Our cycling path remains meandering as we have no special place to head towards. Delhi, unlike other cities, does not have a spot from which to soak in the plenitude of life — unlike Istanbul, Kolkata or London with a sea to look at or a bridge view to see a living river. You are always finite in Delhi. Probably the reason why people seem so troubled by the monsoon, as, for those few days, the disruption feels large and beyond our everyday.



EXPRESS ARCHIVE

INFINITY IN MULTITUDES

Anti-CAA/NRC protest at Shaheen Bagh earlier this year

Delhi offers us modular living: moving between known spaces and faces. It does not easily afford an encounter with a stranger. For that alone, Mumbai is the best city. In Delhi, it is within our lattice-like structure of living that we have to build our security, and our exuberance. Does this form of living limit our world and hamper our imaginations? Does it make us depend on known ways of relating and framing people, with incalculable habits policing the borders of the social?

I have sensed an elated bewilderment in the eyes of my young companion, twice. The first was when she entered the Nehru stadium to see the Under-17 World Cup football and the roar and friendly crowd brought out an understanding of the unknown power of collective life. The second time was when she encountered hundreds of women sitting in Shaheen Bagh; silent and listening to distant speakers, under the veil of an enveloping yellow fog. Both of these made the city break its world, and gather a force of possible futures out of the count of the day.

I look up from my balcony at Venus, with its possible sign of life. I look back at my city: Delhi needs to celebrate its crowds, as an admission of infinitude within the finite count of living.

Monica Narula is co-founder, Raqs Media Collective

Janaki Nair

PUBLIC LIFE, as we knew it, has come to an unprecedented standstill, and private life has been intensified to the point of tyranny, due to the current health emergency. Even the lines that radically divided unpaid domestic labour from "work for wages", usually outside the home (though only for some classes), have been dramatically redrawn. What better moment to critically re-examine and reimagine private life and domesticity, and also reassert the claims of women to public space?

To start with, how do women navigate a predominantly "man-made" environment, both within and outside the home — itself surprising, given that women architecture students outnumber men in contemporary India, though fewer women practise architecture. How can architects, planners and environmental experts be made to collaborate in ways that extend respect to the lived experiences, and the challenges faced by women, here not to be understood as a homogenous whole?

Perhaps, this is an appropriate moment to engage in a reverie about new ways of living in cities. Let's begin by returning to the dreams of 19th and early 20th century utopian thinkers — bourgeois dreamers no doubt — who reconceptualised domestic life and space. The main aim was to reduce the repetitive drudgeries of household labour: who wished to produce approximately 1,095 meals per year, in addition to planning and cleaning up after that?

So the answer of some utopian planners of the US, such as Marie Howland in the 1870s, and Alice Constance Austin in the 1890s, was to socialise domestic work, and collectivise laundry, cooking, and childcare. This involved the design of "kitchenless" houses, though food consumption still remained a privatised affair. Freeing women for a more public life was only an implicit goal, since the designs did not necessarily reset gender relations, or assign a greater role for men in domestic life. Women remained principally housewives, though with fewer

A FINE BALANCE

The claims of women to public space

responsibilities. Some thinkers even abhorred those women who looked for a career outside. Even the left-oriented Bauhaus architects of the early 20th century aimed for greater efficiency in housework, by deploying the principles of scientific management to increase the efficiency of the household through the use of more domestic appliances, but only in order to free women for their roles as spouses and mothers.

In other cases, women moved from being passive clients to active agents, though in a low-key, understated way: "Vrouwen Adviescommissies" (VACs) were begun in the immediate postwar years in the Netherlands (in the 1940s and continue to the present day) when there was a serious housing shortage. Public provisioning of housing was not just for the working class or the urban poor but for the middle class as well. The VACs suggested changes to plans that were not envisaged by (usually) male builders, "walking" through plans, cutting up and rearranging them from more practical points of use, to the elderly, the physically challenged, the single woman. These, too, were largely non-feminist interventions, a search for practical conveniences within closely guarded domestic spaces.

Utopian ideals, meanwhile, changed dramatically as a result of the war and revolution, which brought huge numbers of hitherto closeted women out of their homes to work in industry/fields/munition factories, if only temporarily. Ideas about collectivising housework took stronger root only in the socialist world, where the (state support for) socialisation of housework was tied to the eventual "withering away" of the family, especially in the 1920s. Collective kitchens and crèches

were daring ideas in their time, and women were fully a part of the workforce. But the Zhenotdel or Women's Bureau (the women's department of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the All-Russian Communist Party) was abolished in 1930 when Joseph Stalin declared that the women's question had been "answered" (in some accounts, because the potato peeler had been invented!). In its place came an organisation of "activist wives", who now performed what was largely an extension of housekeeping in the public sphere: checking the cleanliness of hostels, beautifying gardens, supervising crèches. Women in Residents' Welfare Associations in India today likewise play a disproportionate role as "social housekeepers", extending their skills at home to the life of neighbourhoods, though within a framework of enslaved democracy.

Housing design in the modern city is increasingly being homogenised, driven exclusively by real estate concerns, rather than by aesthetics, social justice, or gaining equal public access, leave alone the achievement of relative gender equality. Housing needs of single women, childless couples, the elderly or the home worker (say the *beedi* roller) rarely impinge on planning imaginations, for whom all solutions may be scaled as "BHKs".

It is no indulgence, therefore, to return to that earlier generation of dreamers who were concerned about reducing the monotony and drudgery of housework. Sometimes, they proposed simple solutions, such as round rooms (which had no dust-gathering corners) or at least rounded room edges. Given our entrenched inequalities, we will have to look hard at spaces and temporalities, well beyond the private/daytime, to generate a "good city form". The unfinished project, which took shape following the nationwide outcry against the December 2012 gangrape and murder, and continues to generate only the rather tame demand for better-lit roads, must be revived. The water pumps, the footpaths, the public toilets, the street corners, in addition to parks, places of worship and recreational spaces, must all be part of the new reverie.

Janaki Nair is retired professor, history, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

IN JULY 2018, about 100 Delhi residents — children, shopkeepers, professionals, auto drivers, among them — stood on the Africa Avenue pavement every evening, protesting against the National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd and Urban Ministry's massive redevelopment project that would turn seven green, residential areas into high-rise apartment and commercial complexes. The project, spread over 570 acres, originally intended to raze all existing buildings and over 16,000 trees to the ground. One common concern was where do we take our grievances about what the city is becoming.

Most Indian cities are being brought down to rebuild them. The words most frequently used to describe today's urban dynamics are restructuring, renewal and redevelopment. Our city plans leave out the very people who make the city. The present system of urban planning has very little to offer to the poorest, working-class city residents. Cities have also been acutely experiencing the effects of environmental mal-governance. There is a public environmental disaster for every season and cities face them more frequently and for longer periods. So, how do we engage with the remaking of our cities? Urbanisation cannot be in denial of ecology and our social realities and hierarchies. This calls for nuance and a careful understanding of various experiences to collectively imagine whose needs a city should cater to and what values it should reflect.

Unfortunately, our urban-planning processes offer no such platforms. It is hypertech, meant to disempower and dissuade ordinary citizens from getting involved in the business of "regulating land use". This is strictly the domain of the powerful and privileged experts who approach urban space as an economic resource in their hands to monetise at will. Most urban regulatory bodies constitute government departments or agencies that approve their own projects. The approval mechanisms have no articulation of the city's relationship to nature. There is little hope of any good outcomes until these bodies are revamped to be more inclusive and transparent.

The environmental laws and regulations that apply to cities are outmoded and complicit in creating urban forms that are unlivable unless cities appropriate food, water sources and leisure spaces or "second homes" further away to sustain life in cities. Environmental approvals to real-estate and construction companies come easy. Because of badly-planned, large landscape projects, cities are producing quick-fix solutions that can be counterproductive to public health. The smog towers and the "waste to energy" incineration plants came through top-down environmental interventions, involving courts, as solutions to air pollution and waste accumulation. Such reactive management creates a backlash against laws meant to protect public interest. The collective rebuilding of cities needs inclusive forums for decision-making. Urban regulatory bodies will have to shed their authoritarian top-down planning mechanisms if cities have to be co-designed as habitats for all.

Manju Menon is a social scientist and writes on urban issues and environmental policies

CHASING LIGHT

After months of relative isolation, a rejuvenating trek in Uttarakhand's mountains

PHOTOS: SHYAM SARAN

Shyam Saran

AFTER MONTHS of being hunkered down in relative isolation to escape COVID-19 infection, there was an incipient stirring of life last month. I normally head out into the mountains every autumn. So, the minute the trekking agency, whose services I often avail of, offered a brief trek in the Garhwal Himalayas, I grabbed at it. The trek, of course, had an impressive list of safeguards to protect against the virus. From temperature, pulse and oxygen saturation checks every morning and evening to daily sanitisation of trekking gear and a masked-and-gloved crew. Our group of three braved the early-November winter to head towards Matiya Bugyal in the north Tehri region.

These alpine meadows, at an altitude of 3,500 m, are framed by an amphitheatre of high snow-clad mountains, with the massive Chaukhamba at one end and the breathtaking Nanda Devi at the other. In the November sunrise and sunset, the mountains looked majestic. The pleasant, sun-filled bugyal (high-altitude meadow) was a most picturesque place to camp at. For two nights, we made Matiya Bugyal our base, taking shorter treks to some of the higher ridges, where the views get more dramatic.

The road from Dehradun to Ghansali village in upper Tehri goes along the lake created by the Tehri dam — the highest in the country — before ascending towards Chamba. What used to be a sleepy little village just a few years ago when I last visited was now a substantial town spilling over the adjoining ridges. Ghansali, too, is an urban sprawl in the making. We spent the night at a small guest house with modern facilities. These routes have benefited from pilgrim traffic once the towns of



GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

(From top) Nanda Devi at sunrise; Chaukhamba from Matiya Bugyal; shepherds descending with their flocks

Gangotri and Badrinath became accessible by road. Pandemic notwithstanding, there was a fair amount of traffic on the roads. We learnt that this year Gangotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath were to remain open until November 15 as the weather had been warmer than usual.

From Ghansali, we headed out next morning to Gwan village, where the road ends and our trek would commence from. It was a short two-hour drive. Our crew of guide, cook, helper and porters stood waiting along with a team of five ponies and their minders to carry our baggage. With the ponies loaded, off we headed into the mountains. The village had to be crossed before hitting the mountain trail. It was a typical Garhwal village with terraced

fields of coarse grains, potatoes and mustard, with cattle and sheep grazing along hillsides.

Our first day's trek was short but a steep ascent. We moved from a zone of subtropical vegetation to forests of golden oak and rhododendrons. This must be one of the few remaining stretches of oak in the country. One suspects that with more road-building, these pristine forests will inevitably be lost to the imperatives of development. We set up camp at a small clearing in the forest called the Gwan Manda, with lush greenery around its perimeter. Looking down into the valley in the clear afternoon sun, we could see the villages we had left behind.

The first day of walking had left us tired. Dinner was served early but, despite the cold, the view of the night sky kept us from crawling back into the tents. One of the great delights of mountain treks is gazing up at a sky studded with an incredible density of twinkling stars, to see the Milky Way stretch across the horizon as a river of bright silver, a sight which remains a distant dream in the polluted cities we live in.

Our trek next day took us to our destination, the Matiya Bugyal, over a gentler, less-inclined path, threading our way through forests of oak and occasional pines. The snow mountains came into view, dominated by the Khatling, as we reached the open and rolling expanse of the Bugyal soon after noon. There is a route to Tapovan and Gaumukh across the Khatling glacier. The Khatling is followed by the Bhriugu Patthar, Thalay Sagar, Chaukhamba, Neelkanth and, finally, rising above all like a queen, the Nanda Devi peak. As the day ad-

vanced from sunrise to sunset, myriad hues mantled the Chaukhamba — mountain of four pillars — whose views commanded our camp. Not far from the camp were graves of nomadic Gujjar shepherds marked by rough-hewn stones. This is where shepherds graze their flocks of sheep in the summers and migrate to the lower valleys in winter. We met a flock on its descent to greener pastures.

On our last morning at Matiya, we went up a nearby ridge, Panwali Kantha, to get a panoramic view of the entire range. The sun, however, struck at an angle which put the main peaks in a light haze. It was still a grand sight. The ridge had several small shrines — visible from our camp — constructed by villagers in the memory of their deceased elders.

We couldn't leave without having witnessed the sunrise over the Nanda Devi, so off we went up Jagdi Top ridge, freezing in the cold. The peak was silhouetted against a flaming orange and then bathed in golden light as the sun rose higher. It was an ethereal sight.

The descent to our camp, next to the village of Gwan Malla where children were playing cricket as curious villagers paid us friendly visits, was uneventful. On our drive back to Dehradun the next day, passing through Dhanaulti near Mussoorie, we caught a lovely view of Bandarpunch mountain, which seemed to float against the deep-blue sky. With our spirits elevated, we were ready to face the troubled world again.

Shyam Saran is a former foreign secretary and an avid trekker

DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

All Eggs in One Basket

Dark or light, round or oval, every bird egg serves a unique purpose

WHILE WE'RE all sourced from eggs, some moms in the animal kingdom prefer to keep their eggs outside their bodies.

Which, I think, may be a really good idea. Think of the advantages: you can lay as many as you wish; if some get broken or are diseased, they can be replaced without affecting the mother's health. Egg-laying moms have a range, too: from the *bindaas* moms (in the insect and piscine worlds) who lay thousands of eggs and forget about them, to birds who assiduously incubate their eggs, keeping them at exactly the right temperature until they hatch, and insect moms (wasps), who lay their eggs on anaesthetised caterpillars or small arachnids so their babies have a stock of fresh meat to feed on after hatching. While some hip moms may not care for their eggs at all, others (crocodiles) guard their clutches ferociously.

The great dinosaurs laid eggs, too, and from them came birds, to which our focus will shift now. All birds lay eggs — whether just a single one every two years (wandering albatross) or as many as 19 (grey partridge). The tiny bee-hummingbird's eggs weigh 0.5 gm, while the ostrich's is 1.5 kg (enough for a nine-person omelette!).

Birds' eggs have fascinated us for hundreds of years. Collectors in the West back in the "bad old days", engaged in cut-throat competition, collecting eggs from the nests of rare birds and then destroying them so others couldn't get to them. It put many species in danger of extinction: mercifully the "hobby" has died a natural death, though sadly, sometimes, bird photographers these days indulge in the same reprehensible behaviour.

The bewildering, beautiful colours, shapes and patterns of birds' eggs are truly fascinating. The default ground colour is white (thanks to calcium, which gives it strength), the eggs of many passerine (or perching) birds are blue or green or beautiful shades in between. Many are speckled and splotted in rich reds and browns. This patterning, apparently, adds to rigidity when the calcium may be defi-



EGGSQUISITE
A decorated ostrich egg

cient in the mom's diet, and has antimicrobial properties. Eggs of non-passerine birds are usually white, barring the nesting ones on the ground (lapwings, etc.) whose eggs are cryptically coloured to camouflage with the stony ground they're laid on, and, thus, easily trampled upon. Bigger eggs laid by bigger birds have bigger yolks (no-brainer) — when they hatch, the chicks are fairly *chalta-phirta*, able to run, swim and feed themselves, and called nidifugous although they need their moms only for protection.

While the yolk contains the nourishment for the embryo, the albumen surrounding it serves as a cushion, preventing harmful microbes from getting in. The eggshell is dotted with thousands of tiny pores through which the exchange of gases takes place. A typical chicken's egg has 7,500 pores. The broad end of the egg contains the air sacs and most of the pores are concentrated here. Reason why there's an empty space in this region, visible while peeling a hard-boiled egg. The broad end is also where the major parts of the embryo develops, its head and major organs, the tail being left to the narrower end. The oval shape of most eggs enables it to take up a naturally "heads up" posture and it is from here that the tiny chick breaks through using its "egg tooth", made of calcium.

Researchers have long argued about the shape and colour of birds' eggs. Birds laying in risky places like cliff ledges lay eggs that are tapering and oval to prevent them from rolling off, those that lay in holes and hollows like owls and bee-eaters lay round eggs. But there's more to this than that. It's been discovered that the shape of eggs is highly dependent on its flight capabilities: if the bird is a fast flyer — like a falcon — its eggs will be streamlined to fit into its mom's aerodynamic body shape perfectly.

Dark eggs absorb more sunlight, keep out ultraviolet rays and so are expected to be found more among birds living in colder climates. But dark eggs also have strong antimicrobial properties and hot and humid climes are hotbeds for harmful microbes. Researchers have finally concluded that dark eggs are better at thermo-regulation — in keeping the temperature at an optimal level for the development of the embryo and can be found in both hot and cold climes. Light or white eggs are a signal for predators — but then many birds still lay them!

The speckling and splotching of some sea birds that nest in colonies thousands strong are so specific that the mother can recognise her own; and, with some victims of brood parasitism, the mom keeps changing the patterns of her eggs to keep one step ahead of the nasty, waiting cuckoo.

The Miracle Worker

A director remembers the late actor Soumitra Chatterjee, who epitomised the best in Bengali cinema

Atanu Ghosh

CINEMA, THEATRE, television — in his entire life, Soumitra Chatterjee must have worked with thousands of directors. I am just one of them. But much before that, I am an eternally captivated fan. I must have been in Class VII or VIII, when I saw him for the first time. I had gone to buy medicines for my grandfather. When I entered the store, he was there right in front of me buying medicines. I saw people gawk at him, but he remained nonchalant. Pocketing his purchase, he left in his Ambassador car. Many moons later, when I came to know him well, I recounted this incident. He replied, "Do you remember what medicine I bought that day? Must have been for headache. That is often required in this field."

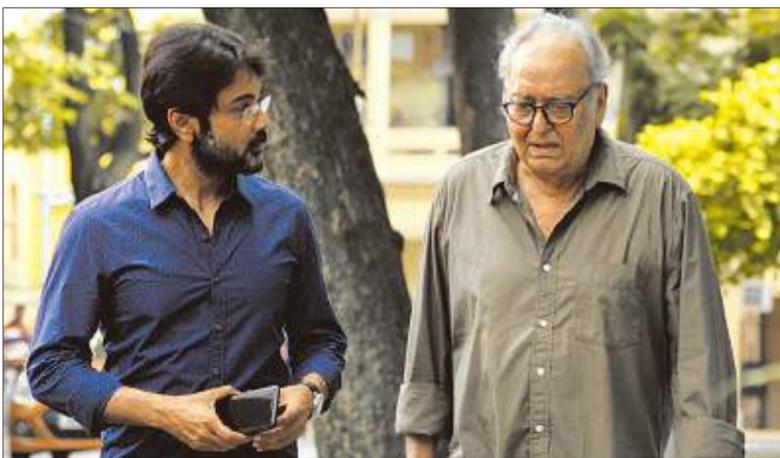
Ever since I was bitten by the filmmaking bug, I had just one dream — once, just once, I wanted to work with Soumitra Chatterjee. Life would have been worthwhile with just one film, but over time, we ended up doing six — four feature films and two telefilms. In the initial days, my hands would tremble while handing over the screenplays to someone as scholarly as him. My Bengali was rusty, I told him, my roots were in Allahabad more than in Kolkata. Careful not to embarrass me, he had a special way — whatever he didn't want to hear, he would feign that he hadn't heard it. No wonder he kept saying that the entire film industry knew that he was hard of hearing!

My tryst with him started in 2005, with the telefilm *Asamanto*. The shooting location was a stone's throw away from his residence in south Kolkata. On the first day after lunch

break, the camera stopped working. Immensely anxious, I was wondering how long it would take for the replacement camera to arrive when the power went off, adding to my woes. Right then, he called for me. When I went to him, I saw that the scene had changed. The unit had moved into the balcony and were seated around him and he was regaling them with anecdotes, drenched in sweat in that hot summer afternoon. I was standing at a distance and watching the scene, marvelling at his zest for life, when he beckoned me and said, "Listen, such hindrances are natural while shooting. If the director gets worked up, it affects his work. Instead, listen to a PJ of mine, it will ease your nerves. Pj *maane jaane toh* (You know what a PJ is)? A poor joke!"

I had worked with him before, but somehow, during *Mayurakshi* (2017), I rediscovered him. Four days before I was scheduled to narrate the script to him, his grandson met with a terrible accident. I was hesitant, but he insisted on hearing the script on schedule. He had a peculiar habit during script-reading sessions — he'd sketch along, translating his visceral perception of the story on to paper. To my great surprise, that sketch would reflect the theme of the film.

During both *Angshumaner Chhobi* (2009) and *Rupkatha Noy* (2013), he made two such lovely pencil sketches. But during *Mayurakshi*, he couldn't draw. He listened with rapt attention and later told me, "This is your and your father's story. One day, tell me about your father in great detail." He took the time to hear about my scientist father and his insatiable curiosity for things. I was astounded by the length an actor goes to to bring to life his character. Perhaps, this is true only for an actor of his calibre.



FATHERS AND SONS

(Above) Soumitra Chatterjee (right) and Prosenjit Chatterjee in a still from the National Award-winning film *Mayurakshi* (2017); director Atanu Ghosh

During the making of *Mayurakshi*, music director Debojyoti Mishra and I wanted him to sing the song *Babachheler gaan* instead of settling for a playback. He refused point blank. At his age, he has no song left in him, he said, that he goes off-key and out of breath, and the film would suffer because of his attempt. I urged Debuda to sing the track for the moment while I tried convincing him. Debuda was hesitant — given the intricacy of the composition, shooting it in someone else's voice and then having Soumitra Kaku sing over it would make it even more difficult for him, he said. But we had no choice. Soumitra Kaku was happy to hear Debuda's playback and especially delighted that he would get to do a song sequence after years. I saw my chance and told him I'd retain the song only if he sang it. He sank deep in thoughts and remained silent. After a few days, he rang me up to enquire whether I had changed my mind. I had not and he agreed eventually. Uncannily, his recording was a perfect fit for the shoot. It still surprises me how quickly and effortlessly he accomplished the difficult task. The world knew how deft he was at dubbing, but that he could create magic with music as well, we hadn't a clue.

Of late, age, illness and anxiety would leave

him somewhat tired and sullen at times. But when he was in the mood, he was ready to meet everyone's demand, share endless stock of anecdotes, laughter and childlike exuberance. Great artistes tie us in invisible bonds of affection, save our wounds and hope that we give equal regard to their limitations and pain as we do to their talent and intellect.

Wherever *Mayurakshi* has travelled, audiences haven't been able to distinguish between the real-life Soumitra and his onscreen characterisation of Sushobhon. His character's incomparable credibility has left many crying profusely at screenings. He had once told me, "Film acting is successful only when it creates maximum effect using minimum strokes." This unique ability to establish a spiritual relationship with one's character with a tiny stroke of a brush will remain unforgettable forever.

In a scene from *Mayurakshi*, he draws a window in the clouds with his hands and says (to onscreen son Prosenjit Chatterjee), "If you feel distressed, do come and sit here. You'll see me." That window is mine. All my life I'll look up at the sky, at that window, to find him there.

Atanu Ghosh is a National Award-winning filmmaker
For more, visit www.indianexpress.com

Palace Walk

A fascinating behind-the-scenes account of the inner workings of Jaipur's Kachwaha dynasty

Coomi Kapoor

IN THE twilight years of the Raj, Jaipur was the country's best known royal house, even if the maharaja was accorded fewer gun salutes than several other Indian princes. The kingdom's fame was not just because of the fairy-tale pink city or the family's claims to trace its ancestry back to Lord Rama through his son Kush. The colourful dynasty remained in the limelight because of its glamour, intrigue, romance, scandals and disputes.

The star of the family was undoubtedly Gayatri Devi, known to her friends as Ayesha, a pet name taken from Rider Haggard's book, *She*. Ayesha's beauty and elan were legendary. An international society magazine wrote that she made even Jacqueline Kennedy look frumpish. Her romance with the handsome, polo playing Prince Sawai Man Singh II, Jai for short, was unconventional. She was 13 years old when she first met him, but a teenage infatuation developed into a full-blown crush. When she was only 15, Jai asked her mother Indira, the Rajmata of Cooch Behar, for permission to marry her. Indira responded sharply, "I never heard such sentimental rubbish."

Jai already had two wives. He was married when he was nine to the Maharaja of Jodhpur's sister and niece in what a relative described as "a package deal", with some of Jodhpur's famed polo horses thrown in. One wife was 13 years older than Jai, the other four years younger. Both were kept in strict *purdah*. Besides, Jai, who spent his summers playing polo in England and sipping champagne with the swish set, was a magnet for beautiful foreigners. Ayesha's brother, who had similar tastes, warned his sister that she would be marrying a Krishna.

As a defeated rival, he had witnessed first-hand Jai successfully pursuing Virginia Cherrill, the divorced wife of actor Cary Grant. Cherrill even made a trip to Jaipur, where, curiously, she struck up a close and lasting friendship with Jai's second wife Jo, who was pretty and modern.

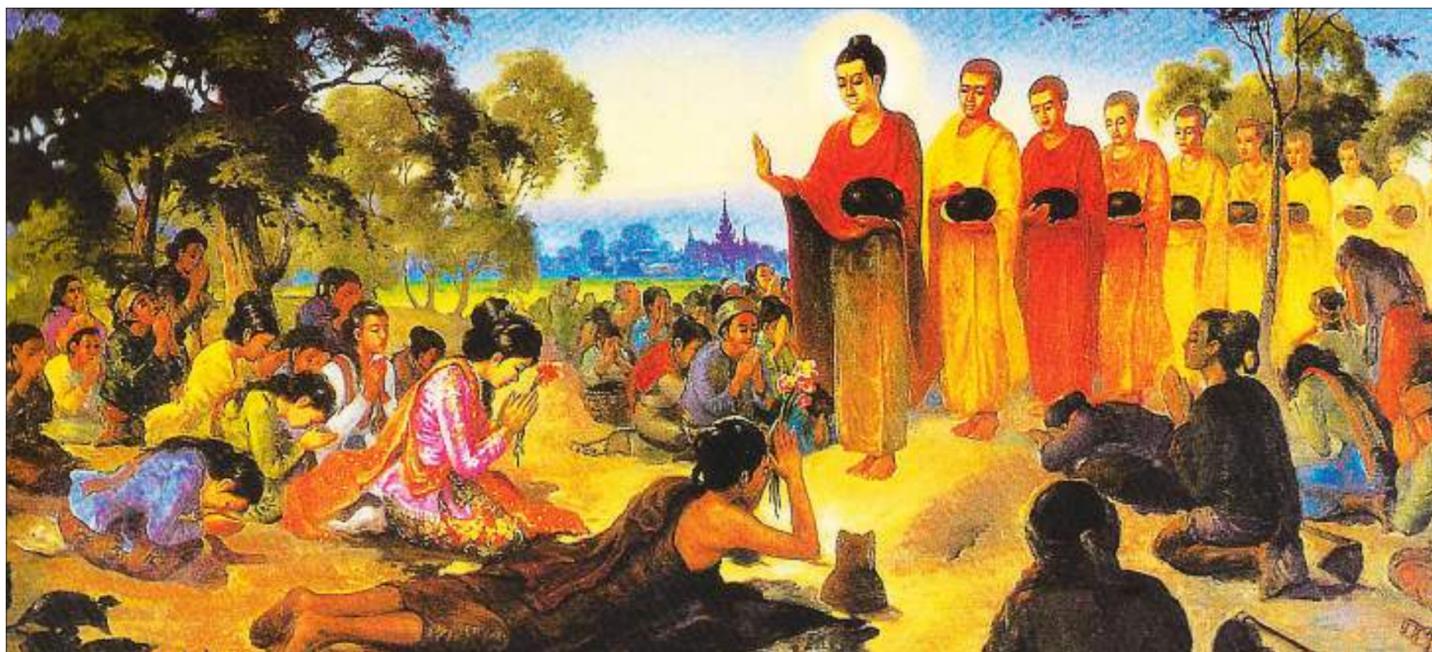
Despite all these, Ayesha married her Prince Charming. The liberated outsider, educated in European schools, surprisingly ended up adjusting rather well in the conservative feudal court. She paved the way for modernising the state, including starting the Maharani Gayatri Devi School, for the cloistered girls of aristocratic families. After Independence, Ayesha made a successful foray into politics, contesting from the Swatantra Party ticket and winning by huge margins.

The author suggests that as prime minister, Indira Gandhi targeted Ayesha not because of her politics alone, but because she envied her looks and her friendships with the international who's who, including the Mountbattens. During the Emergency, the fairy-tale princess was temporarily incarcerated in Tihar jail.

The author points out that Ayesha was actually far more conventional than her mother, Indira, the daughter of the Maharaja of Baroda, who had shocked the princely world by writing directly to the powerful ruler of Gwalior, breaking her engagement. He was after all 46 years old and already married. Instead, she wedded the charming and good-looking scion of a minor state, Cooch Behar. Indira's husband, who eventually ascended the throne, died prematurely at the age of 36, of alcoholism — a malady which would afflict several in Ayesha's family, including her only son Jagat. As a widow, Indira continued to live life on her terms, defying the straightlaced conventions of the princely world.

The author has meticulously researched the fascinating background of the Kachwaha dynasty and the colonial ruler's ham-handed attempts to keep its princely wards in control. He writes about the family's experiences in politics, including that of Diya Kumari, a sitting BJP MP. But the book is a riveting royal read largely because of the scandals which keep popping up in each generation — Diya's elopement, defying Rajput traditions; Ayesha's stepson Pat allegedly trying to diddle her two grandchildren, from Jai's marriage with a Thai princess, of their share of Ayesha's property; convoluted lawsuits stretching over decades concerning the inheritance of the treasures and estates of this dazzling royal house.

Coomi Kapoor is contributing editor, *The Indian Express*



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Hawk Pulls its Shadow From the World

Arun Shourie's latest book is both a contemplation of and an anthology on death

Pratap Bhanu Mehta

ARUN SHOURIE is an unflinching seeker. He has an exemplary ability to face the toughest questions. After a bracing meditation on the problem of suffering in *Does He Know a Mother's Heart* (2011), Shourie now turns to *Preparing for Death*. There used to be a joke that the purpose of literature is to prepare you for the good life, while the purpose of philosophy is to prepare you for the good death. But it is hard to understand our own extinction. Broadly speaking, two diametrically opposite views are invoked to reconcile us to death. One is that we don't really die; in some form, through an incorporeal soul or something, we continue to exist. The other unflinchingly accepts that we just are evanescent matter and nothing else. Both approaches address the question of dying by simply saying "there is nothing to it." There is something to this strategy, but it cannot make sense of the significance of life. It seems we can either make sense of life or of death, but not of both.

Shourie's book takes a brilliantly different pathway. The book has three distinct themes. The first, the most powerful and meditative

section of the book is not so much about death as the process of dying. He documents with detail, "great souls" experiencing the often painful dissolution of their own body — the Buddha, Ramkrishna Paramhansa, Ramana Maharshi, Mahatma Gandhi, and Vinoba Bhave, and, as a cameo, Kasturba. All of them give lie to Sigmund Freud's dictum that no one can contemplate their own death. But what emerges from these accounts is not so much the conclusion that they all faced death unflinchingly; most of them have a premonition. It is also not about capturing the moment where the good death is leaving the world calmly. It is rather what the suffering body does to consciousness, all the memories and hard decisions it forces on us. But the relationship between the body and consciousness goes in two different directions at once. On the one hand this suffering is productive: consciousness works through this pain. On the other hand, even the most exalted soul does not escape the utter abjection of the body. The most poignant moment in this section is not the calm and plenitude with which these exalted souls face death; it is the moments where even the most powerful souls are reduced to abjection by the constraints of the body. The only one rare occasion where



PREPARING FOR DEATH BY ARUN SHOURIE Penguin Books 519 pages ₹799

SEEKING WISDOM

An artistic depiction of the Dipankara Buddha

Ramana Maharshi ever loses his cool is in his now utter dependence on others for most basic bodily functions. The problem of dying is not that you cannot ignore the body; it is that the body does not ignore you.

The second theme of the book is to take a sharp scalpel to false comforters of all religions and philosophies that promise the everlasting soul, or the preservation of bodies only to subject them to torment in hell. This metaphysical baggage makes dealing with death harder and is a total distraction. This section is less generous in its interpretive sympathies. The third theme of the book, interspersed in various parts, is about the discipline of dealing with your own body as it is in the process of dying. The book impressively marshals a variety of sources, from the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*, with its incredible imaginative exercises that make you take in the whole of existence, to Jain sources of Sallekhana, and various meditative techniques to inculcate a certain kind of mindfulness. But mostly one gets the sense that the ultimate preparation for death is simply love, something that can endow the evanescent moment with significance.

But this is a seeker's book. It is in parts profound probing, honest but not dogmatic. Its immense value comes from the fact that the book is both a book and an anthology on death, with extracts from not just the words of those experiencing the process of dying, but an astonishing range of sources: from Fernando Pessoa to Michel de Montaigne, from yoga to

the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*. For the politically inclined, there is an ambivalently revealing account of the Prime Minister's visit to Shourie while he was in the ICU. All throughout, the book is laced with judiciously selected poetry: the startling moment where Gandhi recites the Urdu couplet to Manu: *Hai baha-e-baghe duniya chand roz/Dekh lo iska tamasha chand roz*, a register you might associate more with Guru Dutt than Gandhi. There is a lot of Kabir, of Basho poetry and haikus. One stunning one: *Circling higher and higher/At last the hawk pulls its shadow from the world*.

This haiku caught my attention because I happened to be reading a stunning essay by Arindam Chakrabarti at the same time, "Dream, Death and Death Within a Dream", in *Imaginations of Death and the Beyond in India and Europe* (2018), a volume edited by Sudhir Kakar and Gunter Blumberg, that reads as a great philosophical complement to this one. That volume has a powerful piece by another brilliant philosopher, Jonardon Ganeri, on illusions of immortality that deals with a source Shourie cites at length: Pessoa. Chakrabarti's essay cites with the insight of Yoga Vashishtha: "To be born is to have been dead once and to be due to die again. Shourie is perhaps right: Can we really unravel what it means for the hawk to pull its shadow from the world? Does the shadow reappear if it flies lower?"

Pratap Bhanu Mehta is contributing editor, *The Indian Express*

SHELF LIFE

And Now We Have Everything

A look at this year's Booker prize-winning novel and its debutant author, Douglas Stuart

FROM A LINE-UP that headlined diversity by featuring first novels, women writers and writers of colour, among others, *Shuggie Bain* by Scottish-American writer Douglas Stuart has won this year's Booker Prize. Here's a look at the book and its debutant author:

■ An autobiographical novel set in Glasgow in the 1980s, *Shuggie Bain* follows the life of Shuggie, an impoverished boy struggling to look after his single mother, Agnes, an alcoholic, even as he grapples with his sexuality. Despite its grimness and squalor, the book — dedicated to Stuart's mother, who died when he was 16 years old — brims with tenderness and filial affection. Stuart, 44, who grew up in Glasgow under similar circumstances, has said it was love, hope and humour that helped him process his childhood trauma.

■ The novel is Stuart's first book. Three other debut novels — *Burnt Sugar* by Indian-origin writer

Avni Doshi, *The New Wilderness* by Diane Cook and *Real Life* by Brandon Taylor — featured in the six-book shortlist. Doshi's and Cook's novels also revolve around themes of filial attachments. In his Booker Prize acceptance speech, Stuart said, "I'm absolutely stunned... First of all, I will like to thank my mother... my mother is on every page of this book — I've been clear, without her I wouldn't be here, my work wouldn't be here."

■ Stuart's novel, which took him nearly a decade



to write, was rejected by over 30 editors before it was accepted by publishers Picador in the UK and Grove Atlantic in the US. After its publication, it drew fabulous reviews, that included comparisons with James Joyce and DH Lawrence. Besides the prestigious Booker Prize, *Shuggie Bain* was also in contention for two American awards — the National Book Award for fiction and the Kirkus Prize. Margaret Busby, chair of judges, Booker Prize, described Stuart's novel as a book destined to be a classic — a moving,

immersive and nuanced portrait of a tight-knit social world, its people and its values..."

■ Stuart came to writing late in life. After graduating from the Royal College of Art in London, he moved to the US to study fashion design in New York. For over two decades, he has worked with fashion houses such as Banana Republic, Calvin Klein, Gap and Ralph Lauren. After the award, he hopes to become a full-time writer.

■ Stuart is only the second Scotsman to win the £50,000 Booker Prize. James Kelman won it in 1994 for his *How Late It Was, How Late*. Stuart has said that the book was a huge influence on him.

■ At the award ceremony, Stuart revealed that his second novel was already ready for publication. Titled *Loch Awe*, the book is also set in Glasgow.

PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

'I have long thought that grief is the other side of love'

British writer Maggie O'Farrell, 48, winner of this year's Women's Prize, on a mother's grief, life in a post-pandemic world and reclaiming Shakespeare's wife from obscurity

Paromita Chakrabarti

to Hamnet?

FROM HER debut novel *After You'd Gone* (2009) to her memoir *I Am, I Am, I Am* (2017), the fragility of human lives have often shaped the narratives of British writer Maggie O'Farrell's work with intuitive dexterity. In *Hamnet*, too, the historical novel that won her the prestigious Women's Prize this year, O'Farrell reimagines the way the loss of the 11-year-old son of British playwright William Shakespeare cleaves those closest to him. In this interview, O'Farrell speaks of her fascination with Hamnet and what happens when every parent's worst nightmare comes to pass. Excerpts:

Did you come to the play *Hamlet* first or

Why do you think Shakespeare's biographers tend to glide over his life before London in their accounts?

There's a very strong and valid reason why biographers focus on Shakespeare's life in

London — and that's because of his career and his writing, which continues to shape us as human beings. The stage and London is where the action is for scholars, but I've always thought that the biggest drama of Shakespeare's life happened off-stage: the death of his only son. I've always felt Hamnet's story has been eclipsed, his short life relegated to a literary footnote. He gets very little mention in any of his father's biographies.

What made you refrain from mentioning Shakespeare by his name in your novel?

I always knew that Shakespeare would be a lesser character; he's not present in Stratford for most of the novel. There is a playbill that proves his company was touring in Kent when Hamnet died, so it's not known whether he made it to the funeral. I avoided using his



GRIEF SHE WROTE

Maggie O'Farrell

name because the word 'Shakespeare' proved too distracting for me, and I knew it would be the same for readers. With this novel, I'm asking readers to forget everything they think they know about him and open themselves up to a new interpretation. Which is why I refer to him as 'the father', 'the Latin tutor', 'the brother', and so on.

Agnes preparing Hamnet's body for

burial is one of the most moving sections of the novel. How difficult was it for you to imagine Agnes's grief?

I really enjoyed creating the character of Hamnet's mother. We are so accustomed to calling her Anne Hathaway but her father's will clearly names her as Agnes. That was an electrifying, defining moment in the writing of the book. In giving her what is presumably her birth name, I'm asking readers to discard what we think we know about her and see her anew.

If you ask someone what they know about Shakespeare's wife, you'll probably receive one of two answers. Either, he hated her; or, she tricked him into marriage. Historians, biographers and critics have, for a long time, inexplicably vilified and criticised her, creating a misogynistic version of her. I wanted to persuade people to think again, to not rush to conclusions.

I've long thought that grief is the other side of love, or, perhaps, a greater part of it. If you love someone, it's not a huge leap to imagine what your life would be like without them. I tried to channel this thinking into those scenes and ask myself, what would it mean to lose a child? It is, of course, every parents' worst fear.

This has been a year of living on the edge, of making sense of loss and bereavement. How do you reflect on the ongoing pandemic?

It has been a strange year for everyone — and it's far from over yet. Any person who has come through a severe illness will know that the experience changes you forever. You emerge from your sickroom as one who has passed through fire, recast, all too aware of your frailty. In the same way, a population which goes through a widespread disease will also be changed, and the coming generations will inherit this sensibility. We will emerge from this but we will be different. We will never be able to go back to a time before this pandemic, to a time of security and confidence, when we thought we were inviolate, immune.

What comes next?

At the moment, I'm writing a picture book for children, my second. Unbeknownst to me, my seven-year-old daughter was looking over my shoulder as I was going through the final version of *Hamnet*, and she said: 'I don't like this book, it's much too sad. I want you to write a happy story next.' So I'm doing as I'm told.



HAMNET BY MAGGIE O'FARRELL Tinder Press 384 pages; ₹699

BRIDGE

Dealer: South, Vulnerable: Both

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| NORTH | | | | | |
| ♠ Q83 | | | | | |
| ♥ B542 | | | | | |
| ♦ Q107 | | | | | |
| ♣ AQ107 | | | | | |
| SOUTH | | | | | |
| ♠ 42 | | | | | |
| ♥ AQ1097 | | | | | |
| ♦ KJ4 | | | | | |
| ♣ KJ4 | | | | | |

Dummy shows that bidding game may not have been very wise. West leads the king of spades and continues the suit. East wins the second trick with the jack and he leads the ace. You have to ruff this because if you do not ruff, the defence will cash the diamond ace. What is your hope here, if any?

The West Hand: S-K6 H-6 D-97652 C-98653
The East Hand: S-A10975 H-KJ3D-A83 C-2

Making 4H is a long shot now. You have to ruff the spades and you must be careful about what you ruff with. If you ruff with the queen and it wins, you will be missing the king and jack and no matter how they divide, you will lose at least one trump trick. Your only hope is that East has the king and jack. Ruff with the ten. You are lucky today. It wins.

Now you need to get to dummy to finesse in hearts. You should probably lead a diamond, intending to go to dummy once with a diamond for a heart finesse, and then to dummy with a club for another heart finesse. The reason for this is that East might have a singleton club and you would not want to give him a ruff along the way.

This all works, East having the KJ3 of hearts.

POSTMORTEM: Would South have played East for the KJ3 of hearts if East had played the ace and another diamond after winning the second spade trick? Would South have inferred that East had both heart honours and was afraid to lead a spade for fear that South would ruff with the nine and discover that West could not overruff? Some psychology at work here.

Dealer: South, Vulnerable: East-West

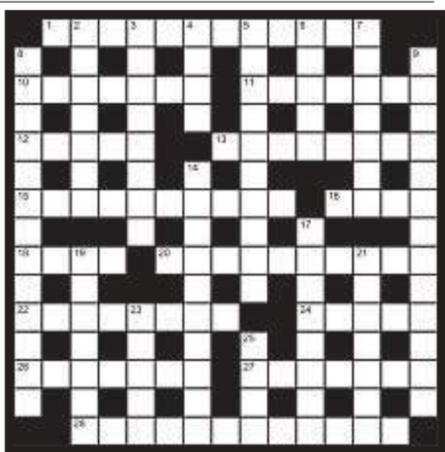
| | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| NORTH | | | | | |
| ♠ 106 | | | | | |
| ♥ AK2 | | | | | |
| ♦ Q73 | | | | | |
| ♣ KQJ106 | | | | | |
| SOUTH | | | | | |
| ♠ A92 | | | | | |
| ♥ 95 | | | | | |
| ♦ AKJ95 | | | | | |
| ♣ 942 | | | | | |

West leads the queen of hearts. How many tricks do you expect to make?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2296

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Thomas Hardy wrote "The Mayor of _____" (12)
 - Poisonous weed (7)
 - County town of Somerset (7)
 - Italian lady (5)
 - Get or inherit? (4,4)
 - Poets or song-writers (10)
 - Inquires, requests (4)
 - Praise or extol (4)
 - Insectivorous African mammals of hyena family (10)
 - Supreme master; D-Day operation (8)
 - Muddle (5)
 - Not vote (7)
 - One who doubts (7)
 - Item that may be kept on an office desk (6,6)
- DOWN**
- Social worker (7)
 - Concerning the part of trunk between neck and abdomen (8)
 - Dissolute fellow (4)
 - Moving backward (10)
 - Low card (5)
 - Prolongs or enlarges (7)
 - Trouble to be expected? (3,5,2,3)
 - Variability (of opinion, performance) (13)
 - Disturb the order (10)
 - Note well (4,4)
 - Kitchen vessel (7)
 - Small naval vessel (7)
 - Smallest (5)
 - Scandinavian capital (4)



- Lowdown on American family (5)
- Italian film director tripped over on an island near Norfolk Island (7)
- Enter engineers' entrance in Surrey town (7)
- Plant in sight of the game (9,3)
- DOWN**
- Nobleman - one the Queen wanted before (7)
- Nothing to back in first stages in sequence (8)
- Gas-light (4)
- Inappropriate eviction order (3,2,5)
- Scotsman has gold in Chinese territory (5)
- American in action falling suddenly into water (7)
- It might get off the ground in a small way (5,8)
- Blue kisses in old arms (13)
- Oscillate when changing places (10)
- The snipe gun made the birds scatter (8)
- Allow felder to accidentally reveal secret (3,4)

Solutions to 2295

- QUICK CLUES** Across: 1 All right, 5 Essays, 9 Pacifist, 10 Thrift, 11 Assorted, 12 Ulster, 14 Likenesses, 18 Shamefaced, 22 Exotic, 23 Halfhour, 24 Twitch, 25 Finished, 26 Sympet, 27 Endowed, Down: 1 Appar, 2 Locust, 3 Inform, 4 Hysterical, 6 S-chiller, 7 Acid test, 8 Satirist, 13 Revelation, 15 Asbestos, 16 Sanctity, 17 Headache, 19 Office, 20 Bother, 21 Eroded, **CRYPTIC CLUES** Across: 1 Roof tops, 5 Pincer, 9 Lifeline, 10 Advert, 11 Violence, 12 Scotia, 14 Elliptical, 18 Millwright, 22 Urisine, 23 Lady-love, 24 Doodle, 25 Idle talk, 26 Rapids, 27 Adam Bede, Down: 1 Relive, 2 On foot, 3 Teller, 4 Penicillin, 6 Indicate, 7 Cues tick, 8 Rateable, 13 Highbanded, 15 Smoulder, 16 Closed up, 17 Swindled, 19 Lyeum, 20 Today, 21 Heckle.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday November 22
As the Moon weaves among the other planets, you are likely to change your mind, and what seemed like a waste of time will once again look like a welcome opportunity.

Monday November 23
Mars is pounding its way, upping your energy level and lending you that extra bit of oomph necessary if you are to succeed. It looks as if you'll get your way with a minimum of opposition.

Tuesday November 24
You're looking ahead, and it's not just the time of year which encourages you to take a long-term point of view. It's lunar alignments which suggest that you're in a freedom-loving mood.

Wednesday November 25
Delays and muddles could be amusing, and might even work to your advantage. It could save you from an even bigger catastrophe.

Thursday November 26
You're in one of your romantic moods, prepared to see the best in everyone. Your deep belief that the world can be a better place will influence important relationships.

Friday November 27
If your mood changes from being quite intense, secretive and serious to one which is more freedom-loving, adventurous and lively, then you'll be in tune with your stars.

Saturday November 28
The current planetary set-up is passionate, sociable, romantic and seductive. It pays to actively go off in search of pleasure and to make the most of everything.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Your principle planetary patterns still focus on money. There are no indications of long-term changes so, if you're coping with major personal or professional complications, these are almost certainly a hang-over from the past.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
At last you're coming out of your shell, and when your confidence is at its height, you may surprise friends by your willingness to take the lead. Your mood is generally lively and yet you are still keeping your desires to yourself.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You can afford to take a fairly laid-back approach. After all, everything - or almost everything - is going your way. You will soon have a spring in your step and a winning way with words. You may, though, forget the facts, especially as Friday approaches.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You have to lay down the law at home, but you can't actually make other people obey your every word! All you can do is rely on the power of persuasion - and hope against hope that it succeeds. If you're chasing a new job, a friend will point you in the right direction.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
You may press on with professional and other worldly ambitions and don't listen to people who seem determined to undermine you. And if you can get away from your usual environment for a few days, you'll do yourself a power of good.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Sometimes you feel as if you're in danger of being left behind. You probably imagine that other people are making all the running, which doesn't seem particularly fair. However, you may actually benefit by hanging back and letting partners take the lead.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Marital matters look light and bright, but are heading for passion towards the end of the week. And when that happens you really can't say whether the simplest matters will work out as planned. The Moon, which heightens your emotions, is heading straight for sensitive regions of your chart.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Positive financial news is on the way, and you'll soon hear the details. There might be a few surprises, although by and large, the results should be as expected. At work, though, you may have to wait another month for a decision on that new responsibility.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Those tough planets, Jupiter and Saturn, are pulling you in two directions. So, you can't really be blamed if you feel stuck between irreconcilable options. Good, solid family relationships are a priority in the meantime.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
This week is almost perfect for leisure, pleasure and love. All you have to do is clear your diary and make sure that you're in the right place at the right time. At home, there's still a chance of a surprise party or a little extra colour and comfort.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Nothing stays the same for ever. In fact, you're coming up to rush hour in the romantic department. But why exactly are partners so impatient or irritable? Mars, planet of war, is also stirring up hidden feelings, encouraging you to stand up for yourself.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Hope springs eternal. At least that's what we're told! But never forget that simple motto when you feel weighed down by the cares of the world, or just plain worn out. This is not an easy moment for all you delicate souls, but faith in the future will now definitely see you through.

JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

I believe that if one always looked at the ____, one would end up with ____, - Gustave Flaubert (5...5)

NSEII **EILRGN**

AYSSS **DEESKW**

SOLUTION: NISEI, SASSY, LINGER, SKREWED
Answer: I believe that if one always looked at the skies, one would end up with wings.

Difficulty Level 3s

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

SUDOKU 4300

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| 8 | | 3 | | | 2 | | | |
| | 2 | | | 3 | | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | 7 | 2 | | |
| 6 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 4 | | |
| 5 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | 4 | | 8 | | |
| | | | 1 | | 9 | | | |
| 6 | | | 8 | | | | | |

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4299

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 2 |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 |

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT OF LICENCE FOR SETTING UP OF COMMERCIAL COLONIES UNDER 3.5% COMPONENT OF NET PLANNED AREA OF A RESIDENTIAL SECTOR IN VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF THE STATE UNDER POLICY DATED 10.11.2017

- The Department of Town & Country Planning, Haryana has notified a policy dated 10.11.2017 for grant of license for setting up of those categories of colonies for which there is a cap on the Net Planned Area (NPA). This policy is available on the website of the department at <https://tcepharyana.gov.in/Policy/PF-64-Pawan%20Bhatia%20Notification.docx%2010%2011%2017%204%20.pdf>. The policy gives guidelines with respect to grant of licenses under the provisions of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975 and Rules framed thereunder (Act 8 of 1975) for those categories of colonies which are allowed on limited area.
- The department has a policy dated 18.02.1997, as amended on 06.03.2018 and 10.07.2019, for development of commercial colonies in residential sector. This policy allows grant of licence for setting up of commercial colony upto 3.5% of the net planned area of a residential sector.
- In view of provisions of the policies mentioned above, applications are invited for grant of license for setting up of Commercial Colony (within 3.5% limit of Net Planned area of residential sectors) on the prescribed form LC-I in accordance with Rule 3 of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Rules-1976, provisions of policy dated 10.11.2017 and zoning regulations of relevant Final Development Plans published under Section 5(7) of Act No. 41 of 1963.
- The said applications shall be submitted for setting up of Commercial colony as per the sector-wise list of available Net Planned Area hosted on the website of the Department at the following link: https://tcepharyana.gov.in/public_notice/netplannedarea201120.pdf
- An opening window of two months from the date of publication of this notice is given to the Persons/Companies/Firms/Trusts etc. who are interested in seeking license permissions for the Commercial Colonies in 3.5% Net Planned Area.
- The link for submission of online licence application is as follow: <https://ofa.tcepharyana.gov.in/>
- The applications for seeking license for commercial colony shall be submitted for minimum area of 2 acres in Hyper and High Potential towns, 1 acre in Medium potential towns and 0.5 acre in low potential towns.
- The Final Development Plans of Madlauda, Raipur Rani, Kalanaur and Bhuna have been notified recently. The sectoral plans of these towns are yet to be finalized/approved. However, the Interested applicants may apply in the residential sectors of aforementioned towns as per the subject cited policies, although their applications shall be decided as per approved sectoral plans.
- The details of scrutiny fee and license fee to be submitted alongwith the application as well as the planning parameters are hosted on the website of the Department i.e. www.tcepharyana.gov.in.
- No application received after expiry of two months period will be entertained and the same will be liable to be returned.
- For any queries regarding this public notice, the Senior Town Planner Gurugram (0124-2305872), Hisar (01662-231106), Rohtak (01262-266655), Panchkula (0172-2560217) and Faridabad (0129-2220692) or District Town Planner (HQ) (0172- 2549349) may be contacted during working hours.

Dated: 21.11.2020,
Place: Chandigarh

Sd/-
(K. Makrand Pandurang)
Director,
Town and Country Planning Haryana, Chandigarh.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT OF LICENCE FOR SETTING UP OF COMMERCIAL COLONIES UNDER 3.5% COMPONENT OF NET PLANNED AREA OF A RESIDENTIAL SECTOR IN VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF THE STATE UNDER POLICY DATED 10.11.2017 AND POLICIES DATED 14.06.2012, 09.08.2016 & 30.05.2018 (LEFT-OVER POCKET POLICY).

- The Department of Town & Country Planning, Haryana has notified a policy dated 10.11.2017 for grant of license for setting up of those categories of colonies for which there is a cap on the Net Planned Area (NPA). This policy is hosted on the website of the department at <https://tcepharyana.gov.in/Policy/PF-64-Pawan%20Bhatia%20Notification.docx%2010%2011%2017%204%20.pdf>. The policy gives guidelines with respect to grant of licenses under the provisions of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975 and Rules framed thereunder (Act 8 of 1975) for those categories of colonies which are allowed on limited area.
- Also Policy for planned development of left-over land pockets, viz., un-licensed/unacquired/ released areas located in the developed sectors through either grant of licence under Act No. 8 of 1975 or approval of Town Planning (TP) scheme under Municipal Acts was notified on 14.06.2012 and amended on 09.08.2016 & 30.05.2018 for left-over land pockets which either stand un-acquired or released from acquisition proceedings or have remained un-licensed since they do not independently fulfill the area norms prescribed for grant of licences in the midst of any developed sector which stands developed and services are already functional. For developed sectors falling under the purview of the above said policy, the minimum area norms for setting up of Commercial colony is 0.2 acres.
- In view of provisions of the policies mentioned above, applications are invited for grant of license for setting up of Commercial Colony (within 3.5% limit of Net Planned area of residential sectors) on the prescribed form LC-I in accordance with Rule 3 of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Rules-1976, provisions of policy dated 10.11.2017 and zoning regulations of relevant Final Development Plans published under Section 5(7) of Act No. 41 of 1963.
- An opening window of two months from the date of publication of this notice is given to the Persons/Companies/Firms/Trusts etc. who are interested in seeking license permissions for the Commercial colonies under purview of policies dated 10.11.2017, 14.06.2012, 09.08.2016 & 30.05.2018. The said applications shall be submitted as per the list of developed sectors available at the following link: https://tcepharyana.gov.in/public_notice/developedsector201120.pdf
- The link for submission of online licence application is as follow: <https://ofa.tcepharyana.gov.in/>
- For developed sectors falling under the purview of the above said policy, the minimum area norms for setting up of Commercial colony shall be 0.2 acres.
- The details of scrutiny fee and license fee to be submitted alongwith the application as well as the planning parameters are available on the website of the Department i.e.
- No application received after expiry of two months period will be entertained and the same will be liable to be returned.
- For any queries regarding this public notice, the Senior Town Planner Gurugram (0124-2305872), Hisar (01662-231106), Rohtak (01262-266655), Panchkula (0172-2560217) and Faridabad (0129-2220692) or District Town Planner (HQ) (0172-2549349) may be contacted during working hours.

Dated: 21.11.2020,
Place: Chandigarh

Sd/-
(K. Makrand Pandurang)
Director,
Town and Country Planning Haryana, Chandigarh.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL
HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
(Telefax: 0194-2496089, E-mail ID: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)
GIST of E - NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/200/e-tendering
(SHORT TERM)
Dated: 19.11.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:

| Name of Work | Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs.) | Earnest Money (In Rs.) | Position of Funds |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2.80 | 200 | 5600 | Available |

Outsourcing of Manpower for operation of Central Heating System at Govt. Medical College, Anantnag from 27.11.2020 to 15.03.2021

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 19.11.2020 (16.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 19.11.2020 (16:00 hrs) to 25.11.2020 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
- The bids uploaded on the website upto due date and time will be opened on 25.11.2020 (16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

DIPK-9364

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

- The Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. II, HPPWD, Mandi H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the On-line Bids on item rate, in Electronic Tendering System, in 2 Cover System for the following works from the eligible and approved Contractors/Firms Registered with HPPWD Department.

| Sr. No. | Name of Work | Estimated Cost | EMD | Cost of Tender | Eligible Class of Contractor | Time Limit |
|---------|--|-----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Construction of Admin. Cum Academic Block in Govt Degree College Mandi H.P. (SH). Construction of building portion including WS & SI, Rain harvesting tank, Providing E.I & yard lighting) | Rs. 215502146/- | Rs. 500000/- | Rs. 5000/- | A | Fifteen Months |

- Availability of Bid Document and mode of Submission:** The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://hptenders.gov.in> bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <http://hptenders.gov.in> Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
- Key Dates:**

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Date of On-line Publication | 01.12.2020, at 5.00 P.M. |
| 2. Document Download and End Date | 01.12.2020 at 5.00 P.M. upto 15.12.2020, at 5.00 P.M. |
| 3. Bid Submission Start and End Date | 01.12.2020 at 5.30 P.M. upto 15.12.2020, at 5.00 P.M. |
| 4. Date of technical bid opening | 16.12.2020 upto 11.30 A.M. |
| 5. Physical submission of original documents i/c original EMD & cost of tender documents etc | Upto 16.12.2020 at 11.00 A.M. |

- TENDER DETAILS:**
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded On-line in 2 covers.
i) Cover 1 shall contain Scanned Copies of all "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information".
ii) Cover 2 shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bids" where Contractor will quote his offer for each item.
iii) **SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:** The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents with this office as specified in key dates at Sr. No. 5, failing which the bids will be declared nonresponsive.
iv) **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bid shall be opened on 16.12.2020 at 11.30 Hrs in the office of Superintending Engineer 1st circle Mandi. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
v) The bid for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
vi) Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mandi Division No. II,
H.P.P.W.D, Mandi,
-HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK-

4492/HP

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Chess societies have not been very kind to women and girls over the years. Certainly there needs to be a bit of a change in culture.

MAGNUS CARLSEN
WORLD CHESS CHAMPION

BRIEFLY



Rohit Sharma picked up a hamstring injury during the IPL.

Hamstring fine, claims Rohit Sharma

Rohit Sharma said he always knew that the hamstring injury he suffered was not that serious and he would be ready for the tour of Australia. "I don't know what was going on, to be honest and what all were people talking about. But let me put this on record, I was constantly communicating with BCCI and Mumbai Indians," Rohit said. "I told them (Mumbai Indians) I can take the field since it is the shortest format and I will be able to manage the situation quite nicely. Once I made my mind clear, it was all about focussing on what I needed to do. Hamstring is feeling absolutely fine. Just started the process of getting it nice and strong. Before I play the longer format, I absolutely needed to be clear in mind that there is no stone that is left unturned, that's probably the reason, I'm at the NCA."

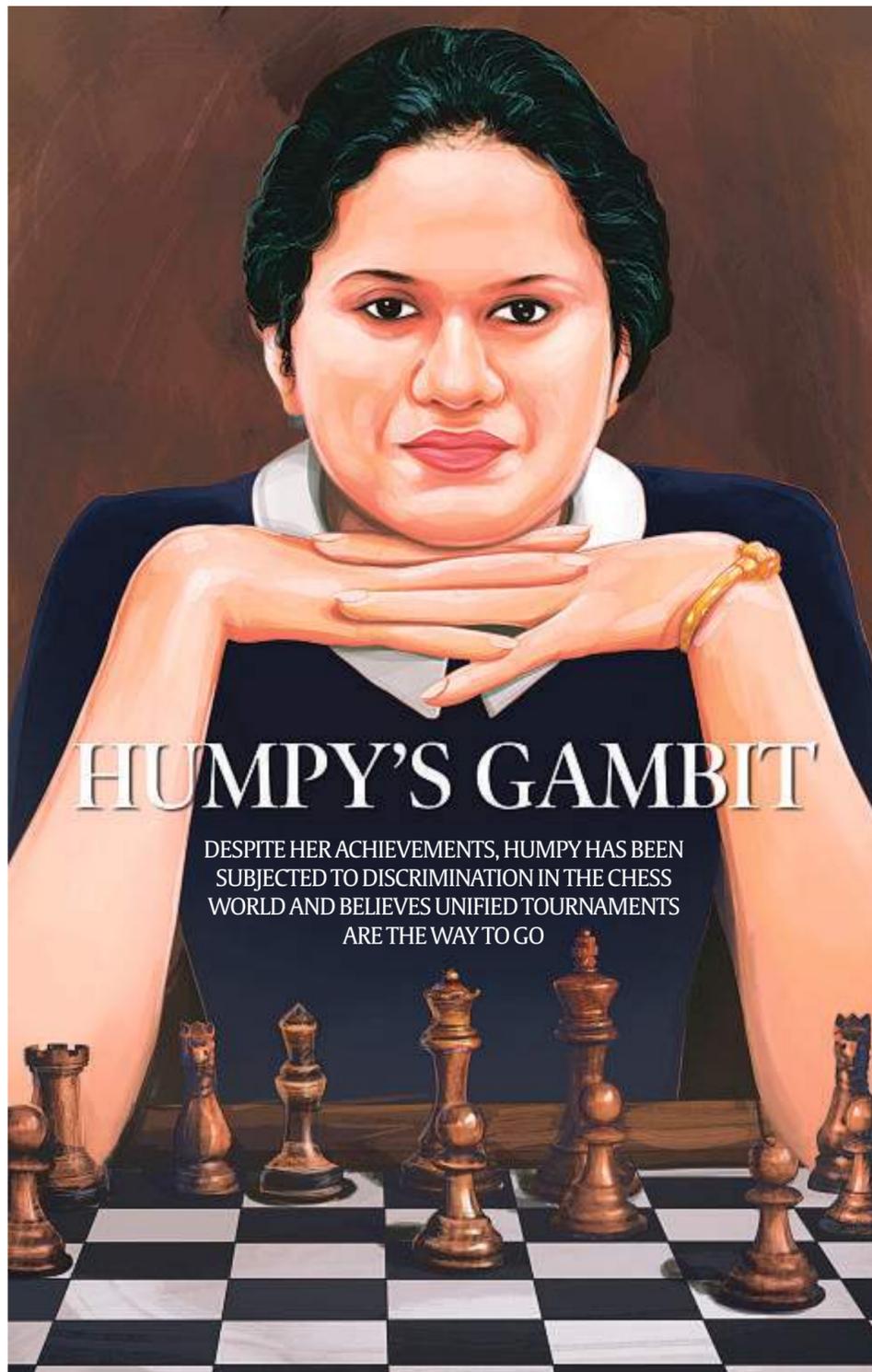
Siraj decides to stay back in Australia

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Saturday said that pacer Mohammed Siraj, who has lost his father, was given the option of flying back home to be with his grieving family but he decided to stay back in Australia for "national duty". Ghose, who was suffering from a lung ailment, died on Friday. He was 53. "The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had a discussion with Siraj and he was offered the option of flying back and be with his family in this hour of grief," Shah was quoted as saying in a BCCI media release. "The fast bowler has decided to stay with the Indian contingent and continue performing his national duties. The BCCI shares his grief and will be supportive of Siraj in this extremely challenging phase," Shah added.

Ex-Mumbai player Chandorkar turns 100

Former first-class cricketer Raghunath Chandorkar on Saturday turned hundred years old, becoming only the third Indian cricketer to complete a century of birthdays. Chandorkar played seven first class games, representing Maharashtra (1943-44 to 1946-47) and Bombay (1950-51). The wicket-keeper batsman had scored 155 runs in seven games. He also effected three catches and two stumpings. Prof. DB Deodhar (1892-1993) and Vasant Raiji (1920-2020) are the only other Indian cricketers to celebrate 100 birthdays.

PTI



HUMPY'S GAMBIT

DESPITE HER ACHIEVEMENTS, HUMPY HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO DISCRIMINATION IN THE CHESS WORLD AND BELIEVES UNIFIED TOURNAMENTS ARE THE WAY TO GO

ON NEEDING TO COMPETE AGAINST MEN

Playing only among women would not have helped my development, as since I was 13, I was the clear number one among them. I needed to compete with the other leading (male) Grandmasters of my time.

ON WHY COACHING WOMEN NEEDS FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Girls in chess are not treated the same way as boys. Coaches and officials are guided by potential successes in girls' competitions, which are comparatively easier to achieve. Parents tend to follow what the experts advise.

ON NIGEL SHORT'S COMMENTS ON WOMEN'S CHESS' INFERIORITY

Short's conclusion does not stand up to scrutiny, and the burden of proof is with him. Even if women do think and compete differently, we can attain the same achievements as men: be it in science, art or chess.

As quoted by The Guardian

JUDIT POLGAR ON CHESS & WOMEN

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

EPL musical chairs continues, Chelsea 7th team to go on top

REUTERS
NEWCASTLE, NOVEMBER 21

CHELSEA BECAME the seventh club to top the Premier League standings this season after a 2-0 victory at Newcastle United on Saturday courtesy of an own goal by Federico Fernandez and Tammy Abraham's second-half effort.

Frank Lampard's side dominated before the break and took the lead in the 10th minute when Fernandez, under pressure from Ben Chilwell, turned in Mason Mount's cross. Chelsea really should have been out of sight with Timo Werner guilty of missing some gilt-edged chances but Newcastle came alive after the break.

Isaac Hayden squandered a great chance to equalise on the hour but a few minutes later Werner burst through on goal before passing to Abraham to double Chelsea's lead. Sean Longstaff came close for Newcastle when his rising drive clipped the crossbar but Chelsea could have scored more with Werner having a goal ruled out for offside.

Chelsea's third successive league win lifted them level on 18 points with Leicester City but are top thanks to a better goal difference. Leicester face Liverpool on Sunday. Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspur could both replace Chelsea at the top later on Saturday.

After a huge investment in the squad, Chelsea are beginning to show the consistency for a title challenge after something of

NorthEast Utd stun Mumbai City 1-0

Vasco: Ghanian forward Kwesi Appiah's 49th minute penalty helped underdogs NorthEast United stun a star-studded Mumbai City in their opening match of the Indian Super League in Vasco, Goa, on Saturday. Mumbai, who are among the tournament favourites, were the better side in the first half but a red card to their key player, Ahmed Jahouh, minutes before the break turned the match in NorthEast's favour. Soon after the restart, Mumbai midfielder Rowlin Borges was judged to have handed the ball and Appiah sent goalkeeper Amrinder Singh the wrong way to give his side the lead. NorthEast controlled rest the match against the 10-man Mumbai.

Playing tonight: FC Goa vs Bengaluru FC, 7.30pm, Live on Star Sports Network

a mixed start to the new campaign. Saturday's win was more comfortable than the scoreline suggests with Newcastle having only one shot on target.

Playing tonight: Leeds United vs Arsenal, 10pm; Liverpool vs Leicester City, 12.45am (Monday), Live on Star Sports Network



MOHAMMAD KAIF

"CAN YOU COME for the batting nets, bhai?" It was Shikhar Dhawan on the phone in July. It had become our Covid routine of sorts; by the time I would reach, he would be ready, waiting.

It came to my mind later when he started to find touch midway during the IPL; everyone prepares well and when it clicks as it did for him, it feels good. Those stints were our gentle re-entry into the game in these unusual times. I'm just glad that BCCI managed to pull off one of the greatest competitions of our times. It helped that our team reached the final. In the first half, we were the team to beat and though we slipped later, we clawed our way back though we eventually lost to a very professional unit in Mumbai Indians.

"Bat first" and "There is no dew here" were the ideas we would often discuss at our meetings in the first half of the tournament. Many teams like to chase in T20s; you know the target and dew make things easier for batsmen. But without the dew, the key advantages disappear and it comes down to what suits the composition of the



team. With our unit, it was perhaps best to let the young batsmen play freely and then let our bowlers defend the score. We had covered both pace and spin with great quality from Kagiso Rabada, Ishant Sharma and Anrich Nortje to R Ashwin, Amit Mishra and Axar Patel, with adequate back-ups if needed.

Unsurprisingly, most teams chose to chase, and it didn't work for them. Even if our batsmen scored par scores, we had the bowling to defend those totals. (Head coach) Ricky (Ponting) and I were always trying to prepare for the what-ifs as much as possible, and suddenly we were facing them. Ishant got injured, so did Mishra,

SHASHANK NAIR
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

KONERU HUMPY has yet to watch The Queen's Gambit. She has been receiving numerous phone calls about the Netflix miniseries, but has not got around to having a look at the show that has put forth questions on women's chess and the treatment meted out to it over the years. But despite not having watched the series, Humpy is all too familiar with its premise – a young woman participating in a male-dominated arena, starting to change the power dynamics by winning, and the change in equations not taken too kindly.

The girl from Andhra Pradesh started her chess journey at the age of six and when she became the youngest woman Grandmaster in the world (at that time) at the age of 15, she was marked for greatness. But by winning open tournaments and becoming a force in chess, Humpy also disturbed the status quo which resulted in several insinuations on her credentials.

"At 15, I became a GM but until then, the concept of gender barriers didn't really occur to me. I became a GM on the European circuit. In those days, we had very few international tournaments in India. To get exposure, my father took me on a trip to Europe for a few months and I would be playing continuously over there. I won a title and came back to India," Humpy told The Indian Express as she recounted the beginning of a turbulent phase in her career.

It was only when she started winning that the critics came out of the woodwork, and what they had to say was not very charitable. "At that time, even though I was a GM, I wasn't performing in a stable manner. It's quite normal at that age to have highs and lows. Some of my peers started criticising me by saying that I didn't have the standard of a GM because I hadn't proven myself in India and that I had played in weaker tournaments in Europe to become a GM," said Humpy.

Comparisons with Judit Polgar seemed to always find their way into conversations and the women's chess circuit, which has historically been seen as inferior to the men's game, hoped that Humpy would bridge the gap between the two worlds. She could cope with the pressure of those expectations. But she wasn't prepared for the attack on her credentials.

"This was a period when I was really mentally disturbed. Being a sportsperson, handling a win or a loss at a tournament was quite normal from childhood. But this kind of criticism was very new to me. It was a tough phase. I was down in many tournaments and suffered for six months to a year. It was then that my father and I came to the conclusion that I needed to play in Indian circuit tournaments," Humpy said, explaining her decision to take part in the National 'B' in 2013 even though she could be a part of the National 'A' in an attempt to quell any doubts about her deserving the GM status.

This then led to further grumbling. If she

participated in the 'A' category, she was deemed to be not good enough and her GM rating was said to have been awarded through some sleight of hand. If she participated in the National 'B' set-up, it was described as her taking an easy way out. There was no winning this battle of perception, but when Humpy finished second in the National 'B' set-up, by her own admission, she felt like that quashed any doubts over her qualifications.

Humpy's chess journey is replete with tales of men intentionally, or unintentionally, providing a platform for disrespect. Some of the stories range from outrightly wanting to defeat her ("Even though there were some weaker players than me comparatively, being a woman, they tried harder to beat me") to unintentionally disrespecting her ("Once I played an international tournament and had a disastrous performance in the event. Afterwards, I got a 'best women's prize'"). But despite the lack of respect, if there is one opinion of hers that has shock value, it's her belief that men simply are better than women at chess.

NUMBERS GAME

■ According to FIDE, there's an 84-16 ratio of male to female registered chess players. In total, there are 1,683 GMs who are men and 37 who are women.

■ The highest ELO rating ever achieved by a woman is 2735 by Judit Polgar. She was, at one point, the eighth-best chess player in the world.

■ In 2002, Koneru Humpy became the youngest woman GM at the age of 15 years, one month and 27 days. Current women's world No. 1 Hou Yifan broke that record in 2008.

By winning open tournaments and becoming a force in chess, Humpy also disturbed the status quo, which resulted in several insinuations on her credentials

ELO ratings seem to suggest the same – especially when comparing the top male player in the world (Magnus Carlsen: 2862) and the top female player (Hou Yifan: 2658). Psychological journals and ex-players have attributed it to many factors, chief among them being the difference in mindset between men and women.

When asked what she felt was the difference between how the two genders play the sport, the reigning women's world rapid champion offered an interesting take. "I have seen male players display a wider repertoire of moves. They shift between openings quite often and are quite aggressive in their style of play. When it comes to women, there are many top players who have limited opening moves, but the preparation behind those moves is deeper. A game between a woman and a woman is very different to a game between a man and a woman because psychologically men intend to try to make a point in that match. So, the game tends to become wilder."

For an across-the-board raise in ELO ratings for women, the 33-year-old believes that chess tournaments exclusively for women must cease to be a regular fixture because separate tournaments for both genders make it difficult for women to cope with the men's circuit. "There should only be open tournaments so that women have to play with men and improve their game."

But Humpy acknowledges the problem such a system will bring, as an already skewed monetary gap might become even wider. "The prize money for men is quite higher. It's tournaments like the World Championship and Candidates that help women professionals survive financially. Once they take off these tournaments, professionally it'll be very difficult to survive with the men's circuit only. I think it makes sense for them to keep a special financial prize for women even in open tournaments."

A satisfying, humbling, enriching IPL campaign

Iyer is a young captain. He would have loved more runs but the way he came back in the final, soaking up the pressure of early wickets, showed his mettle

which upset our bowling balance. Still, we had things under relative control.

Ponting was at his inspiring best. His working style is simple: the support staff would throw around ideas, have a chat in the bus and at the hotel, and he would get in captain Shreyas Iyer for the breakfast meeting. Over food and coffee, Iyer would be presented our views, we would hear his views, have a healthy discussion – and Ponting was clear that the captain should have the final say.

Iyer is a young captain. He would have loved more runs but the way he came back in the final, soaking up the pressure of early wickets, showed his mettle.

Right through the tournament, we were toying with the idea of opening with Marcus Stoinis but had Indian openers of quality in Prithvi Shaw and Ajinkya Rahane to partner Dhawan. Once Shaw lost form, Ponting chose the crunch game – the qualifier against Sunrisers Hyderabad – to unleash Stoinis, who seized the moment. He was our Hulk, starring with bat and ball in the tournament, ready for any challenge.

Ashwin was marvellous in the Powerplays. He was our leading strike

bowler, quite a statement with the incredible Rabada there, but Ashwin was that good with the new ball. He took out the top guns: from Chris Gayle, Rohit Sharma, Nicholas Pooran to Virat Kohli. He is always up for a challenge and has the skills and self-confidence to back himself. Axar was our unsung hero, showing enough cricketing intelligence while bowling and a lot of potential with the bat.

Another player who was a delight to work with was Rabada. He is a true professional. KG landed in UAE just a week before the tournament and I remember the intensity in his training.

You could sense that he was very keen to find his touch and rhythm quickly. Just the second day itself, you could see he was beginning to get things under control. He has great clarity about what he wants to do, what works for him and the willingness to work hard for it.

A campaign can't be successful without selfless senior players. Who better than Rahane? In our training sessions, he was like a kid, wanting to be the best fielder out there. Irrespective of whether he was playing or not, he prepared passionately and helped his team-mates. And in that must-win game, he stood out in the way he steadied the nerves and guided the chase.

It was a campaign from which we learnt a lot; it was satisfying, humbling, enriching. We reached the final, hopefully we go one step further next year.

The writer is the assistant coach of Delhi Capitals, who finished runners-up in the 2020 IPL. For full version, log on to: www.indianexpress.com