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NCB summons Deepika, Sara Ali, Shraddha Kapoor



Called in connection with FIR on Rhea Chakraborty's purported chats

MOHAMED THAVER

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

AS PART of its investigations into Rhea Chakraborty's purported WhatsApp chats and an alleged "drug citadel in Mumbai", the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has summoned actors Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh for questioning.

While Padukone and Singh have been summoned in connection with the FIR filed by the NCB based on Chakraborty's purported chats, Khan and Kapoor have been summoned in connection with the case in which the NCB told a local court it wanted to "uproot the drug citadel in Bollywood". While 19 persons have been arrested in the second case, including Chakraborty and her brother Showik, no arrests have been made in the first case as yet.

NCB Deputy Director K P S Malhotra said, "Singh has been summoned on September 24, Padukone on September 25. The rest have been called for questioning a day later."

On Tuesday, NCB officials had said they would first record the statement of Padukone's manager and Kwan talent management company employee Karishma Prakash, following which a decision to summon Padukone will be taken. Prakash did not appear before the NCB, seeking exemption till September 25 on grounds of ill-health, while Kwan CEO Dhruv Chitgopekar was questioned for

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Delhi riots chargesheet: Khurshid, Kavita Krishnan named by accused for 'provocative speeches'

Lawyers of accused say statements under duress, inadmissible in law

ARANYA SHANKAR & ANAND MOHAN J

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

CONGRESS LEADER Salman Khurshid, CPI-ML Politburo member Kavita Krishnan, student activist Kawalpreet Kaur, scientist Gauhar Raza and advocate



MONSOON SESSION ENDS UNDER A CLOUD

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad with other Opposition MPs after meeting President Ram Nath Kovind on the farm Bills, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Anil Sharma

Committed to MSP but it was never part of law: Agri Minister

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

REJECTING DEMANDS for the inclusion of Minimum Support Price as a mandatory provision in the contentious Farm Bills that were passed in Parliament amid protests, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar Wednesday said that while the government was committed to MSP, it was "not a part of the law" earlier and "is not" today.

Tomar also hit out at Opposition parties and asked why



Narendra Singh Tomar at the Idea Exchange



they did not include MSP as part of law when they were in power "for many years".

Responding to a question during an online Idea Exchange event of *The Indian Express*, he said: "Through you, I want to tell

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Back farmers' demand to legalise MSP as floor price, says ally JD(U)

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, SEPTEMBER 23

WITH POLLS looming in Bihar, the JD(U) appears to have taken a calibrated approach to the contentious farm Bills. The BJP's senior NDA ally in the state Wednesday welcomed passage of the Bills in Parliament but said that it supports the demand of various farmers' organisations for a law that makes payment below the MSP a punishable offence.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, former Rajya Sabha MP and JD(U) principal general secretary K C Tyagi said: "We welcome the passage of both the Bills in Parliament. Our party

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PM has assured MSP will stay: KCTyagi

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SESSION ENDS, FIGHT OVER FARM BILLS TO CONTINUE

IN PARLIAMENT, PAGE 5

SEVEN WORST-HIT STATES

Rethink short lockdowns, tracing is key: PM to states

Tells chief ministers to set aside an hour daily for block-level officials

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked the Chief Ministers of seven states worst hit by the Covid-19 crisis to make a critical assessment of the 1-2-day lockdowns that several states have been imposing, and the adverse impact these have on economic activity.

The Prime Minister stressed on the need for states to strengthen their tracing-tracking strategy to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus infection.

"The lockdown brought benefits. Globally too, it has been appreciated. However, now we have to focus on micro containment zones, which will ensure that the spread is contained... States have to make an assessment on how effective are the lockdowns that are being imposed for 1-2 days. Because of this, economic activity should not face problems. My suggestion to the states is to take up this issue very seriously. We have to increase our focus on effective testing, treating and surveillance, and clear messaging," the Prime Minister said.



PM Narendra Modi at the video conference with CMs on Wednesday. PTI

The Prime Minister's video conference was attended by the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Punjab. More than 63 per cent of the country's active Covid-19 cases are in these states, which also account for 65.5% of the total confirmed cases, and 77% of deaths.

Modi also took up with the states the problems seen in the supply of oxygen to patients in recent weeks.

"...Another thing that has emerged is that the interruption in the movement of services and goods from one state to another causes unnecessary problems to ordinary citizens; it also impacts lives and livelihoods. Of late, many states have had problems

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CORRESPONDENT BANK

44 Indian banks, transactions of \$1 billion, flagged to US regulator

SANDEEP SINGH

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

AT LEAST 44 Indian banks have been flagged in connection with transactions by Indian entities and individuals in a set of Suspicious Activity Reports filed by US banks with the watchdog agency, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), an investigation by *The Indian Express* shows.

As per one set of records where addresses linked to parties are in India, Indian banks figure in SARs linked to over 2,000 transactions valued at over \$1 billion between 2011 and 2017. Significantly, there are thousands of transactions linked to Indian entities and businessmen where the Indian senders or beneficiaries have addresses in foreign jurisdictions.

Records investigated show that Indian banks mentioned in the SARs include: state-owned

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY



Punjab National Bank (290 transactions); State Bank of India (102); Bank of Baroda (93); Union Bank of India (99) and Canara Bank (190), among others.

Among private

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON

Before bankruptcy and probe, Bhushan Steel hit US radar for flows from Latvia, Dubai

KHUSHBOO NARAYAN

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

MULTIPLE TRANSFERS from a bank in Latvia and two electronics firms in the UAE and a series of circular transactions with a Dubai company are among the financial transactions linked to Bhushan Steel Ltd red-flagged by foreign banks to the US Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), according to records investigated by *The Indian Express*.

These transactions, totalling \$4.39 million, figure in several Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) sent between 2012 and 2015 to the US regulatory agency that enforces money laundering laws, the records show.

In 2017, two years after the last of these SARs were sent to FinCEN, the RBI initiated bankruptcy proceedings against Bhushan Steel for alleged loan defaults worth



Rs 56,000 crore, triggering probes by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) and Enforcement Directorate (ED).

A year later, the company, which was once India's third largest secondary steel producer and flagship of Bhushan Group promoted by Neeraj Singal and his father Brij Bhushan Singal, was acquired by Tata Steel for Rs 35,232 crore through the insolvency process.

Some of the SARs related to Bhushan Steel focus on nested money transfers involving Meridian Trade Bank, in Latvia

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PAGE 1 ANCHOR

HAMZA KHAN

JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 23

EARLIER THIS month, sitting on a cot in Mailsi town of Pakistan's Punjab province, 86-year-old Daphia Bai alias Aisha plugged in earphones, with some help, and focused on the mobile screen, her eyes already moist in anticipation. When she finally saw her nephews and grandsons on the video call, she couldn't stop kissing the screen or hold back her tears: it was the first time since Partition that she had laid eyes on a member of her long-lost family.

On the other side, in Bikaner's Morkhana town, 266 km away, were Khoju Ram and Kalu Ram, grandsons of Daphia's brothers, among others. More tears were exchanged than words as Daphia spoke in Saraiki and the Bikaner family in Marwari, as a person tried to translate. "I spent all my life crying, I offered money, ghee to people to help locate my family," she said, sobbing.

In the seven decades apart, there were some words Daphia had held close to her heart: the names of her siblings, and a place with a lot of "mor (peacocks)", where her family had land. It were these that finally ended the

search that began more than a year ago, in August 2019, when Pakistani YouTuber Muhammad Alamgir shared a video of Daphia, asking if anyone knew about the family of a 13-year-old who had got left behind when they moved to India in 1947.

Before Partition, the family belonging to the Meghwal caste used to freely move between Bikaner and the part of Punjab now in Pakistan. When the border came up, they chose Bikaner, right next to the line. In the confusion of moving, Daphia was allegedly kidnapped, and subsequently converted to Islam, married and bore seven children.



Daphia Bai's 73-year search for her family in India ended on September 13 with a video call. Express

However, she kept searching, for the other part of her family.

Speaking on the phone from Pakistan, Daphia's grandson Naseer Khan, 40, says, "She would remember her siblings Alsu, Chothu and Mira; how Alsu had an injury in one eye and couldn't see from it. She used to tell us about a place in India which had a lot of peacocks... She used to talk about attending her mamu's (uncle's) wedding in that town."

Alamgir heard about her through friend Munawwar Ali Shaikh, who knew Naseer.

It was Zaid Muhammad Khan, 34, based in Delhi, who first no-

ticed the video Alamgir put up. Interested in Partition stories, he decided to look for Daphia's family, based on the things she had talked about in the clip.

Khan went on Facebook and shared Daphia's story with some people in Bikaner, especially Morkhana (he guessed that was the place she was talking about). Khan also scoured publicly available revenue records for the siblings Daphia mentioned — Alsu Ram, Chothu Ram, Mesa Ram, Budla Ram, Gangu Ram, Moti Ram, and sister Mira Bai. The names, however, were too common for him to make much headway.

One of the people Khan contacted was Bharat Singh, 20, who runs a shop in Morkhana. Singh began looking for Meghwal families whose family members may have been lost during Partition. In the second week of September, he came across a family in Morkhana whose elders used to talk about a sister that had got left behind. They had looked for her for years.

On September 13, days after Singh had knocked on their doors, the call came from Pakistan. Twenty family members crowded around the phone of Khoju Ram, 30, a farmer, and

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

WHO IS SERGEI TOROP, THE JESUS 'REINCARNATION' ARRESTED IN RUSSIA

Sergei Torop, also known as Vissarion by his followers, has been accused by the Russian intelligence committee of extorting money and causing physical and psychological harm to his followers.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



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FULL COVERAGE



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All the actors under the lens of the Narcotics Control Bureau



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EXPRESS AUDIO

Delhi riots chargesheet, Umar Khalid's journey, Oppn boycotts Parl

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode, a Delhi Police chargesheet in the Delhi riots, a profile of ex-JNU student Umar Khalid, and what happened when Oppn boycotted RS

FROM PAGE ONE

44 Indian banks

banks who figure in the SARs are HDFC Bank (253 transactions); ICICI Bank (57); Kotak Mahindra Bank (268); Axis Bank (41) and IndusInd Bank (117) among others.

The foreign banks that have filed these SARs include Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas (DBTCA), BNY Mellon, Citibank, Standard Chartered and JP Morgan Chase among others.

Indian banks figure in the SARs primarily because they are "correspondent banks" to the foreign banks which have filed these SARs and figure in the network through which these transactions have been effected.

There are cases, records show, where "suspicious transactions" have been carried out through the international payment gateway of foreign banks. In others, foreign branches of Indian banks such as a State Bank of India account in Canada and an account of Union Bank of India in UK have been used by clients for carrying out part of the transactions in question.

Key to this is the correspondent banking relationship – an arrangement over which there has been growing concern as regulators crack down on secrecy of offshore transactions.

Under this, one bank (correspondent) holds deposits owned by other banks (respondents) and provides payment and other services to those respondent banks. Through correspondent banking relationships, banks can access financial services in different jurisdictions and provide cross-border payment services to their customers.

In these SARs, the foreign banks have cited a slew of reasons to red-flag these transactions: "high-risk jurisdiction for money laundering or other financial crimes," adverse media/public information on the client, "unidentified" parties, and the fact that "source of funds and purpose of transaction could not be ascertained."

Meanwhile, there has been growing concern among banks over the idea of correspondent banking. According to a report by Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI) of the Bank for International Settlements, on correspondent Banking, prepared in 2016, banks providing these services are reducing their relationships.

The report states that rising costs and uncertainty about how far customer due diligence should be done in order to ensure regulatory compliance have been some of the key reasons for banks to cut back their correspondent relationships.

The report made several recommendations including standardisation of KYC norms and using legal entity identifiers in correspondent banking. It also recommended that global watchdogs like Financial Action task

Force and Anti Money laundering task force should explore ways to tackle obstacles to information-sharing, with the aim of identifying potential best practices.

While mails sent to 10 banks for their comments on the SARs did not elicit any response, an SBI spokesperson in his response, said: "The information sought herewith is not available with the Bank due to the SAR confidentiality regulations.

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has issued an advisory that any unauthorized disclosure of a SAR is a violation of US federal law...Both civil and criminal penalties may be imposed for SAR disclosure violations.

"This obligation applies not only to the SAR itself, but also to information that would reveal the existence (or non-existence) of the SAR. All the foreign branches of State Bank of India follow all the process as per the applicable local regulations to flag any suspicious transaction. SBI has been working with the highest level of compliance to legal and regulatory requirements not only in the India but also overseas. Bank at the same time follows a zero tolerance policy towards any violation of compliance."

Bhushan Steel

on behalf of a London-based entity. Nesting is a route taken to mask the money trail and occurs when a foreign bank uses the services of another bank for its customers. For FinCen, nesting is of particular concern when banks conduct transfers on behalf of suspected shell companies.

Records show that Bank of New York Mellon (BNYM) flagged at least three nested transactions worth \$454,822 from Meridian Trade Bank on behalf of London-based Randview LLP between 2014 and 2015. These wire transfers were received in the accounts of Bhushan Steel at Canara Bank and ICICI Bank, and part of 126 alleged suspicious transactions pertaining to Meridian Trade Bank that were reported by BNYM in 2015.

"The wires, all flowing through non-BNYM customer Meridian Trade Bank, are primarily suspicious because many of the entities banking with SMP Bank (now Meridian Trade Bank) appear to be shell-like entities banking in the high-risk jurisdiction of Latvia but purportedly located in other jurisdictions," said one of the SARs.

Randview LLP, according to UK Companies House, was set up in London in 2011 by two Mauritius-based intermediary firms -- Newcombe Limited and Glaisdale Limited. Incidentally, companies in Gambia linked to the two intermediaries figured in the Panama Papers, an ICIJ investigative project in 2018 with The Indian Express.

"BNY Mellon takes its role in protecting the integrity of the global financial system seriously,

Rethink short lockdowns, tracing is key: PM

regarding the supply of oxygen. Every necessary step has to be taken to ensure that there is uninterrupted supply of life-saving oxygen," he said.

The Prime Minister asked the Chief Ministers to hold daily virtual meetings with officials at the levels of districts and blocks so that a clear message on containment percolates to the ground level.

"We have more than 700 districts," he said. "But the statistics that are worrying are from just 60 districts and confined to seven states...The CMs can make a 7-day programme; and every

day for one hour, you should virtually question one block or tehsil in the district, which will ensure that the message goes down to the ground level, and brings seriousness and sincerity."

The government, Modi said, had decided to enhance the utilisation of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to 50 per cent for improving Covid-19 infrastructure.

"We need to continue strengthening infrastructure; we also have to strengthen training on tracking and tracing. Today, to strengthen the Covid-19 infra-

structure, an important decision has been taken on State Disaster Response Funds. Following requests from many states, we have increased the utilisation of SDRF from 35 per cent to 50 per cent. This decision will result in more funds becoming available for the state," he said.

The Prime Minister asked the seven CMs to adopt the best practices from other states. "The country now has the highest testing and recoveries. Many states have exhibited several best practices. We have learned more from these practices, and taken advantage of them. The progress

made in clinical management over the last few months is helping us a lot in fighting the pandemic," he said.

At the beginning of the meeting, Modi expressed his appreciation for the doctors who have been treating patients under the flagship Ayushman Bharat scheme, which completed two years on Wednesday. "In just two years, more than 1.25 crore poor patients have received free treatment under this scheme. Today, through this video conference, I express my special appreciation to all the doctors and medical staff serving the poor," he said.

Railways MoS Suresh Angadi dies of Covid

"I am shocked and saddened by the demise of... Suresh Angadi. He was like a younger brother to me. I feel terrible losing him. This is an unbearable loss to our nation," former PM and JD(S) leader HD Devegowda tweeted. On September 11, the day he was admitted to AIIMS, Angadi tweeted: "I have tested #Covid19 positive today. I am

doing fine. Taking the advice of doctors. Requesting all those who have come in close contact with me in the last few days to monitor their health and get tested in case of any symptoms." As railway minister, Angadi was characterised by his keen interest in tracking big-ticket projects. During the lockdown and even after, he, along with

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, chaired regular review meetings through video conferencing.

"Deeply anguished at the unfortunate demise of Suresh Angadi ji. He was like my brother. Words fall short to describe his commitment & dedication towards the people. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends in this hour of need.

Om Shanti," Goyal tweeted. Angadi's death follows that of BJP's newly elected Rajya Sabha member Ashok Gasti, 55, who died of Covid last week in Bengaluru. Earlier, YSRC's Tirupati MP Balli Durga Prasad Rao, 64, died in Chennai and Congress MP from Kanyakumari H Vasanthakumar, 70, died of Covid in August.

whom to make a witness.

Lost in Partition

the grandson of Chothu alias Sheela Ram. "First they called, and then I made a WhatsApp video call to them," says Khoju Ram. Kalu Ram, 23, the grandson of Alsu, says, "It was so good to finally see her." The families exchanged photos.

The family of Mira Bai could n't be part of the phone call, as she lives about 50 km away.

It were the deaths of her children (only two of her daughters remain) and her own passing years that made her search more desperate, Naseer says. "She kept repeating 'Morkhana', she didn't know about Bikaner. About 15-20 years ago, we took her to Yazman Tehsil in Bahawalpur district (in Pakistan), which still has some Meghwal families. Some elders, moved by her search, would tell her they are her brothers. They would also visit us in Mailsi," Naseer says.

Around the same time the YouTube video came out, on Pakistan's Independence Day, Daphia put out an advertisement in local Urdu newspapers, along with her photo, saying, "I belonged to a Hindu family. At the age of 13, during Pakistan's independence, I was separated from my family... (and then) *Bakshinda Khan ke hathhe chadh gayi, jisne ek bayl lekar mujhe Ahmad Baksh wald Ghulam Rasool ko farokht kar diya* (I was condemned to Bakshinda Khan, who sold me off to Ahmad Baksh, son of Ghulam Rasool, for an ox)." Baksh and she eventually married. Now Daphia has just one more wish, as have both sides of her family: a visa, so she can travel to India.

Rafale makers

The CAG said: "DRDO wanted to obtain Technical Assistance for the indigenous development of engine (Kaveri) for the Light Combat Aircraft. Till date, the Vendor has not confirmed the transfer of this technology." The CAG statement does not mention any evaluation of the 50 per cent offset clause that was at the centre of a political firestorm before the 2019 general elections due to the involvement of an Anil Ambani-led Reliance firm on the Indian side.

On August 22, based on a report that the CAG had dropped the audit of the Rafale offer deal, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had tweeted: "Money was stolen from the Indian exchequer in Rafale." When contacted by The Indian Express, an India representative of

Dassault Aviation did not comment on the CAG's statement. In its statement, the CAG said that from 2005 till March 2018, 46 offset contracts were signed with foreign vendors totalling Rs 66,427 crore. "Under these contracts, by December 2018, Rs 19,223 crore worth of offsets should have been discharged by the vendors. However, the offsets claimed to have been discharged by them was only Rs 11,396 crore, which was only 59 per cent of the commitment. Further, only 48 per cent (Rs 5,457 crore) of these offset claims submitted by the vendors were accepted by the Ministry," the CAG noted.

The offset policy was adopted by India in 2005 for all capital defence purchases above Rs 300 crore made through imports. The foreign vendor, or Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), was required to invest at least 30 per cent of the value of the purchase in India's defence or aerospace sectors.

There are several ways for OEMs to meet their offset obligations, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), offering free transfer of technology to Indian firms, and purchase of eligible products manufactured by Indian firms. To discharge these obligations, OEMs need to select Indian organisations as partners.

However, the CAG noted that obtaining technology transfer has been a particular failure. It said that "90 per cent of the investment by the vendors was in the form of direct purchase of goods and services from the Indian industry". Besides, it said, "of the total value of offsets only 3.5 per cent was contracted to be discharged through FDI". The audit, CAG said, "did not find a single case where the foreign vendor had transferred high technology to the Indian industry". It said that "the defence sector is ranked 62nd out of the 63 sectors in India in terms of FDI" and there was "hardly any equipment supplied 'in kind' to the Indian industry by the foreign vendor".

"Thus, the objectives of the offset policy remain largely unachieved, even after more than a decade of its adoption," CAG stated, adding that "the (Defence) Ministry needs to review the policy and its implementation".

Agri Minister

the people of the Opposition that all of you have been in government for many years, if the law was necessary for the MSP, then why did you not make it?.. MSP kanoon ka ang pehle bhi nahin thi aur MSP kanoon ka ang aaj bhi

nahin hai (MSP was not a part of the law even earlier and MSP is not part of the law even today)."

Suggesting that the government will not concede to Opposition demands on MSP, he said: "MSP is an administrative decision of the Government of India and procurement has been taking place as a result of MSP. The Modi government had started declaring MSP by adding 50 per cent profit to the cost." Despite protests from farmers in Punjab and Haryana, the government passed three Farm Bills during the Monsoon Session: The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020; and, The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The key objection raised by protesting farmers is against a provision in the first Bill, which provides for the creation of a "trade area" outside APMC mandis. The farmers have expressed fears that if the mandi system comes to an end, the MSP mechanism would be scrapped, too.

However, with the government raising the MSP for six Rabi crops, including wheat, after the passage of the Bills, Tomar reiterated that MSP-based procurement will continue.

Defending the Bills, Tomar said the NDA government has taken the decision in the interest of the country. "If any decision is to be taken in the interest of the country, then the Modi government is committed to take that decision regardless of votes. Such decisions have been taken earlier also and will continue to happen in the future. I am sure that agriculture and farmers will get a huge amount of benefit from these Bills," he said.

Later, speaking separately to The Indian Express, a top government official echoed the Minister's views. "You cannot fix the price of a commodity with a law. What will happen if there is a sudden increase or decrease in the price? Will you change the law each time?" the official asked.

Moreover, experts said, setting MSP as a floor price legally will effectively derail the market for other players.

Ally JD(U)

supported these Bills. But we also support the demand by farmers' organisations to make a law that says no one can buy from farmers at rates less than the MSP. Any violation should be made a punishable offence."

Asked if the JD(U), under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has made this demand formally, Tyagi said: "The PM has assured that the MSP would continue." On why there is no mention of MSP in the new law, Tyagi said: "The PM has assured this in Parliament. Its violation can amount to contempt." Tyagi, who is also the party's national spokesperson, said the PM had made clear that purchase under PDS would continue as usual.

Delhi riots

including Khurshid, to deliver "provocative speech". "Those sitting on dharna used to keep sitting for these provocative speeches (bhadkaubhashan) and they used to get the zeal to campaign against the government for the sake of their religion," his disclosure statement reads. The statement of a protected witness, made under Section 164 CrPC, also names Khurshid as having made a provocative speech.

Khurshid told The Indian Express, "If you pick up all the garbage there is, you will end up with over 17,000 sheets of a chargesheet. A chargesheet is supposed to be distilled, authentic, effective and useful evidence of a cognizable offence. If someone says that 12 people came and made provocative speeches, it can't be that 12 people made the same kind of provocative speech and each one had the same level

of provocation. Provocation and mobilisation is not a criminal offence in this country."

Scientist Raza's name comes up for allegedly "instigating Muslims" through his speech at Khureji. A statement of a protected witness says Raza, along with others, "spoke wrong and objectionable things against CAA, NRC and the current government, and instigated Muslims".

When contacted, Raza said, "I stand by my statement and anger against CAA. Even today, I oppose it and I'll keep on opposing it because I consider it to be an attack on the Constitution of India...I have always been against any kind of violence anywhere. So there is no question of instigating anybody against anyone else."

Bhushan's name comes up in the statements of Saifi and Ishrat Jahan as having given a speech at Khureji. When contacted, he said, "This is a part of Delhi Police's strategy to gradually implicate any prominent person who was speaking in support of the protest against CAA. I did go to a few places and speak quite strongly against the CAA and in support of the protest. I never make any speech which is provocative in the sense that it provokes violence. I did speak strongly against the government and if they get provoked, then I can't really help it."

Kaur's name finds a mention in the original disclosure statement of Saifi dated May 25, in which he says he was in touch with her, among others, to "plan with them" and get them to send "provocative messages/tweets" so that the "Muslim community feels angered towards the government and its policies due to religious reasons". The disclosure statement of one of the 15 accused, Shadab Ahmed, dated May 27, mentions the names of 38 persons, including Krishnan, Kaur and Umar Khalid's father S Q R Ilyas, as having made "provocative speeches" at the Chand Bagh protest site.

Saifi's lawyer Harsh Bora said, "Disclosure statements are inadmissible in law because police use coercion to obtain signatures of an accused in its custody on fake disclosures that police have written on their own. That is what has happened in Khalid's (Saifi) case. We informed the court at the earliest instance in March and April that he had been forced to sign false statements and blank pages in custody. They are false and have no legal value."

Ishrat's lawyer Pradeep Teotia said, "This disclosure statement was not written by Ishrat. She has not disclosed anything. This was written by police. A disclosure statement is inadmissible under Section 25 of the Indian Evidence Act." Krishnan said: "The speeches we made, the meetings we attended, our participation in the equal citizenship movement is a matter of public record and proud record. The Delhi Police is trying to claim that this speech making and meetings between activists, which is routine in Delhi, is some conspiracy." Kaur said the allegations against her were "absurd and false". "None of this is true. None of my speeches talked about violence. With regard to Saifi, I was not in touch with him on WhatsApp or other platforms. This is a part of the larger witch hunt of activists dissenting against the government," she said.

As reported earlier, the names of CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav, economist Jayati Ghosh, DU professor Apoorvanand and filmmaker Rahul Roy had also featured in the police chargesheet based on disclosure statements. Delhi Police spokesperson Anil Mittal had said, "...A person is not arraigned as an accused only on the basis of the disclosure statement. However, it is only on the existence of sufficient corroborative evidence that further legal action is taken."

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New Delhi

3,715 AVG DAILY CASES OVER LAST 15 DAYS

Covid cases have hit a plateau, will see downward trend in 2 weeks: Jain

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

DELHI HEALTH Minister Satyendar Jain Wednesday said that cases in Delhi have seemingly hit a plateau and that in the next one to two weeks, a downward trend will be seen “definitely”. “The positivity rate has come down to 7% over the past week, as compared to 8.5% to 9% earlier. Overall, since the beginning of the pandemic, it has come down to 9% from the earlier 12%,” Jain said.

On Wednesday, 3,714 new cases were seen in Delhi and 59,580 people were tested. Total cases now are over 2.5 lakh and 5,087 people have died so far. The city’s compounded daily growth rate over seven days stands at 1.57%. This was 0.81% a month



The positivity rate has come down to 7% over the past week, said Jain

ago. Over the past 15 days, Delhi has seen an average of 3,715 cases per day.

Towards the end of July and early August, new cases had dipped significantly and remained under 1,000 for several days. The previous peak was seen

Sisodia in ICU after oxygen dip

New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia (48), who tested positive for Covid-19 on September 14, was hospitalised after he complained of a dip in oxygen saturation levels and persistent fever, officials said. He is admitted in the ICU and is under observation. Sources said he is not on oxygen support. He was taken to Lok Nayak Hospital, Delhi government’s biggest dedicated Covid facility with 2,000 beds, in the evening. Previously, health minister Satyendar Jain had contracted Covid. He was first admitted in Delhi government run RGSS Hospital but was later shifted to Max Hospital where he was administered plasma therapy and later recovered. **ENS**

in mid-June.

However, as cases started to rise again in September, the Delhi government ordered that testing be increased manifold, and the number of people tested per day went from an average of around 17,000 per day to over 60,000 per

day in recent days.

Most of the increase in testing in the city has been fuelled by the Rapid Antigen Test kits but after the High Court asked it to also pay special attention to the more accurate RT-PCR tests, the Delhi government and private labs have

been analysing close to 10,000 samples a day. Increased testing, Jain said, was the main reason behind the rise in cases and will also be the cause of the dip that he said would follow.

“The trend has stabilised now. Earlier you saw a sudden increase in cases as the number of tests conducted went up. We are now doing around 60,000 tests per day. We found the cases and isolated them at home or in hospitals. You will definitely see a downward trend in the next two weeks,” he said.

At present, there are 15,804 Covid hospital beds in Delhi, of which 7,051 or 45% are occupied.

Jain said that there was a shortage of ICU beds in some well-known private hospitals since people coming from outside Delhi are going to these hospitals as they have heard about them.

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

SCIENTISTS AT Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) have come up with a way to tackle crop residue burning by farmers. PUSA Decomposer is a set of four tablets made by extracting fungi strains that help the paddy straw to decompose at a much faster rate than usual, giving farmers the option to shred the straw, spray a solution containing the fungal strains, and mix it with the soil for decomposition.

Under usual circumstances, shredded, watered paddy straw, which is mixed with soil, takes at least 45 days to decompose, not giving enough time to farmers to prepare fields for the wheat crop on time. But the PUSA Decomposer will decompose it in 25 days, according to A K Singh, Director, IARI.

“Crop stubble is a major source of winter pollution in Delhi. I congratulate IARI scien-



Crop stubble burning is a big source of pollution in winter

tists for developing a low-cost, effective technology to deal with crop stubble burning...,” said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Singh said that the method will be cheap and also result in better soil quality. “Based on our experiments, the cost of employing this method will come to about Rs 300 per acre, including the cost of labour... That is not the only benefit though. When organic matter decomposes in sand, it improves the quality of

Explained Cutting down time

PADDY STRAW is not fed to cattle because of its high silica content. It is harvested using combine harvesters, which leave behind tall stalks. Farmers find it futile to take the effort to shred and mix it with soil as it takes long to decompose. Scientists have been working on methods to reduce the decomposition time, which also improves soil’s nutritive value.

soil in a way that inorganic fertilisers can’t... Since the fungi only impact dead straw, the wheat crop is not in danger,” he said.

A Delhi government team is expected to visit IARI, Pusa, on Thursday for a demonstration.

Can’t declare UG results before end of Oct: DU to HC

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE DELHI University Wednesday informed the Delhi High Court that it will not be possible to declare the results of undergraduate students before October end as it is short of resources as well as manpower.

While adjourning the matter, the court asked DU to apprise it on next date of hearing about the percentage of answer sheets evaluated and the status of integration of the answer sheets, which were sent by students both via email and the Open Book Exam portal. The varsity is checking the email for duplicate submissions of answer sheets by the students.

The university Wednesday also informed the court that 17 postgraduate students, who have to go abroad for further studies, have applied for the confidential results and the same shall be sent to the foreign universities on or before September 29.

Regarding the undergraduate students who have to leave for foreign universities, the court was informed that 342 have applied for provisional results and the same have been delivered in 157 cases. As many as 147 students have sent incomplete information and they were being contacted in this regard, said the university, adding that the provisional results of 43 students will be sent to the foreign universities by Thursday.

The court was also informed that 72% of answer sheets sent to examiners from the OBE portal have been evaluated. Meanwhile, the UGC informed the court that the students seeking admissions in Indian universities can be provided provisional admission till December 30.

‘Set up helpline to report concretisation around trees’

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE DELHI High Court has directed Delhi government’s Forest department to set up a telephone helpline and create a link on its website for registration of complaints by citizens with regard to any concretisation of the ground around trees. The public can also complain in case they notice other forms of damage to trees.

Justice Najmi Waziri, in an order, said, “The Tree Officer and the land-owning agencies shall ensure that all concrete around trees are removed, as per the directions of the NGT, and that a damaged tree is restored to good health.”

The order was passed after the court, hearing a case about the condition of trees in the capital, was informed that several trees in Old Delhi have been “choked with concrete”. It also called for putting in place a system to address the issue. “The system shall be put in place before the next date and it shall be duly notified to the general public...,” the court has said in the order, while listing the case for hearing on October 7.

Meanwhile, the court has also told the North MCD that de-concretisation of the area around the trees in Urdu Bazar should be commensurate with the girth of the tree to facilitate water percolation and absorption of nitrogen and other minerals.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/10/2020 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

BHIWANI, BHIWANI, 119170700022946, 4100, 4829, 4878, 4894, 4924, 4954, 5013, 5025, 5033, 5070, 5141, 5142, 5175, 5178, 5180, 5185, 5199, 5477, 5532, 5534, 5553, 5575, 5595, 5608, 5629, 5657, 5660, 5662, 5691, 5695, 5696, 5719, 5723, 119170730013156, 3157, 3497, 4741, 4742, 4861, 4882, 4905, 4923, 4929, 4945, 4971, 4972, 5070, 5103, 5125, 5145, 5146, 5157, 5165, 5172, 5173, 5174, 5340, 5394, CHARKHI DADRI, 138050700000301, 0302, 0320, 0344, 0346, 0356, 138050700000317, 138570700001043, FARIDABAD, BALLABGARH, 122540700021380, 1596, 2143, 2389, 2725, 2835, 2846, 3213, 3223, 3230, 3319, 3320, 3336, 3337, 3366, 3378, 3389, 3412, 3416, 3436, 3437, 3444, 3481, 3486, 3487, 3488, 3512, 3516, 3517, 3523, 3524, 3541, 3542, 3558, 3566, 3579, 3587, 3596, 3600, 3601, 3602, 3603, 3610, 3620, 3621, 3629, 3630, 3631, 3632, 3641, 3657, 3658, 3659, 3662, 122540700010976, 0977, 0978, 0979, 0980, 0981, 0986, 1233, 1264, 1327, 1328, 1336, 1408, 1517, 1518, FARIDABAD, 100910700027309, 8921, 9025, 9617, 9801, 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BATA CHOWK, 112430700016725, 7069, 7381, 7382, 7383, 7448, 7491, 7501, 7558, 7581, 7582, 7583, NIT VK CHOWK ROAD, 118270700020411, 2083, 2177, 2322, 2388, 2510, 2515, 2550, 2552, 2806, 3114, 3116, 3134, 3150, 3153, 3159, 3160, 3161, 3162, 3182, 3188, 3189, 3190, 3192, 3193, 3201, 3205, 3253, 3308, 3312, 3313, 3324, 3330, 3331, 3333, 3344, 3348, 3353, 3358, 3359, 3360, 3361, 3364, 3366, 3367, 3368, 3370, 3373, 3378, 3379, 3384, 3387, 3389, 3401, 3402, 3404, 3420, 118270730007570, 7681, 7682, 7863, 8020, 8021, PALWAL AGRA ROAD, 1168707000300489, 0523, 0662, 0663, 0683, 0861, 0999, 1005, 1036, 1049, 1547, 1793, 2052, 2088, 2090, 2147, 2177, 2194, 2198, 2204, 2211, 2231, 2257, 2274, 2350, 2362, 2428, 2482, 2505, 2544, 2545, 2547, 2915, 2924, 2972, 2986, 3013, 3035, 3036, 3084, 3114, 3129, 3143, 3144, 3159, 3162, 3181, 3182, 3217, 3221, 3227, 3230, 3248, 3284, 3285, 3290, 3291, 3292, 3293, 3295, 3318, 3319, 3325, 3335, 3341, 3352, 3370, 3371, 3372, 3382, 3388, 3395, 3396, 3413, 3414, 3417, 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9081, 9082, 9086, 9094, 9095, 9105, 9113, 9123, 9131, 9137, 9142, 9144, 9190, 9162, 9199, 9176, 9178, 9179, 9198, 9212, 9215, 9219, 9221, 9222, 9225, 1189307300011482, 1483, 1500, 1501, 1549, 1565, 1570, 1720, 1733, 1737, 1772, 1776, ROHTAK SUBHASH CHOWK, 118510700014116, 5976, 6741, 6854, 6909, 6958, 7011, 7658, 8184, 8170, 8180, 8189, 8236, 8246, 8285, 8295, 8297, 8298, 118510730004900, 6504, 6560, 6561, 6566, 6573, 6582, 6583, 6584, 6585, 6586, 6587, 6588, 6589, 6590, 6591, 6592, 6593, 6594, 6595, 6596, 6597, 6598, 6599, 6600, 6601, 6602, 6603, 6604, 6605, 6606, 6607, 6608, 6609, 6610, 6611, 6612, 6613, 6614, 6615, 6616, 6617, 6618, 6619, 6620, 6621, 6622, 6623, 6624, 6625, 6626, 6627, 6628, 6629, 6630, 6631, 6632, 6633, 6634, 6635, 6636, 6637, 6638, 6639, 6640, 6641, 6642, 6643, 6644, 6645, 6646, 6647, 6648, 6649, 6650, 6651, 6652, 6653, 6654, 6655, 6656, 6657, 6658, 6659, 6660, 6661, 6662, 6663, 6664, 6665, 6666, 6667, 6668, 6669, 6670, 6671, 6672, 6673, 6674, 6675, 6676, 6677, 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4 THE CITY



TOTAL CASES			Total	Vacant
			15,794	8,802
2,56,789		HOSPITAL BEDS	1,310	495
		VENTILATORS		
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Sep 22	3,816	3,097	37	59,013
Sep 23	3,714	4,465	36	59,580
Total	30,836*	2,20,866	5,087	26,97,333

*Total active cases

BRIEFLY

Tender issued to build 30 mohalla clinics

New Delhi: The Delhi government has issued a tender for construction of 30 mohalla clinics in West Delhi localities such as Uttam Nagar, Janakpuri, Vikasuri, Rajouri Garden and Tilak Nagar, among others. There are around 480 such clinics in the city at the moment.

'Truck looters' arrested in Palwal

New Delhi: Three men allegedly involved in looting trucks loaded with items ranging from tea leaves to aluminum were arrested by Palwal police while allegedly travelling in a looted vehicle. Police have identified the men as Palwal residents Rahish, Rijju alias Rizwan, and Rashid, who have been involved in six cases of loot on the National Highway since December. "The accused were arrested with a looted truck from which seven coils of aluminum were seized. Including the truck, the total price of the items seized is around Rs 60 lakh," said Deepak Gahlawat, Superintendent of Police.

Family taken hostage, robbed in Ghaziabad

Ghaziabad: A house in Ghaziabad was robbed on Tuesday night after at least 4 persons took the family members hostage. According to police, the incident occurred in B Block of Avantika Colony in Kavi Nagar. The house belonged to a local businessman, who was present in the house with his wife and daughter when the accused entered the house after 11.30 pm. The accused allegedly stole cash and jewellery worth Rs 7-8 lakh.

Security guard killed in Greater Noida factory

Noida: A security guard was allegedly murdered by another guard posted in the same factory in Greater Noida Tuesday night. According to police, Sonu, the victim, had an altercation with the accused, Ankit, regarding change of duty shifts. "Initially the information was given that the security guard has been shot while trying to foil a robbery attempt. But when we questioned Ankit aggressively, it appeared that Ankit and Sonu had a fight. Based on prima facie information, Ankit has been arrested. Further enquiry is pending," said Rajesh Kumar Singh, DCP Greater Noida. **ENS**

FALSE NARRATIVES, GHOST INFORMERS, SAYS LAWYER OF ACCUSED

Riot chargesheet cites 2 'secret meetings' to plan 'conspiracy'

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE DELHI Police chargesheet filed at Karkardooma court last week makes a mention of two "secret meetings" wherein the alleged conspiracy behind the Northeast Delhi riots was hatched.

As per the chargesheet, to back its claim that these meetings took place, police have affixed two pictures of the first meeting that they retrieved from the Facebook account of a participant, while the second was corroborated by "reverse mapping" documents related to the murder of head constable Ratan Lal and Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma. The chargesheet states that during the second meeting, 20 people allegedly sat in a huddle at the Chand Bagh protest site for a "brainstorming session" which later "became the genesis of several heinous and brutal murders".

As per the chargesheet, the first secret meeting allegedly took place on the night of January 23-24 at New Seelampur and was attended by former JNU student Umar Khalid, Pinjra Tod members Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, Jamia student

Gulfisha and others.

The chargesheet claims Khalid directed that the "protest should ultimately escalate to riots and should result in spilling of bloods of policemen and others" as this was "the only possible means" to force the "Government to withdraw CAA/NRC". The chargesheet claims that Khalid directed participants to "induce local women of Seelampur to start stockpiling knives, acids... to be used in rioting".

Police have attached two photographs retrieved from Facebook featuring Khalid, Gulfisha and some others. Narwal or Kalita do not feature in these photographs. Police also claim to have relied on the statements of six protected witnesses and the mobile phone details of the accused persons.

As per the chargesheet, the second secret meeting allegedly took place on the night of February 16-17 at Chand Bagh, where "Pinjra Tod had assumed direct responsibility in the execution of carnage". Police have made these claims on the basis of section 164 CrPC statements of protected witnesses.

The chargesheet states that documents pertaining to the deaths of Lal, Rahul Solanki and



The first secret meeting was allegedly attended by (clockwise from top right) Umar Khalid, Pinjra Tod members Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita and Jamia student Gulfisha

others were "reverse mapped" with technical and oral evidence on record to ascertain that the alleged conspirators attended a "secret meeting at Chand Bagh protest site... to escalate confrontation and violence once the first sparks will be ignited by the masterminds".

"In the dead of the night at about 2 am of February 17, about 20 persons sat in a huddle at

Chand Bagh protest site to plan future course of action... labeled as a 'Brainstorming Session' on a WhatsApp group by Athar after one of the attendees of this meeting revolted against the insistence that violence will have to be done, this meeting nonetheless, crystallized the actions which later played out," the chargesheet alleges.

Police stated that "key characters" who participated in this meeting came to a "clear and cogent understanding" that protest sites in Muslim dominated areas will have to be converted into chakka jams to "engineer riots".

Police have named Mohd Ayub, Shadab Ahmad, Mohd Saleem Khan and Ibrahim, who were arrested for the murder of head constable Lal, as participants in this meeting. Ahmad, police claimed, was in regular touch with Kalita. Gulfisha has also been named as a participant.

Mohd Mustaqeem, arrested for the murder of Solanki, is alleged to be in close contact with one participant, Rashid, who tasked him "to kill a non-Muslim", the chargesheet states.

Police also claim the weapons used to kill Solanki

were provided by Tahir, while the cartridges were provided by Suleman Siddique, one of the participants of this meeting.

Police claim that Athar, the key convener of this meeting, received a call from filmmaker Rahul Roy on February 23, when there was a movement of "300-odd female protesters from Jahangirpuri who were to later precipitate violence at Jafrabad". "The contours of premeditated action cannot be discerned with any greater clarity than this, conspiracy always has been shrouded in the grey hallows of mystery," the chargesheet states.

When contacted, Tahir's lawyer Rizwan said, "In the IB staffer murder case chargesheet, a Shaheen Bagh meeting was mentioned, which did not match with with timeline. To cover up their lacunae, they have now brought a Chand Bagh meeting in this chargesheet."

Gulfisha's lawyer Mehmood Pracha said, "Police have got no evidence so they filed a lengthy chargesheet by concocting false narratives with protected witnesses and ghost informers."

Roy as well as the lawyers of Khalid, Kalita and Narwal refused to comment on the allegations.

DDA's public consultation for Master Plan 2041

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE DELHI Development Authority (DDA) Wednesday organised a public consultation with residents and RWAs of Group Housing Colonies in Delhi, during which the participants suggested that the agency look into issues of access, maintenance and security of shared and common spaces in the next Master Plan.

At present, the DDA is holding discussions with different stakeholders of the city to form Master Plan 2041 as the present master plan will expire next year. A senior DDA official said that issues related to terraces, parks, common toilets and security facilities were also discussed and residents said the focus should be on ensuring more green cover.

Residents also pointed out that some colonies had adopted good practices for solid waste management while others were still struggling with collection and segregation of waste.

"They also called for promoting solar panel installations, underground cabling of electricity and OFC infrastructure, which may be included in future plans," the official said.

Ensuring fire safety and provision of lifts were other concerns related to redevelopment and upgradation, he said. Some participants also suggested creating specific redevelopment policy for group housing colonies with planned densification and upgradation of infrastructure, he said.

The DDA will also accept inputs through its public portal.



HERO AT WORK

Fumigation drive to control dengue being undertaken at Laxmi Nagar market in East Delhi on Wednesday. *Praveen Khanna*

Opt for pvt labs to get tested for non-medical purposes: Gurgaon

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 23

FOUR DAYS after the Haryana government issued a notification directing those wanting to get themselves tested for Covid for "non-medical reasons" to pay a certain predetermined rate for the test, the Gurgaon district health department is looking to "encourage" them to approach private facilities, which charge the same amount. Officials said the move is aimed at allowing government facilities to focus on people at greater risk of contracting the infection and treating them on time.

According to officials, there has been an increase in the number of people getting themselves tested at government facilities for non-medical reasons, such as

interstate or international travel, requirement for employment, or admissions in educational institutions, over the past few days.

The state government has fixed the rate for testing persons under these categories at Rs 1,600 for RT-PCR, Rs 650 for Rapid Antigen Testing, and Rs 250 for IgG-based ELISA Testing. The rates are the same at private facilities.

"Testing people is not an issue but our goal is to focus on those who have a higher chance of being infected so that we can treat them on time. By conducting tests for every person who is coming, including for non-medical reasons, we have been struggling to do even antigen tests of the others because the resources start falling short. This is creating a bit of a problem because the time and resources are being spent, and those who actually

need attention are often getting left out," said Civil Surgeon Dr Virender Yadav.

"Our main focus has to be on testing those who are contacts of Covid patients or have symptoms of coronavirus. This is why we are appealing to others, including travellers, to ideally get themselves tested through private entities, which have the same rates as the government ones," he said.

Following directions of the Haryana government to designate a "separate place/centre/area for testing of such persons, to decrease the risk of spread of such infections to such individuals", the district health department has set up a facility in Sector 10, which began operations on Monday. Officials said "around 25" people have visited the facility on a daily basis so far.

Delhi assembly panel's summons to Facebook: SC issues notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday issued notice on a plea by Facebook India Vice-President Ajit Mohan challenging summons issued to him by the Delhi Assembly Panel seeking his presence to answer charges in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari, which issued the notice, asked the respondents, including Delhi Assembly represented by its secretary, and the Centre to file their reply in a week's time.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the Peace and Harmony Committee of the Delhi Assembly, which had asked Mohan to be present Wednesday, said "the meeting scheduled for today already stands deferred and no further meeting will be fixed qua the petitioners till the next date."

Senior Advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Mohan, said the Committee cannot force him to appear. "If I don't appear, I can't be compelled to face penalties for that," he said, adding that the "right to free speech under Article 19(1)(a) includes the right not to speak". Salve said forcing Mohan to appear before the House panel with a threat of penalty is a violation of his fundamental right to free speech.

The summons issued by the panel had said that "non-compliance... will be treated as breach of privilege of the Committee and necessary action, as deemed fit, shall be taken".

Salve contended that the Committee did not have the jurisdiction to deal with issues such as police and public order, which fall in the exclusive purview of the Centre.

Senior advocate Mukul



Ajit Mohan, Facebook India Vice-President

Rohatgi, appearing for Facebook, said Mohan is being summoned to answer charges against his client, but the Assembly does not have the power or jurisdiction to do so. The legislature is not a court of law and has no power of adjudication, he said.

Rohatgi pointed out that the Chairman of the Committee held a press conference on August 31 and said that Facebook had concluded with the Delhi riots.

"Who are they to say that?" asked Rohatgi.

He added that Facebook is answerable only under the Information Technology Act and that there are many petitions filed in the Delhi High Court asking it to take down some of the other material.

Singhvi said he had instructions from the panel chairman, and added that Mohan has been summoned only as a witness and there will not be any coercive action. He said Facebook is not summoned as an accused but to find out whether it was misused.

Justice Kaul, however, pointed out that the notice had a different tenor than what Singhvi was submitting. Singhvi said the defects in the notice will be rectified. He insisted that the Committee has the power to conduct an enquiry.

The court will hear the matter next on October 15.

Significant reduction in pollutants during lockdown: Data

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE COVID-19 lockdown had swept clean Delhi's air, significantly lowering the levels of pollutants temporarily, before "steadily rising back" with the opening up of businesses and transportation, an analysis by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shows.

The CPCB report, which was released Wednesday, states that in terms of particulate matter levels, PM2.5 had reduced by 24% during the pre-lockdown phase as compared to 2019, and nearly 50% during the first two phases of the lockdown. PM10 and NO2 showed a bigger drop of 60% and 64% respectively in the second phase of lockdown, also seen against similar period in 2019.

When compared against pre-lockdown levels, 38% and 33% reduction in PM2.5 and 37% and 30% reduction in PM10 was observed during the lockdown phase-I and phase-II in Delhi, the report adds.

The report, 'Impact of Lockdown on Ambient Air Quality', looks at air quality data in three phases: March 1-March 21, March 25-April 19 and April 20-May 3, and carries a comparative study of these periods with the corresponding time phases in 2019.

"The study revealed that sources associated with vehicular emissions, domestic/local coal combustion, waste incineration and urban organic aerosols reduced sharply from the pre-lockdown phase into lockdown phase-I and were found to steadily rise back with increasing relaxations in the lockdown," the report states, quoting a study conducted by IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur.

Overall, between March 25-May 3, the number of days with 'Good', 'Satisfactory' and 'Moderate' air quality index (AQI), as recorded by the CPCB, increased to 40 in 2020 as against 17 in 2019. There were no days with 'Poor', 'Very Poor' and 'Severe' AQI during this period in 2020 as against 23 in 2019.

FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS PROMPTED MOVE

Unable to pay Board fee, Delhi govt faces pressure in HC, from students

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE DELHI government's decision to not pay CBSE exam fees for class X and XII students this year citing a financial crunch is being met with opposition — with online appeals, students sending postcards and a petition in the High Court.

The Delhi government had announced last year that it would cover the complete examination fee for all students

taking Board exams in its schools, and had paid fees for around 3.14 lakh students following a Cabinet meeting decision. Last week, the Delhi government said fees will have to be collected from students this year.

A petition filed by NGO Social Jurist in the Delhi High Court asking that the CBSE waive its examination fees this year is also seeking that the court direct the Union and Delhi governments to pay the fee in case CBSE is unable to do so.

The petition states, "The respondent GNCTD has paid the

entire CBSE Examination fee of the students studying in classes X/ XII to CBSE for the academic year 2019-20 when the situation was normal but has declined to pay when the situation has become worse."

Last year, CBSE had increased its examination fees, making it Rs 1,200 for SC/ST students and Rs 1,500 for the rest of the students studying in both grades in Delhi government schools. With additional amounts for each subject's practical and additional or optional subject, the fee comes



Several students of Delhi government schools have written postcards to the CM and made online appeals. *Archive*

to around Rs 2,500 for many class XII students.

The petition also refers to a September 7 order by the Delhi education department that directs heads of all government schools to stop collecting Rs 20 per month from senior students for the Pupil Welfare Fund. It had said that "students and parents of Delhi government schools are facing severe financial hardship which is impacting the education of students adversely". The petition referred to this order to state that the Delhi government

"is conscious of the fact that students and parents of Delhi government schools are facing severe financial hardship".

While the petition will be heard on September 25, several students of Delhi government schools have been writing postcards to the Chief Minister and making online appeals that their exam fee be covered by the government.

"My father is a labourer. He had not been getting work because of the lockdown. Because of this, he will not be able to pay

my CBSE fees, and I am appealing to the Delhi government to give me relief from the fee," said Kajal, a class X student of a government school, in a video appeal.

"I am being asked to pay a total fee of Rs 2,900 by my school, but there is no one in my family who earns like that. I am completely unable to pay this fee. I have dreams to become someone when I grow up but if I'm not able to pay my fees, I won't even be able to take my class XII exams," said Jagjit Singh, student of a government school in Keshavpuram.

5 IN PARLIAMENT

MONSOON SESSION

HOUSE DIARIES

THE PANDEMIC EFFECT

■ Making the valedictory remarks at the end of the 252nd session of Rajya Sabha, Vice-President and House Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu counted that members had to sit in six different locations — chambers and galleries of both the Houses. As he mentioned the several other adjustments done for the members, he told them, “When you get back to your respective states and constituencies, you will be available for consultation and guidance that is required by the people to contain the spread of the coronavirus and cope with the socio-economic consequences.”

■ Making his appearance in the Lok Sabha for the first time in the Monsoon Session, PM Narendra Modi caused a buzz, including on social media, that he may speak on issues the pandemic since its shadow loomed over the 10-day Parliament session. However, he did not speak and some MPs pointed out that it was customary for the Prime Minister to be present in the House when the Session concludes.

NO QUESTION HOUR: MY QUESTIONS



■ What emphasis has been given to fisheries sector reeling under the Covid impact?

LAVU KRISHNA DEVARAYALU, YSR CONGRESS PARTY

Congress a house divided, MPs split over attending Speaker's address

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE CONGRESS boycotted the last day of Lok Sabha's truncated Monsoon session to protest the suspension of Opposition MPs including three of its own in Rajya Sabha, but differences emerged within the party's leadership in the Lower House on whether to stay away during the Speaker's valedictory address on Wednesday.

The lack of coordination between the leadership of the Congress in the two Houses too, was in evidence during the day. Sources said the Lok Sabha leadership of the party was “completely unaware” of a protest that the Rajya Sabha Opposition held on the premises of Parliament House in the morning. A similar protest was organised by the Congress and other Opposition parties in the evening, but many Opposition MPs were missing.

At a meeting of Congress MPs, the party's leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury argued that they should not stay away from the valediction. As is customary, the Speaker delivers his valedictory address at the end of the session, after which the national song is played before the House is adjourned sine die.

Chowdhury is learnt to have been supported by Chief Whip Kodikunnil Suresh, but deputy leader in the House Gaurav Gogoi and some MPs such as Shashi Tharoor argued that their boycott of Parliament should be complete. Most MPs from Kerala argued in favour of a total boycott, sources said.

The sources said that Chowdhury argued that the Congress's opposition was not to Parliament as an institution. He said that party MPs should be present during the national song so that a wrong message is not conveyed. He told MPs that the valediction was not government business — it was part of the “tradition, customs and practice” of Parliament.

Those opposed to Chowdhury, however, argued that participating in the valediction would amount to taking part in the proceedings. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present in Lok Sabha during the valediction. He also attended the valediction in Rajya Sabha earlier in the day.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi last month set up a group each for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to facilitate and ensure the effective functioning of the party in the two Houses. Sonia had said that joint meetings of the groups would be convened “as and when needed”.

Sources said no coordination between the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha leaderships of the Congress was visible during the Monsoon session. No joint meetings of the groups were held, and on the last day, Congress MPs of the two Houses protested separately against the government.

Oppn boycott on, RS passes 8 Bills in less than 4 hours

Chairman Naidu takes up labour code legislation despite letter from 10 oppn party leaders urging him not to in Oppn's absence

KRISHNA KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

WITH THE Opposition boycotting the proceedings to protest against suspension of eight MPs, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday saw eight Bills passed within three-and-a-half hours, before the House was adjourned sine die.

Three Bills about the new labour codes were passed even though Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, along with leaders of nine other parties, asked Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu that the legislation should not be taken up in their absence. But the House went ahead with them.

Naidu later said he allowed the Bills since there was no “assurance” from Opposition

leaders that they would be present. He also said that under Article 122 of Constitution, “validity of any proceedings of Parliament cannot be questioned”.

On Tuesday, again amid Opposition boycott, Rajya Sabha had passed seven Bills, drawing criticism from leaders of some opposition parties.

The Bills passed on Wednesday, are nearly one-third of 25 bills passed by Rajya Sabha in its 252nd session in 10 days.

The eight Bills passed include Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill; Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill; and J&K Official Languages Bill. Appropriation Bill No. 3 for financial year 2016-17 and Appropriation Bill No. 4 for the current financial year, for additional funds, passed by Lok Sabha earlier, were sent back

to the Lower House without any discussion.

The three Bills to replace 25 laws with three labour codes — Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions Code, Industrial Relations Code, and Code on Social Security — were passed, even as Azad and nine other Opposition leaders wrote to Naidu, stating that “we urge you not to have the following three Bills passed today in the absence of Opposition parties in the House”, as they “affect livelihood of crores of workers”.

Besides Azad, the letter was signed by O'Brien (TMC), Ram Gopal Yadav (SP), Tiruchi Siva (DMK), Elamaram Kareem (CPI-M), Binoy Viswam (CPI), Manoj Jha (RJD), K Keshav Rao (TRS), Sanjay Singh (AAP), and Jose K Mani of KC-M. O'Brien and Kareem were suspended for the rest of the session

on Monday.

Naidu later told the House that he received Azad's letter around 12.20 pm. The Bills were passed soon after 1 pm. “I discussed it with the (RS) secretariat and I have gone through previous precedents,” he said.

Defending the new codes, MoS (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar said the aim of “labour reform” is to provide a “transparent system” for the changed business atmosphere.

He said the law would ensure that all 50 crore workers of organised and unorganised sectors get minimum wage, are paid on time, and have the legal right to have an appointment letter. The new codes will make it easier for employers to hire and fire workers, and industrial workers will have to give a 60-day notice to go on a strike.

'FCRA Bill not against NGOs'

Replying to a debate on the FCRA amendment Bill, MoS (Home) Nityanand Rai said, “This is certainly a Bill to bring transparency. It is not against NGOs (per se); only NGOs which do not adhere to transparency may feel bad. This Bill is in the interest of NGOs and transparency.” He said the Bill was necessary in the context of internal security, as there have been instances in the past where NGOs did not disclose their foreign funding and did not furnish proper audit of their expenditure.

On the provision to make it mandatory for NGO members to furnish Aadhaar, Rai told the House that as per the Supreme Court's order, the government can bring a law to use Aadhaar to identify certain categories of people. He said some NGOs had earlier wanted to conceal the identity of their members.

Session of rancour ends prematurely, battle over farm Bills set to continue

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE MONSOON session of Parliament, one of the most rancorous and fractious in recent memory, came to a premature end on Wednesday. But the battle between the government and the united Opposition over the two farm Bills that were passed amid massive protests is only expected to intensify, and move to the courts and the streets.

The session, held in the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic with extraordinary measures to minimise the spread of the novel coronavirus, ended a week ahead of its scheduled October 1 closing after a large number of MPs tested positive. There was intense bitterness and discord during the last four days, with eight Opposition MPs suspended from Rajya Sabha and the Opposition staying away from both Houses on the last day.

Most Opposition parties have extended their support to a Bharat bandh called by farmers' groups protesting the two bills on Friday.

The Congress has announced a nationwide agitation, and several other Opposition parties plan to hold street protests. The CPM-led Left government in Kerala and the Congress government in Punjab are planning to move the Supreme Court against the farm Bills.

The Trinamool Congress, one of the most vocal opponents of these bills, plans to showcase it as yet another instance of the BJP government's “assault” on the rights of states. West Bengal will have Assembly elections in May next year, along with Kerala. The Bihar elections are due in October-November this year, and the Bills, and the way in which they were rammed through in Rajya Sabha, seem to have united the Opposition.

Parties like the SP and AAP, which had been maintaining an arms' length distance from the Opposition grouping, have rejoined them. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi has joined hands with the Opposition for the first time in the recent past. The NDA suffered a setback with the Shiromani Akali Dal pulling out its Minister and joining the anti farm Bills protests.

The Monsoon session was productive in terms of passage of bills, but was extraordinary in many ways. The passage of the farm Bills in the din without a vote on Sunday led to fierce protests by Opposition members, and the moving of an unprecedented vote of no-confidence against Deputy Chairman Harivansh. The eight suspended MPs sat on a day-night dhama on the premises of Parliament.

With the Opposition boycotting the proceedings, Rajya Sabha passed 15 Bills in two days, including the controversial labour code Bills on Wednesday. “During the 10 sittings, a total of 25 Bills have been passed and 6 Bills have been introduced. The productivity of the House during this Session has been 100.47 per cent. As against the scheduled available time of 38 hours and 30 minutes, the actual functional time of the House has been 38 hours and 41 minutes,” Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said in his valedictory address. The Lok Sabha too passed 25 Bills, and Speaker Om Birla said the productivity of the House was 167 per cent.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Naidu points to ruckus, Birla congratulates MPs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

IN HIS valedictory remarks to end the 252nd session of Rajya Sabha, Chairman and Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu expressed his displeasure at the events of this week.

“Though this session has been satisfying in terms of productivity, there have been some areas of concern as well. We need to collectively ponder over these issues for making a difference in future,” he said.

Naidu mentioned that for the “first time in this history” of Rajya Sabha, a motion for removal of Deputy Chairman was given, which he rejected on the grounds that it should have been a resolution and needed a 14-day notice.

“The developments in the House surrounding this unprecedented move have been deeply painful for all those who hold the

stature and the dignity of this august House dear to their hearts,” he said.

On Sunday, the Upper House witnessed ruckus as two Bills related to the agriculture sector were passed by a voice vote even as the Opposition demanded a division vote. The next day, the government brought in a motion to suspend eight Opposition leaders and that too was passed by a voice vote.

Naidu, without going into the details of “those unpleasant turn of events” appealed to the members “to kindly ensure that such unseemly behaviour is not repeated”.

Naidu said “it hurts me the most when the Chair is rendered helpless by the turn of events and has to perform take action against the members as per the rules”.

But, he said, it was not the “first time that some members are suspended and Bills are passed when some sections of the House boycott the proceedings”.



Opposition MPs protest against the farm Bills, at Parliament on Wednesday. PTI

Monsoon Session in Numbers

With Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha adjourned sine die, eight days ahead of schedule, a look at how they fared



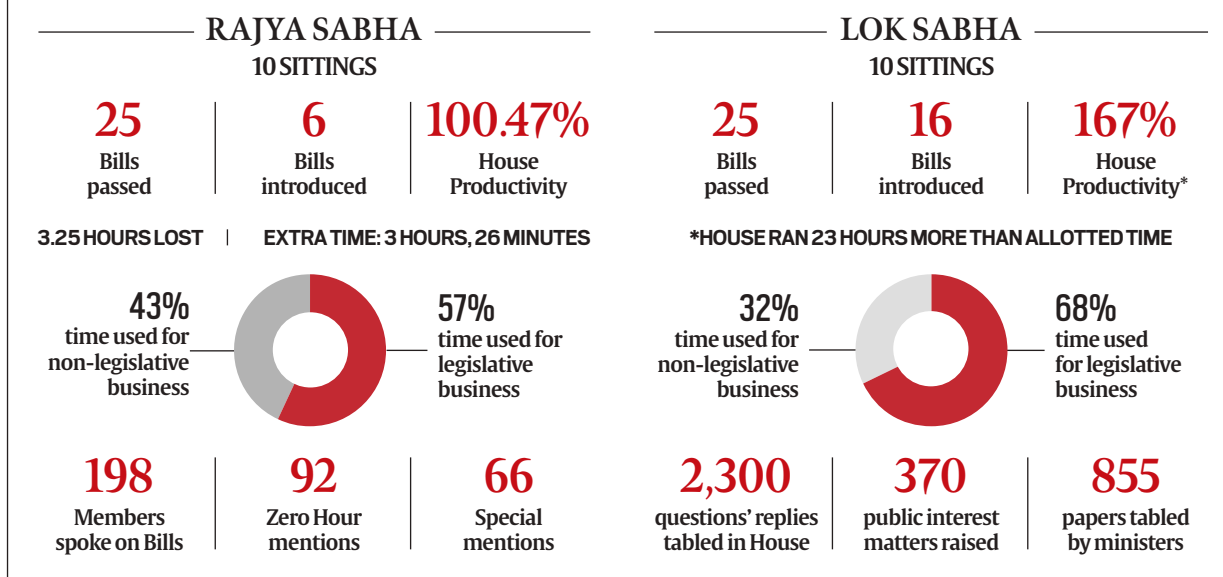
“Though this session has been satisfying in terms of productivity, there have been some areas of concern as well.”

M VENKAIAH NAIDU
CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA



“Despite the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, you prioritised your constitutional responsibility... I congratulate you.”

— OM BIRLA
SPEAKER, LOK SABHA



LS passes Bill to manage, operate ports better

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

WITH MOST opposition parties continuing their boycott of proceedings in solidarity with the suspended Rajya Sabha members, the Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Major Port Authority Bill.

The Bill was moved by Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya, who said it is important for management of ports to change over time.

Mandaviya said the Bill aims to “provide for regulation, operation and planning of major ports in India and to vest the administration, control and management of such ports upon the Boards of Major Port Authorities.” He said, “Our maritime history is very old and one of the world's oldest example is Lothal in Gujarat. A 5,000-year-old dock has been found. How organised the dock was and the systems is testament to our history.”

Mandaviya said that there are 204 ports, 12 major ports, as well as minor and private ports, in the country, and the Bill aims to increase competition between ports in India and those across the world, as well as increase competition between private and public ports.

BJP members such as Bhartiben Shiyal and Gopal Shetty backed the Bill, which also got support from the BJD, JD(U), AIADMK and YSR Congress.

Sudarshan TV
showcase over
programme
code ‘violation’:
Centre to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE CENTRE on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that it had issued a notice to *Sudarshan TV* under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, asking the channel to show cause why action should not be taken against it for alleged violation of the Programme Code in the broadcast of its show *UPSC Jihad*.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud that the notice issued on Wednesday has asked the channel to tender its explanation by 5 pm September 28, failing which ex parte decision will be taken.

Mehta urged the court to adjourn the hearing until after that so as to enable the government to take a considered view.

Agreeing, the bench, also comprising Justices Indu Malhotra and K M Joseph, directed that the notice “shall be dealt with in accordance with law, and the central government shall submit a report to the court indicating the outcome of the notice”.

Justice Chandrachud orally told the S-G, “You apprise us of the decision. And we take it that you will take a reasoned decision on the issue.”

The bench also said that further steps in pursuance of the decision will be subject to orders of the court.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Trans-border
cattle smuggling
racket: CBI
books BSF officer
and three others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 23

THE CBI has booked a BSF officer and three others in connection with cattle smuggling across the Bangladesh border even as it has raided 15 locations across India.

The raids have been conducted in Delhi; West Bengal’s Kolkata, Siliguri and Murshidabad; Uttar Pradesh’s Ghaziabad; Punjab’s Amritsar and Chhattisgarh’s Raipur.

The Anti-corruption Bureau of the CBI on Monday booked BSF officer Satish Kumar, who was the former Commandant of the 36 BSF Battalion, “prime accused” Mohammed Enamul Haque, Anarul Sheikh, Mohammed Gulam Mustafa, unidentified officials of the Customs Department and other unidentified officials.

It is alleged that Kumar’s son Bhuvan Bhaskar was employed with Haque Industries Private Limited, a company promoted by Haque. It is alleged that during Kumar’s tenure, more than 20,000 heads of cattle were seized by the BSF before being smuggled into the Bangladesh border but no vehicle or person involved in the illegal trade was seized or arrested.

No arrests, seizures in case in
which Deepika summoned

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE NARCOTICS Control Bureau (NCB) has so far not made a single arrest in the FIR that had been registered against six persons, including Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and four others, primarily based on Chakraborty’s WhatsApp chats purportedly discussing drugs.

Chakraborty, Showik and 17 others (three of them out on bail) are under arrest based on a second FIR, No. 16/20, registered by the NCB suo motu two days after the initial FIR (No. 15/20). The agency had told a local court that the second FIR meant to “uproot the drug citadel in Mumbai, especially Bollywood”, and claimed seizures of commercial quantities of narcotics, including LSD, from one of the arrested accused. Incidentally, when it first brought up this second FIR in court, the NCB had not mentioned of Sushant Singh Rajput, adding it later.

On Wednesday, the NCB issued summons to actors Deepika Padukone and Rakul Preet Singh in connection with the WhatsApp chats case (15/20) against Chakraborty. The chats had been provided to the NCB by the Enforcement Directorate, and the

MORE THAN HALF THE POSTS VACANT IN RURAL MAHARASHTRA

Low pay and long hrs, doctors
battle more than just corona

TABASSUM
BARNAGARWALA
OSMANABAD, SEPTEMBER 23

CHEST PHYSICIAN Dr Pravin Dumne has just done his rounds of the ICU at Osmanabad Civil Hospital and is now fielding queries from anxious relatives. Two hours into the PPE, he is drenched in sweat, with 22 hours more to go in his shift.

Dumne has 150 Covid-19 patients under him. Since May, he hasn’t been able to take any break except for 12 days when he himself contracted the virus. Norms mandate one doctor per 10 ICU patients, Dumne is handling five times that. “There are times when multiple patients are critical and I can’t be everywhere. I feel helpless. We are losing lives,” he adds.

As another relative complains about the lack of cleanliness in a ward, Dumne says, “I may quit government service once the pandemic is over.”

Dumne isn’t the only one feeling the unequal load as coronavirus cases surge in Maharashtra, particularly its rural areas. The state estimates it needs 19,752 doctors, nurses and paramedics to fight Covid-19. As on September 15, 12,574 of the posts were vacant. Of the 1,700 Class I doctor posts (including specialists) the Public Health Department needs to fill, like Dumne’s, only 538 are filled. In May, Maharashtra was forced to ask Kerala for help. Forty specialist doctors came to Mumbai on a bus, to handle critical patient load until July.

The shortage is even more intense in rural areas, where urgent advertisements by the government for specialists have yielded little response. In rural Nagpur, as many as 93.6% posts are vacant, followed by Thane at 79%.

The last permanent posting in Osmanabad, an aspirational



Dr Rajesh Salagare is the only doctor at Raigad rural hospital since March. Tabassum Barnagarwala

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS (DOCTORS, NURSES, PARAMEDICS) NEEDED FOR COVID-19 AND VACANCIES			
Circle	Total posts	Filled	Vacancy (%)
Pune	2,479	911	63.2%
Kolhapur	1,793	870	51.4%
Akola	2,293	1,089	52.5%
Nagpur	5,080	321	93.6%
Nashik	2,320	1,155	50.2%
Aurangabad	2,436	975	59.9%
Latur	1,462	1,462	0%
Thane	1,889	395	79%

district under NITI Aayog, was three years ago. It needs 150 nurses and 40 doctors. The state government has been deputing Ayush doctors to civil hospitals.

“Not all of them can handle serious patients,” Dumne points out. He and Dr Tanaji Lakal are the only two specialist doctors for Covid patients at Osmanabad Civil Hospital. Dumne was moved here from the PHCat Samudrawani village, following the pandemic.

Dumne and Lakal alternate working for 24 hours continuously followed by one day off. In July, when Dumne got the coronavirus, he had to join back within 12 days, instead of the minimum 14.

In Raigad, 400 km away, Dr Rajesh Salagare has been the only doctor handling the entire rural hospital since March. The three other doctor posts at the hospital have been vacant since 2018. The previous night he was called for a delivery at 2 am; this morning, he was back on OPD duty at 9. “I am just an Ayush doctor. If something goes wrong, I will be held responsible,” he worries.

It’s not just the long hours that deter doctors from rural duty. A government MBBS doctor in rural areas is paid Rs 60,000 per month and is expected to be on call 24 hours, their counterparts in Navi Mumbai get Rs 1.25

lakh, and in Mumbai and Thane, Rs 80,000 per month. Navi Mumbai, Thane and Mumbai mandate eight hours on Covid duty at a time, apart from providing hotel accommodation.

As a chest physician, Dumne could earn up to Rs 2 lakh in urban areas, instead of the Rs 60,000 he gets now. His August salary came only a few days ago.

The 100-bed Covid facility in Ratnagiri depends on Ayush doctors from nearby PHCs. One such doctor, who requested anonymity, says he sees over hundred suspected cases a day. He got his pending salary of Rs 40,000 for four months, till July, only a few days ago. “Everyone calls us corona warriors, but look at how we are treated.”

An administrative officer at Ratnagiri Civil Hospital, who is waiting for his pay since July, shows text messages exchanged with seniors. “If the government doesn’t respect us, why will a doctor want to work here?” he says.

Ratnagiri Civil Surgeon Dr Ashok Bolde says the delay in salaries is on the part of the National Health Mission’s state office. Dr Sadhana Tayade, Director of the Directorate of Health Services, however, says, “Salaries are paid on time to doctors.” On why the poor response to advertisements, she says it is because “doctors are scared to work in Covid wards”.

The government has begun tele-ICU services to plug the gap of specialists in rural hospitals of Bhiwandi, Aurangabad, Jalna and Solapur. Physicians in another city monitor ICU readings of patients in rural hospitals and call up on-duty doctors to direct treatment protocol.

But tele-ICU has not reached every rural hospital, nor can it help everyone.

NEXT: Social stigma a deterrent in Covid testing

Out of Assam Class 12
syllabus: 1984, 2002
riots; Ayodhya, Mandal

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 23

LESSONS ON Jawaharlal Nehru, the Mandal Commission report, the 2002 Gujarat riots and writings on caste and marginalisation have been dropped from the Class 12 state board syllabus in Assam as part of the 30% reduction in view of the pandemic.

A list of the sections of the syllabus which were dropped was uploaded on the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC) website recently. Officials said the sections were chosen after consultation with teachers and subject experts across the state.

In Political Science, the omitted sections under the title ‘Politics in India since Independence’ include: ‘First three general elections; Nehru’s approach to nation-building; Famine and suspension of five year plans; Nehru’s foreign policy; Political succession after Nehru; Politics of Garibi Hatao;

Navnirman movement in Gujarat; Punjab crisis and the anti-Sikh riots of 1984; Implementation of Mandal Commission report; UF and NDA governments; Elections 2004 and UPA government; Ayodhya dispute; and Gujarat riots’.

Topics related to the Congress party and its history; issues of Kashmir; wars with China and Pakistan in 1962, 1965 and 1971; the Emergency; and the rise of the Janata Dal and BJP remain, among other topics.

The history syllabus for Class 12 now no longer includes the ‘Kinship, Caste and Class’ section. In English, a chapter titled ‘Memories of Childhood’ has been left out. In that, students studied parts of autobiographical writings of two women writers – Zitkala-sa, a great Native American writer and reformer, and Bama, a Tamil Dalit writer and teacher.

“It is well known to all that due to Pandemic Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) students of our state (have) already lost valued

academic time. After the CBSE decided to reduce the volume of the course for class XI & XII, the AHSEC was seriously deliberating upon the issue,” wrote Manoranjan Kakati, Secretary of the AHSEC, in the official note attached to the reduced syllabus. “The main objective is to reduce the exam stress of the students of the session 2020-21, due to this pandemic situation and to prevent learning gaps.”

In July, the Council had sought the views of educationists and teachers. “Based on their feedback and valued suggestions, the Academic Committee of AHSEC in its meeting held on 19/08/2020 had decided to reduce 30% volume of the course contents,” Kakati wrote.

Kakati told *The Indian Express*, “The decisions were taken by experts and teachers. And not one expert or one teacher, but a wide range, from institutions across the state. If complaints come up, we will hold meetings again and decide further.”

SEEKS CASE AGAINST SOME NEWSPAPERS
Kerala to approach PCI
over ‘defamatory reports’

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPTEMBER 23

THE KERALA government on Wednesday decided to approach the Press Council of India (PCI) against media organisations over their alleged “defamatory reports” pertaining to a fire at the state secretariat on August 25.

The state Cabinet has also decided to seek legal advice from the advocate-general about registering a case under CrPC Section 199 (2) against certain newspapers which published “deliberate reports to cause misunderstanding”, according to an official communication.

Justifying the decision, Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the August 25 fire was distorted by certain sections of the media. “[They were] saying that the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary were behind setting the office on fire... This is defaming the entire administrative system... The cabinet wanted to bring the issue to the notice of persons in responsible positions,” Pinarayi said.

The fire in question broke out in the General Administration Department (Political), where the state protocol office functions. The fire was reported a day after the state protocol officer submitted his statement before the NIA, which is probing the case involving the smuggling of gold through diplomatic cargo to the UAE Consulate.

UP’s veteran virologist
T N Dhole dies of Covid

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 23

VETERAN VIROLOGIST Dr T N Dhole died of Covid-19 in Lucknow on Wednesday. He was 67. Dhole, who is credited with establishing an independent Microbiology Department at Uttar Pradesh’s premier Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow in 1988, played a major role in the state’s fight against polio for over 15 years and also in tackling encephalitis, dengue and chikungunya.

A former head of the Microbiology Department at SGPGI, Dhole died on Wednesday at SGPGI’s Covid hospital. Dhole had retired last year but was still active and had joined a private hospital in Lucknow. From 1988 till last year, Dhole focused on virology research and contributed to surveillance and testing techniques for different viruses that hit the state as well as adjoining regions of north India.



Played a major role in UP’s fight against polio

“It is a major loss. He was active even just a few days before his death. He was admitted in the first week of September. He was the first faculty member of the Microbiology Department here and made a great contribution to polio eradication and surveillance for over 15 years,” said Dr Ujjala Ghoshal, head of the SGPGI’s Microbiology Department.

Before an NIV field laboratory was established in Gorakhpur, SGPGI lab was the only testing lab in the region.

He was admitted at the SGPGIMS Covid hospital on September 4 after having tested positive and complaining of breathlessness and fever. Because of co-morbidity, he could not recover from infection in his lungs and other complications, hospital sources said.

**DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GORAKHPUR UNIVERSITY,
GORAKHPUR – 273009**

Advt.No./1592/Committee/2020Date: 21.09.2020

EXTENSION ADMISSION NOTICE 2020-21

Online Applications are invited for admission Indian & Foreign Students in the following Regular/Diploma courses in different departments of DDU Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur. The last date of online submission of application form is 11.10.2020. For details visit DDU Gorakhpur University website. www.ddugu.ac.in

1. UNDER GRADUATE PROGRAMMES (Admission through Entrance Test)
B.A., B.Sc. (Maths Group), B.Sc. (Biology Group), B.Com., B.Sc. (Home Science), B.Sc. (Agriculture), B.C.A., B.B.A., B.A.L.L.B. (Five year Course), B.Sc. (M.L.T.), B.Sc. (Physiotherapy), B.Sc. Nursing (Basic) (Female only)

2. POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES (Admission through Entrance test)
Agronomy, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Horticulture, Agriculture Economics, Agriculture Extension, Ancient History, Archaeology & Culture, Biotechnology, Botany, Business Administration, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science, Defence & Strategic Studies, Economics, Education, Electronics, English, Environmental Science, Geography, Hindi, History, Home Science, Industrial Microbiology, Law, Mathematics, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sanskrit, Sociology, Statistics, Urdu, Visual Arts, Zoology, M.Ed.

3. Ph.D. in following Subjects (Admission through Entrance test)
Agronomy, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Horticulture, Agriculture Economics, Agriculture Extension, Ancient History, Archaeology & Culture, Biotechnology, Botany, Business Administration, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science, Defence & Strategic Studies, Economics, Education, Electronics, English, Environmental Science, Geography, Hindi, History, Home Science, Industrial Microbiology, Law, Mathematics, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Physical Education, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sanskrit, Sociology, Statistics, Urdu, Visual Arts, Zoology.

4. Law and Other courses (Admission through Entrance test)
LL.B. (Three Years Course), LL.M., Bachelor of Journalism (One Year Course), B.P.Ed., P.G. Diploma in Disaster Management, Post Basic B.Sc. (Nursing)

5. *Online Application are also invited for admission in 345 Affiliated Colleges in following streams
Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Commerce, B.Sc. (Agriculture), B.Sc. (Home Science), Post Graduate programmes in Affiliated Colleges.

Important Note :- *The admission process in Affiliated Colleges is already on and admissions will be taken on merit basis. The students already taken admission in different affiliated college need not to apply again. The principal of such college are advised to upload the information of such students on the University Portal for confirmation of admission by University. The Foreign students need not to appear in Entrance Examination But, they have to apply online and University offers limited number of Fellowship for SAARC countries students. The last date of Foreign Student will be **31.10.2020**. For details contact International Cell, DDU Gorakhpur University.

Registrar

Advt. No. 74/2020

**Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board**
invites applications for the post of
Director (Finance)
in
Central Coalfields Limited
Last date of receipt of applications in
PESB is by 15.00 hours
on **27th November, 2020.**
For details login to website
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS &
COORDINATION DEPARTMENT**

No. F. 6(2) AR/RTI/2015/Pt. Jaipur, dated 23-09-2020
Subject:- Appointment of State Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners in State Information Commission.

- The Government of Rajasthan under powers conferred by the Right to Information Act, 2005 (to be referred hereinafter as the Act) has constituted the Rajasthan State Information Commission to exercise such powers and to perform such functions as conferred/assigned to it under the Act (chapter V of the Act). It is located in Jaipur.
- It is proposed to appoint a State Chief Information Commissioner and Two Information Commissioners in the Rajasthan Information Commission in view of the vacancy due to super annuation of its previous incumbent/to be arisen on super annuation of one of the Information Commissioner. The Act provides that the State Information Commissioner shall be person of eminence in public life with wide Knowledge and experience in Law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.
- The State Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of any State Legislature or Union Territory as the case may be or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.
- The State Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall hold office for a term of three years, from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The salary and allowances payable to State Chief information Commissioner and Information Commissioners and other terms and conditions shall be in accordance with the rules notified by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India dated 24.10.2019.
- The conditions of appointment provided in the Act of 2005 shall be final.
- Fresh Applications are being invited for filling up the post of State Chief Information Commissioner and two post of Information Commissioners in reference to the earlier Advertisement no F6(1)AR/RTI/2015 dated 21.01.2019, 05.07.2019 and no F6(2)AR/RTI/2015 dated 14.02.2019, 05.07.2019 and Corrigendum dated 28-01-2020 respectively. Applicants who had applied in response to the previous advertisements are not required to apply afresh for consideration of their candidature, their applications shall remain valid.
- Persons fulfilling the criteria for appointment as State Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners & interested for appointment to the post may send their particulars by post or by hand to the **Principal Secretary, Administrative Reforms & Coordination Department, Government of Rajasthan, Room No 2007, Main Building, Government Secretariat, Jaipur (Rajasthan) Pin Code 302005** on or before **7th October, 2020 by 6.00 P.M.** Persons who are serving under the State/Central Government or any other Organisation, may send their particulars through proper channel. This advertisement and the Performa for sending the particulars is available on department website **www.ard.rajasthan.gov.in**

Sd/-
(Ashwin Bhagat)
Principal Secretary



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE G IN NGO

New FCRA Bill frames state suspicion, shrinks space for NGOs, undercuts their role in deepening grass-roots democracy

THE FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (Regulation) Bill (FCRA) 2020, passed by the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday and the Lok Sabha a day earlier, puts many question marks on the viability of NGOs at a time when the country especially requires robust civil society organisations and networks to deal with a range of challenges including the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government claims that its aim is to bring about transparency in the working of non-profits. That is an unexceptionable goal, and questions relating to financial propriety have, indeed, been asked of some NGOs. However, some of the provisions of the Bill that now awaits the President's approval — capping the administrative expenses of non-profits at 20 per cent of their foreign donations, requiring them to have a State Bank of India account at a Delhi Branch, prohibiting the transfer of grants received under FCRA to any other outfit and sweeping powers to the Ministry of Home Affairs to cancel the FCRA certificate of an NGO — speak of the Centre's mistrust of the entire civil society sector. These clauses could make almost any non-profit vulnerable to harassment and shrink the already embattled space for civil society activity in the country.

According to the government's FCRA dashboard, there are more than 20,000 non-profits registered under the FCRA act. They are engaged in diverse activities, relating to human and labour rights, gender issues, healthcare, environment, education, legal aid, even research. They endeavour to plug gaps in the government's programmes and reach out to sections of people often left untouched by state projects. During the pandemic, many such organisations have tried to bridge the gap between state agencies and the most vulnerable sections of the population, migrant workers for example, by generating awareness and facilitating the transfer of government aid. In fact, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly said that the fight against the coronavirus "is a combination of the efforts of the government and the civil society". Community-level outfits and self-help groups have led from the front in the battle against the virus in several states, including Kerala, Odisha and Rajasthan. In the past, such grass roots organisations have been enabled by collaborations with bigger NGOs and research agencies that have access to foreign funding. The new FCRA provisions — especially the one that constrains NGOs from sub-granting — threaten this spirit of collaboration in the country's development sector.

NGO activity is not just about philanthropy. Their engagement with people at the grass roots level acquaints civil society workers with the deficiencies of government programmes, and often makes them ask difficult questions — about discrimination, marginalisation, violation of constitutional rights, human dignity. Such interventions and criticisms are crucial to a humane society. In fact, civil society initiatives have informed some of the path-breaking laws in the country, including the Environmental Protection Act, Right to Education Act, Forests Rights Act and Right to Information Act. To hobble such activism, by burdening it with distrust and suspicion, does a disservice to democracy.

FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS

Ramped up engagement with Maldives, US-Maldives defence pact, point to a reset of equations. Delhi needs to build on it

THE SIGNING OF a defence agreement between the Maldives and the United States earlier this month showed how geopolitical tensions are manifesting themselves in several strategic spaces, and how Delhi's own responses have changed in the new environment. The "Framework for U.S. Department of Defence-Maldives Ministry of Defence and Security Relationship" agreement is emblematic. In 2013, a year after Maldivian Democratic Party leader Mohammed Nasheed had been ousted, a US proposal for a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the Indian Ocean nation met with stiff opposition in Delhi. The plan was shelved, but Delhi, despite the heightened awareness of China's growing influence in its neighbourhood, was not enthused by the Obama "pivot to Asia". Not any more.

Delhi has made it clear that the broad framework agreement, which includes a security dialogue and "sets forth both countries' intent to deepen engagement and co-operation in support of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean", is "in line" with India's overall interests and regional stability. After watching Male in a tight embrace with Beijing under the 2014-18 Abdulla Yameen government, Delhi's response is one of quiet relief. It has also ramped up its bilateral engagement.

Last month, India committed to providing \$250 million in budgetary support to the Maldives to help it tide over the pandemic-induced economic crisis that has crippled tourism. Delhi is also providing a \$400 m line of credit for the construction of what is billed as the single-argest infrastructure project in the Maldives, the Greater Male Connectivity project, which aims to provide streamlined connectivity between Male and three other islands. Maldives is also the only neighbouring country with whom India has a travel bubble. Most significant is the cargo ferry service between the two countries inaugurated earlier this week. Three years ago, the Maldives government had entered into a Free Trade Agreement with China in response to European trade sanctions against the authoritarian Yameen government. But the successor government of President Ibrahim Solih decided not to bring in the enabling legislation because it was heavily loaded against the import dependent economy. There is a lesson in this for Delhi: For the cargo service to be useful to both sides, India must take care to ensure that it is not perceived to be dumping goods on that country. There is bound to be asymmetry, but if that is what making friends of neighbours entails, so be it.

HEART OF HOPE

African countries have chosen cooperation as a strategy to deal with pandemic. Rest of the world should take note

IN THE EARLY days of the pandemic, until about three months ago, the modelling predicting the volume and death rate in Africa was almost casually catastrophic. These early models have been proven wrong, and the continent, home to over 1.5 billion people, has seen 34,000 confirmed deaths and just over a million cases. According to John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control (ACDC), it is through pan-African solidarity, timely lockdowns, avoiding panic and strategically using resources that Africa as a continent appears to be faring better than many other regions.

There is a sub-genre of science fiction that has almost been forgotten now, as dystopian future fantasies — symbolic of the anxieties around democratic politics, the pandemic, and AI — have become the norm. The idea was that faced with an existential crisis — climate change, disease or even an alien attack — humanity would band together. In much of the world, that has not been the case. The US is more polarised than ever, Europe is still struggling through Brexit and in South Asia, the cleavages seem to have deepened.

The countries in Africa, though, present a more hopeful picture. The region was ravaged by colonialism, civil wars and ethnic violence to an unmatched degree. It continues to be a theatre for the geo-economic manoeuvrings of external powers. And it is still haunted by the over 12 million deaths from HIV in the time it took to get treatment medicines there cheaply. Solidarity and strategy in dealing with the pandemic have proven effective in Africa, and the ACDC has, in just three years since its formation, lived up to its mandate. Now, as the competition among countries over a vaccine and the infrastructure for its distribution intensifies, the rest of the world could do well to follow Africa's example.



SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL

THE COUNTRY IS going through an extremely sensitive and troubled period with 70 per cent of its population, the farmers, out on the streets, agitating against the Centre's decision to amend the laws with regard to the marketing of farm produce. On the face of it, the issue relates to the continuance of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime for certain crops. But, in fact, the implications of the Centre's new legislation go much deeper and wider. At stake is the entire system of "Assured Procurement" by government of India agencies such as the Food Corporation of India.

On its part, the government has sought to address apprehensions of the farmers by declaring that it has no intention of discontinuing or diluting either the practice of the MSP or of the assured procurement of farmers' key crops by government agencies. So what then sets the government and the farmers on a collision course? What, after all, is so critically important because of which one of the longest-standing allies of the BJP and a key founding member of the NDA has first had to plead with the government to listen to the farmers and later to quit the government through the resignation of its sole representative in the Union Cabinet, Harsimrat Kaur Badal?

All along, the SAD tried all it could as a responsible constituent of the NDA and as a representative predominantly of the farmers to act as a bridge between the two. I had a long exchange of views with organisations of the farmers in Punjab and offered to accompany them anywhere they wanted me to go to argue their cause. I pleaded with the government to insert constitutional and legislative guarantees in the bills as commitment to the farmers about the continuance of official procurement at the MSP.

The government, first verbally and later in writing, gave assurances to this effect. But it refused to incorporate these guarantees into the Acts. The farmers were not willing to buy any assurances of the government short of legislative clauses. As a party predominantly of farmers, the SAD resisted the temptation of playing to the gallery and worked quietly towards a solution acceptable to both sides.

Why my party withdrew its minister from the NDA government on the farmers' issue

Bills of ingratitude

All along, the SAD tried all it could as a responsible constituent of the NDA and as a representative predominantly of the farmers to act as a bridge between the two. I had a long exchange of views with organisations of the farmers in Punjab and offered to accompany them anywhere they wanted me to go to argue their cause. I pleaded with the government to insert constitutional and legislative guarantees in the bills as commitment to the farmers about the continuance of official procurement at the MSP. The government, first verbally and later in writing, gave assurances to this effect. But it refused to incorporate these guarantees into the Acts. The farmers were not willing to buy any assurances of the government short of legislative clauses.

But finally, finding that there was no sympathetic ear in the government either to the millions of toiling farmers or to earnest and passionate pleas of one of its own key allies, the SAD, to save the farmers, our party decided to pull out of the government. The SAD could not be a party to anything which in its view had the potential of destroying the already beleaguered peasantry in the country, especially in Punjab.

Punjab forms close to 2 per cent of the area and population of the country. And yet its farmers have always contributed the bulk of foodgrain, often exceeding 50 per cent of the national granary. There was a time when the country faced not just famines but also international ignominy as our prime ministers had to go around the world capitals with a begging bowl in hand. Late PM, Lal Bahadur Shastri ji then gave a clarion call to Punjab farmers to come to the rescue of the country: Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan. The farmers of Punjab responded with the Green Revolution which transformed India from a nation of food shortages to a food surplus and food exporting country — all in a matter of just six to seven years.

The farmers, especially from Punjab, came to the rescue of the nation when the nation's survival was in danger. Now, the farmer's own existence is in danger. Now, it is the nation's turn to come to his rescue. Farmers' incomes have shrunk dramatically even as there has been an exponential increase in the price of farm inputs and no comparable rise in the price of produce. All this has led to the shocking spectre of farmers' suicides across the country. This should stir the conscience of the nation.

But the three bills reveal an inexplicable insensitivity and ingratitude towards the farmers.

This legislation throws the market for farmers' crops open to the private sector and the big corporate sharks are eyeing with greed the fruit of farmers' sweat and toil. The bills create two sets of laws — one for the state procurement agencies where taxes like the Rural Development Fund, market fees etc cut into the actual price which the farmer gets. But the reward for that is that the farmer

does not have to worry about the sale of his crops at the Minimum Support Price. Punjab has created one of the best networks of agricultural marketing infrastructure in the world. This ensures that the farmer does not have to go far to sell his crop, protecting him against uncertainties of the market as well as reducing his expenses.

But under the present laws, the private buyer will not have to pay any taxes to the government. Consequently, he can afford to lure the farmer with offers of a higher per quintal price. And as a part of their marketing strategy, big corporate sharks will initially offer prices considerably higher than the official MSP. The simple hearted farmer will fall for the bait and this would look good for the first few years. But the net result would be that this would decimate the existing marketing regime and the farmer would be finally thrown entirely at the mercy of the private sharks. There will be no one then to save the farmers from these sharks.

We saw this strategy employed by jio mobile phones. It was virtually free at the start. But once corporates kill competition and monopolise the market, then they have the consumer eating out of their hand. Then, the prices are hiked at corporates' own sweet will. This is called the tyranny of private monopoly. This is what the farmer, especially in Punjab, is up against. But he won't be alone in this fight.

The SAD has a history of making sacrifices in defence of the toiling and beleaguered farmers. It has a legacy to live up to.

We have approached the honourable President of India, requesting him to return these bills to Parliament for reconsideration. We still hope that the government will not stand on prestige and will refer the bills to a Select Committee which would then take the stakeholders — the farmers — on board.

If that doesn't happen, the SAD will uphold its legacy of standing shoulder to shoulder with farmers. But in the interest of our country, we still hope that the government would agree to withdraw these bills and reintroduce them in amended form.

The writer is President, Shiromani Akali Dal



AMITABH BEHAR

THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Board's (SEBI) working group has submitted its report with recommendations regarding the structure, mechanisms, and regulatory framework for the proposed Social Stock Exchange (SSE). The response to the report has been muted and sceptical from civil society, which is reeling under a deep funding crisis due to COVID-19 with projections of it getting worse in the coming years.

The scepticism stems from a comprehensive reading of the intent and actions of the finance ministry. The 2020-21 Union Budget says that not-for-profit organisations will need to apply every five years for income tax registration to ascertain their charitable status and will also need to renew their 80(G) certificate that provides tax relief to their donors. These requirements will create havoc in the not-for-profit sector as they would not be able to survive without the tax-exempt charitable status, not to mention opening the flood gates to corruption and bullying by the tax and government bureaucracy.

The proposal for SSE surprised many. SSE exists in one form or another in UK, Singapore, South Africa, Canada and Brazil, but it is yet to take off in any country. It has been an instrument focussed on social enterprises with rather poor results. The proposed SSE in our country could have been an interesting innovation if it was a first. But to replicate a failed experiment from elsewhere in an extremely complex environment of endemic poverty, high inequality and regional variation does

IMPORTING A FAILED EXPERIMENT

Social Stock Exchange is yet to take off in any country

not seem a reasoned decision. It is therefore important to analyse why it has been pushed as a key policy, what it seeks to achieve, and its implications for civil society and our democracy.

The SEBI working group was constituted of business leaders, government and SEBI officials with a token representative from civil society. The lop-sided composition of the committee reflects the real intent of the SSE, which is to create instruments for market to enter the social sector. At preliminary glance even this could be a laudable objective and surely many well-intentioned backers of this idea are working with this narrative of "bringing capital markets for the social sector". However, the way the exchange is envisioned makes it clear that the interests of the private sector are guiding the idea of SSE and not the systemic developmental challenges of the country.

In the last decade, forays of private actors including large consulting firms into the social sector as profitable enterprises have opened up new arenas for profit-making. The SSE will create a pathway for the private sector to enter the social sector from the comforts of Dalal Street without enduring the heat and dust of India's developmental challenges, which are embedded in complex terrains including politics, caste, patriarchy, feudalism and corruption.

The proponents of the SSE argue that it would help set standards and a performance matrix for the social sector, do bench-mark-

ing of sector actors (credibility checks), organise information and data, help in impact assessments, and do capacity building for the sector. This approach is flawed.

The assumption that extremely complex problems have blueprints of success is erroneous. Poverty or injustice are essentially systemic and political questions that need multi-pronged dynamic engagement. Developing set standards of impact assessment and performance matrix has the risk of privileging only one approach to the developmental challenges at hand, or even worse, steering the discourse onto the solvable parts of the larger systemic questions — at best addressing the symptom and not the root cause.

Apart from these deeper questions, operationally also, the SSE would create more intermediaries and benefit larger organisations with English-speaking professionals skilled in the language of markets at the cost of smaller grass roots groups, who are the real frontline actors in addressing the challenges we face as a society and country. More than 99 per cent of the three million NGOs in the country are in the small category and will be untouched by the SSE.

Finally, the idea of setting up the SSE within the rubric of SEBI again reflects the confusion. If the core business of the SSE is to strengthen the social sector and bring new resources to it, then SEBI for sure itself would admit that it is not the appropriate anchor.

The writer is CEO, Oxfam India

SEPTEMBER 24, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

IRAN-IRAQ BOMBINGS

IRAQI FORCES INVADDED Iran at four points, captured a major border town and laid siege to the strategic refinery city of Abadan as the conflict between the two neighbours exploded into an all-out war, according to reports from both sides of the border. Fires were reported raging out of control at the giant Abadan refinery complex, one of the world's largest and heart of Iran's oil industry. Waves of Iranian warplanes bombed Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, reportedly killing dozens of people. Iraq claimed more than two dozen Iranian aircraft had been shot down. A second air attack was reported in Baghdad at nightfall

CRPC AMENDED

AN ORDINANCE, THE second in two days, was promulgated vesting more powers with the executive. The ordinance amends the Criminal Procedure Code with a view to effectively deal with habitual criminals and those creating enmity between different groups and communities. Certain powers under the CRPC hitherto enjoyed by the Centre and state governments will now be exercised by the district magistrates.

PRESS ATTACKED

THE PRESS WAS held to ransom by Youth Congress (I) workers who laid siege to the offices of four leading newspapers of

Bangalore. Readers of four newspapers — Indian Express, Deccan Herald, Kannada Prabha and Prajavani — went without their copies. More than 200 employees were locked in and held hostage by slogan-shouting activists who demanded "fair treatment" for chief minister Gundu Rao.

UP FLOODED AGAIN

FLOOD-AFFECTED AZAMGARH AND Jaunpur towns of Uttar Pradesh are once again under threat without the Tons and the Gomti crossing the danger mark in these areas. Reports from Hamirpur, Unnao and Kanpur also talk of heavy destruction due to rains.

9 THE IDEAS PAGE

An opening in the impasse

Five-point consensus reached by India and China recognises importance of dialogue and disengagement. Now, focus should shift to maintenance of status quo along each other's perception of LAC



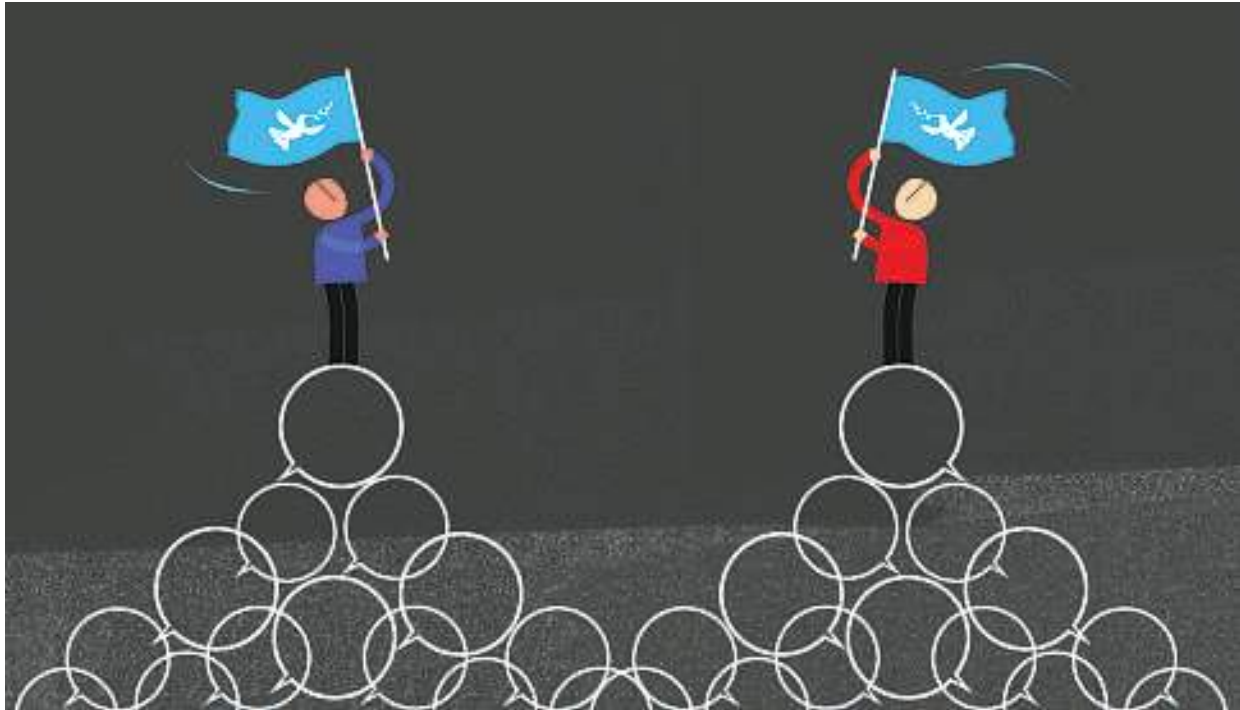
INDIA'S DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh made firm and thoughtful statements in the two Houses of Parliament on September 15 and 17 concerning the situation in Ladakh. Apart from lauding the indomitable courage and readiness of India's armed forces to deal with any eventuality to protect the country's territorial integrity, he gave a broad overview of the boundary question and the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

One of his key points was that there is no commonly delineated LAC in the border areas and that after 2003, the LAC clarification exercise ground to a halt due to China's intransigence. China had agreed in the 1993 "Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas" that, pending an ultimate resolution of the boundary question, the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the LAC. Further, there was agreement that, when necessary, the two sides shall jointly check and determine the segments of the LAC where they have different views regarding its alignment. Article X of the 1996 "Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas" also commits the two sides to speed up the process of clarification and confirmation of the LAC in order to arrive at a common understanding.

It is clear that without exchanging maps depicting each other's LAC, a common understanding will remain elusive. Even after reaching that goal, there would remain the challenge of ensuring that both sides refrain from activities in and along the overlapping areas that threaten peace and tranquillity. Confirmation of the LAC presupposes its delineation on a map and, thereafter, demarcation on the ground, of a single, mutually accepted line. This is an altogether more difficult task since it may entail territorial adjustments. So far, the first step of clarifying each other's perception of the LAC has only been carried out in the middle sector.

Why has China declined to continue the LAC clarification exercise? In the western sector, China's so-called LAC of November 7, 1959, is essentially coterminous with its boundary claim line, except in Demchok where it falls short. In some places, the post-1962 variant of its LAC went beyond the line that China had claimed before the conflict. When India-China border talks recommenced in December 1981, the Chinese side had essentially reiterated the "package proposal" first conveyed by Deng Xiaoping to then Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1979, and subsequently aired through Indian journalists, suggesting a settlement based on the de facto LAC in the eastern and western sectors. However, at the crucial Sixth Round in 1985, the Chinese did a volte-face. They claimed that the largest dispute lay in the eastern sector and that India would have to make substantial concessions, to which China would reciprocate with corresponding adjustments in the western sector. China subsequently never clarified the details.

China's reluctance to clarify the LAC today stems from its specious position that



C R Sasikumar

India's LAC claims are exaggerated concerning its actual control and effective jurisdiction. Little does this argument take into account the fact that China itself had never physically controlled any part of Aksai Chin until the People's Liberation Army (PLA) rolled into Xinjiang and Tibet in 1949 and 1950, respectively. Thereafter, the story of the Chinese LAC is one of the nebulous claims followed by an incremental acquisition of territory.

The recent meetings in Moscow between the defence ministers and foreign ministers of India and China, in quick succession, have provided an opportune moment for both sides to reduce tensions. The five-point consensus reached by the foreign ministers recognised the importance of dialogue, disengagement and bilateral confidence-building measures. The joint press release of the 6th round of senior commanders meeting is encouraging, since it speaks of strengthening communication, avoiding misunderstandings and refraining from any further action, including build-up of troops and unilateral attempts to alter the ground situation. In his statement at the 75th Session of the UNGA on September 22, President Xi Jinping made two key points — that China has no intention to fight a Cold War or "hot war" with any country, and that China will continue to narrow differences with others through dialogue and negotiations.

The bilateral consensus and subsequent pronouncements offer India and China an opportunity to break the impasse. The consensus reached so far can be further buttressed by both sides reiterating at their next meeting a key formulation contained in Article 1 of the 1993 agreement, that "neither side shall use or threaten to use force against the other by any means". This, of course, requires China to sincerely walk the talk by refraining from unilateral action and military means to address differences. It would also require China to stop insisting on a unilateral interpretation of the LAC and to disengage meaningfully its unilateral military deployments that triggered the escalation in the first place.

Henceforth, the focus should shift to the maintenance of the status quo along each other's perception of the LAC and within the overlapping areas in many of which both sides have patrolled in the past. It is here, as

The joint press release of the 6th round of senior commanders meeting is encouraging, since it speaks of strengthening communication, avoiding misunderstandings and refraining from any further action, including build-up of troops and unilateral attempts to alter the ground situation. In his statement at the 75th Session of the UNGA on September 22, President Xi Jinping made two key points — that China has no intention to fight a Cold War or 'hot war' with any country, and that China will continue to narrow differences with others through dialogue and negotiations.

India has made clear to China, both through diplomatic and military channels, that any unilateral attempt to change the situation is unacceptable.

Despite the unrealistic claims made by the Chinese mouthpiece *Global Times*, the military balance in the border areas in eastern Ladakh is, in fact, fairly symmetrical. It is a tribute to India's armed forces that neither the difficult terrain nor inclement weather has prevented them from responding robustly to the Chinese build-up in Ladakh, leaving Beijing in no doubt that any adventurism would prove costly.

By adopting the path of peaceful negotiations that President Xi mentioned in his UN address, China stands to benefit from a much-needed image makeover at a time when it faces wide-spread opprobrium for its unilateralism, aggression and "wolf warrior diplomacy".

The last fundamental jolt to bilateral relations was in May 1998, when China had abruptly cancelled all engagements in the aftermath of India's nuclear tests. The exception then was a pre-scheduled meeting of the Experts Group of Diplomatic & Military Officials (EG), led by this writer on the Indian side, which was used to gradually restart the process of engagement, leading to the visit of External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh a year later and culminating in President K R Narayanan's state visit in May 2000.

What is encouraging about the situation today, as compared to May 1998, is that dialogue has remained intact at all levels. It is noteworthy that while expressing India's firm resolve to defend its territory, the defence minister also alluded in his speeches in Parliament to the desire to address the current situation through dialogue. Taken together, these recent developments provide an opening to China to grasp the nettle, and to recognise its own interest in building enduring ties with a large and populous neighbour like India, whose friendship and goodwill will continue to play a crucial role in endorsing the "peaceful rise of China".

The writer, a former Ambassador of India and China specialist, is currently the director general of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"In August last year, the BJP government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi annexed... Kashmir by revoking its special status. There is concern that by integrating GB (Gilgit-Balistan) as a province, Pakistan may weaken its case in the way that India has." — DAWN

The opaque nation

Government is promoting a culture of secrecy, undermining legislation such as RTI



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

WHILE TRANSPARENCY is a cornerstone of democracy, today's India is cultivating secrecy. Paradoxically, this culture of secrecy is sometimes justified in the name of transparency.

Electoral bonds are a case in point. They were introduced in February 2017 by the Centre in the name of transparency — they allowed anonymous donations to political parties and, therefore, protected the privacy of the donors! The Election Commission of India (ECI) criticised the opacity of this financial mechanism and described it as "a retrograde step". The ECI told the government that this arrangement would prevent the state from ascertaining whether a "political party has taken any donation in violation of provisions under Section 29B of the Representation of the People Act, which prohibits the political parties from taking donations from government companies and foreign sources". Electoral bonds also made it impossible to check whether a company was giving to parties more than what the Companies Act (2013) permitted, that is 7.5 per cent of the net average profit of the three preceding financial years. The government has not been deterred by these legal concerns, presumably because the benefits it could derive from behind-the-curtains bargains with the corporate sector are much more attractive than the opprobrium resulting from the ECI's reprimands.

Similarly, sealed envelope has become a modus operandi in several Indian institutions, including the Supreme Court (SC). In the case of political funding (by electoral bonds or otherwise), a three-judge bench headed by the then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi in 2019 directed political parties to submit the details of donations received to the ECI in sealed cover by May 30, that is after the elections. The matter stopped there. The Assam administration had to show the progress it was making in the implementation of the National Register of Citizens by submitting reports in sealed covers to Justice Gogoi. When Justice Gogoi was accused of sexual harassment, the panel formed by the SC found "no substance in the allegations" on the basis of a report it had received in a sealed cover that was not disclosed even to the complainant. Commenting on these developments, Justice Madan Lokur wrote that "secrecy is the name of the game".

This craze for secrecy has affected the Right to Information Act, the UPA-legislated law that had made India progress more quickly than most democracies on the road to transparency. First, the government did not appoint a Chief Information Commissioner for a year after the incumbent retired in August 2014, and did not fill vacant information commissioner posts in the Central Information Commission (CIC) between 2016 and 2018, a year when, consequently, only seven commissioners out of the sanctioned strength of 11 were in place. After the SC intervened, some appointments were made in January 2019, but four posts remained vacant, a clear indication of the gov-

ernment's lack of interest in the CIC and/or its attempt to weaken it. The backlog of pending appeals had reached 30,000 cases in late 2019 as the CIC has become a rather dysfunctional body.

Second, the government refused to disclose information which was previously available under the RTI Act. Queries about phone tapping are not responded to anymore. In 2016-17, the home and finance ministries rejected close to 15 per cent of the applications they received while the RBI and public sector banks rejected 33 per cent. The RBI, for instance, refused to give any information about the decision-making process that led to demonetisation.

Third, during the 2019 Monsoon Session of Parliament, just after the Lok Sabha election, the Modi government amended the RTI Act to limit the power of the CIC. The five-year fixed tenure for the Chief Information Commissioner and information commissioners was abolished. Their salaries were not fixed any more — as with Election Commissioners — but notified separately by the government.

The government also diluted the Whistleblower's Protection Act. Whistleblowers can now be prosecuted for possessing the documents on which the complaint has been made. Issues flagged by them have to be in "public interest" and should not be "affecting the sovereignty and integrity of India", related to "commercial confidence" or "information received in confidence from a foreign government".

In the same vein, data phobia has resulted in the non-publication or alteration of some statistical information by government organisations. The National Statistical Commission and the Chief Statistician of India faced a credibility crisis during Modi's first term when the new GDP series was released. Subsequently, growth rate figures were changed so often that 108 social scientists wrote an open letter in 2019 inviting the government to "reestablish institutional independence and integrity to the statistical organisations". Similarly, the National Crime Records Bureau has been affected by delays (its 2017 report was released in October 2019) and deletions. For instance, lynchings and "religious killings" are no longer enumerated and the number of members of religious communities in the police forces (information that had been introduced by the Vajpayee government) is not listed. The National Sample Survey Office has also not been spared. In 2019, nearly 200 scholars wrote to the government to release the 75th round survey of consumer expenditures — which had found that the percentage of citizens living below the poverty line had increased between 2011-12 and 2017-18.

This year, given the negative growth that India is bound to register, bad news of that kind are likely to multiply. To conceal the truth would make things worse because the actors in the economy would not be in a position to adjust to the real situation. Transparency is not only necessary for maintaining a democratic polity, it is also necessary for making the economy work. Facts are sometimes unpleasant, but the nation needs to know — and may be wants to know, even if nobody is asking any more.

The writer is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London, and non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace



ANJU GUPTA

IN 1979, Afghanistan became a theatre of the Cold War. In later years, the land used for "jihad" against "godless" Soviets by the US-Saudi-Pakistan axis was converted into a hub for al Qaeda's terror network. The al Qaeda trained future jihadis of Afghanistan-Pakistan and thousands of foreign fighters. Following the 9/11 attacks, the US targeted the Taliban, which receded into sanctuaries in Pakistan. Despite efforts by the international and Afghan communities, Afghanistan continues to bleed from attacks by the Taliban-al Qaeda network. The Intra-Afghan talks began on September 12. Many believe that the US will "exit" this time. However, closer scrutiny suggests that an exit is unlikely, irrespective of the results of the US presidential elections. The network will continue to pose serious threats to Indian and global security.

Like much of the world, India too did not recognise the Taliban government (1996-2001). In December 1999, five Pakistanis from JeM (Jaish e Mohammad) hijacked Indian Airlines passenger flight IC 814, on route to Delhi from Kathmandu, and landed in Kandahar. Passengers were "swapped" for prisoners in Indian jails. The hijacking showed how Pakistan was using Afghanistan to perpetrate international terrorism.

In August 1998, al Qaeda's operatives bombed US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The US mounted strikes against al Qaeda's

Staying on in Afghanistan

Geopolitical imperatives make it difficult for US to withdraw forces

training camps in the Haqqani area in Afghanistan. In 2000, al Qaeda's suicide bombers hit the *USS Cole* in Yemen. 9/11 got the US to go after the network. From the safe havens of Pakistan, Taliban supremo Mullah Omar refused to hand over Osama Bin Laden, who was killed in a May 2011 raid by US SEALs in his home — a few kilometres from the Pakistan Military Academy.

Due to the West's pre-occupation with "other wars", by 2008, the network had regained control over large swathes of rural Afghanistan and was repeatedly targeting provincial capitals. In December 2009, Barack Obama announced a "troops surge and withdrawal" to turn the tide. The surge to over 140,000 troops (including allies) helped build Afghan forces against the network. At the end of its term, the troops level was down to 8,600 plus the counter-terrorism component. By November 2017, under President Donald Trump, US troops rose to 14,000, now down to 8,600 plus the counter-terrorism component.

The Afghan peace process hinges on the US securing its counter-terrorism interests and the Taliban and the government charting a roadmap to peace. The US-Taliban agreement stipulates an exit before May 2021, if conditions are met.

The "surge and withdrawal" has evolved as a favoured US strategy in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. The strategy entails identifying and em-

powering a local ally against common enemies. It leads to adjusting the "US force posturing" to ensure that the local ally is not defeated. The core interests are guarded while reducing casualties of their own troops. Different US presidents have couched the strategy in different political terms. This is unlikely to change post-elections.

Unlike in Iraq and Syria, the US has no bases in Central Asia or South Asia. The presence in Afghanistan, critical for counterterrorism, is also crucial for geopolitical imperatives. With China in Gwadar and a hostile Iran, a credible presence is needed to secure much more than the safety of the Embassy.

The US has identified and invested in Afghan forces as a local ally. The tangible dividends are visible in oversight (SIGAR) reports. The US Defence report, July 2020, reiterates that the vital national interest is "to ensure that (Afghanistan) is never again used as a safe haven from which terrorists can attack the US or our allies or interests abroad". The February 29 US-Afghan joint declaration has committed to "joint assessment and determination" as the basis for an exit.

Without a ceasefire, deep mistrust would affect the Intra-Afghan talks. With incentives, a part of the Taliban may compromise. In reality, Intra-Afghan talks are a "mediation" between the Afghan government and the Pakistan Army.

The US strategy has ensured that the network has not overrun governments. Several counter-terrorism targets in Afghanistan-Pakistan have been taken out including top al Qaeda leaders and scores of foreign fighters. The US-Afghan partnership has deterred a "genuine" IS (Islamic State) from taking roots in Afghanistan.

The threats from the network remain. A UN Report in July stresses that al Qaeda is covertly active in 12 provinces and the al Qaeda chief, Ayman al-Zawahiri, is in Afghanistan. It estimates al Qaeda cadres to be between 400 and 600 and having top-level contacts with the Haqqani network. The report mentions that foreign fighters from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar are present within AQIS (al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent).

Pakistan is backing the network for its own interest. The network has long taken control of ISKP (IS in Khurasan Province). The shadow boxing of the Taliban with ISKP projects it as a key "ally against IS". Several arrests in India and Afghanistan show how AQIS and ISKP are recruiting online and inciting lone wolf attacks across South Asia. The Afghanistan-Pakistan based network will continue to impact the security of India and the West in South Asia and beyond.

The writer is an IPS officer. Views are personal

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ORWELLIAN BILLS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Bills against farmers' (IE, September 23). The agriculture bills passed by Parliament enable big businesses and traders to stockpile crops, eroding farmers' bargaining power. They institutionalise the exploitation of farmers in countless other ways. The free market system, presumed to be fruitful, will leave farmers vulnerable. The way these bills are being presented by the government is very Orwellian since their suggested purpose is in direct contradiction with the realities of the agrarian sector.

Saundaryia Jain, via email

BE PREPARED

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Panic, overuse: Centre pinpoints oxygen issues' (IE, September 23). In disaster management, one has to anticipate the problems. The Centre admitted that there has been an increase in oxygen demand. Consequently, there will be an increase in the number of oxygen-dependent patients, who would require ventilatory support and ICU care. This mandates a level of logistics related to the availability of ventilators, ICU beds etc. In addition, the healthcare system would need critical care ambulances to transport patients from peripheral hos-

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pitals. These measures should be in standby mode rather than being discussed when the problem is at your door.

LR Murmu, Delhi

INSINCERE CENTRE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Putting farmers first', (IE, September 23). For every bill that the government passes, it says: "Opposition is spreading misinformation" and "it is a landmark bill". If the farm sector was a priority, why was it allocated only 5 per cent of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package?

Aamli Lodhi, Gandhinagar





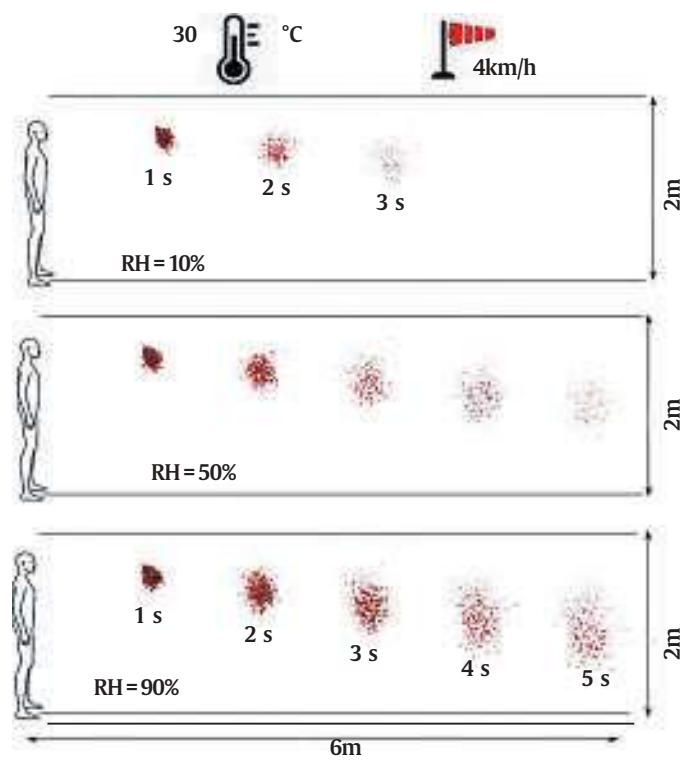
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

How droplet evaporation affects coronavirus spread



Effect of relative humidity on coronavirus respiratory droplet cloud at same temperature and wind speed, and different humidity.

Talib Dbouk & Dimitris Drikakis/Physics of Fluids

THE EFFECT of temperature and humidity on the novel coronavirus has been studied a number of times since the pandemic took hold. So have the fluid dynamics and heat transfer aspects of the evaporation of droplets. A new study has now looked at evaporation of respiratory droplets — specifically those that contain virus.

Conducted by University of Nicosia researchers, the paper is published in the American Institute of Physics journal *Physics of Fluids*.

When temperature is high and relative humidity is low simultaneously, the study found a significant reduction in virus viability. On the other hand, when RH is high, then the distance travelled by the droplet cloud, and the virus concentration remain significant — at any temperature. This, the study notes, is in contradiction with what was previously believed by



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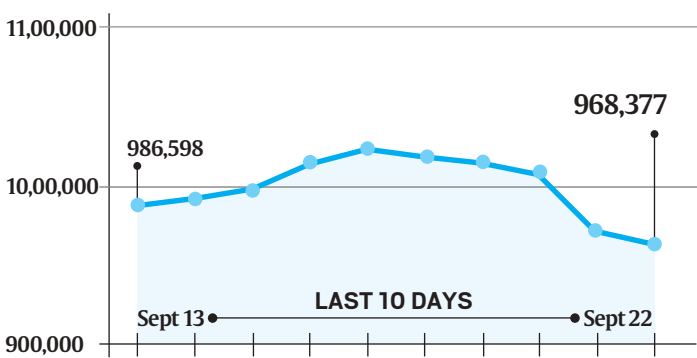
NEW RESEARCH

many epidemiologists. The study cites the example of Delhi in July, when temperature and RH were both high, yet cases saw a surge. The number of cases grew by more than half from 87,000 at the end of June to 1.35 lakh at the end of July, according to government records. The researchers developed new theoretical correlations for the unsteady evaporation of coronavirus-contaminated saliva droplets. It introduced the thermodynamic properties of virions (the complete virus) as a liquid. The key finding is that evaporation is a critical factor for the transmission of the infectious particles immersed in respiratory clouds of saliva droplets.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

968,377



Note: The Sept 21 figure in this graph is based on the government update of Sept 22

INDIA TOTAL CASES
5,646,010

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Sept 23

WORLD TOTAL CASES
31,713,913

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on Sept 23

SP Group's exit from Tata Group: who can buy its stake, and how

GEORGE MATHEW & SANDEEP SINGH

MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

AFTER AN association of close to 84 years, the Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry (SP) Group has offered to exit from Tata Sons as protracted litigation with the Tatas has affected the business expansion plans of the SP Group, which has a debt burden of over Rs 30,000 crore.

The market value of SP Group's stake in the listed entities of Tata Group is estimated to be over Rs 148,000 crore, going by the market capitalisation of all listed group firms. It remains to be seen how the Tatas will raise the cash to acquire SP Group's stake.

What is the latest case all about?

Earlier this month, Tata Sons moved the Supreme Court seeking to restrain SP Group firms from raising capital against security of their shareholding in Tata Sons. The Tatas argued that the articles of association (AoA)

stipulate that shares cannot change hands, including to lenders or other parties, and the right of first refusal rests with Tata Sons. The SP Group was planning to raise funds for real estate expansion by pledging Tata Sons shares. The Tatas and the SP Group have been fighting various legal battles ever since Cyrus Mistry was removed as Chairman of Tata Sons four years ago.

In the Supreme Court on Tuesday, the SP Group said "a separation from the Tata Group is necessary due to the potential impact this continuing litigation could have on livelihoods and the economy". The Tata Group is open to buying the shares in Tata Sons held by the SP Group to aid the latter's fundraising efforts. The Supreme Court restrained the SP Group from transferring or pledging Tata Sons shares.

When did the SP Group acquire a stake in Tata Sons?

Shapoorji Pallonji Mistry, Cyrus's grandfather, bought a 12.5% stake in Tata Sons in



Cyrus Mistry, Ratan Tata. Express Archive

1936 from the heirs of F E Dinshaw, a close friend and associate of the Tatas. After the rights issue in 1996, the stake went up to 18.5%. The Tata and Mistry families have maintained cordial relations that have extended to marital ties over the years: Ratan

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Redefining essential items

An amendment to Essential Commodities Act, 1955 deregulates key foodstuffs except under extraordinary circumstances. Why was the need felt, and why have farmers and the Opposition raised concerns over it?

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

ON TUESDAY, Rajya Sabha passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 which is aimed at deregulating commodities such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes. The Bill had been introduced and passed in Lok Sabha last week. It replaces an ordinance that the government had promulgated on June 5, along with two other ordinances on the farm sector. As with the two other ordinances (also passed as Bills) that have seen protests from farmers in Punjab and Haryana, there have been concerns about the provisions of this Bill, too.

What is the Bill about?

It is a four-page Bill that amends the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, by introducing a new Subsection (1A) in Section 3.

After the amendment, the supply of certain foodstuffs — including cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, potato — can be regulated only under extraordinary circumstances, which include an extraordinary price rise, war, famine, and natural calamity of a severe nature. In effect, the amendment takes these items out from the purview of Section 3(1), which gives powers to central government to "control production, supply, distribution, etc, of essential commodities".

Earlier, these commodities were not mentioned under Section 3(1) and reasons for invoking the section were not specified. The amendments states that "such order for regulating stock limit shall not apply to a processor or value chain participant of any agricultural produce, if the stock limit of such person does not exceed the overall ceiling of installed capacity of processing, or the demand for export in case of an exporter..."

How is an 'essential commodity' defined?

There is no specific definition of essential commodities in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Section 2(A) states that an "essential commodity" means a commodity specified in the Schedule of the Act.

The Act gives powers to the central government to add or remove a commodity in the Schedule. The Centre, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in public interest, can notify an item as essential, in consultation with state governments.



Cereals, pulses, edible oils, potato, onion are among the items deregulated except under extraordinary circumstances. Express Archive

According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, which implements the Act, the Schedule at present contains seven commodities — drugs; fertilisers, whether inorganic, organic or mixed; foodstuffs including edible oils; hank yarn made wholly from cotton; petroleum and petroleum products; raw jute and jute textiles; seeds of food-crops and seeds of fruits and vegetables, seeds of cattle fodder, jute seed, cotton seed.

By declaring a commodity as essential, the government can control the production, supply, and distribution of that commodity, and impose a stock limit.

Under what circumstances can the government impose stock limits?

While the 1955 Act did not provide a clear framework to impose stock limits, the amended Act provides for a price trigger. It says that agricultural foodstuffs can only be regulated under extraordinary circumstances such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise, and natural calamity.

However, any action on imposing stock limits will be based on the price trigger.

Thus, in case of horticultural produce, a 100% increase in the retail price of a commodity over the immediately preceding 12

months or over the average retail price of the last five years, whichever is lower, will be the trigger for invoking the stock limit.

For non-perishable agricultural foodstuffs, the price trigger will be a 50% increase in the retail price of the commodity over the immediately preceding 12 months or over the average retail price of the last five years, whichever is lower.

However, exemptions from stock-holding limits will be provided to processors and value chain participants of any agricultural produce, and orders relating to the Public Distribution System.

"Price triggers will also minimise the earlier uncertainties associated with the imposition of orders under stock limits. This will now be more transparent and help in better governance," said a source at the Consumer Affairs Ministry.

"The last 10 years have seen periods of prolonged application of the EC Act. Once imposed, they were for long periods — pulses from 2006 to 2017, rice from 2008 to 2014, edible oilseeds from 2008 to 2018. Amendments to the EC Act seek to remove this uncertainty by defining criteria for the process of imposing stock limits and making it more transparent and accountable," the source said.

Why was the need for this felt?

The 1955 Act was legislated at a time when the country was facing a scarcity of foodstuffs due to persistent low levels of foodgrains production. The country was dependent on imports and assistance (such as wheat import from the US under PL-480) to feed the population. To prevent hoarding and black marketing of foodstuffs, the Essential Commodities Act was enacted in 1955.

But now the situation has changed. A note prepared by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution shows that production of wheat has increased 10 times (from less than 10 million tonnes in 1955-56 to more than 100 million tonnes in 2018-19), while the production of rice has increased more than four times (from around 25 million tonnes to 110 million tonnes during the same period). The production of pulses has increased 2.5 times, from 10 million tonnes to 25 million tonnes.

In fact, India has now become an exporter of several agricultural products.

What will be the impact of the amendments?

The key changes seek to free agricultural markets from the limitations imposed by permits and *mandis* that were originally designed for an era of scarcity. The move is expected to attract private investment in the value chain of commodities removed from the list of essentials, such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onions and potatoes.

While the purpose of the Act was originally to protect the interests of consumers by checking illegal trade practices such as hoarding, it has now become a hurdle for investment in the agriculture sector in general, and in post-harvesting activities in particular. The private sector had so far hesitated about investing in cold chains and storage facilities for perishable items as most of these commodities were under the ambit of the EC Act, and could attract sudden stock limits. The amendment seeks to address such concerns.

Why is it being opposed?

This was one of the three ordinances/Bills that have seen protests from farmers in parts of the country. The Opposition says the amendment will hurt farmers and consumers, and will only benefit hoarders. They say the price triggers envisioned in the Bill are unrealistic — so high that they will hardly ever be invoked.

Bharat Biotech aims to overcome potential difficulties with mass vaccination and reduce the cost by doing away with the need for needles and syringes.

Intranasal vaccines are also expected to cut down on the dependence on various trained personnel to administer the vaccine, according to experts.

"Let's not forget that, with the scale of the pandemic, just the logistics of actually shipping a vaccine, having it available and then having people trained to give an injection in the arm is not so easy. So, one attraction with the intranasal vaccine is that it's very simple to use — you just squirt it into your nose — and it's something that can be self-administered in pandemics and outbreaks," said Dr Davinder Gill, former CEO of Hilleman Laboratories.

"It's an easy-to-deliver vaccine," said vaccine scientist Dr Gagandeep Kang. "It's going into a mucosal surface, likely to be restricted (and there is a) likelihood of lower safety events. It can be delivered in combination with influenza vaccines," she said.

Virologist and Wellcome Trust DBT India Alliance CEO Dr Shahid Jameel said an intranasal vaccine could also help in building a

different kind of immune response.

"Both intranasal and intramuscular vaccines produce a response in the blood... But, vaccines administered through the nose or mouth would also tap into another set of immune cells found in mucosal tissues. The B cells that reside here can make another type of antibody, called IgA, that is very effective in destroying gut and airway pathogens. T cells in this tissue can create a memory and patrol the places they first encountered the pathogens," he added.

Are there potential issues with a vaccine such as this?

Not many are considering the intranasal route for administering their Covid-19 vaccine. Out of the 187 Covid-19 vaccine candidates listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as being under development, only five are specifically listed as exploring the intranasal route of delivery.

This is because there is very little evidence to back the effectiveness of this route of delivery so far and, save for some flu vaccines, attempts to deliver vaccines have not been successful, according to experts.

"Despite the theoretical advantages, the intranasal approach for vaccination is largely unproven. While this concept has been tested quite extensively in animals, whether this holds true in humans is still largely untested and so the clinical trials here will definitely have to be watched closely," said Dr Gill. "Save for the flu vaccine, there really isn't much of a precedent for using such a vaccine."

"There was a trial of a measles flu vaccine which did not meet the non-inferiority criteria," said Dr Kang. "The nasal flu vaccines which are live-attenuated vaccines have not done hugely well. We don't know if it's a problem with the fact that they are flu vaccines, or whether it is an issue with it being a nasal vaccine." She said there is also uncertainty related to what dosage you give with a spray versus an injection.

Only very small volumes — typically around 0.1 ml — can be administered in each nostril through the intranasal route, Dr Jameel said. "The vaccine antigens should be produced in high concentration. Proper delivery vehicles for either single or multiple use have to be developed and these present the most significant challenge," he said.

Tata's half-brother Noel Tata is married to Cyrus's sister Aloo.

How much does SP Group own in Tata Sons?

It owns an 18.37% stake in Tata Sons, the holding company of Tata Group, while the majority 66% is controlled by Tata Trusts headed by Ratan Tata. While the total market capitalisation of 17 listed entities of Tata Group amounts to Rs 12.96 lakh crore, the valuation of SP Group's holdings in listed entities of Tata group companies comes to around Rs 1.48 lakh crore. Since Tata Sons is also the holding company of unlisted entities of Tata Group, the SP Group would also have stake in the valuation of these; this will have to be worked out separately.

Who can buy SP Group's stake?

While the SP Group has said its separation from the Tata Group is necessary, the latter has said it is willing to buy the former's stake. It is reliably learnt that the Tata

Sons Articles of Association states that if any shareholder of Tata Sons wants to sell his/her shares, then he has to first offer it to Tata Sons. Tata Sons will then decide a fair market value and offer it.

How easy will it be for Tata Group to buy this stake?

Investment bankers and finance experts say Tata Group's offer to buy back SP Group's shares involves various layers of complications. The first issue that will crop up will be the valuation that both parties will agree on. Another issue is that over the next one month, Tata Group will have to work out a financing plan to show how it will fund that acquisition and what will it put as lien for that borrowing.

"Except for TCS, not many Tata Group companies are in great shape — especially their steel and auto and power business having huge debt," said an investment banker who did not wish to be named.

On the other hand, if Tata Group plans

to bring in some global investors to buy these shares, market participants say such investors would want to know how Tata Sons would provide them an exit 7-10 years later as Tata Sons is an unlisted entity.

When was Cyrus Mistry removed as Tata Sons Chairman?

On October 24, 2016, the board of Tata Sons removed Cyrus Mistry as its Chairman, nearly four years after he had taken over. Mistry, who was a director on the board, had been appointed Deputy Chairman of the group in 2011 and then been promoted to Chairman in 2012. Mistry effected several changes in business practices, due to which capital expenditure increased but returns to shareholders decreased. His proposed sale of Tata Steel's Port Talbot plant in the UK was seen as harming the goodwill earned by the Tatas abroad. A dispute with Docomo Group of Japan, problems in Air Asia and Tata Motors, and some acquisitions reportedly upset Ratan Tata.

THE WORLD

TOPOF THE WORLD



Police closed access to the landmark. Reuters

FRANCE

Eiffel Tower evacuated over bomb threat

PARIS POLICE briefly evacuated the Eiffel Tower and blockaded the surrounding area Wednesday after a phone-in bomb threat. All tourists inside the monument were evacuated after an anonymous caller phoned police Wednesday morning and said a bomb had been placed inside the tower, according to an official with the tower's management company. The official was not authorized to be publicly named. Police blocked off the streets below the tower and the bridge stretching across the Seine River to Trocadero Plaza, but started lifting the barricades about two hours later. An officer at the scene said police found no signs of a bomb. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban attack checkpoints, kill 28 police

THE TALIBAN launched a wave of attacks on security checkpoints in southern Afghanistan overnight, killing a total of 28 Afghan policemen, officials said on Wednesday. The violence comes even as Taliban leaders and Afghan government-appointed negotiators are holding historic peace talks in Qatar. The negotiations are meant to end the fighting and establish a roadmap for a post-war society. According to the provincial governor's spokesman Zelig Ebad, the attacks started late Tuesday in southern Uruzgan province.

THAILAND

Royalists march against calls for reform

HUNDREDS OF Thai royalists marched to parliament on Wednesday to oppose calls from anti-government protesters for changes to the constitution as the assembly met to consider amending it. Protesters seek to change a constitution they say was engineered to ensure former junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha stayed on as prime minister after last year's election. They want his departure and some protesters also say the constitution gives too much power to King Maha Vajiralongkorn. **REUTERS**

FB: Fake pages from China tried to disrupt politics in US, other countries



RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 23

FACEBOOK SAID it removed a network of fake accounts and pages that originated in China and focused on disrupting political activity in the US and several other countries.

The US-focused activity was just a "sliver" of the accounts' overall activity and gained little following, Facebook said. Their primary focus was Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

In the US, the accounts posted material both in support of and against presidential candidates Pete Buttigieg, Joe Biden and President Donald Trump.

Facebook said the people behind the network tried to conceal their identity and location via virtual private networks and other methods.

Concerns about foreign efforts to interfere in the election were underscored by warning from the FBI and Department of Homeland Security's cybersecurity agency that foreign actors and cybercriminals were likely to try to spread disinformation regarding the results of the election, including by creating fake websites aimed at discrediting the process.

Pak-American held for illegal export of tech equipment to Pak atomic body

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 23

A 65-YEAR-OLD Pakistani-American has been arrested for allegedly exporting high-performance computer equipment and software application solutions from the US to Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission without necessary government approval, according to federal prosecutors.

Obaidullah Syed, who owned Pakistan-based Business System International (BSI) Private Limited and Chicago-based BSI USA, was arrested on September 16 and faces a maximum sentence of 20 years if convicted. He currently remains in federal custody.

Prosecutors said the two companies owned by Syed provided computing platforms, servers, and software application solutions.

From 2006 to 2015, Syed and BSI conspired with company employees in Pakistan to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act by exporting computer equipment from the US to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) without obtaining the required authorisation from the US Department of Commerce, according to an indictment returned in the District Court in Chicago. The PAEC is responsible for the design, fabrication, and testing of high explosives and nuclear weapons parts. **PTI**



U.S. MOURNS GINSBURG: Bill and Hillary Clinton pay respects as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg lies in repose at the top of the front steps of the US Supreme Court on Wednesday. **AP**

Biden gets Cindy McCain endorsement as Trump holds rally in Pittsburgh

REUTERS

SEPTEMBER 23

CINDY MCCAIN, the widow of Senator John McCain, on Tuesday became the latest prominent Republican voice to back Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden in his bid to wrest the White House from President Donald Trump in November's election.

"My husband John lived by a code: country first," McCain wrote on Twitter. "We are Republicans, yes, but Americans foremost. There's only one candidate in this race who stands up for our values as a nation, and that is Joe Biden."

Biden, who forged a long friendship with John McCain despite their ideological differences, had broken the news earlier during a virtual fundraiser, telling sup-



Joe Biden

porters that Cindy McCain decided to endorse him after *The Atlantic* magazine reported that Trump had called US soldiers who died in combat "losers" and "suckers."

Trump held a rally in the battleground state of Pennsylvania on Tuesday, as the death of liberal Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg continued to reshape the presidential contest. Trump said earlier on Tuesday he would reveal his pick on Saturday in the hopes of scheduling a Senate confirmation vote ahead of the Nov 3 election, despite fierce criticism from Democrats. Replacing Ginsburg would cement a 6-3 conservative majority on the high court.



PAKISTAN REOPENS SCHOOLS

Students wear masks and maintain safe distance before entering class at a school in Peshawar after the Pakistani government allowed the reopening of schools for grades six to eight. Educational institutions have remained shut in the country for nearly six months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. **Reuters**

Navalny leaves hospital after 32 days

Kremlin critic expected to make full recovery after poisoning

DAVID RISING & DARIA LITVINOVA

BERLIN, SEPTEMBER 23

RUSSIAN OPPOSITION leader Alexei Navalny has been released from a Berlin hospital after more than a month's treatment for poisoning, with doctors now believing that it's possible he could see a "complete recovery" from the Soviet-era nerve agent, the



Alexei Navalny posted this photo after being discharged from hospital in Berlin. **AP**

House Democrats propose sweeping legislation to curb presidential abuses

HOUSE DEMOCRATS proposed a sweeping Bill to curb presidential abuses, a pitch to voters weeks ahead as they try to defeat Trump, capture the Senate from Republicans and keep their House majority. The legislation would, among other measures, limit the president's pardon power, strengthen laws to ban presidents from receiving gifts or payments from foreign governments, better protect independent agency watchdogs and whistleblowers from firing or retribution and require better reporting by campaigns of foreign election interference. **AP**

Ricin suspect had knife and loaded gun when arrested

A CANADIAN woman who was arrested on suspicion of mailing the lethal substance ricin to the White House wanted President Trump to drop out of the presidential race and pledged to find other ways to assassinate him if her poisoning plot failed, according to court documents unsealed on Tuesday. The woman, Pascale Cecile Veronique Ferrier, has been charged by the Justice Department with threatening to kill the president. Ferrier wrote in a threatening and scornful letter sent with the ricin that she believed Trump was a dictator who was hurting the US. **NYT**

AUSTRALIA

500 WHALES STRANDED, 380 ALREADY DEAD

More pilot whales were found stranded in Australia on Wednesday, raising the estimated total to nearly 500, including 380 that have died. Authorities had already been working to rescue survivors among an estimated 270 whales found Monday on a beach and two sand bars when another 200 stranded whales were spotted from a helicopter on Wednesday.

Embattled President of Belarus secretly sworn in for new term

Declares victory over protests; Opp calls for civil disobedience

IVAN NECHEPURENKO

MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 23

ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO was sworn in for a sixth term as president of Belarus in a secret ceremony Wednesday — and used the occasion to declare victory over protesters who have gathered in large numbers for more than a month to contest a reelection that they call fraudulent.

The inauguration, which would typically be announced in advance as a major state occasion and by law must be broadcast live on television, was conducted under wraps at the Independence Palace, Lukashenko's grand residence in the Belarusian capital, Minsk.

"This is the day of our victory, a convincing and fateful one," Lukashenko told about 700 guests invited to his inauguration, according to a transcript published on the presidential website. "We didn't just elect the country's president. We defended our values, our peaceful life, our sovereignty and independence."

An opposition leader, Pavel Latushko, denounced the president's move and called on the



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko takes oath of office during his inauguration ceremony in Minsk, Belarus, on Wednesday. The ceremony was not announced in advance, and despite a legal requirement to telecast live, the event was conducted away from public view. **AP**

public "to immediately start a civil disobedience campaign."

The decision to keep the ceremony out of public view was clearly made to avoid setting off mass demonstrations of the sort that have drawn tens of thousands of people to the streets of Minsk for seven Sundays in a row since the election Aug. 9.

Footage of the ceremony, later published online, showed Lukashenko's motorcade driving through the city, which had been

cleared of pedestrians and cars.

Despite the inauguration, Lukashenko, who has been in power since 1994, still faces the deepest crisis of his political career. With Lukashenko no longer recognized as a legitimate leader of Belarus by Western nations and many Belarusians, his fate is now largely in the hands of President Vladimir Putin of Russia. That country and China were the only major powers to recognise the August election. **NYT**

Malaysia's Anwar says he has majority to form new govt

PM Muhyiddin dismisses claim

JOSEPH SIPALAN

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 23

MALAYSIA'S OPPOSITION leader Anwar Ibrahim said on Wednesday he has secured a 'formidable' majority from lawmakers to oust Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin and form a new government, heralding a fresh bout of political drama in the Southeast Asian country.

The power struggle comes at a difficult time for the multi-ethnic nation, as its export-driven economy has been badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic. The Malaysian ringgit and stocks fell after Anwar's comments.

Anwar now has to convince Malaysia's king, Sultan Abdullah, that he has the numbers to form a government, but as yet no major political party has come out in his support. The king could instead choose to call for elections on Muhyiddin's advice to end months of political volatility.

Muhyiddin, whose seven-month-old coalition has survived on a razor-thin majority, dismissed Anwar's claims as a "mere allegation", telling him to prove his majority through a constitutional process. "Until proven otherwise, the Perikatan Nasional government remains steadfast and I am the rightful prime minister," Muhyiddin said in a statement referring to his ruling coalition.

The six major political parties supporting Muhyiddin dismissed Anwar's claim as "cheap publicity"

EXPLAINED

New political crisis, 7 months after last one

VETERAN POLITICIAN Mahathir Mohamad joined forces with perennial rival Anwar Ibrahim in 2018 to defeat the powerful UMNO party and become PM. Mahathir had promised to hand over power to Anwar after completing half his term. However, as that time approached, a power struggle in the ruling coalition saw Mahathir resigning in Feb, but continuing as interim PM. During the resultant political crisis, Muhyiddin Yassin became PM with the backing of UMNO. Months later, Anwar says he has a new coalition that has majority, plunging the country into political crisis again. If Anwar is successful, this would be the second change in PM and ruling coalition without an election.

and said in a joint statement that they were firmly behind Muhyiddin, who emerged as leader after the resignation of the previous prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, in February. **REUTERS**

'WHERE IS MY NAME?' CAMPAIGN

In the mother's name: Afghan woman wins recognition, draws Taliban ire

OROJ HAKIMI & STORAY KARIMI

HERAT, KABUL, SEPTEMBER 23

AFGHAN WOMAN Laleh Osmany has been campaigning for years for a change to the age-old custom of officially identifying people by the names of their fathers, calling for mothers' names to be included on identity cards.

But her "Where Is My Name?" campaign, which finally brought a change in the law last week, has stirred heated debate in the conservative Muslim country where for some, speaking a woman's

name in public is taboo.

The Taliban, who have just begun power-sharing talks with the Afghan government that could see them return to rule in some capacity, have condemned the reform in one of the first concrete stances they have revealed on women's rights as they engage in the peace process.

"From the beginning of this campaign until now, we've encountered insults, humiliation, threats," said Osmany, a 28-year-old religious studies graduate.

For Osmany and many other Afghan women, a mother's name beside the father's on identity cards represents the

rightful recognition of women in society.

"This right has been given to us by Islam ... we want to take back our rights."

Osmany's campaign, which she launched on social media in 2017, paid off last week when President Ashraf Ghani signed an amendment that would recognise mothers equally with fathers on identification cards.

But along with the recognition from the president and the support of many women, the reform has provoked anger.

"The inclusion of the mother's name on electronic IDs would be a disgrace and a dishonour for Afghans," Said Akbar



Laleh Osmany says that for many Afghan women, a mother's name beside the father's on identity cards represents the rightful recognition of women in society. **Reuters**

Agha, who served as an official during Taliban rule, told a gathering to discuss reconciliation in the city of Herat last week.

Women's rights have improved significantly since the hardline Taliban were forced from power in 2001.

But concern is growing about the prospects for sustaining that progress with the possibility of a return of the Islamist group to a role in government.

The Taliban say they have changed and would allow education for girls and women to work outside the home, in some circumstances.

But when pushed for details such as on whether women

would be required to wear a face covering or work in jobs alongside men, they say the rights of women would be decided according to Islamic sharia, though without specifying how.

Many women harbour deep mistrust and doubt the sincerity of reassuring Taliban comments.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that the group opposed putting the names of mothers on identity cards.

"From a religious point of view, the names of women are among the prohibitions that cannot be mentioned anywhere," Mujahid told Reuters.

"Mentioning the names of mothers, wives, sisters and daughters is not culturally tolerable in our society," he said.

Osmany said she was disappointed by the Taliban position but would not stop fighting for the recognition of women even though she was worried about her safety and that of her colleagues.

"We're not doing anything wrong, so we'll continue this struggle so that we can revive the identity of women," she said.

"We know change is difficult, it's difficult to change society but when we start working, we must not be afraid of obstacles and we should never give up." **REUTERS**

Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, U.T. Directorate of Medical & Health Services
No. DMHS/EST/Med.edu/staff/2018/606/176 Silvassa, Date: 22/09/2020
ADVERTISEMENT
 Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Dadra and Nagar Haveli is conducting walk-in-interview on **26/09/2020 at 10.30 am** for various posts to be filled on short term contract basis under NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute, Silvassa. Details regarding the posts are available on the official website: www.dnh.nic.in or www.vbch.dnh.nic.in.
Sd/-
No. IP/DNH/ADVT/2020/277 (Dr. V. K. Das), Director, (MH&S)
Silvassa, Date: 22/9/2020 **0260-2642940**

Government of Karnataka
(Department of Ports & Inland Water Transport)
Port Office, Karwar-581301 (U.K.)
Ph: 08382-221342 Fax: 08382-221528 Email: kwrport2016@gmail.com
No. PAS/CR-129/2017-18 Date: 21.09.2020
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Only in E-Procurement) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
 Tender is invited in e-Procurement to execute below mentioned work. To participate in e-Procurement, and for more information may be obtained in www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in website. For further Extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.
"GST shall be paid to the Tendered Amount separately".
Name of Work: Procurement, fabrication, erection, construction, testing and commissioning of Fire fighting Equipments on line with OISD 156 requirements/PESO standards for handling class B petroleum products at Kanwar Port for the vessels of 50,000 DWT and above. (KPWD/2020-21/PM/WORK_INDENT124008). Amount put to tender: 1619.93 Lakhs. Last date for receipt of queries: 23.10.2020 at 16.00 hours. Last date for submission of Tender: 27.10.2020 at 16.00 hours.
DIPR/ADK/MCA/353/20-21 Dt. 22.9.20 Sd/- Port Officer, Port Office, Karwar

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
 (भारत सरकार का उपनग) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
 (A Navratna Company)
 ICD, Dadra
 Online tender in single bid system is invited for the work of "Round the Clock Operation of Submersible Pump in Staff Colony, Yard & Administrative Building at ICD/Dadra", only through e-tendering mode. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs. 1000/- through online from the website (www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL).

Tender No.	CONEPNCR/DER/PUMP OPERATOR/2020
Estimated Cost	Rs. 10,21,615.54
Completion Period	12 Months
Earnest Money Deposit*	Rs. 20,432/-
Cost of Tender Document* (Non-refundable)	Rs. 1000/- (inclusive of all taxes & duties)
Tender Processing Fee* (Non-refundable)	Rs. 885/- (inclusive of all taxes & duties)
Date of Sale of Tender (On Line)	24.09.2020 (15:00 hrs.) to 09.10.2020 (upto 17:00 hrs.)
Date & Time of Submission of Tender	12.10.2020 upto 17:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	14.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs.

 * Through e-Payment
 CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details login to www.concorindia.co.in or www.eprocure.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL.
Group General Manager (P&S)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency, (ERA)
Project Management Unit
Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP)
No.JTFRP/PMU/Consultancy/9370
Date: 22-09-2020
 Director P&C, PMU JTFRP invites **Expression of Interest (EOI)** for Consultancy Services detailed below in the table through www.jktenders.gov.in. Interested consulting firms may obtain further information and download the REOI from www.jktenders.gov.in

S. NO.	Name of Work	Tender No.
1	Consultancy services for Supervision Consultants for Various Drainage, Road and Bridge Sub-Projects.	2020_jtfrp_105079_1

 The REOI documents can be downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in from 22-09-2020 to 26-10-2020. The last date for submission of EOI is 26-10-2020, 1400 hours.
Sd/- (Iftikhar A. Hakim)
Director (P&C)
JTFRP
DIPK-NB-2529

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL)
(Fully Owned Government of J&K Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Planning)
PLANNING & PROCUREMENT WING, KASHMIR
E-mail: epndcs@gmail.com
EXTENSION NOTICE-I
 In view of the requests from the prospective Bidders and to ensure fair participation, extension in critical dates is given to e- NIT NO: SE/EPL/e-NIT-07 of 2020-21 dated 26.08.2020,"PURCHASE OF 33KV OUTDOOR VACUUM CIRCUIT BREAKERS FOR USE AT 33/11KV SUBSTATIONS" detailed as under.

1. Submission of e-Bid (end) Date and Time	01.10.2020 15:00 Hrs
2. Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date and Time	03.10.2020 16:00 Hrs in the office of the Chief Engineer P&P wing, PDD Complex, Bemina, Srinagar.
3. Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date and Time	05.10.2020 at 14:00 Hrs

 All other terms and conditions as stipulated in the original NIT shall remain same.
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Planning (KPDCL)
DIPK-NB-2541

HANDICRAFTS MEGA CLUSTER MISSION (HMCM)
 Invites **Expression of Interest (Eoi)** for
Selection of Consultancy firm for "Impact Assessment of Handicrafts Mega Cluster Mission (HMCM) for four Mega Clusters
 Handicrafts Mega Cluster Mission (HMCM) is implementing four Mega clusters since 2015-16 in Bareilly (UP), Lucknow (UP), Kutch (Gujarat) J&K (other crafts). A detailed Impact Assessment study need to be carried out to quantify the impact of the interventions undertaken in the project on the lives of craftsmen socially and economically.
The Eoi Documents including letter of invitation can be downloaded from the website : <https://handicraftmegacuster.org>
The last date for submission of Expression of Interest (Eoi) is 29th September, 2020 till 5:00 P.M. IST at the below mentioned office address
FOR ANY DETAILS MAY CONTACT OVER PHONE NO. 011-23341262, 23341273, +91-9811077307 ON ALL WORKING DAYS

HANDICRAFTS MEGA CLUSTER MISSION (HMCM)
 Hall No.-1, 3rd Floor, Rajiv Gandhi Handicraft Bhawan, Baba Kharkar Singh Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, India
 Tel.: 011-23341262, 23341273, Fax: 011-23341265
 E-mail: hmcm@handicraftmegacuster.in, Website: www.handicraftmegacuster.org

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG, J&K
(Camp Office: MMAB District Hospital, Anantnag)
Phone No. 01932-227624, e-mail gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com
NIT NO:- 11 of 2020
Dated 23.09.2020
 Principal Govt Medical College, Anantnag invites Sealed tenders from the authorized dealers/manufactures/ authorized suppliers for " Refilling of Medical Gas Cylinders" of Associated Hospitals Govt. Medical College, Anantnag. The detailed terms and conditions and specifications of the items are available on the official website of Govt. Medical college, Anantnag (www.gmcanantnag.net/) Interested parties may submit the Same superscribing " Tender for Refilling of Medical Gas cylinder " to the undersigned through speed post /Registered post/Courier which should reach the office on or before 4:00 PM of 05.10.20 positively and the same shall be opened at 10.10.20 before the committee and the participants. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Date of publication of document	22.09.20
Closing of bid submission	05.10.20
Opening of technical bid	10.10.20

Sd/-
(Prof. Shaukat Jeelani)
Principal/Dean
Government Medical College,
Anantnag
NO:- GMCA/Pig/142/2020-21/2541-45
Dated: 23.09.2020
DIPK-NB-2529

12

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Sabana Khatun
 General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Sabana Khatun, W/o Mohd. Anwar R/o** H.No. F-94, Pandit Mohalla, Khanpur, New Delhi has been missing since 08.09.2020 from the area of PS Neb Sarai. In this regard a **DD No. 53A** dated **08.09.2020** has been lodged at PS, Neb Sarai, New Delhi. The description of missing lady is as under
Name: Sabana Khatun, **Husband's Name :** Mohd. Anwar, **Age :** 35 years, **Height :** 4'11", **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Face :** Round, **Wearing :** Yellow Colour Suit, and **Salwar.**
 If anyone having any due/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.
SHO
 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
 e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax : 011-24368639
 Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S., Neb Sarai, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-29551326
29551597, 8750870835
DP/227/SD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

TABBASUM
 General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely:** Tabbasum, **D/o:** Ashraf, **R/o:** H.No. B-259 Gali No. 09 Phase-IV Aya Nagar, New Delhi, **Age:** 15 Years, **Height:** 4'11", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Red Colour Frock and Green Pajami, sleeper in feet has been missing since 28.05.2015 from the area of P.S. Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 347/2015, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 29.05.2015**, has been lodged at **P.S. Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi.**
 Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.
Phone: 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 Ext. 210.
Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/200/SD/2020
SHO
P.S. Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-26659511, 26659611

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **1. Firoz Alam, S/o: Jainul Haq, R/o: K-556 Main Bawli Gate Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi and 2. Md. Nizam, S/o: Yushuf, R/o: Village Badakhedi PS Nai Abadi Distt. Mandasaur, M.P.** have committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 96/2020 U/s 21/25/29 NDPS Act & 468/471 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **1. Firoz Alam and 2. Md. Nizam** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said. **1. Firoz Alam and 2. Md. Nizam** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).
 Proclamation is hereby made that the said. **1. Firoz Alam and 2. Md. Nizam** accused of **FIR No. 96/2020 U/s 21/25/29 NDPS Act & 468/471 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi** are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 07.12.2020.
By Order
Deepak Wason,
Spl. Judge (NDPS),
Dwarka Courts/SW, New Delhi
DP/37/Crime/2020

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR CELEBRATION OF MAHARISHI VALMIKI JAYANTI

Government of NCT of Delhi is inviting applications for celebration of Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti On 31.10.2020 under “**Scheme for Celebration of Birth/Death Anniversary of Eminent personalities**”

Government of NCT of Delhi will provide assistance through empanelled agencies to the desirous Organizations in the form of arrangement for tentage, sound system, lighting, banners etc

Eligibility:-

The following are eligible to apply for assistance under the scheme:-

- i.) NGOs, registered under Societies Registration Act.
- ii.) Only those NGOs which are registered under Society Registration Act and having audited accounts are eligible

List of the items for providing assistance to the desirous NGOs are as follows:-

- a. Tentage
- b. Chairs
- c. Sofa.
- d. Tables
- e. Curtains, Mat etc.
- f. Sound System
- g. Light System.
- h. Generator.

- i. Banners/Hoardings.

Procedure for applying:

The Organizations interested to apply may submit a detailed proposal, containing

- i.) Details of such celebrations / activities organized by them in the past.
- ii.) The duly filed in applications & recommended by area MLA along with copies of Registration Certificate and audited accounts should be submitted by the registered NGOs/Organization to the Department for the welfare of SC/ST/OBC, GNCT of Delhi, B Block, 2nd floor, Vikas Bhawan, I.P.Estate, New Delhi-02 , by 15.10.2020 positively. Applications received thereafter will not be considered.

Selected NGOs have to provide photographs of the event organized by them and abide by stipulations of the department for proper organization of the event. Organizers will also be required to submit a declaration to the effect that Govt. guidelines/SOP applicable for organizing religious/cultural functions will be followed scrupulously to prevent spread of Covid-19.

For full details, please visit Department webslte: scstswelfare.delhigovt.nic.in
DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF SC/ST/OBC
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
B-BLOCK VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-02
DIP/Shabdarth/0321/2021

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN
WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), PCC-II, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Telangana State-500004
e- TENDER NOTICE

e -Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of Work	Approximate Estimate Contract Value
EP.No.06/CGM(E)/PCC-II/ STPS- Kukatpally Nala Catchment/ 2020-21, dt: 23.09.2020	Construction of 17 STPs of 376.5 MLD capacity (decentralized) along River Musti and on Kukatpally Nala Catchment (Hussainsagar Lake Catchment) under Sewerage Improvement Project of Sewerage Master Plan of Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration Area under Hybrid Annuity Mode of Contract.	Rs.1081.75 Crores

(1) The bid documents download starts online from dt: **30.09.2020**. **(2)** Name and address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned- Chief General Manager (Engg), Project Construction Circle-II, HMWSSB, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 500004. **(3)** The contractors/firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' format preferably. **(4)** Further details can be seen @ <http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in>
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), PCC-II, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Telangana State-500004.


SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
(HEALTH DEPARTMENT)
Office of Addl. Director Hosp. Admn. (M&TB)
18th Floor, Dr. S.P.M. Civic Centre, J.L.N. Marg, New Delhi-110002
Ph. 23226824-23226859
No./Addl.DHA(M&TB)/SDMC/744 Dated: 23/9/20
NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS, EYE CENTRES, DENTAL CLINICS & DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES IN RESPECT OF MUNICIPAL BENEFICIARIES
 Applications are invited from interested private hospitals, eye centres, dental clinics & diagnostic centres that are empanelled under CGHS Delhi or DGEHS Govt. of NCT of Delhi for empanelment in respect of employees and members of Municipal Pensioner's Health Scheme of South Delhi Municipal Corporation, North Delhi Municipal Corporation and East Delhi Municipal Corporation. The details of the medical facilities to be provided eligibility criteria and draft agreement are available on website www.mcdonline.gov.in For any query undersigned or any of the following nodal officers can be contacted on phone or in person (with prior appointment):
 • Dr. Vireshwar Singh Mobile No.: 9717787403
 • Dr. Rudal Maurya Mobile No.: 9868360858
 • Dr. I. Ghanshyam Mobile No.: 8130892291
 The applications along with requisite documents, duly completed draft agreement and requisite security deposit (if applicable) in the form of demand draft in favour of Commissioner South Delhi Municipal Corporation, should be deposited in the office of undersigned within 30 days of publication of this press advertisement.
Sd/-
Dr. (Ms.) Alka Gupta
Addl.DHA (M&TB)
R.O. No. 40/DPI/S/2020-21

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
 Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DEMU-Shed Shakurbasti; for and on behalf of President of India, invites **E-Tender** for the under noted work.

Tender No.	258661DLS.SSB
Name of work	Provision for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of SLI (Safe Load Indicator) system of 140T BD Crane No. 142271 at DEMU-Shed, Shakurbasti working over DLT division for a period of three years.
Approximate cost	₹ 9,55,800/-including GST@18%
Earnest money	₹ 19,200/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
Completion period of the work	02 years
Cost of tender document	₹ 2360/- with GST @18% (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs. on 14.10.2020 Opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender is available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. - 25.8.661.DSL.SSB Dt. - 22.09.2020	2061/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
 THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
("A State Govt. Undertaking") Corrigendum

 The on line tender invited vide this office No. CEO/M&C/TenderNo/07/ S-Stn/Chail/2020-21-9558-68 Dated: 17.09.2020 for construction of, "Survey, Design, Erection, Testing & commissioning including Supply of Material for Construction of 33/11KV 1x6.3 MVA New (Un-manned) Sub-Station at CHAIL of Distt Solan including civil works, complete in all respect on partial turnkey basis in ED, HPSEBL, Solan under OP. Circle Solan" to be opened on 14.10.2020 are hereby cancelled due to technical reasons.
Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation (ER. SANJEEV MARIA)
Chief Engineer (OP) South,
HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)

Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	SE/P&A/TTPS	3471-M	1

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.

2	SE/Transmission-IV	T-2168	1
3	SE/Transmission-II	T-2166, T-2169	2
4	CE/Transmission	T-35	1

 For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
DIPR/3558/Tender/2020

कश्मीर केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
 Green Campus, Ganderbal – 191201
NOTICE FOR EMPANELMENT OF CONTRACTORS
Notice No. 05 of 2020 Dated: 23.09.2020
 Central University of Kashmir intends to empanel the contractors having registration of Class "BEE" & above (Civil/Sanitary & Electrical) registered with the UT of J&K Government/ CPWD/Railways/PDD or any such other UT/State/Central Government Agency for executing minor Civil/Sanitary, Electrical and other allied repairs/works of Central University of Kashmir at Ganderbal for a period of one year. The last date for submission of empanelment document form is 09/10/2020. The eligibility conditions & other guidelines along with requisite application form is available on the University website (www.cukashmir.ac.in).
No. CU/Kmr/CD/F.No.079/18/936 **Sd/-**
Dated:23.09.2020 **Registrar**

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
 Sr. DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the president of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items.

Tender No.	93205430
Brief Description	Supply, Installation, testing and commissioning of 30 KW Permanent Magnet Alternator (PMA) with controller as per RDSO Spec. No. RDSO/PE/FRS/AC/0029-2012, REV-0, dated 03.08.2020, with Accessories Suitable for SCAC Conventional ICF type AC coaches. Each set and details of scope of supply of items as per RDSO FRS Specification are as follows (1) 30 KW permanent magnet alternator complete with 02 nos. V-Grooved alternator pully on both sides 01 no. (2) Electronic controller with Pre cooling Battery charger 01 No. (3) Axle pully complete with V-Belts, Rubber pads And Hardware 02 Nos. (4) Belt tensioning Device 02 Nos. (5) Safety chain 02 Nos. (6) Suspension pin with hardware 01 No. (7) Maintenance manual 01 No.
Qty.	10 Sets
Closing date	12.10.2020

 Note:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
 2. No manual offer will be entertained.
Sr.DMM/NS/LP/93205430/2020 Dated : 18.09.2020 **2064/20**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
 (A Statutory Body under aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
 Engineering Branch (Civil), Sijua (Paragada), Bhubaneswar(Odisha)-751018
www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in
File No. : AIIMS/BBSR/Engg./578/ NIT-019/ 2020-21 Dated : 23rd Sept 2020
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
 The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar invites e-Tender for the Work(s) for Renovation of Lecture Theatre-II and IV in Administrative Block, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar (NIT No. : **AIIMS/BBSR/Engg./ 019 /2020-21**). The detailed Tender Document along with Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender can be viewed & downloaded from the website www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in, www.tenderwizard.com/AIIMSBBSR & CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer(Civil) I/C
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

Online Tender Notice No. 15 of 2020-21
Sports Authority of Gujarat
Block No. 14/3rd Floor, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Gandhinagar
 Secretary, Sports Authority of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Block No. 14, 3rd Floor, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10, Gandhinagar invites online tender for request for proposal for Selection of Design of Technical Agency (DTA) for preparation of detailed Design, Technical inputs & Construction supervision of the work for proposed work of Jamnagar Sports Museum at Jamnagar, Gujarat.
 The tender may be download on the website **www.nprocure.com** upto Dt. 23/09/2020; 18.00 hrs.
 The last date of download of tender **Dt. 07/10/2020, 18.00 hrs.**
 The more detail will be available during office hours in the office of Secretary, Sports Authority of Gujarat, Block No. 14, 3rd Floor, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Gandhinagar and further amendment will be seen online.
INF/937/20-21

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure,
Traffic Engineering Cell, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
No.: BBMP/EE/RI-TEC/TEND/07/2020-21 **Date : 10-09-2020**
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)
 The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Traffic Engineering Cell, invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Person / Firms for the Construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work & Package	Estimate Cost of the Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Remedial Works to Removal of Balance Black Spots as per the Road Safety Audit in BBMP Limits including Providing Street Lights for illumination.	200.00	3.00

 (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 14-09-2020 at 4.00 pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 19-09-2020 at 3.30 pm in the Office of The Chief Engineer, (Road Infrastructure). (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 4.00 pm on 25-09-2020 and Opening of Tenders will be as per the e-Procurement portal guidelines. (4.) Technical Bids will be opened on **Website : <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>** in the Office of the Executive Engineer - Traffic Engineering Cell on 28-09-2020 at 4.30 pm. The details regarding participation for this tender can be obtained by logging on to: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Traffic Engineering Cell.
Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru



New Delhi





GOLD

₹50,750



RUPEE

₹73.57



OIL

\$42.25



SILVER

₹59,720

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2100 IST

SENSEX: 37,668.42 ▼ 65.66 NIFTY: 11,131.85 ▼ 21.80 NIKKEI: 23,346.49 ▼ 13.81 HANG SENG: 23,742.51 ▲ 25.66 FTSE: 5,949.75 ▲ 120.29 DAX: 12,765.42 ▲ 171.03

International market data till 1900 IST

BARCLAYS BANK PLC

Wanted at home, Mumbai luxury car king flagged to US watchdog too

JAY MAZOOMDAAR

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

MOST OF his companies in the luxury brand market are defunct, in 2014, two banks in India published default notices against Ashish Chordia and his mother for Rs 48.40 crore; he faced several charges of cheating and fraud and was arrested in Delhi in 2013 in one such case before he got bail only to have a non-bailable arrest warrant issued from the Bombay High Court in 2016.

Around the same time as Chordia, chairman of the Mumbai-based Shreyans Group, was under the scanner for bank default by SBI and IDBI, two branches of UK's Barclays Bank PLC, one in London and the other in New York, flagged to their respective regulators seven transfers amounting to \$1.34 million and involving three companies he owned, records investigated by *The Indian Express* show.

In 2015, Barclays New York filed a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) with the US regulator Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), records show, on a set of 2014 transactions between Vertu Investment Ltd (UK) and Shreyans Lifestyle Pvt Ltd (India), Uber LLC (USA) — no relationship with Uber Technologies — and Streamline Global Holdings Limited (Hong Kong).

Owned by Chordia, Vertu Investments Ltd (UK) was a customer of Barclays Knightsbridge, London, for which Barclays NY maintained a USD account. Due to "concerns of the heightened money laundering risk" associated with Vertu's wire activities, Barclays Knightsbridge also filed its own SAR with its local regulator.

These SARs cited Chordia's alleged failure to provide any documentation for these transactions which had "no apparent economic, business, or lawful purpose."

Asked if and when Barclays Knightsbridge-London terminated its relationship with Vertu (UK), a Barclays spokesperson said: "US criminal law prohibits unauthorised disclosure of SARs or information about SARs. We are therefore not permitted to comment... even when the SARs in question may have been publicly disclosed. We are also not permitted to comment on individuals or businesses, including to confirm whether they are or have been a client."

Chordia did not respond to multiple emails.

Chordia has a chequered record. He claimed he had established "India's first luxury retail brand" that famously brought a host of high-profile automobile brands such as Porsche, Audi, Ducati, Maserati and Ferrari to India between 2004 and 2011. By 2014, however, he was no longer their dealer and faced several cases of alleged fraud.

Between May and August 2014, records show, Uber LLC (USA) and Streamline (Hong Kong) sent a total of \$6.85 lakh to Vertu (UK) in four transactions. During the same period, Vertu (UK) sent \$6.54 lakh to



AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION PART FOUR

Shreyans Lifestyle (India) in three transactions.

Vertu's remaining wire activity, records show, included transactions with a gold exporter, a law firm, and a funding company that appeared "to be genuine businesses possessing widespread public profiles" and were "not deemed suspects" by the SAR.

Barclays Knightsbridge, claimed the SAR, contacted Chordia multiple times to determine the economic purpose for Vertu's wire activities and to obtain documentary evidence for the transactions. In response, Barclays Knightsbridge noted, Chordia provided documentation that was "inadequate and to date, no documentary evidence has been provided."

Vertu Investments, records show, remained dormant since incorporation in May 2013 with a registered address in London. It is owned by Shreyans Lifestyle, which is, in turn, 90.57% owned by Chordia (the rest belongs to his family members). The company was struck off the UK register for inactivity in 2017 and restored subsequently in 2018.

Shreyans Lifestyle is part of Chordia's Shreyans Group, which was involved in the luxury brand market in India, including the import of luxury vehicles by Shreyans Motors. According to the Registrar of Companies records, Barclays Bank Mumbai granted a secured loan of Rs 14.25 crore to Shreyans Lifestyle in October 2008 and enhanced the facility to Rs 37.67 crore in October 2009. As per Barclays Knightsbridge, Chordia was also the owner of Uber LLC which shared Chordia's US address on Santa Monica Boulevard, California. Streamline Global Holdings Ltd, noted the SAR, was a customer of HSBC (Hong Kong) and appeared "to be a shell company which sent large round dollar wire transfers in a very short time span to Vertu." Most of Chordia's companies have become either defunct (Fiorano Motors), been struck off (Precision Cars), or gone under liquidation (Shreyans Motors). The last balance sheet filed by Shreyans Lifestyle Private Limited was for 2009-2010.

In October 2017, the Bombay High Court said that a non-bailable warrant directed to be issued against Ashish Chordia in August 2016 was yet to be executed because he was absconding. In March 2019, the Bombay High Court noted that Chordia's advocate did not receive any "instructions since more than two years" and that there was a look-out notice against Chordia.

EQUITY STAKE OF 1.28%

KKR to invest ₹5,550 cr in Reliance Retail at pre-money equity valuation of ₹4.21L cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

GLOBAL INVESTMENT firm KKR has proposed to invest Rs 5,550 crore in Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, valuing Reliance Retail at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.21 lakh crore. KKR's investment will translate into a 1.28 per cent equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis.

The deal marks the second investment by KKR in a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, following a Rs 11,367 crore investment in Jio Platforms announced earlier this year.

Technology investment firm Silver Lake recently decided to invest Rs 7,500 crore (\$1 billion) in Reliance Retail, valuing RRVL at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.21 lakh crore. Silver Lake's investment will translate into a

EXPLAINED
KKR's 2nd investment in an RIL arm

THE DEAL marks the second investment by KKR in a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, following a Rs 11,367 crore investment in Jio Platforms announced earlier this year. Silver Lake recently decided to invest Rs 7,500 crore (\$1 billion) in Reliance Retail, valuing RRVL at a pre-money equity value of Rs 4.21 lakh crore.

1.75 per cent equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis. This is the second billion dollar investment by Silver Lake in a Reliance Industries subsidiary

after the \$1.35 billion investment in Jio Platforms announced earlier this year.

Reliance Retail operates India's largest retail business serving close to 640 million footfalls across its 12,000 stores nationwide. "We look forward to working with KKR's global platform, industry knowledge and operational expertise across our digital services and retail businesses," said RIL chairman & managing director Mukesh Ambani.

"Reliance Retail's vision is to galvanize the Indian retail sector through an inclusive strategy serving millions of customers by empowering millions of farmers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and working closely with global and domestic companies as a preferred partner, to deliver immense benefits to Indian society, while protecting and generating employment for millions of Indians," RIL said. KKR has

\$222 billion in assets under management as of June 30, 2020 and a long history of building leading global enterprises, including many companies at the forefront of technology and digital transformation including in areas of consumer retail and eCommerce, such as investments in Epic Games, OutSystems, Internet Brands, Go-jek and Voyager Innovations.

Henry Kravis, co-founder and co-CEO of KKR, said, "Reliance Retail's new commerce platform is filling an important need for both consumers and small businesses as more Indian consumers move to shopping online and the company offers tools for Kiranas to be a critical part of the value chain."

RRVL reported a consolidated turnover of Rs 1,62,936 crore and a net profit of Rs 5,448 crore for the year ended March 31, 2020.

Uday Kotak gets 1-year extension on IL&FS board



ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE GOVERNMENT has allowed Uday Kotak, MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, to continue on the board of troubled infra lender IL&FS for one more year till October 2, 2021. This is the second extension for Kotak to continue on the IL&FS board.

Kotak, the non-executive chairman of IL&FS, was given a go-ahead for three months initially, which was followed up with a nine-month relaxation that ended on October 2019. He was then given a one-year extension till October 2020.

According to a Gazette notification, the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act will not apply to Kotak Mahindra Bank in so far as it relates to its MD and CEO Uday Kotak being on the board of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd as its Non-executive Director for a period up to October 2, 2021.

Under the Banking Regulation Act, a bank cannot be managed by any person who is a director of any other company. He/she can be given a temporary exception for three months or nine months with the concurrence of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The latest extension is with the concurrence of the RBI. Kotak was appointed by the Centre as the head of the IL&FS board which will help it come out of difficulties after the Centre superseded the old board.

The Kotak-led board discovered there was a complex web of over 250 companies which were part of the overall IL&FS group, which has an outstanding of over Rs 94,000 crore to lenders. Over 90 per cent of the flagship company's assets are classified as dud.

A spokesperson for IL&FS Group said, "This extension is a step towards fulfilling the National and Public duty, entrusted on the new IL&FS Board, to resolve one of India's largest financial sector challenges — comprising of over 300 companies in the Group."

‘Global labour income falls 10.7% in 2020 so far, lower-middle income nations hit hardest’

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

GLOBAL LABOUR income, including wages for employees and part of income for the self-employed, is estimated to have declined by 10.7 per cent or \$3.5 trillion during the first nine months of 2020. This is equivalent to 5.5 per cent of global GDP for the first nine months of 2019, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said on Wednesday.

This estimated loss of labour income excludes income support provided through government measures. The drop is higher for lower-middle income countries, with the labour income losses estimated to be 15.1 per cent, followed by 11.4 per cent in upper-middle-income countries and 10.1 per cent in low-income countries. Workers in high-income countries are estimated to have lost labour income of 9.0 per cent.

"In total, the global loss in labour income during the first three quarters of 2020 amounts to US \$3.5 trillion (using 2019 market exchange rates), which is

ILO DRAWS UP CORRELATION

■ The International Labour Organization said among countries with sufficient data, a clear correlation can be seen: The larger the fiscal stimulus (as a percentage of GDP), the lower the working-hour losses in the April-June quarter of 2020.

equivalent to 5.5 per cent of global GDP for the first three quarters of 2019. When those significant losses are not mitigated by other sources of income, such as social protection transfers, they can push households into poverty while reducing aggregate demand," the ILO said.

Global working-hour losses are now projected to be 8.6 per cent in the October-December quarter, which corresponds to 245 million full-time equivalent jobs. This is 75 per cent higher than the ILO's previous estimate

of 4.9 per cent or 140 million full-time equivalent jobs.

One of the reasons for the estimated increases in working-hour losses is that workers in developing and emerging economies, especially those in informal employment, have been much more affected than by past crises, it said.

The ILO said that among countries with sufficient data, a clear correlation can be seen: the larger the fiscal stimulus (as a percentage of GDP), the lower the working-hour losses in the April-June quarter of 2020.

So, on average, an increase in fiscal stimulus by 1 per cent of annual GDP would have reduced working-hour losses by 0.8 percentage points in April-June. To put this into perspective, the estimated working-hour losses would, on average, have been as high as 28 per cent if no fiscal stimulus had been implemented, the ILO said.

"This also suggests that the comparatively smaller stimulus programmes in low- and middle-income countries may account for at least part of the large working-hour losses estimated for those countries," it said.

COVID-19 IMPACT

‘PE inflow in real estate falls 85% in Jan-Aug to \$866 mn’

With investors remaining cautious due to the pandemic, PE investment in Indian real estate plunged 85 per cent during January-August this year to \$866 million (around Rs 6,500 crore), a *Colliers International* and *FICCI* report

Share of total PE inflows received by various segments this year till August:

46%: Data centres

24%: Office

12%: Industrial and warehousing

9%: Hospitality

8%: Housing

1%: Co-living

\$5,795 million: Private equity (PE) inflow in corresponding period of previous year

Why this is important: The



report, titled 'Future India: Captivating Strategic and Private Equity Investments', advised investors to focus certain profitable segments, including data centres, office, hospitality and retail real estate, which offer attractive valuations

Source: *Colliers International* & *Ficci/PTI*

Saudi Arabia bans flights to and from India, 2 other nations due to Covid cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

SAUDI ARABIA has banned flights to and from India from Tuesday amid a surge in coronavirus cases, according to an official document.

In a circular issued on Tuesday, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said it was "suspending travel to and from the following countries: (India, Brazil and Argentina) including any person who has been in any of the mentioned countries above in the last 14 days prior to their arrival to the Kingdom".

However, it excluded "passengers who have official government invitations."

The GACA circular — titled: 'Suspension of travel to countries where the COVID-19 virus has outbreak' — was marked to all the airlines and chartered flight companies operating at the Saudi Arabia's

Bharat Biotech to produce up to one billion doses of intranasal vaccine

PRABHA RAGHAVAN

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

IN A development that may see India get a Covid-19 vaccine that can be breathed in, Bharat Biotech said Wednesday it would be manufacturing up to a billion doses of a single-dose intranasal vaccine.

Developed by the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis and licenced to the Hyderabad-headquartered firm, the vaccine is expected to help overcome potential difficulties with mass of vaccination. Bharat Biotech, via its agreement with the American academic institution, owns the rights to distribute the novel chimp-adenovirus candidate "in all markets", except for the US, Japan and Europe.

While the phase 1 human trials will take place in Saint Louis University's Vaccine & Treatment Evaluation Unit, Bharat Biotech plans to pursue further stages of clinical trials in India "upon obtaining the required regulatory approval", the firm said in a release. It will also undertake large scale manufacturing of the vaccine at its facility located in Genome Valley, Hyderabad.

Other adenovirus vaccine candidates being tested in India include Covishield, developed by the University of Oxford in collaboration with AstraZeneca, and Sputnik V, developed by Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute. Both candidates are injectable vaccines.

"We envision that we will scale this vaccine to one billion doses, translating to one billion individuals vaccinated receiving a single-dose regimen," said Dr Krishna Ella, chairman and managing director, Bharat Biotech. "An intranasal vaccine will not only be simple to administer but reduce the use of medical consumables such as needles, syringes, etc., significantly impacting the overall cost of a vaccination drive."

Easing the process of vaccine delivery is "key" to "conquer" Covid-19, according to Sai D Prasad, president—Quality Operations, Bharat Biotech.

The concept that "all" Indian vaccine firms have been working on so far have been intramuscular or intradermal injections — vaccines that need syringes, needles, alcohol swabs, trained nurses, doctors or personnel at the community level who can administer the shots to citizens. "Because of all these issues, if we have to vaccinate our country, we need about a billion units or two billion

Exploring global tie-ups for Covaxin manufacturing

New Delhi: Bharat Biotech has been exploring the potential of tying up with international partners to scale up production of another Covid-19 vaccine candidate, 'Covaxin', to around a billion doses a year. The firm, currently conducting phase 2 human trials, also plans to move to late-stage testing for this candidate next month, said a senior executive.

"In the month of October, we plan to start our phase 3 clinical trials," said Sai D Prasad, president—Quality Operations, Bharat Biotech, during the Virtual Expo on Pharma, Healthcare, Diagnostics and Hygiene on Wednesday.

While the sample size estimates and the countries where the trial will occur are still under discussion, the firm is targeting "about 25,000-30,000" subjects in the upcoming phase. "We are actively trying to manufacture as much as we can right now, because we have the necessary permissions. And we're also exploring strategies to expand the manufacturing footprint, not just in Hyderabad, but in other cities of India and also in other parts of the world," said Prasad. **PRABHARAGHAVAN**

units of syringes, needles, personnel, everything to do those vaccinations," said Prasad during a session at the Virtual Expo on Pharma, Healthcare, Diagnostics and Hygiene on Wednesday.

"I don't think that we can conquer this disease by injecting people with our vaccines. We need to think about intranasal delivery systems, and we're working on that already," he said, adding that the company is "in the process of now scaling it up and starting to apply for our clinical permissions for that candidate".

"The ability to accomplish effective immunisation with a single nasal dose is a major advantage, offering broader reach and easier administration," said Dr David T Curiel, director of Biologic Therapeutics Center and Professor of Radiation Oncology at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis.

BRIEFLY

60% fall in FDI equity inflows

New Delhi: Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 60 per cent to \$6.56 billion (Rs 49,820 crore) during April-June 2020, according to data by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The overseas inflows during April-June 2019 stood at \$16.33 billion. Total FDI inflows, which include re-invested earnings, stood at \$11.51 billion during the first quarter of this fiscal.

India, Mauritius finalising FTA

New Delhi: India is finalising the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with Mauritius, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

Sebi relief for rights issues

New Delhi: To make fund-raising easier, faster and cost effective, Sebi on Wednesday rationalised the eligibility criteria and disclosure requirements for rights issue.

Airtel buys 10% in Waybeo

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel said Wednesday it has bought 10 per cent stake in tech startup Waybeo. Technology Solutions, which focuses on deep AI analytics for cloud telephony. **PTI**

Global airlines call for airport Covid tests before international flights

REUTERS

PARIS, SEPTEMBER 23

GLOBAL AIRLINES have called on Tuesday for airport Covid-19 tests for all departing international passengers to replace the quarantines they blame for exacerbating the travel slump. Rapid and affordable antigen tests that can be administered by non-medical staff are expected to become available in "coming weeks" and should be rolled out under globally agreed standards, the head of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said during an online media briefing.



People at a testing site at the Fiumicino Airport, Rome. Reuters

"We don't see any alternative solution that would be less challenging or more effective," IATA Director General Alexandre de Juniac said. Airlines hammered

by the pandemic are pressing governments to embrace alternatives to blanket travel restrictions that are still hampering a traffic recovery — and now tight-

ening again in Europe amid resurgent case numbers.

With rapid antigen tests becoming available for as little as \$7 each, De Juniac said, airlines will push for their use to be endorsed by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the UN agency that oversees global aviation rules. IATA believes production could be quickly increased to millions per day and the tests phased in between late October and the end of the year, "helping to save a part of the winter season", De Juniac said.

A global agreement is needed to ensure pre-departure test results are uniformly ac-

cepted by the destination country, he said.

European airlines are pinning hopes on pre-flight Covid-19 tests that deliver results as fast as pregnancy tests to help restore passengers' confidence in taking to the skies in confined spaces with shared air.

Germany's Lufthansa, at the mercy of government bailouts for survival, is in talks with Swiss drugmaker Roche over deploying so-called antigen tests, according to two people familiar with the discussions.

The tests are administered by health authorities at the airports and included in ticket prices.

Growth likely to contract by 5.9% in 2020: UNCTAD

YOSHITA SINGH

UNITED NATIONS, SEPT 23

IMPACTED BY disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, India's economy is forecast to contract by 5.9 per cent in 2020, the United Nations has said in a report, warning that while growth will rebound next year, the contraction is likely to translate into a permanent income loss.

The Trade and Development Report 2020 by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said that the world economy

is experiencing a deep recession amid a still-unchecked pandemic.

It said the global economy will contract by an estimated 4.3 per cent this year, leaving global output by year's end over \$6 trillion short (in current US dollars) of what economists had expected it to be before the coronavirus began to spread.

UNCTAD expects South Asia to contract 4.8 per cent in 2020 and recover to 3.9 per cent in 2021. India's GDP is forecast to contract 5.9 per cent in 2020 and recover to 3.9 per cent next year, the report said. **PTI**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Prem Nath, S/o Shri.Rambali Panday,R/o-P-17, Sector-4, DIZ-Area, Gole-Market, New-Delhi-110001, have changed my name, from PREM NATH to PREM NATH PANDEY, for all future purposes. 0040549386-4

It is for general information that I,Uzma,W/o Sh.Israr Ahmad Khan,R/o 1/148, Gali No.2,Chauhan Banger, Near Kalyan Cinema, Delhi-53 Declare That name of mine has been wrongly written as Uzma Khanam in Sec.School Examination 2019 of Central Board of Sec. Education in Respect of my Daughter Namely Mehwish bearing Registration No. D19/60275/0347. The actual name of mine is Uzma which may be amended accordingly. 0040549447-2

I, Jagdish Chander Sukhija,S/o Late Bhagwan Dass Sukhija R/o-D-3/49,S.F Sector-16,RohiniDelhi-110089,changed my minor son's name Bhavya Sukhija to Bhavy Sukhija. 0040549442-7

I,Shiv Shankar S/O S.Narayan R/O-H.No.249 Shiva-Khand Vishwakarma-Nagar Delhi-110095,have changed my minor son's name,from S. Rohit to Rohit Shetty,for all future purposes. 0040549442-8

I,RAJINDER SINGH,R/O-68, SANT-NAGAR,GROUND-FLOOR, EAST-OF-KAILASH,NEW DELHI-110065,HAVE CHANGED THE NAME OF MY MINOR DAUGHTER,FROM JASMINE TO JASMINE SEEHRA,FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040549451-3

I,Parvinder Singh S/O Swaran Singh Dhanjal R/O-N-66, N-Block, Vishnu Garden,New Delhi-110018 changed my name to Parvinder Singh Dhanjal. 0040549442-6

I.No.14672689K(NK),SANGANAG OUDA BIRADAR,unit-7017-EME-BN,resident of,Village-Shirakanahalli,P.O.-Shirakanahalli, Tehsil-Indi,Distt.-Vijayapura, Karnataka-586112,have changed the name of my minor son from,VIJUGOUDA to,VIJUGOUDA BIRADAR,vide-affidavit,dated-23/09/2020,before Notary Advocate,Ram Kishore Singh,Registration No.-2448,New Delhi. 0040549460-4

I.No.14672689K(NK),SANGANAG OUDA BIRADAR,unit-7017-EME-BN,resident of,Village-Shirakanahalli,P.O.-Shirakanahalli, Tehsil-Indi,Distt.-Vijayapura, Karnataka-586112,have changed the name of my minor son from,GURUGOUDA to,GURUGOUDA BIRADAR,vide-affidavit,dated-23/09/2020,before Notary Advocate,Ram Kishore Singh,Registration No.-2448,New Delhi. 0040549460-3

I,NIRMALA,Spouse of,SANGANAG OUDA BIRADAR,resident of,Village-Shirakanahalli,P.O.-Shirakanahalli, Tehsil-Indi,Distt.-Vijayapura, Karnataka-586112,have changed my name from,NIRMALA to,NIRMALA BIRADAR,vide-affidavit,dated-23/09/2020,before Notary Advocate,Ram Kishore Singh, Registration No.-2448,New Delhi. 0040549460-2

I,Kum. Komal Kumari Sharma W/o Bhupendra Pancholi,R/o,G-245, Sector-Gamma-2,Rampur Jagir,Greater Noida,U.P.,have changed my name to Komal Pancholi for all future purposes. 0040549460-5

I,Ajay Kumar S/o Ram AvtarAggarwal,R/o.105,Anand Nagar,Inderkol, Delhi-110035,have changed my name to Ajay Kumar Aggarwal,for all future purposes. 0040549460-1

I,ASHEESH KUMAR SHRIVASTVA,S/O ASHOK KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA, R/o-D-1802, CLOUD-9 TOWER, RISHABH PARADISE, AHINSAKHAND-2, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD,U-P-201014,changed my name to ASHEESH KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA. 0040549448-1

I, Luv S/o Manoj Kumar Gahlaut r/o-1524 Sector-15, Sonipat have changed my name to Luv Gahlaut for all purposes. 0040549448-4

I, ZAKIA ILYAS W/O MOHAMMAD ILYAS R/O 1111/1, GALI BERI WALI, PUNJABI PHATAK, HAVELI HISSAMUDDIN HAIDER (H.H.HAIDER), BALLIMARAN, DELHI 110006 has changed my name to ZAKIYA ILYAS for all future purposes. 0040549434-2

I, Sunil S/o-Krishan Chander,R/o,Plot No.53-A,54-A,KH No.16/2, Shyam Vihar, Old-Khaira-Road,Najafgarh, South West Delhi-110043,have changed my name to Sunil Kumar. 0040549448-2

I,Shaileendra Kumar Sinandi S/O Late Sh. Kaya Singh R/o H.No. 8938/1, 2nd Floor, Multani Dhandra, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-55 have changed name of my minor daughter JOYNA SINANDI to JOYNA SINGH for all future purposes. 0040549461-1

I, Satpal Singh W/o Sh. shree Sardul Singh Bhalla R/o C-302, M2K, Victoria Garden, Azadpur, North West, Delhi-33, have changed my name to Satpal Singh Bhalla for all future purposes. 0040549471-1

I, S Kumar S/o Devendra Thakur R/o GH-6, Flat No-152, Prachin Apartment, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Shatrughan Kumar 0070715046-1

I, Rekha Mishra D/o Umesh Kumar Mishra R/o T-22, Baljeet Nagar, N.Delhi-110008,have changed my name to Kajal Mishra permanently. 0040549442-3

I, Punit Verma S/o Late Vijay Kumar Verma R/o F-3/350, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi 110062 is hereby solemnly declare that my DOB is 24/8/1998 and my nick name is Karan Verma. So Punit Verma and Karan Verma is same and one person 0040549459-1

I, Nilam Kaur W/O, Chand Kiran R/O C-139 street no 12 mata wali gali johripur Gokulpuri Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Ilam Kaur for all purposes. 0040549469-1

I, Munib Kumar Gupta,S/o Mainagar Gupta R/o.Flat.No.302, Balaji Apartment, Near-Metro Station,SultanPur, Delhi-110030,have changed my name to Munib Gupta. 0040549451-5

I, Manpreet kaur W/o Sh. Satpal Singh bhalla R/o C-302, M2K, Victoria Garden, Azadpur, North West, Delhi-33, have changed my name to Manpreet Kaur Bhalla for all future purposes. 0040549472-1

I, MOHD MOMIN S/O MOHAMMAD ZUBAIR R/O I-33, MASJID KHALILULLAH,BATLA HOUSE, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025 has changed my name to MOHAMMAD MOMIN for all future purposes. 0040549434-3

I, MOHAMMED ZUBAIR S/O MOHAMMAD ILYAS R/O 1111/1, GALI BERI WALI, PUNJABI PHATAK, HAVELI HISSAMUDDIN HAIDER (H.H.HAIDER), BALLIMARAN, DELHI 110006 has changed my name to MOHAMMAD ZUBAIR for all future purposes. 0040549434-1

I, Heena Khan W/o Sandeep Kumar R/O VP-69-B Pitampura Delhi-110034,changed my name to Krishna Yadav for all purposes. 0040549442-4

I, GAURI SHRIVASTAVA,W/O ASHEESH KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA, R/o-D-1802,CLOUD-9 TOWER,RISHABH PARADISE,AHINSAKHAND-2, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, U-P-201014,changed my name to GAURI SHRIVASTAVA. 0040549442-1

I, Chanda W/o Late.Vijay Kumar R/O-R-1252, Mangolpuri, N.Delhi-110083 have changed my minor son's name Tinku to Sumit. D.O.B-17/05/2005. 0040549442-2

I, Bhanu D/o Sh. Dinesh Chaurasia R/O C-303/A, 2nd Floor,New Ashok Nagar,Vasundhara Enclave, East Delhi, Delhi-110096, inform that Bhanu and Khushbu Kumari both name are of same person. 0040549456-1

I, Kush s/o Manoj Kumar Gahlaut r/o-1524 Sector-15, Sonipat have changed my to Kush Gahlaut for all purposes. 0040549448-3

I, Arjun Singh Manral/ Arjun Singh, S/o Sh. Surendra Singh Manral, R/o 19/B, Rajpur Khurd, Bhoop Singh Enclave, New Delhi-110068 have changed my name to Arjun Singh for all future purposes. 0040549399-1

I, Aneet Singh R/o J-25 B Jaitpur Ext Part 1 Arpan Vihar Badarpur South Delhi-110044 have changed my name to Aneet Singh Chauhan For All Purposes 0070715042-1

I, Ajay Singh S/o Mast Ram Bhandari R/o 47C, Block D4, Sec-82 LIG, Noida declare that my name is wrongly written in documents of my son Namann Bhandari.My actual name is Ajay Singh instead of Ajay singh Bhandari. 0040549464-1

Ihitherto known as Rishi Pravin Gadpayle Daughter of Pravin Parmeshwar Gadpayle Employed as Student residing at 17/5, 1st floor, Old Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi, India-110060 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Wamika Sarkar. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040549467-1

I,Wakil S/o Sh. Shakeel Ahmad R/O 3332, Baghichi Acche Ji, Ismail Marg, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi GPO, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Sheikh Mohd. Waheel for all purposes. 0040549414-5

I,Siddarth Arora S/O Manoj Arora,R/O 10/17/178,Geeta Colony Delhi-110031,have changed my name to Siddharth Arora. 0040549442-11

I, Vikas Kumar S/O, Ram Phal Khatri R/O 666, Janta Flats Gb Enclave Delhi have changed my name to Vikas Khatri for all purposes. 0040549448-7

I,Shahin Zubairi Alias Shahin Siddiqui Alias Ishrat Fatima Siddiqui D/o Shaukatullah Khan Zubairi and W/o Anwar Ul Haq Siddiqui R/o 4/315, Hathl Dooba, M-4 Girls Hostel, Amir Nishan, Koil, Aligarh, UP-202001, have changed my name to Ishrat Fatima Siddiqui 0070715047-1

Rattu Rani D/o Late Bhagat Ram W/o Sh. Tarsem Rattu R/o D-407-408, Sector-1, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Rani Rattu for all purposes. 0040549414-2

I,Mukul Kumar S/o Sh. Jagan Nath R/o 8311/4, Multani Dhandra, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055 have changed my name to Mukul Kohli for all purposes. 0040549414-3

I,Hari Kishan S/O Late Shri Tej Ram Sharma R/O D 132, Street No. 68, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 Affirm That My Name is Wrongly Mentioned As HK Sharma In My Daughter's School Document But My Correct And Actual Name Is Hari Kishan For All Purposes. Hari Kishan And HK Sharma Both Are Same Person And My Name Be Considered As Hari Kishan In Future For All Purposes. 0040549458-2

I,Dwarka Prasad R/O L-154, Block L, Near Nag Mandir, Shashtri Nagar, P/O Ashok Vihar, Delhi have changed my minor son's name from Arpit to Arpit Prasad 0040549465-1

I Anoop Kumar Mahajan S/o Sh. Satpal Mahajan R/O 2467/192, Ganesh Pura, Tri Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Anoop Mahajan for all purposes. 0040549414-4

I, Anita Kumari W/O, Amit Rampal R/O C19D Avantika Enclave Rohini have changed my name to Anita for all purposes. 0040549466-1

I,Akhil Kumar R/O CB-18 Naraina New Delhi-110028. Have changed my minor son's name from AYAANSH to AYAANSH NIRWAN for all purposes. 0040549419-2

I,Akhil Kumar R/O CB-18 Naraina New Delhi-110028. Have changed my minor daughter's name from ESHIKA to ESHIKA NIRWAN for all purposes. 0040549419-2

I,Mili Sharma W/o Rajnish Kumar R/O F 33, Vikas Puri, New Delhi - 110018, Have changed myname to Mili Saxena 0040549458-1

I,Akhil Kumar Nirwan S/O Sh. Suresh Kumar R/O CB-18 Naraina New Delhi-110028. Have changed my name to AKHIL KUMAR for all purposes. 0040549419-3

I Ajay Sharma S/o Sh. Karan Singh Sharma R/O R-72, Model Town-3, Delhi-110009 have changed the name of my minor son from Pranshu alias Pranshu Sharma to Praanshu Sharma for all purposes. 0040549414-1

I,Navin Kumar Sharma,S/o Mamraj Sharma R/O-A-543, Gokulpuri, Delhi-110094, have changed the name of my minor son from Vishal to Bhuvik Sharma aged about -14 years,for all future purposes. 0040549451-6

I, RAJENDER SINGH TEWATIA,S/O BALE SINGH TEWATIA, ADDRESS-M-110, LADO-SARAI,NEW DELHI-110030, changed my Name to RAJENDRA SINGH TEWATIA. 0040549451-2

I, Manoj s/o Mohinder Singh Gahlaut r/o-1524 Sector-15,Sonipat have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Gahlaut for all purposes. 0040549448-6

I, Beena w/o Manoj Kumar Gahlaut r/o-1524 Sector-15, Sonipat have changed my name to Beena Gahlaut for all purposes. 0040549448-5

I, Babita D/o Giriraj Singh R/o-250,Radha Kunj,Nandgram Ghaziabad-201003,have changed my name to Babita Devi,Father Name-Giriraj Singh,DOB-01-07-1974. 0040549451-1

I, Arun Kumar Sharma,S/o Ram Prakash Sharma R/O-93/E, Pocket-1,Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Arun Sharma, permanently. 0040549451-4

I, Jitendra Singh S/o-Anar Singh R/O-A-32 Plot.No.47,Sai Apartment Sector-13 Rohini Delhi-110085,changed my name to Jitender Singh. 0040549442-5

It is for general information that I,Israr Ahmad Khan,S/o Sh. Abrar Ahmad Khan, R/o 1/148, Gali No.2,Chauhan Banger, Near Kalyan Cinema, Delhi-53 Declare That name of mine has been wrongly written as Israr Ahmed Khan In Sec.School Examination 2019 of Central Board of Sec. Education in Respect of my Daughter Namely Mehwish bearing Registration No. D19/60275/0347. The actual name of mine is Israr Ahmad Khan which may be amended accordingly. 0040549447-1

Be it known to all concerned that my client Sh. Ravinder Kumar Bahri s/o Sh. Late Yashpal bahri r/o F-12 Jagatpuri, 1st Floor, Delhi-110051, disowned his son Shubham bahri from his all moveable and immovable properties located at anywhere and also severed all relations with them. Any person's dealing with them, shall be at his/her own risk/cost at any time in future. Sd/- Lakshay Joshi Advocate D/4135/18, 28 DDA FLATS, CHITRA VIHAR DELHI-110092, Mob. 9999852428

LOST & FOUND

Lost my original Qualifying-certificate of main-senior secondary examination of year-2008, Roll.No.5702900, from CBSE.Finder pls contact- Deepti Yadav R/o- 834/2,Acharya Puri,Seetla Mata Road,Near-Mamta Hospital,Gurgaum, Haryana-122001.Mob.8368111890. 0040549451-10

I,Ketki Attri W/o Narendra Tehriya, R/o.159,A/3,Singha Chowk,Sector-6, Gurgaon,Haryana,have lost my Original,Lease-Deed of Villa-No. E-160,Paramount Golf Foreste,Plot No.BGH-A in UPSIDC,Site-C, Surajpur, Gautam Budh Nagar,U.P. 0040549460-6

I,Kavita W/o Giriraj Singh R/O H-65, 3rd Floor, Gali No.-5, Shakarpur, Delhi-92 has lost Original Power of Attorney and other property documents. Finder may contact. 0040549416-1

I, Manoj Kumar Singh S/O Ram Pal Singh, have lost my Original Oil Tanker DCE (Adv't) vide no. DCN02MMM19006588 issued from MUM Mumbai. If found please contact:7009426615. 0050169555-1

I, Nisha Sharma D/o Bhudutt Sharma R/O,H.no-850 Rajnagar,sector-23 k-Block house Ghaziabad,have lost my original-certificate Class-10th Year-2019 Rollno-5384857 CBSE-Dehradun 0040549451-9

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Shri Gulshan Batra S/o Late Shri Surender Batra and Mrs. Kiran Batra W/o Mr. Gulshan Batra R/o B-461, Second Floor, Sudershan Park, West, Delhi-110015 have served all their relations with their son namely Saurav Batra, his wife Mrs. Tharushi Danushika Suranj Wijejanawardana Batra and debared, disowned them from all their moveable and immovable properties. My client shall not be liable for their any act or deeds in any manner whatsoever. Anybody dealing with them shall be at his own cost and risk. Sd/- RAJAN DODHI (ADVOCATE) CH. No. 223, WESTERN WING, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform the public at large that my client Sh. Rukam Kumar Aggarwal S/o Sh. Rukam Kumar Aggarwal and his wife Smt. Rama Aggarwal both R/o of C-1217B, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053, have severed their all relations with their daughter namely Seema Gupta W/o Sh. Mrs. Kishor Gupta and her husband Sh. Deepak Gupta and their children i.e. daughter Aakasha Gupta and son Harshit Gupta and debared them from their moveable and immovable properties/assets. My clients shall not be liable for their any act or deeds in any manner whatsoever. Anybody dealing with them shall be at his own cost and risk. Sd/- RAJAN DODHI (ADVOCATE) CH. No. 223, WESTERN WING, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is issued to the General Public at large that my client Mr. Jagdish Pandit S/o Sh. Ram Chandra Pandit R/o G-95, Nihal Vihar, Nanpuri, Delhi-110041 has disowned and debared his son namely Lokraj Kumar (having Akash No. 75727686654) from his property bearing No. G-95, Nihal Vihar, Nanpuri, Delhi-110041 as well as other moveable and immovable property located but not limited to all ancestral property throughout India and severed all his ties from him because of his acts and conduct, which are not acceptable to our clients. Our client has no control over Mr. Lokraj Kumar and his relation has no relationship concern whatsoever from him. By this notice our client caution general public at large that any person dealing with Mr. Lokraj Kumar in any manner whatsoever shall be at his own risk and cost and our client shall not be liable and responsible for any acts, commission and omission of Lokraj Kumar in any manner whatsoever. Sd/- Raj Kumar, Advocate Off: Chamber No. 228, Western Wing, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054 Mob: 9860745303

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Smt. Shanu W/o Late Shri Radhey Shyam, R/o House No.D-28, Old San Quarter, Paschim Puri, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi, has severed/terminated all her relations from her Elder Son Sunny and his wife Smt. Priya, along with their future children and has disinherited and disowned them all from her all moveable and immovable properties due to the misbehavior, cruelty and non-compliance. In future, if any person dealing with above said debared persons, shall be at his/her own risks and costs and my client shall not be responsible for the same in any manner. PRAKASH SHARMA (Advocate) Off:-C-914, 1st Floor, Sec-7, Usha Chawla W/o Ramesh Chander Chawla R/o RZ-37, Gali No.6, Tughlakabad Extn., Delhi-110019 has severed all his relations with his son, namely Puneet Chawla and his family as they are beyond the control of my clients & also disregarded to my clients and their other family members. My client Sh. Puneet Chawla 110076 have disowned his both the Real Sons namely Javed Malik and Ashif Malik and their wife's Namely Imrana & Rani and their children's Namely Ansh, Adif, Mohini, Anusa, Inayat, and Ashil from all his moveable and immovable properties and have severed all his relations with them on account of their immoral conduct and intolerable physical & mental cruelties with him. Anyone dealing/transacting with them shall be of their acts in future. Dharamvir Singh Chauhan (Advocate) Ch.No.322, Azadkote, New Delhi-17

This is to inform to general public that my clients Sh. Ramesh Chander Chawla S/o Soha Ram Chawla and Smt. Usha Chawla W/o Ramesh Chander Chawla R/o RZ-37, Gali No.6, Tughlakabad Extn., Delhi-110019 has severed all his relations with his son, namely Puneet Chawla and his family as they are beyond the control of my clients & also disregarded to my clients and their other family members. My client Sh. Puneet Chawla 110076 have disowned his both the Real Sons namely Javed Malik and Ashif Malik and their wife's Namely Imrana & Rani and their children's Namely Ansh, Adif, Mohini, Anusa, Inayat, and Ashil from all his moveable and immovable properties and have severed all his relations with them on account of their immoral conduct and intolerable physical & mental cruelties with him. Anyone dealing/transacting with them shall be of their acts in future. Dharamvir Singh Chauhan (Advocate) Ch.No.322, Azadkote, New Delhi-17

This is to inform to general public that my client Sh. Ramrod Kumar Bedi S/o Sh. Joginder Singh Bedi, who is the absolute owner in possession of the property being Freehold DDA Flat No.200, Third Floor, CAT-SFSII, Pocket B & C, Sector-A, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, had misplacod & lost the Originals of Allotment letter, 57 & 1 Final Demand Installment Letter, Possession letter, NOC for electricity and water, Possession Slip all issued by DDA, in his favour. That complaint/DOR had been lodged at Police Station, Pocket-B, Panchkula on 04.01.2015 by my client Sh. Ramrod Kumar Bedi S/o Sh.Joginder Singh Bedi. If any person's finds the abovestated documents, it is requested to handover the same to the undersigned. And if any person's has any claim whatsoever with respect to the abovestated property, he/she is required to give notice of the same to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication hereof, together with copies of documents forming basis of such claim, failing which it shall be concluded that there is no claim whatsoever against the abovestated property and my clients can proceed with their intended object pertaining to the abovestated property. Sd/- Namrata Ranga Advocate ENRL No. D/2817/2015 C-117B, Rama Park, Usham Nagar New Delhi-110059 (M) 09818947341

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that my client Sh. Ramrod Kumar Bedi S/o Sh. Joginder Singh Bedi, who is the absolute owner in possession of the property being Freehold DDA Flat No.200, Third Floor, CAT-SFSII, Pocket B & C, Sector-A, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, had misplacod & lost the Originals of Allotment letter, 57 & 1 Final Demand Installment Letter, Possession letter, NOC for electricity and water, Possession Slip all issued by DDA, in his favour. That complaint/DOR had been lodged at Police Station, Pocket-B, Panchkula on 04.01.2015 by my client Sh. Ramrod Kumar Bedi S/o Sh.Joginder Singh Bedi. If any person's finds the abovestated documents, it is requested to handover the same to the undersigned. And if any person's has any claim whatsoever with respect to the abovestated property, he/she is required to give notice of the same to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication hereof, together with copies of documents forming basis of such claim, failing which it shall be concluded that there is no claim whatsoever against the abovestated property and my clients can proceed with their intended object pertaining to the abovestated property. Sd/- Namrata Ranga Advocate ENRL No. D/2817/2015 C-117B, Rama Park, Usham Nagar New Delhi-110059 (M) 09818947341

It is for general information that I,Israr Ahmad Khan,S/o Sh. Abrar Ahmad Khan, R/o 1/148, Gali No.2,Chauhan Banger, Near Kalyan Cinema, Delhi-53 Declare That name of mine has been wrongly written as Israr Ahmed Khan In Sec.School Examination 2019 of Central Board of Sec. Education in Respect of my Daughter Namely Mehwish bearing Registration No. D19/60275/0347. The actual name of mine is Israr Ahmad Khan which may be amended accordingly. 0040549447-1

Public Notice

Be it known to all concerned that my client Sh. Ravinder Kumar Bahri s/o Sh. Late Yashpal bahri r/o F-12 Jagatpuri, 1st Floor, Delhi-110051, disowned his son Shubham bahri from his all moveable and immovable properties located at anywhere and also severed all relations with them. Any person's dealing with them, shall be at his/her own risk/cost at any time in future. Sd/- Lakshay Joshi Advocate D/4135/18, 28 DDA FLATS, CHITRA VIHAR DELHI-110092, Mob. 9999852428

Public Notice

My Clients Ramesh Kumar Sharma S/o Late Shri Raghunath Sharma R/o D-97, MCO Colony, Azadpur Delhi-110033 hereby severed all Relations & Disowned their Son Aashutosh Age Approx 35 years and his wife Rakhi Sharma Age 28 Years from all their moveable and immovable properties as well as their deable behavior, if anybody dealing with him my client will not be Responsible. Rajesh Aggarwal Advocate

Public Notice

IT IS BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE/ATTENTION OF GENERAL PUBLIC/PATRONS/ DONORS OF SRI VEDANTA DESIKA MANIPADUKA INDIAPRASTHA TRUST THAT ITS REGISTERED OFFICE HAS BEEN SHIFTED FROM 8A/94, THIRD FLOOR, WEA KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110 005 TO FLAT NO.1003, 10TH FLOOR, D-BLOCK, WINTER HILLS, DWARKA MORH, DWARKA MORH METRO STATION, NEW DELHI-110 059. GENERAL PUBLIC / PATRONS / DONORS ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE NOTE OF THE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE/ RECORD. (R. SRIRAMAN) TRUSTEE 9816093587

Public Notice

"Be it known to all that my client Mr. Ankur Minocha, Advocate, S/o Late Shri Satya Pal Minocha R/o F-14/20, Model Town-II, Delhi-110009 had agreed to purchase the property i.e. First Floor and onwards upto last floors (except ground floor shop area 8x 10 feet) i.e. first floor area measuring 9'2" X 11' feet under the portion of property bearing No. 12, situated, reside at main front portion in the area of Village Malikpur, Delhi-110009 with built-up house and other structure and all the fittings and fixtures upto last floors from its current owner namely Mr. Raghubir Rai / Raghubir Sai S/o Shri Balam Rai. It has been represented by the owner that the original G.P.A., Agreement to Sell Affidavit, Indemnity Bond, Will and payment receipts of dated 15/03/2002 duly registered No.402, Book No.IV, volume No.728, on pages 147 to 148 before the Office of Sub-Registrar-I, North Delhi and the previous original chain of the said property i.e. G.P.A., Agreement to Sell and Purchase of dated 22/01/2002 duly registered No. 1241, Book No. IV, Volume No.691 on pages 53 to 54 before the Sub-Registrar-I, North Delhi in favour of the above said current owner in respect of the said property are misplaced/ lost and are not traceable at the moment. That owner has also lodged the necessary information with the Crime Branch, Delhi bearing LR No. 577403/2020 dated 16/09/2020 Any other person(s)/institution(s)/government Authorities having any sort of right, claim, title or interest of any kind whatsoever in respect of the said property or any part thereof under and virtue of any deeds / documents or otherwise is / are required to put forth his / her/ its/ their claim in writing with the undersigned with documentary proof within 14 days of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all the sorts of encumbrances, charges, lien etc. and my client shall proceed to complete the transaction, free from all encumbrances as bonafide purchaser and further any such claim raised thereafter shall not be binding upon my client whatsoever" Gaurav Mahajan Advocate Chamber : No 86, Civil Wing Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

Public Notice

Notice is issued to the General Public at large that my client Mr. Jagdish Pandit S/o Sh. Ram Chandra Pandit R/o G-95, Nihal Vihar, Nanpuri, Delhi-110041 has disowned and debared his son namely Lokraj Kumar (having Akash No. 75727686654) from his property bearing No. G-95, Nihal Vihar, Nanpuri, Delhi-110041 as well as other moveable and immovable property located but not limited to all ancestral property throughout India and severed all his ties from him because of his acts and conduct, which are not acceptable to our clients. Our client has no control over Mr. Lokraj Kumar and his relation has no relationship concern whatsoever from him. By this notice our client caution general public at large that any person dealing with Mr. Lokraj Kumar in any manner whatsoever shall be at his own risk and cost and our client shall not be liable and responsible for any acts, commission and omission of Lokraj Kumar in any manner whatsoever. Sd/- Raj Kumar, Advocate Off: Chamber No. 228, Western Wing, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054 Mob: 9860745303

Public Notice

Notice is issued to the General Public at large that my client Mr. Jagdish Pandit S/o Sh. Ram Chandra Pandit R/o G-95, Nihal Vihar, Nanpuri, Delhi-110041 has disowned and debared his son namely Lokraj Kumar (having Akash No. 75727686654) from his property bearing No. G-95, Nihal Vihar, Nanpuri, Delhi-110041 as well as other moveable and immovable property located but not limited to all ancestral property throughout India and severed all his ties from him because of his acts and conduct, which are not acceptable to our clients. Our client has no control over Mr. Lokraj Kumar and his relation has no relationship concern whatsoever from him. By this notice our client caution general public at large that any person dealing with Mr. Lokraj Kumar in any manner whatsoever shall be at his own risk and cost and our client shall not be liable and responsible for any acts, commission and omission of Lokraj Kumar in any manner whatsoever. Sd/- Raj Kumar, Advocate Off: Chamber No. 228, Western Wing, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054 Mob: 9860745303

Public Notice

The General Public is hereby informed that my client Abdul Rasid S/o Basir Ahmad R/o House No. B-420, Kachhi Chowk, Madan Park Khasra, New Delhi-110076 have disowned his both the Real Sons namely Javed Malik and Ashif Malik and their wife's Namely Imrana & Rani and their children's Namely Ansh, Adif, Mohini, Anusa, Inayat, and Ashil from all his moveable and immovable properties and have severed all his relations with them on account of their immoral conduct and intolerable physical & mental cruelties with him. Anyone dealing/transacting with them shall be of their acts in future. Dharamvir Singh Chauhan (Advocate) Ch.No.322, Azadkote, New Delhi-17

"IMPORTANT"

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE
Following E-tenders are invited by DRM (Engg.) & (S&T) NWR/Ajmer at 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. 1. **Tender No.** : 161/2020, **Name of work** : ADEN-Rana Pratap Nagar Sub Division : Complete Track Renewal (S) 10.00Km. from Km. 122/8 to 132/8 and Deep Screening Work from Km. 55/8 to 88/8 in Mavli Jn.-Marwar Jn. Section. **Approximate Cost**: Rs. 1,39,73,065.47, **Earnest Money**: Rs. 2,19,900.00, **Tender Closing Date**: 06.10.2020, 2. **Tender No.** : 162/2020, **Name of work**: ADEN (Line) All sub div.- Deep screening of Points & Crossings and Yard Lines in Madar-Harpur section. **Approximate Cost**: Rs. 49,18,760.64, **Earnest Money**: Rs. 98,400.00, **Tender Closing Date**: 06.10.2020, 3. **Tender No.**: 163/2020, **Name of work**: ADEN-Abu Road Sub Division : Supply of potable water through contractor's road tanker at various Level Crossings, Staff Quarters and Station in jurisdiction of ADEN-Abu Road for the period of 12 months. **Approximate Cost**: Rs. 9,02,983.20, **Earnest Money**: Rs. 18,100.00, **Tender Closing Date**: 12.10.2020, 4. **Tender No.**: DRM-S&T-06-2020-21, **Name of work**: Phulera-Ajmer (UP)-CTRP)-3.63 Kms. (From Km. 285.77 to Km. 289.4 Total=Km.3.63), Madar-Marwar Jn.-CTR (P)-12.28 Km. (From Km. 289.4 to Km. 301.68 Total=Km. 12.28) of Ajmer Division NWR and Madar-Marwar Jn.-TTR(FS+TWS+WC MSC)-17 Sets & TTR (TWS+VCMSC)-5 Sets. **Approximate Cost**: Rs. 44,63,425.37, **Earnest Money**: Rs. 89,300.00, **Tender Closing Date**: 12.10.2020. The detailed information of the above tender is available on website www.treps.gov.in and Tender Notice Board of DRM Office, NWR/Ajmer. 770-VN/20

Please join us on     NWRailways

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 24.09.2020

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/20-21 /SV/AR/874	APPOINTMENT OF STRUCTURAL CONSULTANT FOR CHECKING THE STRUCTURAL STABILITY OF BUILDINGS AND GRID STATIONS IN BRPL .	1.3 Cr.	2.6 Lacs	14.10.2020 1530 HRS	14.10.2020 1545 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document except for Insurance : ₹ 1180/-

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nohra Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.:U40106DL2001PLC11527
Telephone No. :- +91 11 3898 7235 | E-mail :- bnpl.enquiry@bseelancada.com | Website :- www.bsesdelhi.com



FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education)
P.O.: New Forest, Dehradun - 248006, Uttarakhand

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. 35-41/2020-21/Head/Engg. Cell

Paire allowed to play in Hamburg despite testing positive for Covid



Benoit Paire, who was forced to pull out of the US Open, said he was told 'rules are different' in Germany, where he is competing in the Hamburg Open. AP

Frenchman Benoit Paire said on Wednesday that he was allowed to play in the Hamburg Open despite testing positive for COVID-19 because the "rules are different" in Germany. Paire, who caused a storm at the U.S. Open last month when he was forced to pull out of the Grand Slam after testing positive for COVID-19, said he returned a positive test again on his arrival in Germany but was told he was no longer contagious. Paire played Norwegian Casper Ruud in his first round match but retired in the second set when he was down 6-4 2-0. "When I arrived, the test came back positive again," Paire, who also played in the Rome Masters last week, told reporters. "I can't take it any-

more, I'm breaking. And then I'm told, in Germany, if you are positive and have already completed the quarantine (period), they no longer tested the players because even if you catch it again, you are no longer contagious. I said 'thank you' to the doctor and the tournament (organisers) for allowing me to play... In Paris, some are negative but since the coach tested positive, they cannot play. Here, in Germany, you test positive and you can still play." Six players in the French Open men's and women's qualifying draw were withdrawn this week after either testing positive for COVID-19 or after coming in close contact with a coach who tested positive. **REUTERS**

Prajnesh crashes out in second round of French Open qualifiers

India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran crashed out in the second round of the men's singles qualifiers of the French Open after losing in straight sets to Aleksandar Vukic of Australia here on Wednesday. Prajnesh, India's second-highest ranked singles player who got the better of Turkey's Cem Ilkel in the opening round, lost 4-6 6-7 (4) 5-7 to Germany's seasoned player Dustin Brown. Ramanathan was shown the door by local wildcard Tristan Lamasine 5-7 2-6. Ankita Raina will take on Japan's Kurumi Nara, seeded 22nd. Ankita has not gone beyond the second round at the Grand Slam qualifiers and needs to win two more matches to make it to the main draw. **PTI**

U-17 Women's World Cup in India set to be postponed again

The women's FIFA Under-17 World Cup, which has been rescheduled to February-March, is likely to be postponed yet again in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally scheduled to be held in five venues of India from November 2 to 21, the women's age group showpiece was pushed to February 17-March 7 next year due to the pandemic, which has played havoc with sporting calendars worldwide. With the health crisis still showing no signs of abating and with the qualifying tournaments yet to be held in Africa, North and Central America and South America, there is a high possibility of the tournament getting postponed yet again. "There is a high possibility that the women's FIFA U-17 World Cup will be postponed again. The new time frame when the tournament will be held is yet not known," a source said. All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das, however, said there is "no official update" on the matter yet. **PTI**

Summer of discontent

Amidst rising Covid-19 cases in the UK, football clubs brace for the worst

SHASHANK NAIR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE ENGLISH Football League — comprising the Championship, League One and League Two clubs — had been wary of kick-starting the season without fans because the lack of gate money would hurt the bottom-line. However, the rising number of Covid-19 cases in the United Kingdom means their worst nightmare is about to come true.

Why are EFL clubs in a bind following the UK tightening restrictions?

English Football League (EFL) clubs hoped that fans would be allowed into stadiums from October 1.

But the planned return of spectators to sports venues in England is likely to be on hold for up to six months because of fears of a second wave of Covid-19 infections. Boris Johnson, the prime minister, announced restrictions including large gatherings at sporting events on Tuesday, which means a winter without fans.

Despite rival leagues like the Dutch Eredivisie allowing fans to enter stadiums, the officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) made it clear that the situation in the UK looked bleak when it came to allowing fans back into stadiums.

Why have the restrictions been brought back in the UK?

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Johnson said that England had reached a 'perilous turning point' in the fight against Covid. It was estimated by England's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty, and Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance that the country would see 50,000 fresh cases a day by next month, which could lead to 200-plus deaths a day, according to a Telegraph report. Whitty also added that with winter around the corner, the cold weather would benefit respiratory viruses. The UK has also upped its alert level to '4', which means that transmissions are 'high or rising exponentially'.

What were EFL clubs looking to do before this fresh wave of restrictions were introduced?

Seven clubs were looking to bring in 1,000 supporters to matches across the (EFL) this week as a pilot project. Before this, 2,500 fans were allowed inside the Amex Stadium to view a friendly between Brighton and Hove Albion and Chelsea.

These pilot projects would be followed by the ramping up of fans at stadiums depending upon how the rate of transmission for cases was. But with pubs and bars in Britain open for business, the Premier League



Last month, 2,500 fans were allowed inside the Amex Stadium to view a pre-season friendly between Brighton and Hove Albion and Chelsea. Reuters

Last season, the EFL lost £50m in gate receipts according to Premier League chief executive Richard Masters, as told to BBC Sport on September 9. Masters in the same report also said that if clubs don't bring fans back to the stadiums, the EFL in its entirety will lose £700m during the 2020-21 season. This comes after the Premier League revenue was already down £700m in the final quarter of last season

in a statement said that fans would be safer in stadiums watching games than any other public activities being currently allowed.

"Fans in stadiums will be as safe or even safer than at any other public activity currently permitted," the Premier League, consisting of the top-tier clubs, said in a statement.

"This is already evident in other European leagues. We are confident that Premier League clubs, using innovative ways to get supporters safely back into grounds, will enable revenues to return to all levels of the game, as well as maintain solidarity arrangements, current tax contributions and financial support for local and national economies."

How much money do clubs stand to lose if fans aren't allowed inside stadiums?

Last season, the EFL lost £50m in gate receipts according to Premier League chief executive Richard Masters, as told to BBC Sport on September 9. Masters in the same report also said that if clubs don't bring fans back to the stadiums, the EFL in its entirety will lose £700m during the 2020-21 season. This comes after the Premier League revenue was already down £700m in the final quarter of last season.

"It's not just the loss of matchday revenue," Masters said to BBC. "Every Premier League match on average generates about £20m for the economy both local and national so we want to play our part in helping the economy to recover as well."

Now that fans are not going to be allowed, what does this mean for clubs?

While a majority of EPL clubs will survive this period, despite the heavy losses, the true cost of fans not being allowed into stadiums will be faced by lower league clubs. Recently West Ham United co-owner David Sullivan accused lower division clubs of not testing players for financial reasons and potentially exposing Premier League teams when they meet in the Carabao Cup. While Premier League clubs have mandatory Covid testing, EFL clubs do not. A report in the Guardian indicates that the cost of one round of testing is £5000 and that is forcing many lower league clubs to avoid testing, especially at a time when matchday revenues are not coming in.

The British government had provided a grant of £1.57bn to the arts sector in July. But a bailout package may be more in line with the £16m provided to the Rugby League over the summer, according to another report in the Guardian.

West Ham play despite virus cases, Spurs game called off

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 23

THE CORONAVIRUS dominated the English League Cup schedule as West Ham played despite its coach and two players having tested positive, while Tottenham's game was called off. West Ham said manager David Moyes and players Issa Diop and Josh Cullen only found out their test results after they had arrived at the London Stadium to play against Hull. Diop and Cullen had been named in the starting lineup.

"The manager and both players immediately left the stadium and have returned home," West Ham said. "All three, who are asymptomatic, will now follow Public Health England and Premier League guidelines and protocols."

Assistant coach Alan Irvine took charge of West Ham in Moyes' absence. West Ham won the game 5-1 as Robert Snodgrass scored the opening goal before Sebastian Haller and Andriy Yarmolenko scored two each. West Ham did not say when its players and coaches gave their samples to be tested or how much contact Moyes and the two players had with the rest of the team since then. West Ham's last game was a 2-1 loss to Arsenal on Saturday.

The Premier League coronavirus protocols state Moyes, Diop and Cullen will have to isolate for 10 days. That would mean they miss the Premier League game against Wolverhampton on Sunday.

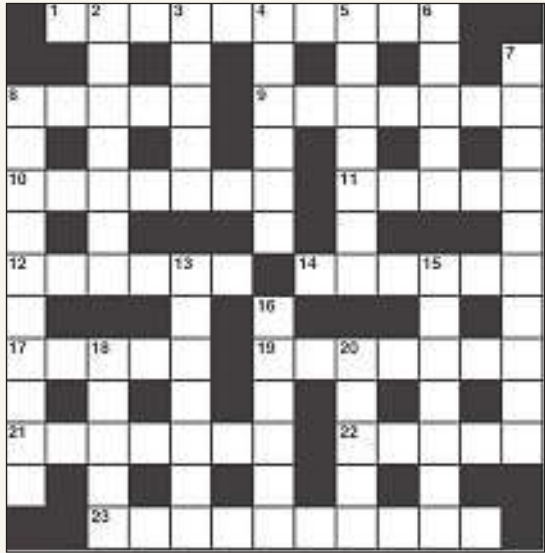
Earlier, the match between Tottenham and Leyton Orient was called off two hours before kickoff because Orient players contracted the coronavirus. "Discussions are ongoing between the relevant stakeholders in regards to the implications of the fixture not taking place," the English Football League, which organizes the competition, said in a statement.

Orient, a London-based team in the fourth division, may have to forfeit the game if the club is deemed to be unable to fulfil the fixture. Manchester United got its first win of the season by beating second-division Luton 2-0, but it was a far from dominant showing after losing 3-1 to Crystal Palace in the league on Saturday.

Juan Mata gave United the lead from the penalty spot after Brandon Williams was tripped in the 44th minute. However, United struggled to break down Luton's otherwise disciplined defense and only a good save from goalkeeper Dean Henderson in his first competitive game for United stopped Luton leveling the score with a header in the 81st.

Marcus Rashford made sure of the win with a goal on the counterattack seven minutes later and Mason Greenwood scored another in added time.

CROSSWORD 4232



ACROSS

- 1 Revealing form of entertainment (10)
- 8 Hides one's relatives on board (5)
- 9 It's useless shielding a bad crook (7)
- 10 Man on the make (7)
- 11 Got us to display zest (5)
- 12 It means one's refusing in code perhaps (2,4)
- 14 He might feign ignorance of Post Office's total (6)
- 17 A good case for a rise (5)
- 19 Instruction to the mechanic might be a bore (3,4)
- 21 Idealistic upper class head Scot (7)
- 22 A green and mountainous part of France (5)
- 23 A lady in retirement may have such a habit (10)

DOWN

- 2 The last section to have a complaint in mind (4,3)
- 3 It has a small part in a big picture (5)
- 4 A number tucked into a bird in the inn (6)
- 5 Fast scoring rate (7)
- 6 Hack comes up with manuscript for the papers (5)
- 7 Tell a friend off the record (10)
- 8 Order suggesting ringside helpers are poor timekeepers (7,3)
- 13 Dogfish provides sport in Scotland (7)
- 15 Record holders (7)
- 16 Lines from a child rising ten (6)
- 18 A bar erected on quarter deck (5)
- 20 He's no better off for changing roles (5)

Solutions Crossword 4231: Across: 1 Infest, 4 Hooker, 9 Chinese, 10 Datum, 11 Egypt, 12 Earshot, 13 Good company, 18 Keep fit, 20 Actor, 22 White, 23 Ontario, 24 Dakota, 25 Better. Down: 1 Itches, 2 Fairy, 3 Sweated, 5 Order, 6 Kitchen, 7 Remote, 8 Helen of Troy, 14 Obelisk, 15 Plastre, 16 Skewed, 17 Armour, 19 Fleet, 21 Tarot.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Remember you are just an ___ in everyone else's ___ - Franklin D. Roosevelt (5,...,4)

MZAAE



BOURT



PMYYIDL



COOWPX



Answer: Remember you are just an extra in everyone else's play - Franklin D. Roosevelt

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4241

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4240



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Today's basic pattern picks out all who are making short journeys, attending interviews, taking decisions and seeking out information. In other words, the focus is on communication in all its forms. You may also do well to let other people in on a secret — but choose the right moment.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The key question now is the extent to which you have allowed yourself to be taken for granted and walked all over like some sort of cosmic doormat. Watch out for dictatorial people and take evasive action. If you can stay out of their way, then you will end the day much happier.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The Moon should give you a feeling of confidence, although there will be a few mood swings and these in turn will bring occasional self-doubt. However, in the final analysis you should feel hopeful about the future. Optimism breeds success — and attracts potential employers.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You still seem to be doing extremely well in many respects, and the best approach is one which highlights your creative gifts. You must realise that there is no area of your life free from your intense emotions. If you acknowledge that, then you'll be able to keep them in check.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Supportive planets are helping you keep your feet on the ground, which is just as well at a time such as this. You're entering a new emotional cycle, one in which there'll be little time for romance or sentimentality. Instead, look at down-to-earth issues, such as how much you can actually afford.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You have a reputation for being clear-headed and reasonable, yet too many people are completely failing to see just how far your ideas are driven by an intense and idealistic desire to see the world put to rights. If only they would leave you to get on at your own pace.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You should keep an eye on the financial situation and realise that what other people mistake for strength could actually be a sign of weakness. It would therefore be folly to shape your actions to partners' expectations. Perhaps they should do what you want this time.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Your indecisive streak is coming out. Not before time, some people would say. Your first instinct when faced with a dilemma may be to return to the safety of former conditions. That's fine in the short term, but you can't put off the inevitable forever.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Your emotional loyalties may now be based in the present rather than in the past. Yet for some reason you will find it increasingly important to back-track, and work out just exactly what did happen, and why a relationship came to an end. You might also be tempted to take advice you'd normally ignore.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You can be easy to stereotype. Too many people underestimate your versatility, especially at work. If partners and colleagues would only sit down and listen to your ideas for sharing responsibilities more equitably in the future, they'd learn a lot.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

There is much to be said for tackling social issues head-on, but mainly if money is involved. The one thing you must be sure of at the moment is that partners and friends will be changing their opinions more often than their socks! Not that it's a bad thing, of course.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You may devote whatever time is necessary to sorting out fundamental questions, especially concerning your family relationships and domestic conditions. You should try to remember what was agreed in the past as well, and respect family members' feelings.

The usual suspects

Rohit, Bumrah turn up the heat in Abu Dhabi as Mumbai Indians defeat Kolkata Knight Riders by 49 runs

VISHAL MENON
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

SYNOPSIS
Bumrah swings it MI's way on a night Rohit pulls KKR pacers apart

AFTER A lacklustre start to the season against Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians roared back in style to thump Kolkata Knight Riders by 49 runs. In doing so, they ended their UAE jinx, winning their first match in this country in seven attempts.

It was a match in which the stars aligned for the defending champions, who reduced the match to a one-sided contest much before the end. Put into bat, their captain Rohit Sharma laid the foundation, nearly batting through the innings to score a 54-ball 80. Useful contributions from the top and middle order propelled them to a score of 195 that proved an uphill task for KKR with captain Dinesh Karthik, Eoin Morgan and Andre Russell coming a cropper.

In the final analysis, the difference between the two teams was in their respective pace attacks. While KKR's fast bowlers erred in line and length and looked fairly lacklustre, their MI counterparts, led by Jasprit Bumrah, were more hostile, purposeful and energetic.

Rohit pulls KKR pacers apart

Rohit can pull off the pull shot even in his sleep, or so it seems. The secret is his ability to pick the length of the delivery early. He does not have an exaggerated foot movement but prefers to stay still at the crease, relying on his excellent hand-eye coordination. This is precisely why it's suicidal for fast bowlers to bowl short to Rohit.

So, is he a batsman without any apparent weaknesses? Not quite. The 33-year-old is at his most vulnerable at the start of his innings. If pacers can bowl tight lines and pitch it a tad fuller outside the off-stump with a hint of out-swing, Rohit can be nipped early.



Rohit Sharma laid the foundation for Mumbai Indians, nearly batting through the innings to score a 54-ball 80. BCCI/IPL

This may seem like a simple, straightforward plan, but KKR pacers struggled to execute it in their IPL season-opener. They continually kept digging it short to the MI captain. On an easy-paced Abu Dhabi track, Rohit was happy to oblige. He welcomed Pat Cummins to the attack by depositing him twice into the grass banks. Rohit didn't spare Russell either, pulling him with disdain for a six over the mid-wicket fence. The pull shot may have been Rohit's most productive shot on the night, but he also unfurled his square-cuts to devastating effect, especially against the inexperienced Sandeep Warrier.

Frustratingly, KKR's bowlers didn't seem to learn from their mistakes. All this breath-taking six-hitting meant that as many as three balls were lost in the stands. Overall, Rohit enjoyed a strike-rate of over 250

against the pacers, with six sixes punctuating his knock.

If Rohit operated from a still base against pacers, he displayed nimble footwork against the spinners, especially against Kuldeep Yadav. A sublime lofted shot over long-on against the chinaman bowler brought up his 200th six in the IPL. It was not as if Rohit was doing all the scoring for Mumbai. He was ably supported by Suryakumar Yadav's effervescence. Despite a streaky start, the MI No.3, who walked in after the early exit of Quinton de Kock, brought oodles of flair.

Apart from a dreamy square-drive against Warrier, Yadav scored the bulk of his runs on the leg-side because of his propensity to keep shuffling across the stumps. The duo counter-attacked with a 90-run partnership that gave MI the desired impetus. Yadav was

unlucky to be run out for 47, but his captain continued the good work, before he ran out of gas and spooned a Shivam Mavi full toss to Cummins. Rohit's dismissal in the 18th over meant that Mumbai couldn't breach the 200-run mark despite the bevy of explosive stroke-players that followed.

Bumrah swings it Mumbai's way

Two supreme pieces of deception — a fast, searing yorker and a vicious off-cutter — bowled in the 16th over of KKR's chase by Jasprit Bumrah effectively snuffed out their chances on Wednesday evening. The former, bowled to Russell, dislodged the leg-stump. One would have expected an overwhelming surge of emotion from Bumrah. Instead, he remained remarkably stoic. Three deliveries later, he offered a slower ball at 108kmph that dipped and took the outside edge of Morgan's bat. The pacer finally gesticulated and for a fleeting moment, showed a bit of emotion. Given the circumstances of the match and the batsmen to whom it was delivered, it proved to be a brilliant match-altering act.

Bumrah surprisingly looked off-colour in MI's season-opener against Chennai Super Kings. But he more than made up for that with this splendid performance tonight to finish with figures of 2/32 from four overs. Bumrah hit the deck hard and extracted sharp movement and steep bounce from the placid Abu Dhabi track. He was not the only MI pacer who impressed.

Overseas pros Trent Boult and James Pattinson, who opened the attack, looked equally potent and aggressive. MI are at the most irresistible when their fast bowlers hit the straps and bowl well in tandem. On a hot and humid evening, their three-pronged pace attack put on a bowling masterclass to kick-start their campaign on an emphatic note.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai Indians 195/5 (Rohit Sharma 80, Surya Kumar Yadav 47; Shivam Mavi 2/32) bt Kolkata Knight Riders 146/9 (Pat Cummins 33, Dinesh Karthik 30; Trent Boult 2/30, Jasprit Bumrah 2/32) by 49 runs.



EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game.

Funny side up for Pandya

It was a conference of serious men on the pitch. Until Hardik Pandya strode in, wearing a roguish smile and a cheerful strut. Various shades of laughter ensued. Chuckle with captain Rohit Sharma. Giggle with Andre Russell. Grin at Dinesh Karthik. And then a guffaw when he got himself hit-wicket in the weirdest of fashions, in the process tweaking the very usage of "chopping onto the stumps." It's used to denote batsmen dragging the ball onto the stumps. Here Pandya missed the ball altogether, but he chopped his own bat onto the stumps, like the woodcutter's first feeble swish of the axe to check the strength of the wood. He stood so deep at the crease on middle and off, that it was inevitable that any stroke on the off-side risked hitting the stumps. He was in control of his feet, but not the bat. He was shaping up for the ramp, moved further off and across — too back and much across — then realised that the ball was pitched outside the off-stump and tried to waft it. But the down-swing of the bat disarranged the stumps. Pandya, though, was in a mood to find



humour in everything, even in his own foibles. Even the Kolkata bowlers were amused. You get hit wicket, but not often do you chop the bat onto the stumps. And so much comic relief on a cagey night. SANDIPG

Karthik goes through the wringer

Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Dinesh Karthik had to contend with his bowlers having a rough time in the Sharjah heat against Mumbai's onslaught.

From initially providing the odd clap and a shout of encouragement to his bowlers, especially Sandeep Warrier, who got walloped for four fours in his second over, he moved to dejectedly looking at the ground to swallow him up after Rohit Sharma stood up for yet another short ball to be dispatched out of the park.

Karthik went through his five stages of denial. Occasionally the stump mic would pick his voice shouting an unconvinced 'beautiful' at his bowler.

But what was meant to be encouragement was mostly desperate hope that the onslaught would end or some divine intervention would mercifully take place. Nada. Mumbai plastered KKR for 195.

SHASHANK NAIR

Mavi wide agape

Shivam Mavi's experimental slower ball while returning for his second spell in the 18th over for KKR left S Ravi, India's best umpire currently, in one right quandary. It landed outside the cut strip, far away from the exhausted Sharma. But was it far and officially wide? Field umpires needed to parley, because anything beyond the strip is actually a no-ball. Ravi finally signalled with both outstretched arms. Another wide full toss followed and by the fourth delivery, Sharma had had enough and shuffled wide, but Mavi had gone even more baggy in his bowling. Mavi's face would reflect the ball — his mouth agape for a long moment at the temerity of his wide ball being given a wide, despite Rohit going swatting after it. The eluding trap worked in the end, as Rohit finally couldn't butcher an easy low full toss - perhaps surprised that the ball hadn't gone wandering again. A wide grin from Mavi, having snared Rohit, completed the wide spread.

SHIVANI NAIK

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