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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

**Delhi-Meerut** Expressway

Map Not to Scale

Delhi

 $\frown$ 

Noida

Badaun

Hardoi

Bundelkhand Expressway

Yamuna Expresswav **SINCE 1932** 

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UTTAR PRADESH the Land of OPPORTUNITIES

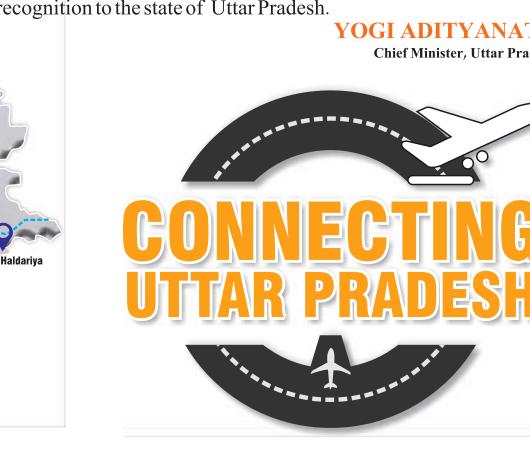
### With longest road, rail, air and river network in India, UP opens new avenues for Industries and Tourism.

Purvancha

There are immense employment opportunities in the Industry, MSME, Rural Development, Tourism, Agriculture and Irrigation sectors. The Investor summit brought global investment and infrastructure development to the state of UP. Projects such as the Purvanchal Expressway (340.8 Km), Bundelkhand Expressway (296 km) and Ganga Expressway (594 km) were initiated for the development of the region.

UP Government has added cities to the air grid in last three years and is developing new airports. The upcoming Jewar international airports, Kusinagar Airports and Ayodhya Airports will not only strengthen connectivity and provide immense boost to employment opportunities in these region but will also bring global recognition to the state of Uttar Pradesh.

> YOGI ADITYANATH Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh



### **EXPRESSWAYS**

AIRPORTS

PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY

Six-Lanes

GORAKHPUR LINK EXPRESSWAY Four-Lanes

Start Chand Sarai, Lucknow End point Haidaria, Ghazipur Districts benefited from the project: Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur.

### **BUNDELKHAND EXPRESSWAY**

Four-Lanes, Expandable up to Six-Lanes Start Bharatkoop, End point Etawah Districts benefited from the project: -Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah

Start Jaitpur (Gorakhpur) End point Salarpur (Azamgarh) **Districts benefited** from the project: Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Ambedkar Nagar, Sant Kabir Nagar

### **GANGA EXPRESSWAY**

Phase-I (Meerut to Prayagraj) Six-Lanes, Expandable up to Eight Lanes Phase-II => Prayagraj to Ballia Section Districts benefited from the project: Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshaher, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rai Bareli, Pratapgarh, Prayagraj

### **OPERATIONAL AIRPORTS**

### **International Airports (2)**

Lucknow & Varanasi

### **Domestic Airports (5)**

- Agra Prayagraj Ghaziabad
- Gorakhpur
  Kanpur

### AIRPORTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT

### **International Airports (2)**

• Greater Noida (Jewar) • Ayodhya

### **Domestic Airports (5)**

- Chitrakoot Jhansi Meerut
- Muirpur (Sonbhadra) Saharanpur

### **UPCOMING AIRPORTS**

### International Airports (1)

• Kushinagar

### **Domestic Airports (6)**

- Aligarh Azamgarh Moradabad
- Shravasti Ghazipur Bareilly

**ADVERTORIAL** 

# **Connecting Uttar Pradesh**

Believing in the power of infrastructural development as the road to economic prosperity, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has vowed to bring total transformation in the state by developing four crucial expressways to cater to the commuting needs of people and also bring economic corridors in and around the expressways. Once completed, these expressways will act as growth centres and will help in generating job opportunities in a range of sectors.

# **Purvanchal Expressway** will Boost Economic Activities in Eastern UP

Relying on the mantra of development as the way forward to economic prosperity, Purvanchal Expressway will be like a milestone achievement for the Government of UP once it is ready, offering a multitude of growth opportunities

SETTING YET another example of people-centric development, the Government of Uttar Pradesh, under the disciplined leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is just few months away from opening the much-anticipated Purvanchal Expressway. As per various reports, hectic and continued efforts are underway to ensure the completion of the project by this year end. Due to the COVID-19induced nationwide lockdown, the project got delayed by 2 months. However, the UP administration is making sustained efforts to complete it much before the official deadline of March 2021

In July 2018, the foundation stone of this ambitious expressway project was laid by PM Modi in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh. Currently, the development on the 340.824-km-long Purvanchal Expressway is under progress. The Purvanchal Expressway, a Rs 22,500 crore project, is being executed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), with an aim to give an infrastructural boost to the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh. Originating from Village Chand Sarai, located at Lucknow Sultanpur Road (NH-56), in district Lucknow, the mega expressway will end near village Haidaria on NH-19, 18 km before the UP-Bihar border, in district Ghazipur. The expressway will connect Lucknow, Azamgarh, Barabanki, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Amethi, Ambedkar Nagar, Mau and Ghazipur. The Purvanchal Expressway is to be linked with Varanasi-Gorakhpur highway through a separate link road. It will comprise an emergency airstrip for Indian Air Force (IAF) jets at Kurebhar (Sultanpur).



median drain LTC. It is reported that "87 per cent of the earthwork and 60 per cent of the physical work have been done. Around 8,000 people are working at full pace to complete the work." Earlier, 10,000 workers were working on the project, however, due to COVID-19, the workforce got reduced. The state government is currently trying to increase its workforce.

The expressway is being constructed

project will be the longest expressway in the country. According to state nodal agency UPEIDA, of total loans worth Rs 1,500 crore, Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 500 crore will be sourced from Bank of India and Central Bank of India, respectively, to expedite the work on its flagship 340-km Purvanchal Expressway project.

Due to the pan-India COVID-19 lockdown, the work on the expressway had come to a standstill in March.

Gayatri Projects, Apco Infratech, G R Infraprojects, PNC Infratech and Oriental Structural Engineers. Earlier, the Purvanchal Expressway project was divided in 8 packages, with Gayatri Projects, G R Infraprojects and PNC Infratech allotted 2 packages each and Apco Infratech and Oriental Structural Engineers being awarded one package each for ensuring timebound completion. The easy bidding process has also resulted in 10% cost districts that it will connect. Interestingly, it will pass through Ayodhya as well which is already a renowned tourist destination and is soon expected to receive huge footfalls once the construction of Ram Temple is completed and thrown open to public. The expressway will surely give wings to tourism activities in other districts as well like Varanasi. Known for its ancient culture and unique heritage, Varanasi attracts hordes of tourists throughout the year "However, the civil works on this mega infra project, totalling about Rs 22,500 crore, were gradually restarted from the month of April in the non-hotspot stretches"

### the expressway.

Since the project is connecting the agriculture districts of UP, it is also expected to give a boost to agriculture, industrial and commercial activities in the region. The expressway is likely to attract investment in the food processing, warehousing, handloom, dairy sectors, thereby, giving a boost to the region and the state's economic prosperity. Additionally, the expressway will offer several other benefits such as time saving, fuel saving, pollution level control, reduction in road accidents, etc.

"UPEIDA has launched a mobile application which will redirect and

The much-touted Purvanchal Expressway will be fully accesscontrolled six-lane expressway, expandable to 8 lanes. According to UPEIDA, the construction works that are currently underway include pile load test, pile cap, WMM, DBM, rolling for GSB, development of on an EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) basis. The best thing about this project is that it will provide seamless connectivity to 9 districts of Uttar Pradesh, which are predominantly agricultural districts of the state. Once completed, the underconstruction Purvanchal Expressway

"However, the civil works on this mega infra project, totalling about Rs 22,500 crore, were gradually restarted from the month of April in the nonhotspot stretches. The government is proactively providing jobs to the migrant workers in these big projects." The project is being executed by reduction for the project. Building expressways is a sure-shot way of bringing development in a said region. They are often considered a harbinger of economic growth. The

Purvanchal Expressway just aims to do that. It is expected that the expressway

will spur tourism activities in the 9

and the Purvanchal Expressway is only going to make things better in the Holy City. The tourists will now find it more convenient to take road trips from Lucknow to Varanasi and this will bring in a lot of development and infrastructural boost on both sides of help the authority monitor all the upto-date construction and review any sort of changes required. The mobile app also enables the common people know about all the construction and the accessibility of the expressway that will be passing through all the nine districts of the state."

### **Bringing Development to Bundelkhand!**

The upcoming Bundelkhand Expressway will not just ensure a fast, better and smooth connectivity to the national capital, but will also provide a huge economic stimulus to the region, often besot with numerous problems and challenges

BUILDING ROADS, highways and expressways not just ensures better connectivity and development in the surrounding areas, but also ensures great people-to-people connect, industrialisation, and employment opportunities in the region. Taking this thought process forward, the Uttar Pradesh government, under the able guidance and disciplined leadership of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, "first unveiled its plan to build the project in April 2017 to boost economic development in the interior regions through improved connectivity." Thereafter on August 21, 2019, the Uttar Pradesh government gave its approval for the Bundelkhand Expressway project.

Taking the thoughtful initiative a step ahead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the much awaited, 296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway project in February 2020, with an aim to connect some of the most interior regions of the state. Bundelkhand is considered as one of

Bundelkhand is considered as one of the most backward regions in state,

often besot with consecutive droughts, hailstorms and unseasonal rains leading to severe agrarian crisis. In a bid to provide relief to the stressed region, the State Government envisioned this project to strengthen connectivity, bring employment, infrastructural development and industrialisation in the area. The fourlane access-controlled expressway (likely to be expanded to six lanes in future) will start from Bundelkhand's Chitrakoot Dham (Karwi) - Banda -Mahoba - Hamirpur - Jalaun - Orai to Etawah where it will join Agra Lucknow Expressway. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 14,850 crore (including land cost) and is proposed to be developed by Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).

The new project is also being hailed as a next-generation infrastructure boost for the state of Uttar Pradesh. "Once the development work on this project is c ompleted, the Bundelkhand Expressway in UP will provide seamless passage to the national capital."A statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) stated that the proposed expressway project will be supplementing the nodes of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor announced in the month of February 2018 by the government.

While laying the foundation stone in February, the Prime Minister had said, "This project will take Bundelkhand on the path of development, it will prove to be the development expressway of the region and definitely change people's lives in this entire region." On creating job



opportunities, the Prime Minister added, "To come up at a cost of around Rs. 15,000 crore, this project will create thousands of job opportunities and connect the common people with facilities in bigger cities."

PM further said, "a provision of Rs 3,700 crore has been made for the Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor in this year's budget. These two schemes (Defence Corridor and Expressway) have a deep relationship. The Bundelkhand Expressway will give speed to Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor."

In a bid to give a necessary boost to the construction of the Bundelkhand Expressway, the UP Govt had accelerated the land acquisition process. The process of acquisition began in early 2019 and till now 95% of the 3,700 hectares required for the expressway has been acquired by the State Government, with the remaining acquisition to be completed within few months. "With the acquisition of 3,440 hectares in 10 months, without any protest from farmers, the Bundelkhand Expressway project holds the record for the fastest acquisition of land for a highway project in the state." This proactiveness on part of the government translated to cost reduction by around 12 percent.

"The Uttar Pradesh government has online transferred cost and compensation to the farmers who sold their land using RTGS, from the state treasury, thus cutting the red tape significantly." Of the estimated cost Rs. 14,850 crore, a total of Rs 7,766.81 crore will be spent on civil work. "Earlier in September 2019, Bank of Baroda had sanctioned a loan of Rs

If the companies awarded the contract for Bundelkhand Expressway are able to complete the work in 30 months from the date of signing the MoUs, they will get an incentive of 5%.

2,000 crore for the ambitious Expressway project. The state government had approved the project cost of about Rs 14,850 crore out of which Rs 7,000 crore will be raised by UPEIDA as consortium loan from banks and the balance investment amount shall be made available to UPEIDA by the state government."

UPEIDA is currently implementing the project and it is expected to complete it in 30 months in six phases. According to the CEO, UPEIDA, Mr Awanish Kumar Awasthi, "The construction for the first and the second package will be handled by M/s APCO Infratech. Ashoka Buildcon will handle the third package, Gawar Construction the fourth and fifth package, and Dilip Buildcon the sixth package. If the companies awarded the contract for Bundelkhand Expressway are able to complete the work in 30 months from the date of signing the MoUs, they will get an incentive of 5%. The deadline for the completion of the expressway work is 36 months, and if that is missed the companies will be fined."

Once the upcoming Bundelkhand Expressway project is completed, it is expected to help 50,000 people get direct as well as indirect jobs. The upcoming project will link Bundelkhand area to national capital through fast and smooth traffic corridor. This project will also spur the development of Defence Corridor another equally important project with respect to country's defence requirements. The project will help in strengthening Ömni-directional development of Bundelkhand area. Important savings in consumption of fuel and control over pollution will also be possible as the expressway is access controlled.

The areas covered under the project will experience better economic prospects in the agriculture, commerce, tourism and industrial sectors. An industrial corridor will also be developed to link the various manufacturing units, development centres and agricultural productive areas. Opportunities will also be available for establishment of Industrial Training Institutes, Teaching and Training Institutes and Medical Institutes etc. near the expressway. Expressway will also act as a catalyst for establishment of Handloom industry, food processing units, storages, market and Milk-based industries. With the implementation of this project, the state tourism will also get a fillip and also, it will bring in the holistic development of the state, especially in the Bundelkhand region.

# Ganga Expressway

### will Provide Immense Economic Boost in Western and Eastern UP

Cutting across 12 crucial districts of eastern and western UP, the 594-km-long Ganga Expressway will be like a milestone achievement for the Government of UP once it is ready, offering a multitude of growth opportunities

COMMITTED TO improve the state's infrastructural development, Ganga Expressway project happens to be the dream project of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who declared it during Kumbh in 2019. The Yogi government reworked the alignment and decided to build the expressway 10 km away from the riverbank. The UP government has also set 2025 as the newcompletion date for the mega project that will seamlessly connect the western to the eastern fringes of the state. Cutting across 12 districts, the muchanticipated expressway will provide connectivity to the industrial cities of the state, including Meerut, Bulandshaher, Hapur, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareli, Amethi, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj. The expressway would start at Meerut (west end) and terminate at Prayagraj (east end). The Ganga Expressway project has got a new lease of life and is being billed as the second largest expressway in the country.

Had it not been for the proactiveness of the Yogi government, the project would have remained in abeyance for an eternity, given the environmental hurdles. The proposal is also underway to connect the Ganga Expressway to Varanasi and finally extend it to Ballia, near the Bihar border. For this, a second phase of the project has been mooted."In case the roughly 300-km extension plan materialises, the Ganga Expressway would become the e-way connecting eastern Uttar Pradesh to the National Capital through a string of expressways. It will link other expressways like Lucknow-Agra Expressway, Purvanchal Expressway.

The development on the 594-km-long Ganga Expressway is to be completed in two phases. The Ganga Expressway, a Rs 38,300 crore project (including Rs. 9,500 crore as the land acquisition cost), is being executed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), with an aim to give an infrastructural boost in the industrial and agricultural belt of Uttar Pradesh.

The Ganga Expressway will be a 6-



lane greenfield expressway, expandable to 8 lanes. According to sources, "The first phase of the six-lane expressway (expandable to eight lanes) would cover approximately 547 villages of central and western Uttar Pradesh, which is a hub of agricultural and industrial activity." According to a report, "the Ganga Expressway project would reduce travel time between Delhi and Prayagraj from the present 10-11 hours to 6-7 hours. The Ganga Expressway would ensure fast-paced economic development, which the state has long desired. The moment the financials are worked out, work on the expressway will start in earnest." According to UPEIDA, plans are afoot to get the foundation stone for

The development on the 594-km-long Ganga Expressway is to be completed in two phases.

the project laid around Diwali. It is hopeful to start construction work by the end of this year.

The mammoth project would have 368 underpasses, 7 RoBs, 28 flyovers, 17 interchanges and 142 bridges. To complete this significant project, UPEIDA has decided to divide it into 12 packages for simultaneous

development by concessionaires, who would be selected through a competitive bidding process.

According to UPEIDA, "The detailed project report is ready and will be placed before the state Cabinet for approval. The land acquisition process, too, shall start soon." Building expressways is a sure-shot way of

bringing development in a said region. They are often considered a harbinger of economic growth.

The Ganga Expressway just aims to do that, it is expected that the expressway will spur travel and tourism activities in the 12 districts that it will connect. It aims to connect all significant pilgrimages and tourist places and provide fast movement of traffic to these spots.

To ensure a safe movement of traffic on the expressways, UPEIDA has already got a safety audit done by the Central Road Research Institute in order to form a highway patrol force with separate wing of security personnel created from the Uttar Pradesh Police Force. The state police The Ganga **Expressway** will surely give wings to economic activities in the 12 districts of eastern and western UP by bringing national and international markets closer.

have been working for preparing an advanced traffic management system to make expressways safe passage for the commuters. Authority ensures for a well planned access control on both sides of the expressway in order to check the movement of cattle, animals or locals. To check the speed, rumblers will be put in place and ambulances will be deployed on expressway to save the golden hours.

The authority will install cameras on the expressway and anyone who crosses the road in less than a fixed time period will automatically face the challan.

The expressway will surely give wings to economic activities in these districts by bringing national and international markets closer. Once completed, this mega project will provide faster transit to agri and commercial goods from the region and boost exports.

Additionally, the expressway will offer several other benefits such as time saving, fuel saving, pollution control and, reduction in road accidents, etc.

### **Connecting Varanasi** and Gorakhpur Like **Never Before**

### Improving Air Connectivity to **Spur Travel and Tourism in UP**

Believing in the philosophy of great connectivity to spur economic growth in the state, the UP government has launched the Gorakhpur Link Expressway to offer seamless travelling experience to commuters while improving economic activities in the region

IN A bid to strengthen connectivity in the far-flung areas of the state, the Government of Uttar Pradesh is leaving no stone unturned to ensure the state's complete roadways development. "Gorakhpur is the most important centre of health education, trade and employment. Better connectivity is needed to bring prosperity to the lives of such a large population." In this regard, the Yogi Adityanath government is currently developing Gorakhpur Link Expressway to provide faster connectivity and better commuter experience as well as help in getting the population of affected areas closer. The upcoming Gorakhpur Link Expressway is planned as a, 91.352 kilometre-long expressway in state of

Uttar Pradesh connecting Gorakhpur

and Purvanchal Expressway. The 4-

lane fully access-controlled

expressway is being built on 1,073

hectares (2,650 acres) of land and will

cost Rs. 5876.67 crore (including the

land cost). The districts covered

include Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar,

Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh. The

project is being implemented on Engineering, Procurement and

Construction (EPC) Mode. Currently,

the construction of the road is ongoing

and 90 % of required land has been

The project is to be completed in 36

months. UP Govt. is developing

industrial corridor on both sides of

Gorakhpur Link Expressway. "The

Gorakhpur Industrial Development

Authority (GIDA) has taken steps in

land acquisition and other related

processes. AIIMS will be opened in

Gorakhpur next year and the fertilizer

factory, which was shut 30 years ago

In a serious commitment to enhance

infrastructure initiatives in Uttar

Pradesh post COVID-19 lockdown,

will also be started.'

acquired.

public sector lender Punjab National Bank has extended a credit line of Rs. 750 crore for the development of the Gorakhpur Link Expressway. According to UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) CEO, Awanish Kumar Awasthi, who is also the state's additional chief secretary, the government had arranged for Rs 2,250 loan for the Gorakhpur Link Expressway, including the Rs 750 crore credit line from the PNB.

Once the expressway is complete, it will provide seamless connectivity between Varanasi and Gorakhpur and will ensure hassle-free movement of vehicular traffic from Delhi, Lucknow and Agra. As part of the project, the construction of three ramp plazas, two toll plazas, 16 vehicular underpasses, 35 pedestrian underpass, 7 flyovers, seven major bridges, 50 light vehicular underpasses, 27 minor bridges, and 389 culverts, will also be done. "Cutting across Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar and Azamgarh districts, it is touted to benefit a population of nearly 50 million in the Gorakhpur and adjoining districts by providing fast connectivity for public and goods transport.'

Reiterating his commitment for the development of the state, the Chief Minister had recently said, "In the last three years, the administration has performed proactively to create a favourable environment for investment and many effective steps have also been taken in this regard." The State Government firmly believes that once its ambitious expressway projects are completed, these will usher in a new era of economic prosperity in the state that has never been seen before. It will bring in new investment avenues and will definitely speed up economic development in the state

UTTAR PRADESH has entered a new phase of air connectivity as development work is being carried out on 3 international airports in the state. Furthermore, the Central government has approved 18 new air routes in the state facilitating more services between existing airports and paving way for construction and development of new airports in the state. Kushinagar international airport is expected to go operational in the near future, while work on Jewar international airport is in progress

Conceived in 2001, the Jewar Airport was mooted by the BJP government when it was in power in Uttar Pradesh with Rajnath Singh as the Chief Minister. However, the plan couldn't turn into a reality before the BJP government coming to power at the Centre in 2014. Development of international airport in Jewar became one of the top priorities of the union government. The project was put on the fast track in 2017 after the BJP rose to power in UP

Aimed at reducing burden on Indira Gandhi International airport in New Delhi, the Jewar Airport will be a monumental achievement once it is complete. As per reports, "Traffic at Jewar Airport is estimated at 12 million passengers per annum in the first phase of the project, and expected to go up to 70 million PPA once all phases are completed. The IGI Airport is set to reach its peak capacity of 110 million in the next six or seven years.'

Located at 72 km from IGI Airport and 28 km from Greater Noida, the Jewar International Airport will prove to be a boon for travellers coming from not only Delhi NCR, but also from UP, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Haryana. It is being developed on PPP model and the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has been appointed as the implementing agency on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government. According to the Noida International Airport Limited, "the airport will be developed in four phases. The first phase of the airport is expected to be completed by 2023-24. The development work of the first phase would cost Rs 4,086.54 crore. The cost includes Rs 2,848.35



**Kushinagar and Jewar** are two international airports under construction in Uttar Pradesh. Kushinagar airport will be operational in two months while Jewar is likely to be operational in three years from now.

crore for compensation over the acquisition of private land.

Zurich International Airport AG, or Flughafen Zürich AG, which is currently managing eight airports abroad, is building and will manage Jewar Airport under a 40-year concession. "Expected to be spread

over 5,000 hectares, the plan is to build a two runway airport by 2023-24. The other international airport is ready in Kushinagar in the eastern UP. It is likely to go operational in next two months connecting this most important point of Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh. Being one of the most important pilgrimages for Buddhists, tourists and pilgrims from Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Japan, Singapore and other parts of the world would be able to visit Kushinagar round the year. Keeping in view the religious and tourist importance of the place, the Yogi government had in March 2019 signed an MoU with AAI, for taking up the development and operationalisation of the existing airport at Kushinagar. Recently the Union Minister of State for Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri and the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had a meeting regarding early completion of works at Kushinagar airport. There it was announced that the airport will be operational in two months. Puri also informed to have permitted air services

on 18 new air routes in Uttar Pradesh

Kushinagar is a famed tourist destination and a must-visit spot on the travel itineraries of domestic and international tourists, especially Buddhists. Being a Buddhist cultural site of huge significance, Kushinagar is the gateway to many other Buddhist cultural sites of immense importance, such as Lumbini (195 km), Kapilvastu (190 km), Shravasti (238 km), etc.

With 18 new air routes being approved in Uttar Pradesh, air transportation in the state is likely to get a boost as new services will start between existing airports. It shall also allow development of new airports.

New Delhi



### 4 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

### Classifieds

### PERSONAL

I, Satpal Singh S/o. Sh. 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 Indu Bala W/o Kedar Nath Sharma R/o C-118C, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Shikshak Lane, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, I have changed my name to Indu Sharma. 0040549511-1

This is to notify in general that I Geeta W/o Late Shri Brii Mohan Nanda R/o L-28/D, DDA Janta Flats Saket New Delhi-17 hereby declare that henceforth my name Geeta Stands corrected as Geeta Nanda as my full name for all purposes. 0040549654-2

I, Sandeep Agrawal S/o Lalit Mohan Agarwal R/o-G-9,Rose Apartment Sector-14.Extn.Rohini Delhi 110085, changed my name to Sandeep Agarwal.

#### 0040549665-5

I,jogmohan Singh,S/O balkar singh Address v.p.o balchhapper teh-jagadhari distt vamuna-nagar, harvana pin-135003, changed my name to jasmohan singh

0040549654-3 I,hitherto known as Shakila,W/o Naseem Ahmad residing at,V-182.Gali.No.-23.Vijav Park, Mauipur Delhi-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shakila Begum.

0040549622-3 I,Vikramjit Singh Sawhney,S/o

Narinder Jit Singh Sawhney R/o-I-7/59.Rajouri Garden.New Delhi-110027, have changed the name of my minor son Gurjas Sawhney to Gurias Singh Sawhney born on-28/10/2006.

### 0040549654-7

I,Vandana W/o Praveen Shangari R/o-C-34 Lajpat Nagar-II New-delhi-110024.inform that my name Vandana Nath and Vandana Shangari both are one and the same Person. 0040549605-

I,V.VIDHYA,W/O-NO.JC-773684W SUB G.VENKATESAN,R/O-

VILL+POST-PALASAMUDRAM.VENGALARA A KUPPAM-VIA, CHITTOOR, DIST ANDHRA PRADESH.PIN-517599, CHANGED MY.NAME FROM VIDHYA TO V. VIDHYA, VIDE AFFIDAVIT.DATE 23-09-2020 BEFORE MANDAN LAL

GUPTA,(DELHI) 0040549665-8 I,Shilpa Mittal,Shilpi@Shilpa D/o.Shyamlal,Shyam Lal Chadha@Shyam Sunder R/o-177,Gopal-Park,Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051,(II) 19-A Gopal Park,Krishna Nagar,Delhi-110051,W/o Sachin Mittal,R/o-1667,Gali

Krishna,Sohanganj,Sabzi-Mandi,Delhi-110007,is one and the same person and shall hereafter be known as Shilpa Mittal vide-Affidavit-No.IN-DL837111130769345,Dated-23/09/2020 (for Policy-No.125574538,Branch-126 LIC of

purposes.

**I** VELAYUDHAN CHANDRASEKHARAN PILLAI S/O Sh. Govindan Velayudhan Nair, R/O Flat No.175, Pocket-5, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110091 have changed my name from Velayudhan Chandraseharan Pillai to Velavudhan Chandrasekharan Pillai for all future purposes. 0040549595-1

I, Usha Bajaj W/o Gian Singh R/o WZ-54/3 2nd Floor Prithivi Park Tilak Nagar Delhi-110018 changed my name to Usha Rani

0070715302-1 I, Sweety Arora, R/O, C430, Yojana Vihar, Delhi-95, Mob. 9818695830 have lost my 10th marksheet+Certificate, Year 1997, Roll no. 6333706(CBSE), 12th Marksheet+Certificate. Year 1999, Roll no.-6603688(CBSE) and Graduation Certificate Roll no-3623964(Delhi University), FIR

0040549631-1 I. Sukhwant Ram S/o Jagatar Ram employed as School Lecturer - Hindi at Govt. Senior Secondary School, 2 KWM, Khajuwala, Bikaner, Rajasthan, Education Department, Govt of Raiasthan R/o 18 PS. Ganganagar, Rajasthan-335039, have changed my name to Siddharth Singh

No. SHDVV000349.

#### 0070715285-1 I, Shiv Prakash S/o Rakesh Shukla R/o-Khasara, No. 19, Swami Shardhanand.Colony Bhalswa-Dairy Delhi-110042, changed my name to Shiv Prakash Shukla S/o Rakesh Kumar Shukla.

0040549660-2 I, Saubir Singh S/o Khem Singh R/o-Vill.-Suawala, Sherkol, Dhampur, Bijnor, UP., have changed my name to Soveer 0040549623-3 Singh. I, Sanjay Kumar S/o Om Prakash R/o H.No-1161, 16th Floor, Zeta-

1, Greater Noida, have changed my name from Sanjay Kumar to Sanjay Kumar Tomar for all future purposes. 0040549609-1

I, SHASHI PATWARI W/o Sh. Bharat Bhushan Patwari, R/o H.No.WZ-177, Third Floor, Kham Pur, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008. Declare that Shashi Patwari & Sneha Patwari both names are one & same person. In future I will be known as SHASHI PATWARI.

0040549598-1 I, SEEMA W/o Bobby R/o-C-69/1.Shiv Park, Near Bhuto Wali Gali, Nangloi, Delhi-110041 have change my name to YASHODA 0040549660-1 I, Rekha Rani W/O Shambhu Poddar R/O J4/231/232 J-Block West Sagarpur New Delhi have changed my name to REKHA DEVI for all future purposes 0070715299-1

I, Rajendera Singh S/o Ninnami Singh R/o A-2/660A, A-Block, South Gamri Extn, Delhi-53 have changed my name to Rajender Singh for all 004

Agarwal R/o G-9.Rose Apartment Sector-14,Extn.Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Kavita Agarwal. 0040549665-3 I, Himanshu W/o Sachin

Bindal,R/o-1331/90,Upper Ground Floor, Ganesh Pura, Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035, have changed my name to Himanshi Bindal for all future purposes. 0040549623-2

I, Kavita Agrawal W/o Sandeep

L Harindar Singh, S/o Ram Murat, R/o-D-45, Gali.No.4, Prem Nagar-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Sultanpuri, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Harender Singh.

0040549623-5 I, HEMANT KUMAR R/o B-9/266, Second Floor, Sector-3, ROHINI , New Delhi have changed my minor child's name from VAIBHAV PANDEY to ABHIGYAN RAJVANSH for all purposes.

I, Gurjeet Singh Son of Darshan Singh R/o-B-169, Double-Storey Jangpura-B.New.Delhi-110014.have changed my name, from Gurjeet Singh to Gurjeet Singh Suri for,all purposes.

I, Debarpan Chatterjee DOB:20/09/2002 S/o Joydeb Chatteriee R/o B-4.150/2. ground floor, safdarjung Enclave Delhi-29 have changed my name to Debarpann Chatteriee for all purposes. 0040549622-8

I, Archna Wife Gurjeet Singh Suri R/o-B-169, Double-Storey Jangpura-B New, Delhi-110014.have changed my name, from Archna to Archana Suri for,all purposes.

0040549665-I, Abdul Sami S/o Shri Abdul Salam Saifi R/o H.No. A-21, Gali No.-2, Bhagirathi Vihar, Ph-II, Briipuri Poliva, Mustafabad, Delhi-94 have changed my name Abdul Sami to Abdu Sami Saifi for all future 0040549638-1 purposes.

Ramesh Kumar s/o Raj Kumar Garg R/o A-18, Gali No.7 Mahenra Park, Sanjay Nagar, Delhi:-33. my son name wrongly written in his school record MAYANK instead of

MAYANK GARG. 0040549643-1 Rahul Jainth S/o Sukhbir Singh R/o Vpo Sihi Sec-8 Faridabad-121006 declare that in my SC

Certificate mine & my father's name have spelling error as above and my correct name is Rahul Jayant S/o Sukhvir Singh 0040549645-1

INandini Sharma D/o Sh. Vidya Kumar W/o Sh. Gautam Sharrma R/o 423, Nilgiri Apartments, Alaknanda Kalkaji, Ali, South Delhi-110019 have changed my name to Nandni Sharma for all

purposes. 0040549611-2 I Naeem S/o Mohd Igbal R/o P-282. Basti Khwaia Meer Dard Near Zakir Hussain College New Delhi-2 declare that my

name of my Son's in CBSC documents and school certificates has been wrongly written as Mohd Naeem my Correct name is Naeem for All Future Purposes.

ly clients Sh. Chandraveer Singh /o. Lt. Pitambar Singh and his wife lem Lata R/o. Flat No. 1402, Towe T1, JM Park Sapphire, Ramprastha Green Vashali Sector-9, GZB., U.P. o hereby disown their son Sh eepank Singh and their daughter ir aw Nidhi Doshi W/o. Sh. Deepank Singh from all his movable and nmovable assets. Anyone dealing vith them shall do so at their entire risk and cost and my client shall not be held liable for their acts and eeds, in any manner whatsoever, VISHAL TOMAR (ADVOCATE G-719, Karkardooma Courts, Delh

Possession Letter

Ramvir Singh

water connection

PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all the concerned that my lient Sh. Jairam Das S/o Lt. Sh. Lachman nd his wife Smt. Kailash Devi both R/o H lo. 603, Roop Nagar Colony, Hansi, Hisar łaryana- 125033 have served all thei Haryana 125033 have served all their relations and disowned and dishneride their son Saurabh Kathura & his wile Juhi from all their movable and immovable groperties as they have become disobedient, disloyal and disrespectful to my clients and have been acting against their will and interest. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at their own risk, cost and responsibile in any manner whatsover for any of their acts. Sd/-RAJV KUMAR TEWARI (ADVOCATE) 394-395 CIVIL WING TIS HAZARI 394-395 CIVIL WING TIS HAZAR COURTS DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Anil Kumar S/o Sh In Client Anil Kumar S/o Sh. My Client Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Mai Dhan R/o H.No.4/25, Aggarwal Dharamshala, Gudmandi, Sonepat, Haryana-131001 has severed all his relation with his son namely Shivam Garg Disowned & Bebarred from all his moveable and immoveable properties, so henceforth my client do not have any kind of relationship with his son immediate effect as he is beyond his control. My client shall not be held responsible for any act of fences committed by him, if anybody deals with him. He/She shall do so at his/her own risks, costs and consequences. ats and consequences. M.K. CHAUDHARY (Advocate Bar Liberary No. Supreme Court of Indi

his Notice is hereby given to genera iblic that Sh. Umesh Narain Bhargava be owner and in possessior Residential Flat Bearing No.71 the layout plan of The Doctor's 8 ministrators of AllMS Co-op Group wines Secient L Ha, dirthed of Chargan dministrators of AlIMS Co-op Grou Jousing Society LLd, situated at Chara sadan, Vikas Puri, New Delhi, by virtue c conveyance Deed dated 20.01.2021 Joc No 748, duly Regd. SRO-VII, Nev Pelhi/Delhi. And now Sh. Umesh Narai harqava wishes to Sell aforesai roperty to Smt. Mansi Sachdeva & Sm farun Sachdeva and Smt. Mans sachdeva & Smt. Tarun Sachdeva hav pproached to IDFC First Bank Ltd, for nancial assistance and therefore sha ancial assistance and therefore sh mortgaged with the said Bank riscon's having any claim regarding in spect of the said property/floor or an art, are hereby requested to notify thi ame in writing to undersigned with upporting documentary evidence at the Idress mention below within 10 day monthe date of publication of this notice iling which claim, if any, of such person II be consider to have been waive abandoned and our client sh ceed with the disburse ent of loa ainst the said property and subseque ation of Mortgage in respect thereof. Sunil Parsad (Advocate For Juris NextGen Law Office -56, Greater Kailash Enclave Part <u>New Delhi-11004</u>

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, On behalf Of Clients Smt. idisha Wio Faiyaz, Hussain Slo Islam Ahmed R/o House No. 73 Gail No. 6, Shish Park Dichaon Enclave , Dichaon Kalan Najafgarh , New Delhi 110043 Announce General Public That My Clients Have Lost Control over Their Son Mr. Tahir Hussain Slo Faiyaz Hussain And His Wife Mrs. Aleena @ Phooljathan Wio Tahir Hussain Had Disowned Her Him From Their Movable And Immovable Property Any Person Dealing with Them Will Bo Directly Concern With Them From Their Own Risk And Consequences And My Clients Are Not liable Any Way.

Vikas Dahiy Advocate En.No.D/4413/17,CH.No.810, Dwarka Court, New Delhi -110075

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Ny clients Ram Kumar and his wife Renu both R/O 47-A/1, Gautam Nagar, Andrewsganj, South Dehi, Dehi-110049 have severed all relations and disowned their Son Amit Bansal from their all movable-immovable properties due to their disobedience. If anybody deals with them will do so at their own risk My clients shall not be responsible for his any acts in any manner. Sd/-

DEEPAK SHARMA (ADVOCATE CH. No. 708, SAKET COUR NEW DELHI -17



SAKET COURT COMPLEX, N.D.

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 RITES LIMITED (A Govt. of India Enterprise) BHUBANESWAR-751024 **F**RITES PUBLIC NOTICE ITDA Be it Known to all that we Sumit and Sanjeev Piplani NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS Ph: 0135-26 The General Manager (Civil), RITES Ltd, Bhubaneswar, invites on behalf of M/s. Nandankanan Zoological Park, Barang, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, percentage rate bids on single packet system for the following work(s): S/O Shri J.C. Piplani are the ter No.: 05/e-ITDA-PRJ/DEPT/1/2020-PROJECT Dated: 30 June 202 joint owners of 4B -LIG flat 1st floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi. Unfortunately Selection of Service Provider for CCTV installation and Horizontal Connectivity for Udham Singh Nagar Police NIT No. RITES/BSR/NANDANKANAN/ TOY TRAIN /OT-08/2020 Dated 25.09.2020 Name of Work: "Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Toy Train for Nandankanan Zoological Park, Barang, Bhubaneswar". Estimated cost Rs. 94, 30,000.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 94,300.00, Period of Completion: Two months (02) months, Last time and date of submission of bid: 11.00 Hrs (IST) of 05.10.2020. CORRIGENDUM - 5 we have lost the following original documents of the above refered flat. A Corrigendum has been uploaded on procuremen portal https://www.uktenders.gov.in in regardin changes in tender dates. The amendments in tender in future, if any, would b published in the website www.uktenders.gov.in on other notification would be pusblished separately. All other terms and conditions will remain same a per tender documents. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. 2) N.O.C for electric and Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hoisted online only. (3) Site Possession slip and 4) Mutation letter dt.14/12/2011 SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY कार्यालयः- महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, झज्जर। anybody found may kindly inform us on mob.no.9810627875 Tender Notice for नीलामी नोटिस or they may inform to DDA Dy **Rewinding & Overhauling** director, LAB(H) (LIG) Vikas Sada सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नया बस अड्डा झज्जर पर स्थित INA Colony N.D ph.011-24690431 Tender Notice No. - Sr. DEE (G) BSP खाली रह गई दुकानों तथा साईकल, स्कूटर स्टैण्ड नया बस अड्डा, झज्जर तथा OTP/2020-21/15 Date: 23/09/2020 PUBLIC NOTICE Name of Work : Rewinding and पुराना बस अड्डा, झज्जर पर मोटर, साईकिल, कार स्टैण्ड की खुली नीलामी दिनांक overhauling of submersible pump with 08.10.2020 को नया बस अड्डा, झज्जर पर की जाएगी। I/We, Ramvir Singh 5/o supply of spare parts for a period o Late Shri Sadhu Ram इच्छक बोलीदाता निश्चित समय व स्थान पर पहंचकर बोली में भाग ले सकते one year Tender Value : ₹19,86,054.92/and Shanti Devi W/o Mr हैं। उक्त बोली के लिए विस्तृत निर्देश व हिदायतों की प्रति किसी भी कार्यदिवस में EMD : ₹ 39,700/-. Tender Closing Ramvir Singh Both R/o Date & Time: 19-10-2020, 15 Hrs. महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, झज्जर के कार्यालय में भवन लिपिक से House No D-1/83, Street For further details, eligibility criteri 500/- रुपए के नकद भुगतान करके प्राप्त की जा सकती है। No.2, Tajpur Road, & complete details for the above work please refer/ download tende **Badarpur Extension** हस्ता./document which is available on wel New Delhi-110044 महाप्रबंधक, site www.ireps.gov.in. disowned our Daughter हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer (RS&G Rohini from all movable CPR/10/255 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspu झज्जर and immovable 82978/HRY F South East Central Railway E @secrail properties and also TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, HARYANA severed all relations Haryana Roadways, Rohtak from her due to he E-tender Notice E-tender is invited for cleaning, sanitation and housekeeping services activities in two bids system i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid misbehave and EMD to deposited S. Name of work No. Approx. amount per month (in Lacs) unethical attitude. Date Time of Date Time of Tender Numbe We will not be (in Lacs) e-tender of e-tender responsible for the acts Cleaning, Sanitation and House Keeping 5,28,500 (EPF, ESI, WF, GST& Service 5.28.500 I/BC/RTK/ 2020-21 21/09/2020 till18:00 Hrs 06/10/2020 till17:00 Hrs and actions of our Services activities arge etc.] (for minimum 35 persons daughter, if anybody deals with her shall be Note:- For further details visit http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in or seek help from Helpline No.1800-180-2097 responsible for Sd/- General Manage Haryana Roadways Rohta his/her/their own risk and consequences. 82992/HRY **GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM** S/o Late Sh. Sadhu Ram Shanti Devi OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR: AMRUT, ASSAM W/o Mr. Ramvir Singh **DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6** PUBLIC NOTICE E-mail: amrutassam2016@gmail.com the Public that originals NO TP/AMRI IT/8/2019/545 Dated, Dispur the 25th September, 2020 Sale Deed Reg. as Doc No. 842 on 14.02.1974 SHORT e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE/INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB No. AMRUT/RI/2020-21/01 and Reg. as Doc. No. 751 on 24.02.1979 in The undersigned on behalf of the Divisional Forest Officer, Assam State Zoo Division invites online bid through e-Procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in respect to Flat No. 61, 6th Floor, in multistory from eligible Government registered Class-IA APWD or equivalent class of CPWD or equivalent building Kailash Apartmens other State/Central Govt. registered Class-IA contractor in 2 (two) bid system for the following Lala Lajpat Rai, Road, New Delhi as well as all work other concerned document SI. Name of Work Cost of Bid document Period of Approx value **Bid Security** of the said property has also been misplaced. All No. of Works and Bid precessing fee completion person are hereby informed Lake Development Rs @2% of value of wor not to deal carry our any transaction with any one on the basis of the said missing (1% for SC/ST/OBC/ project of Assam State 2,88,29,822 / 10,000.00 months Zoo cum Botanical Unemployed document(s). If any one has already carried out Graduate Engineer) Garden or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in All other relevant information and the detailed Bid Documents are available on website writing on the below mentioned address within www.assamtenders.gov.in and can be viewed from 26.09.2020 up to 15.00 hr. of 15.10.2020. 7 days from the date of Bid is to be submitted through online and in no case manual bid shall be entertained. publication hereof, failing which the claims of such Sd/person/s will be deemed **Mission Director** to have been waived Janasanyog /CF/1920 /20 AMRUT, Assam and/or abandoned Dated this 26th day of TENDER NOTICE No.E-11 September, 2020 Amit Garg (Advocate) 30/192, Basement, of 2020-21 (2nd Attempt) Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi (Tender ID No.427471) Executive Engineer, Public Health Works Division, First Floor, "IMPORTANT"



Old Collector office, Kanbivaga, Bharuch. (Phone No. 9978440706) invites online tenders through e-tendering from registered contractor's in "Appropriate" class & above from registered contractor's in "Appropriate" class & above in R & B, Irrigation Department whom have experience of the work of An estimated amount of Rs.90.79 Cr. work for Design construction& commisioning of Intakewil,Water Treatment plant,RCC ESR, U/G Sump, Providing, supplying, lowering, Laying & Jointing of D.I. K-9,K-7, Rising/Grevity main pipe line, U.P.V.C. Distribution pipe line construction of Pump House, staff quarter Commenced until DCC and a Hamp House, staff quarter, Compound wall, RCC road at H.W. and SITC pumping machinery work incl. O & M for five years after completion of workunder villages of Netrang & Valla taluka in Netrang Valla Tribal RWSS Package-I(Karjan Group) ,District: Bharuch, Gujarat. Other details of the work can be seen either from the address or phone by the website can be seen either from the address or phone by the website at http://gwssb.nprocure.com,and www.statetenders .com Can be The amount of work left / tender fee and work documents, Executive Engineer, Public Health Work Division, Guj. W/S & Sew. Board, Block B (Right Wing) First Floor, Old Collector Office, Kanabivaga, Bharuch-392001 Near Court. Phone No. (02642-265560) Registered Post-AD / Speed post / Hand to delivery To be delivered by Dt.13/10/2020 upto 18.00 hours Tender Online Submissions Start Dt.24/09/2020- 17:00 hours and Tender Online Submission will last till Dt.12/10/2020 - 18.00 hours. "For Villagers who have drinking water problem, they can compliance on "GWSSB" help line No.1916"

0070715296-1 0040549665-2 PUBLIC NOTICE

India) any objection to come within one month. 0040549665-7

I.Shakuntla W/o Sh.Ram Jeet Yadav,Residence-A-330,(S.F.)J.J.Colony Raghubir-Nagar.New Delhi-110027, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Shakuntla Devi in my minor son Abhishek Yadav age-13 yrs school-records.The actualname of mine is Shakuntla respectively which may be amended accordingly.

I.Shailendra kumar.S/o Sh. Mahesh chandra, R/o-B-28A Lajpat Nagar.Sahibabad.Ghaziabad.U. P.-201005, declare that Shailendra kumar and Shailendra kumar Pandev are both my names and same 0040549654-6 person.

0040549665-6

0040549654-4

I,Paras Bhatia,S/o Late Shri.Ved Prakash Bhatia.R/o-RPS,Savana B-12A,505,Sector-88, Faridabad, (Haryana)-121002, have changed my name to Paarass Bhatia.

I,Khushal Singh,S/o Shri.Bachi Singh R/o-100/11.Sec-1. M.B.Road, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi-17, have changed my name to Khushal Singh Negi,for 0040549654-8 all purposes.

I, Saroj Agrawal W/o Lalit Mohar Agarwal R/o G-9,Rose Apartment Sector-14,Extn.Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Saroj Agarwal. 0040549665-4

I,Gourav Gupta,S/o-Sunish Gupta,R/o-85/34,Gali.No.4,Shastri-Park,Krishna-Nagar Delhi-110051,declares that Gourav Gupta and Gaurav Gupta is one and the same person and is known by both name.

I, have changed my name from, Deepak Malhotra to Dippak Malhotra, S/o.Late.Sh. Dalip Malhotra, R/o-II-E-157, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P., forall purposes.

I, Mahendra Singh S/o Soveer Singh R/o-33, Old-Gandhi Nagar, Ghaziabad UP., have changed my name to Mahender Singh.

0040549623-4

0040549623-

0040549622-6

I, Rahul Gami R/o-n003/125, 2nd-I Kamlesh Devi W/o Ratan Lal Floor, Ramesh-Nagar, N.Delhi R/o-B-2/4A,Budh Vihar, PH-110015 have changed my minor 1. Delhi have changed my name daughter's name Navya Rahul to Kamlesh for all purposes. Gami to Navya Gami. 0040549660-3 I Geeta Singh Tomar D/o-Late I. Nitin Chaudhary R/o-WZ-Sh.Babu Singh Tomar R/o-D-485/2, Basai Darapur, Ramesh 17/194, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-Nagar, Delhi, have changed my 110085 have changed my name minor daughter's name, from after marriage to Geetesh Ishika Chaudhry to Ishika Sisodia W/o-Alok Singh Sisodia Chaudhary. 0040549622-2 for all purposes. I, Munna Kumar Dubey S/o 0040549600-1 Ramesh Kumar Dubey R/o 7/A, Gautam Sharrma S/o Late Sh. Padma Road, 10 No-Basti, Krishan Kumar Sharma R/o 423. Golmuri, East Singhbhum, Nilgiri Apartments, Alaknanda Jharkhand-831003, have Kalkaji, Ali, South Delhi-110019 changed my minor son's name have changed the name of my from Anshumaan aged 13 minor son from Sabir Sharma years to Anshumaan Dubey to Sabeeir Sharrma for all 0070715301-1 forever 0040549611-1 purposes. Limtenan Ahmed S/o-Subhan Ahmed R/o-E-19,Abul Fazal Davinder Kumar S/o Late Sh. Madan Lal R/o A-513, Shastri Enclave, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025.have changed my Nagar, Delhi-110052 have changed the name of my minor name to Imtenan Ahmad Siddigui for all future purpose. daughter from Chehak to Chehak Badhwar for all 0040549622-1 0040549611-3 purposes. I, MAHESH Khandelwal S/o Ram Apeksha Vaish D/O, Ram babu R/o E-118 samudav Narain Vaish R/o H-748a, bhawan old seemapuri Delhi-**Opposite Sangam Sweets** 95 inform that name of my Palam Vihar, Choma(62), minor son has been wrongly Gurgaon, Haryana-122017 have mentioned as kanishak changed my name to Sreya khandelwal in his school Vaish 0040549649-1 record. The correct name son is I,Shoi Chakraborty,W/o Vineet Divyansh khandelwal. For all Singh,R/o B1/301, Orris the future purposes. Carnation Residency, Sector-0040549654-1 85, Sikanderpur I, Lovely Alias Lovely Tanwar Badha(109),Gurugram(Haryan Alias Lovely Raj D/o Hari lal a)-122004.have changed my Tanwar R/o House Number-Minor Son's name Darsh to 2028, Sector-17, Huda, Dhanushk Singh Jagadhri, Yamunanagar, Haryana-135003, have changed In, my Son's School record my my name to Lovely Raj name PINKI wrongly 0070715293-1 mentioned. My correct name Lokesh S/o Sh. Parmanand R/o PINKY SHARMA should be mentioned in my Son's School 6/67, block-6, Khichripur, Patparganj, East Delhi-110091, record. PINKY SHARMA W/o have changed my name and Shri Girdhari Lal Sharma R/o shall hereafter be known as 602D/19, Ward no. 3, Mehrauli, Lokesh Kashyap for all New Delhi-110030 purposes in future. 0070715278-1 I. Laxmimoni Gorai D/o Alok LOST & FOUND Kumar Gorai R/o 41 Hazra Road, Ballygunge, Kolkata, WB-I.Raiesh Chugh S/O.Tekchand 700019, have changed my name Chugh R/O.C-28,upper-firstto Puja Gorai 0070715290-1 floor,east Uttam-Nagar,New I Ratan Lal Balmiki S/o Devi Delhi-110059,have lost my Deen R/o-B-2/4A,Budh cheques of PMC-Vihar,PH-1,Delhi have changed BANK,Nos.30710,30716,28841,2 my name to Rattan Lal, for all 8842 without ammount with 0040549622-5 purposes. signature. 0040549660-5

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### China, Pakistan in mind, PM to spell out India priorities at UNGA today

Expected

to speak

around

The Prime Minister, sources

said, is also likely to include

"NORMS (New Orientation for a

Reformed Multilateral System)"

and "technology for all and

streamlining of peacekeeping"

manent member of the UNSC for

two years, Modi is likely to put

forward India's 5-S approach to

be followed: Samman (Respect),

Samvad (Dialogue), Sahvog

(Cooperation), Shanti (Peace)

The Prime Minister is cur-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6** 

rently scheduled as the first

speaker in the forenoon of

and Samriddhi (Prosperity).

Since India will be a non-per-

among India's priorities.

6.30 pm IST

#### SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will be addressing the United Nations General Assembly Saturday evening and is likely to call for an "effective response to international terrorism" and "inclusive and responsible solutions for international peace and security'

Sources told The Indian Express that "inclusive and responsible solutions for international peace and security" is aimed at China, while the "effective response to international terrorism" targets Pakistan.

Modi, who is expected to speak around 6.30 pm IST Saturday (9 am New York time), will spell out India's priorities as it takes over a non-permanent member's position at the United Nations Security Council from January 2021 for a period of two

### **STANDARD CHARTERED BANK, NEW YORK** Flagged in each offshore tax probe, Rosy Blue is now on US radar

Over 6,000 transactions of \$4.98 bn are linked to diamond major

#### **RITU SARIN** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

you are

SRINAGAR, JAMMU,

SEPTEMBER 25

Kumar said Friday.

IGP Kumar said.

NAMED IN Liechtenstein List, Swiss Leaks, Panama Papers and Paradise Papers, the Indian-born owners of diamond conglomerate Rosy Blue are back. This time, with one of the largest set of transactions red-flagged by banks to US financial watchdog FinCEN. Members of the Rosy Blue

**PAGE 17** clan, led by founder Harshad Mehta; his son Rihen Mehta and brother Dilip Mehta and their firms are subjects of several SARs (Suspicious Activity Reports) filed by Standard Chartered Bank, New



### **ECONOMY ARMS AGENT KIN'S FIRMS ROUTED** FUNDS VIA RUSSIA, SEYCHELLES, ISRAEL

York, according to records investigated by The Indian Express. Behind these red flags, the CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Amandeep Kaur Deol, general secretary, Istri Jagriti Manch, addresses a farmers' protest rally at Nabha in Punjab on Friday. Express MORE REPORTS. PAGE 12

### College students, school dropout women lead farm protests in Punjab

#### **RAAKHI JAGGA** LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 25

AT THE forefront of several protests by farmers in Punjab on Friday were some unusual figures: two 20-year-old college students, a 33-year-old activist, and a teenage school dropout all women They raised slogans of revo-

lution and addressed large, mostly male gatherings of farmers, at which they delivered passionate, critiques of the Centre's agriculture policies.

Punjab and Haryana were the epicentre of nationwide protests by over 350 farmers' organisations under the umbrella of the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee against the three farm Bills that were

passed by Parliament this week. Thousands of protesters blocked roads and highways in

several states, and were supported by Opposition parties such as the Congress, Trinamool Congress and RJD, as well as 10 central trade unions. Farmers fear the new legislation will pave the way for dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

### **EVERYDAY LIFE MUST GO ON: CEC Online nominations and** masks: 3-phase voting in Bihar's Covid election

of the Covid-19 outbreak.

extended by an hour. Usually

elections are held from 7 am to 5

pm, but this time votes can be

cast from 7 am to 6 pm, except in

booths categorised as affected by

schedule. Chief Election

Commissioner Sunil Arora said for

Phase 1, filing of nomination will

begin on October 1 and October 8

will be the last date. Scrutiny of

nominations will be on October 9,

and the last date for withdrawal

of candidature will be October 12.

The Phase 1 polls on October 28

will be held for 71 seats in 16 dis-

tricts including those affected by

I.WF. Votes will be cast at around

Announcing the election

Left Wing Extremism (LWE).

Phase 1 voting October 28, results for 243 Assembly seats on November 10

### **DIPANKAR GHOSE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

SETTING THE ball rolling for the first major election in the country in the time of the pandemic, the Election Commission of India announced Friday that the Bihar assembly polls will be held in three phases on October 28, November 3 and November 7, and results will be declared on November 10, the counting day.

The Model Code of Conduct stands enforced Friday onward for elections to 243 seats in the Bihar House

While the last assembly election in the state was held over five phases, the reduction to three is one of many measures that the EC announced in view



**VOTING IN 3 PHASES** Oct 28 71 seats Nov 3 94 seats Nov 7 78 seats **RESULTS:** Nov 10 **COVID ARRANGEMENTS** ■ 7 lakh hand sanitisers 46 lakh masks 6 lakh PPE kits 6.7 lakh face shields 23 lakh pairs of gloves 2 persons can accompany candidate for filing nomination, 5 for door-to-door campaign

31,000 polling stations. CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

### 19-yr-old raped in Hathras fights for life, Dalit family says used to staying quiet

finding her battered and bleed-

off and spinal cord severely inhailing an e-rickshaw to rush the jured, is on a ventilator at a hospi-19-vear-old to a district hospital, tal in Aligarh and fighting for her and about other questions that have been nagging her: what if she could hear better so that she could have responded to her daughter's screams, what if they

year-old, whose tongue was cut



It's been 11 days and the 19-



# Polaroid

Rs 22,100-cr tax: Hague court backs Vodafone, govt eyes legal options

### AASHISH ARYAN, AANCHAL MAGAZINE & PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

IN A relief for Vodafone Group Plc, the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague ruled Friday that India's retrospective demand of Rs 22,100 crore as capital gains and withholding tax imposed on the telco for a 2007 deal was "in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment" that the company was entitled for its investments in the country's mobile tele-

phone business "The respondent's (India's) conduct in respect of the imposition on the claimant (Vodafone Group) of an asserted liability to tax notwithstanding the

THE RULING in favour of Vodafone signals a setback for the country's retrospective taxation policies. It also raises the possibility of other cases under arbitration being

Setback

for policy

### **RELATED REPORT PAGE 17**

decided on similar lines.

Supreme Court judgment is in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment," the CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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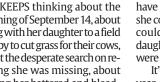
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LEGENDARY SINGER S P BALASUBRAHMANYAM **DIES AT 74** 

**NCB DETAINS DHARMA PRODUCTIONS' EMPLOYEE PAGE 13** 

# **JIGNASA SINHA**



### SHE KEEPS thinking about the morning of September 14, about going with her daughter to a field nearby to cut grass for their cows, about the desperate search on realising she was missing, about

were not Dalits

ing just 100 metres away, about HATHRAS, SEPTEMBER 25

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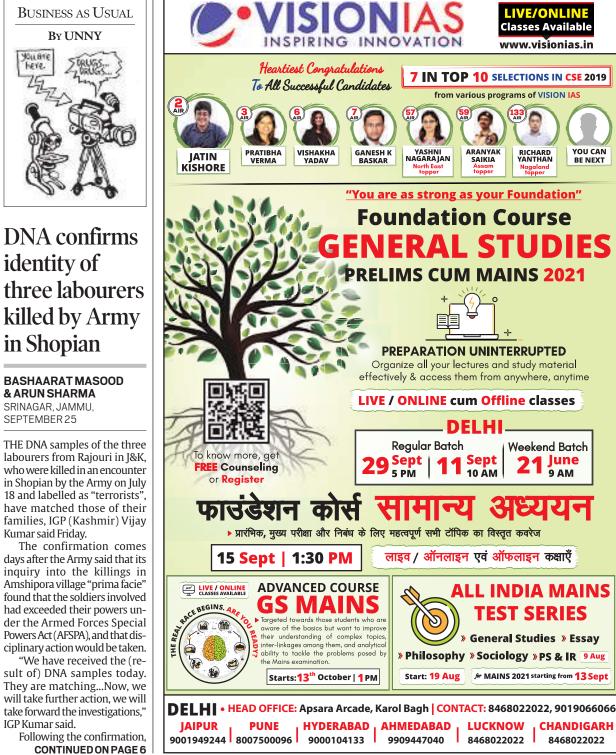






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### THE SECOND PAGE 6

### The Indian EXPRESS

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### **FROM PAGE ONE**

### **Rosv Blue**

bank has said, are their huge volumes of intra-company ("circular") transactions that, the SARs say, may include "utilising" loans at one bank to pay off other loans; "unusual flow of funds" between group companies; and adverse media reports.

Incidentally, the latter include The Indian Express coverage of their offshore transactions and their operations in "high-risk" jurisdictions like India, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

One key SAR puts the total number of "suspicious" transactions related to Rosy Blue and its affiliates -between 2014-2016 - at a staggering 6,265. Their worth: \$4.98 billion.

As many as 893 transactions totaling \$603.64 million were conducted by Rosy Blue and 7Cs (the diamond and jewellery group founded by Harshad Mehta in Dubai) just in 2016.

And 746 of these were either remitted or received by Rosy Blue of which Dilip Mehta is the CEO.

For this scrutiny, the SARs show, the bank factored in transactions linked to the eight most active Rosy Blue accounts -- in USA, Brazil, Dubai, Hong Kong and Bahrain along with their correspondent banks.

The bank noted that internal Rosy Blue payments, which companies carried out "amongst themselves," amounted to \$392.56 million almost 65 per cent of the total value under scrutiny.

One transaction mentioned by the bank - the amount isn't specified - is flagged as "paid towards Commission...to Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassimal Thani."

Al Thani has been described as a Oatari Sheikh and owner of Al Faisal Holdings, an entity that "operates 50 businesses in nine industries, none of which have any apparent ties to the diamond and jewellery industry..

Along with the list of bank accounts maintained by the diamond firms, the bank has listed affiliate companies in USA, India, Dubai, Netherlands and Belgium flagging multiple entities with the name Rosy Blue and the fact that they were "direct clients" of the bank for providing "trade finance and loan services" to some of the firms.

FinCEN has also flagged operations of the company reported in the media: their setting up a string of offshore companies with Mossack Fonseca, exposed during the 2016 ICIJ-The Indian Express investigation into the Panama Papers; allegations of tax fraud and forgery in Belgium and a transaction trail that links Rosy Blue to an alleged corruption case in Brazil.

On Panama Papers, the US financial watchdog has linked to reports in The Indian Express that members of the Rosy Blue family were associated with at least 24 offshore companies incorporated in the British Virgin

against over 100 Antwerp-based diamantaires, including Dilip Mehta. The case, the FinCEN noted, first began in 2005, when seizures of cash were made from a courier and subsequent seizures in Switzerland revealed documents linked to Rosy Blue, all indicating alleged tax fraud. It is noted in the SAR that Rosy Blue was among the defendants in the trial. Dilip Mehta has previously denied any role in the scam.

In connection with the Brazilian scandal, the SAR cites a judicial document in the public domain that referenced a payment involving Rosy Blue. The case is part of a larger investigation in Brazil which uncovered corruption at the state-owned oil behemoth. Petrobras.

Significantly, members of the Mehta family had first figured on the Liechtenstein list of 18 account holders, in which they were found to have made deposits in two trusts in the LGT Bank.

This is also mentioned by Standard Chartered Bank along with the fact that the Indian Government launched prosecution proceedings against the account holders for possible tax evasion and that the Supreme Court had in 2014 made public the names of the 18 account holders.

On the HSBC Genevalist ("Swiss Leaks" 2015), they were among 77 businessmen linked to the diamond industry - six members of the Rosy Blue clan collectively had deposits totaling \$53.63 million for the year 2006-2007, with Dilip Mehta's account showing a balance of \$8.77 million.

While Harshad Mehta did not respond to questions mailed to him, when asked about the SARs, Dilip Mehta, CEO Rosy Blue, told The Indian Express that Rosy Blue was regularly audited by third party auditors for financial, labour and environmental compliance.

"Rosy Blue is one of the very few companies in the Diamond Industry that files CSR report to UN Global its Compact...FinCen has neither queried nor brought any charges against any Rosy Blue entity, myself or my family members.For your information over 80% of Rosy Blue's revenues were derived from third parties consistently, for several years.

"During the relevant period, several ks have exited from financing diamond business, hence there may be transactions where funding has shifted from withdrawing banks to continuing banks. Please note that Rosy Blue has brought down its bank debts considerably during that period, and over the past several years. "For the record, promoters of Rosy Blue group of companies outside of India are neither Indian citizens nor Indian residents and are all foreign companies from Indian perspective. Most importantly, we echo what you said in your questions --- that information contained in suspicious activity reports is not necessarily evidence of any wrongdoing or criminality.'

### Bihar to vote in three phases

For Phase 2, nominations will begin on October 9 with October 16 as the last date for filing. Scrutiny will be done on October 17, and withdrawal of candidature will be allowed until October 19. Phase 2 votes will be cast on November 3 for 94 seats in 17 districts. There will be around 42,000 polling stations. Phase 3 will see filing of

nominations from October 13 with the last date being October 20. Scrutiny will be done on October 21, and the last date for withdrawal of candidature will be October 23. Votes will be cast on November 7. This phase will see elections to 78 seats in 15 districts. Phase 3 will have 33,500 polling stations.

Arora announced a slew of measures put in place to prevent any chance of a further outbreak and said this was likely to be the biggest election exercise in the world in the context of Covid-19, and that the EC had made meticulous preparations.

In the initial stages of the pandemic, election management organisations across the world, he said, had delayed elections in the hope that Covid would ease its grip. Since it was showing no sign of abating and there were "unpredictable trajectories", a balance had to be found between people's "democratic right to vote and their health".

"Everyday life must go on," Arora said.

The first step, the CEC said,

PM to spell out India priorities at UNGA today

line.

Arora said that he wanted to clarify that through these measures it was clear that "physical campaigning" had not been barred. Asked later about any restrictions on the number of people at rallies, he said the decision rested with the district administration, and that district collectors had already drawn up a list of venues that would be used for the purpose. He said that they had been asked to mark the ground with social distancing norms of "2 gaj ki doori." He said that while deciding

the poll schedule, multiple factors unique to these circumstances were taken into account. These included factoring the increase in security forces, especially with the increase in polling stations, and the Covid situation, which necessitated bringing the number of phases to three.

On questions of a suggestion to increase expenditure limits for candidates, the EC said that it was being considered by the Ministry of Law.

Arora also flagged the issue of the misuse of social media and said the Commission would keep a close eye of activities online and anyone trying to "foment communal tension' would have to face the full "law of the land". He asked social media platforms to be vigilant and evolve monitoring systems, saving that they "would not be allowed to say they were only platform providers".

Promoting its role as a net

health service provider, India

will highlight contribution to

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Delhi's commitment to the idea of global partnership un-

der SDG 17 including on cli-

mate change -- founding of

the International Solar

He is also likely to express

Partnership Fund.

Since 2020 is the 25th an-

pharmacy to the world.

"What wrong have we done to anybody that they killed our innocent children?" asked Abrar Ahmed's father, Mohammad Yusuf (49), who came to know of the DNA results from an SMS sent by a relative

Hailing from Kotranka tehsil, Yusuf's son was among three cousins who had gone to Kashmir from Tarkasi village on July 16 in search of work as labourers. The other two were residents of Dharsakri village nearby.

"We have only two demands: hand over the bodies of our children for last rites and arrest those behind the killings. Once they get arrested, I want to visit them and ask: what wrong have we done to them that they killed our innocent children?"

### Punjab

regime, and throw them at the mercy of big corporates.

In Maharashtra, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar of the NCP, and Congress president and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat said the state might decide to not implement the Bills. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has said the same, and the government in Punjab is understood to be considering the option of declaring the entire state Principal Mandi Yard to get around the laws. Kerala will challenge the laws in the Supreme Court.

"Es dharti di hiq te inqlaab uthda hai, itihas badal jaanda hai jadon Punjab uthda hai... (It is on this land that revolution is born, history changes when Punjab awakens)," Sumandeep Kaur, 20, a final year undergraduate student of mass communication, told The Indian Express over the phone from Barnala district.

Sumandeep, the daughter of a marginal farmer from Sauhar village in Barnala, spoke at protest gatherings in Mehal Kalan, Chhaba, Raikot, and several other villages in the district on Friday, and addressed dharnas organised by the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Dakaunda).

"I study at Punjabi University, Patiala, but I have been home since the novel coronavirus epidemic began. I understand the farm Bills. When we have no issues with the arhativas, what is the government's problem? And they are not even ending this system, they are only replacing the arhatiyas with contract farming companies. The middleman will always be there," she said. Neelkamal, also 20 and a final year student at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, organised protests in six villages in Barnala. "We belong to Thikriwal, the village of freedom fighter Sewa Singh Thikriwal. Revolution runs in our blood," she told The Indian Express over the phone from Handaiya village in Barnala. "We don't have any farm land, but I am aware that the livelihood of farmers is linked with that of small shopkeepers. There have been repeated upheavals in the country... caused by demonetisation, the implementation of GST, talk of a National Register of Citizens (NRC), and now, in the middle of the pandemic, these farm Bills. I feel the need to share my views with farmers who have never been to college. The youth must take the lead," Neelkamal said. Amandeep Kaur Deol, the 33-year-old general secretary of the Istri Jagriti Manch, took her three-year-old daughter to Friday's dharnas. Amandeep, who dropped out of a PhD programme to focus on her work on women's issues, addressed hundreds of farmers in Patiala's Nabha, and spoke about the impact the Bills would have on women. "The farm Bills aim to bring private companies in the market, as a result of which the income of the farmer will gradually disappear. This will hit the women in the household, and families will have no money to educate girl children. Farmers have begun to send their daughters to school and college; those gains will be lost if these kaale kanoon are implemented. Harmanjot Kaur, 18, a Class 11 dropout from Akalia village of Mansa district, stood for hours at the morcha, holding a flag of the BKU (Dakaunda). "I want to speak from the dais soon," she said. "Hence. I stand in the front rows. listening to the speakers. My parents are ailing, so I work on the farm. Farming is in my blood." Harmanjot's mother Kuldeep Kaur said the family has three kanals of land on which they grow wheat and paddy. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi needs to listen to us, we don't like these Bills. Farmers are on the roads.' Added Harmanjot: "I understand democracy, and our central goverment needs to understand it as well.

number of polling stations from 65337 in 2015 to 1.06 lakh in 2020. The Commission said that arrangements of 7 lakh hand sanitisers, 46 lakh masks, 6 lakh PPE kits, 6.7 lakh face shield and 23 lakh single-use hand gloves have been made for the Bihar elections.

Arora also said that in order to protect vulnerable populations, the facilities of "postal ballots" have been extended to those over 80 years of age. A special protocol has also been designed for those who are Covid positive, or quarantined.

was to reduce the maximum

number of voters per polling

station from 1500 to 1000 per

station, in view of the need to

keep social distancing. This, he

said, was a massive logistical ex-

ercise which would increase the

He said that these voters would be allowed to vote on the last hour of polling day separately, under the guidance of local health officials. This is besides the postal ballot facility that has also been extended to them, which can also be used by physically challenged voters.

Broad guidelines to be followed during the entire election processes for all persons include making masks mandatory for all election-related activity, thermal scanning at entry, sanitizer at all locations, social distancing. the use of large halls as far as possible, and adequate number of vehicles to be mobilised for

movement of polling personnel,

and security personnel. There will also be mandatory sanitization of polling stations a day before the poll, and thermal scanners at entry points.

"If temperature is above the set norms of MoHFW at first reading, then it will be checked twice and if it remains, then the elector shall be provided with token/certificate and will be asked to come for voting at the last hour of poll. At the last hour of poll, such electors shall be facilitated voting, strictly following Covid-19 related preventive

measures," the guidelines state. There will also be markers to demonstrate social distancing in queue, earmarking circles for 15 to 20 people at a 6 feet distance from each other, face masks in reserve for those electors who are not carrying them and awareness posters on Covid-19

at visible locations. Among the many changes in rules for candidates, only two persons, including the candidate, and two vehicles are allowed on nomination day, usually a day of pomp and show.

Door-to-door campaigning limits have also been set to only five people including the candidate, and while road shows are allowed, they are to only have five vehicles without a break. The EC has also allowed online filing of the nomination form and the affidavit, with candidates also being allowed to deposit their security amount on-

Islands, Seychelles, British Anguilla and Mauritius. The Belgian trail relates to allegations of tax evasion



Metro Station, Gate No- 3, New Delhi - 18. Ph: 011-47032447, 9990471004, 9990471005

Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service 23276901, 23282028 (M): 9212008155, 9212665841

### Hathras

murder, apart from under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Three have been arrested. The woman gave a statement to the police on Wednesday.

The initial medical report by the hospital has confirmed strangulation and assault. Doctors said further examination is being conducted to confirm rape

"I was sitting 100 metres from her. I could have saved her. I wish I wasn't hard of hearing," cries the mother, sitting outside their home.

The family says the main accused, 20year-old Sandeep, and his family, who live nearby, have "always harassed Dalits in their area". Nearly two decades ago, Sandeep's grandfather had been booked under the SC/ST Act and served three months in prison for allegedly thrashing the victim's grandfather over a petty issue.

Of the 600-odd families in the village, nearly half are Thakur, say district officials, while Brahmins make up another 100. Only 15-odd families are Dalit.

The morning of September 14, three of them had gone to collect fodder, but the woman had sent her son away. "Around 9:45 am, I turned around and saw my daughter wasn't there. I thought she had gone home but then I saw her pink slippers. We searched for some time and then found her near a tree.

The 19-year-old was lying in a pool of blood, which oozed out of her mouth and neck and eyes. The family says her dupatta was tied around her neck. The district hospital where they took her told them that she needed to be shifted to Aligarh.

According to the family, the woman told them "Sandeep ne kiya (Sandeep did this to me)".

The woman's brother, who works as a labourer, filed a complaint against Sandeep.

September 26.

The theme of the 75th UNGA is "The future we want, the United Nations we need, reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism – confronting Covid-19 through effective multilateral action".

Since the UNGA this year is being held in the backdrop of the pandemic, it is being conducted mostly via virtual mode. The Prime Minister's address will be a prerecorded video statement, broadcast at the UNGA hall in New York.

Sources said one of the priority issues for India during 75th session of UNGA will be "to promote strengthening of global action on counter-terrorism" and "India will push for more transparency in the process of listing and delisting of entities and individuals in

While the 20-year-old, his uncle Ravi and his friend Luv Kush have been arrested, a fourth accused, Ramu, is absconding.

The brother says the incident of 19 years ago had left rancour between the families, "but nothing ever happened". "They are upper castes and have always called us names. We ignore them. Sandeep is an alcoholic who harasses women, but nobody ever files a complaint.'

The mother says that after the incident, the woman had told them Sandeep and Ravi had threatened her earlier as well. Crying that she wished her daughter had told them earlier, she says, "They had tried to abduct her but she ran away... She told the police she was afraid to step out of the house as Sandeep would harass her. I wish I knew. It's too late now, I just hope she survives.

One of the doctors treating her said, "Due to the damaged spinal cord, the victim has quadriplegia (paralysis in all four limbs) and is not able to breathe properly.'

SP Vir said: "We are trying to help the family and want to take strict action against the men. Three of the four accused have been arrested and our teams are looking for the one absconding. The woman is critical and wasn't able to give a proper statement earlier. An FIR was registered by her brother. We have now recorded her statement with the

### 'Litany of vicious falsehood': India slams Pak for raking up J&K in UNGA

United Nations: India on Friday ties & of its cross-border terrorhit back at Pakistan for raking ism. Befitting Right of Reply up Jammu and Kashmir in the awaits." India's Permanent UN General Assembly, saying Representative to the UN Islamabad peddled "another Ambassador T S Tirumurti litany of vicious falsehood, pertweeted. In his pre-recorded sonal attacks, war mongering". video statement to the General "PM of Pakistan statement a Debate at the 75th session of new diplomatic low – at 75th the UN General Assembly on Friday, Pakistan Prime Minister UN General Assembly. Another litany of vicious falsehood, per-Imran Khan made references sonal attacks, war mongering to J&K. The Indian delegate in and obfuscation of Pakistan's the general assembly hall persecution of its own minoriwalked out.

help of a woman constable."

court said in its judgment.

It also ruled that the Indian government

must reimburse 4.3 million pounds to

Vodafone Group for costs incurred on legal

representation and assistance as well as for

fees paid by the company to the arbitration

said that "the tribunal held that any attempt

by India to enforce the tax demand would be

a violation of India's international law obliga-

tions". "This was a unanimous decision, in-

cluding India's appointed arbitrator Mr

Rodrigo Oreamuno," a company spokesper-

the order "and all its aspects carefully in con-

sultation" with its counsel. "After such con-

sultations, the government will consider all

options and take a decision on further course

of action including legal remedies before ap-

Vodafone had not paid the initial tax demand

of Rs 7,900 crore and interest and penalty on

it, the question of India paying back Rs 22,100

crore did not arise. Further, they said, the tri-

bunal has not accepted the claim of Vodafone

However, Ministry sources said that since

propriate fora," it said in a statement.

The Finance Ministry said it would study

Following the ruling, Vodafone Group

Vodafone

court

son said.

sanction committees".

keeping missions. Continuing India's active engagement on Sources said India, being issues relating to sustainable one of the largest troop condevelopment and climate tributing countries, will seek to change will also be conveyed. engage intensively in finalising of mandates for UN peacesources said.

for award of damages.

Alliance.

PTI

In such a scenario, sources said, the Centre's liability – if it decides not to approach the Singapore International Arbitration Centre to appeal against Friday's ruling – is estimated to be about Rs 85 crore. This includes Rs 45 crore towards the tax collected so far and Rs 40 crore towards costs charged by the tribunal, they said.

Friday's ruling is unlikely to have any impact on Vodafone Idea (Vi), the British telecom company's Indian joint-venture. Shares of Vi, however, jumped 14 per cent following reports of the ruling and closed at Rs 10.36, 13.6 per cent higher than the previous day's closing.

### J&K Police

the families of the slain labourers – Abrar Ahmed (25), Imtiyaz Ahmed (20) and Mohammed Ibrar(16) – demanded that the victims' bodies be exhumed and handed over to them, and those behind the killings be arrested.

Political parties in the Valley, meanwhile, hit out at what they said was murder "in cold blood" and demanded to know what the "incriminating evidence" was that the Army had said led them to identify the labourers as "terrorists".

WITH ENS MUMBAI, PUNE **FULL REPORTS ON** www.indianexpress.com



### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 7 THE CITY



			WV	VW.INDIAI	NEXPRESS.C	COM
				Total	Vacant	
TOTAL CAS		HOSP	PITAL BEDS	15,797	8,879	_
2,64,4	50	VENT	ILATORS	1,319	492	8
	Daily	cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	active cases
Sep 24	3,	834	3,509	36	59,183	ctive
Sep 25	3,	827	4,061	24	59,134	Total a
Total	30,	867*	2,28,436	5,147	28,15,650	$^{*}To$

### BRIEFLY

### **DU** releases cut-off schedule

New Delhi: The first cut-off list for Delhi University's undergraduate courses courses will be released on October 12, as per a notification issued Friday by the Acting Registrar. As of now, five cut-off lists have been announced by the university. Admissions as per the first notification will be held from October 12-14: for the second list from October 19-21; for the third list from October 26-28; for the fourth list from November 2-4; and for the fifth list from November 9-11. The notification also mentions the admission schedule for the entrance based UG courses and postgraduate courses. For UG courses, admission on the basis of the first merit list will begin on October 19, while for the PG courses it will begin on October 26. This year, the entire admission process will be done online

### Second round of govt school admissions begin

New Delhi: The Delhi government Friday began the second phase of its online admission process for classes VI to IX and XI for its government schools to "address the concerns of parents who could not get their wards registered earlier for online admission". The registrations will be open till October 3.

### HC to hear reservation plea for beds on Monday

New Delhi: The Delhi government's appeal before the Delhi High Court against a single benchordered stay on the state's decision to reserve 80 % of ICU beds in 33 major private hospitals



the crowd as police watched.

velopment projects.

**Court directs FIR over** 

morphed video of CM



Farmers from Uttar Pradesh protest against the new farm Bills at the Delhi-Noida Border on Friday. Abhinav Saha

for that," asked Subhash.

standby, said an officer.

'Take back land reform'.

Nagar unit secretary, in the mem-

Sisodia is

battling

19 and

dengue

orandum submitted to PMO.

### **PROTESTS BRIEF AND PEACEFUL, SAY POLICE** Farmer stir stopped at capital border

### **AMIL BHATNAGAR** NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 25

THE STIR against the farm bills also played out on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border Friday, as farmers from Western UP districts, including Meerut, Hapur, Ghaziabad and Noida, took to the streets to protest, albeit peacefully.

More than 150 farmers hailing from Gautam Budh Nagar staged a protest at the Delhi-Noida border in Sector 14A in the afternoon. Hailing from areas near the Expressway and Greater Noida border, they came in cars and tractors, and were halted by authorities near the Sector 18 flyover. The protesters then walked more than 3 km to the border where local leaders addressed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A DELHI court has directed Delhi

Police to register an FIR on a

complaint against a morphed

video purportedly showing

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal

singing an obscene song, saying

its tone and manner lowers his

Kishor Kumar directed the

Metropolitan Magistrate

reputation.

Station I

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

ing because of the pandemic," said "This is a peaceful protest, and Anuj (25), a farmer.

they did not pose a threat to law In Western UP, besides the and order. They wanted to march sugarcane belt in and around Muzaffarnagar, the majority towards Delhi, but, as decided, a small delegation will go and crops grown by farmers are hand over their memorandum to wheat and paddy. Farmers allege the person concerned. Following that the provisions in the new Bill this, the protesters plan to return. have little clarity on the crucial as-We diverted traffic to maintain pect of Minimum Support Price smooth operations," said Ranvijay Singh, Addl SP City. (MSP), which is a key economic factor during procurement.

The protest in Noida was led "My family has been in the by Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU), farming profession for generawhich is active in the Western tions, and it feels for the first time UP region. Farmers at the protest that we will lose our lands. This Bill reflects the fact that corporahailed from a commercial belt of Noida where a large chunk of tions want to get control of the land has been acquired for decore farming activity. Even beyond that, the biggest aspect is the cost This protest is for our rights. of procurement. This reform does Our village is near the Expressway, not mention what will happen if and we have anyway been sufferthe crop is sold below MSP. The

Cops seize

160 kg ganja,

misreport it

New Delhi: Four policemen, in-

cluding two sub-inspectors and

two head constables, posted at

MSP for wheat is approximately Rs 1,975 per quintal and for paddy Rs 2,000. I myself have sold it several times for Rs 1,600. If they do not wish to check this practice, what will the farmer have for himself?" asked Pawan Khatana (39) who grows wheat in 25 bhiga land in Greater Noida's Dankaur.

The farmers allege that the Bill will further destroy the mandi system, which is an important intermediary in procurement.

Subhash Tyagi (68), a retired geography teacher from a government school in Meerut, now looks after 70 bighas of farm in Hapur, which belonged to his late parents. Subhas feels a monopolistic corporate culture will invade farming in the times to come. "Why can't they simply crim-

inalise buying lower than MSP?

Given plasma therapy,

### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

DEPUTY CM Manish Sisodia, who is battling a double infection of Covid-19 and dengue, has been administered convalescent plasma therapy at Max hospital and his condition is better now, an official from his office said Friday.

Sisodia, 48, was shifted to Max hospital on Thursday, a day after he was admitted to Lok

### After complaints, process to get new number plate made easier

### SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE PROCEDURE to get high security registration plates (HSRP) and colour-coded fuel stickers for vehicles - mandatory to avoid challans - has been simplified, amid mounting concerns over technical glitches holding up the process for many.

Rosmerta Safety System, the private vendor which runs the online portal bookmyhsrp.com, said on Friday that it has done away with the need to upload copies of vehicle registration certificates and also removed the Surely, regulations can come up step to generate an OTP, after re-More than 100 policemen ceiving complaints from people.

had been deployed at the border The Delhi Transport Department's recent public noand a water cannon was kept on tice warns people that failure to BKU district leaders addressed get HSRP and colour coded stickthe crowd with slogans such as 'Jai ers, also known as third registra-Jawan Jai Kisan', 'Give us MSP' and tion mark, will invite penalties under the Motor Vehicle Act, "BKU believes it will bring 1988 and the Central Motor License Raj back in farming. The Vehicles Rules, 1989.

law of control, storage and im-According to the vendor, over 32 lakh vehicles registered prior port-export policies are against the interests of farmers. Hence we to 2019 (approximate 10-12 lakh cars and 20 lakh two-wheelers) demand that the three Bills be have to get the HSRP and taken back and MSP be extended coloured stickers installed in to both fruits and vegetables. Anything being sold below the Delhi. Of this, so far 3.5 lakh vehi-MSP should be a crime," said Anit cles have complied. Kasana, BKU's Gautam Budh

"Now, the seven-step online booking process has been made simpler. There is no need to upload a scanned copy of the RC anymore. The OTP generation process has also been removed as many people were not getting the OTP on their phones," a spokesperson of Rosmerta Safety

Systems Private Limited said. While 200-250 bookings were being registered before the notice, over the last three days, daily registrations have risen to both Covidnearly 3,000, the spokesperson told The Indian Express.

The colour-coded stickers are applicable in case of cars and autos. while the HSRPs are mandatory for bikes and e-rickshaws. While booking a slot through a

and forging of number plates. The ongoing drive involves older vehicles. In January 2019, the Transport Department had issued a termination notice to

### Rosemarta over delays in the process, following which the firm had obtained a stay from an arbitrator.

Jahangirpuri police station in Northwest Delhi were suspended after they allegedly misreported the quantity of marijuana seized from a local drug peddler during a raid earlier this month. Police said a raid was conducted by a team on September 11 from Jahangirpuri police sta-

# Sisodia doing better

Meanwhile, the capital recorded 3,827 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Friday, taking its caseload to 2,64,450, while 24 fatalities pushed the death toll to 5,147. The positivity rate in Delhi stands at 6 47 ne Health Minister Satyendar Jain held a meeting with medical directors and superintendents of all Delhi government hospitals to review the status of testing. The chief secretary also held a review meet with all district magistrates on Covid-19 management.

portal, a person can choose the nearest centre from a list of 236 centres in Delhi. There are around 400 centres across the NCR towns. The fine for not having an HSRP can range between Rs

5,000-Rs 10,000. Transport Department officials maintain they are technically authorised to issue challans even now; however, enforcing the rule will begin after the ongoing round of awareness generation and giving ample time to people to get the plates.

While booking a slot, the first step involves picking the vehicle type, followed by the vehicle brand. Subsequently, the nearest dealer can be picked as per one's convenience. A person then needs to enter the vehicle registration number, date of registration, chassis number, engine number, email ID and mobile number, before proceeding to make payment.

Car owners have to pay any-thing between Rs 600 to Rs 1,100 depending on make and class of vehicles, while the charges for two-wheelers range between Rs 300 to Rs 400. Those owning vehicles already fitted with HSRPs can get the stickers installed for

Rs 100, Rosmerta said. HSRPs are chrome-based hologram plates manufactured through a process of hot-stamping and laser-branding a unique identification number, which cannot be duplicated, linked to the central vehicular database of the Union government.

The plates are also supposed to help authorities in tracking authenticity of vehicle ownerships, which will help in criminal probes, curb illegal sale in the grey market, and prevent thefts

be heard by a division bench Monday. The case was adjourned Friday as lawyers requested the court to hear it through video conferencing. ENS

### Air quality predicted to turn 'poor'

New Delhi: The national capital's air quality is likely to slip into the "poor" category by Wednesday, SAFAR said. Dust from arid regions in the southwest has started affecting Delhi. Farm fires have begun in Amritsar and neighbouring border regions and are likely to influence the city's air quality, it said. PTI

pose of ele
as the Chie
"I find

Vihar Polic **FIR on the** filed by an advocate, Amit Sahni, within a week. It further directed the police to file a compliance report by December 2.

The complaint filed by Sahni stated that after the result of Delhi the judge said.

ef Minister of Delhi." there is prima facie cognizable case... under section

Assembly polls on February 12, a

morphed video was uploaded on

Youtube in which the CM has been

shown singing an obscene song.

September 24, the court said, "In

the video in question, the tone

and manner of the song was not

only lowering the reputation of a

constitutionally elected Chief

Minister but it was also address-

ing public/voters in abusive

manner... (for)voting for Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP) for the pur-

In an order passed on

294 (obscene acts and songs) of IPC (Indian Penal Code) read with 67 (lascivious content) of Information Technology Act,"

H. M. Mistry

160 kgs of marijuana was seized. "But the suspected peddler was later let off after the personnel allegedly took a bribe from him," a senior police officer said.

The suspended policemen allegedly reported only 1 kg of contraband and sold the rest. ENS

Covid-19.

He had tested positive for Covid-19 on September 14 and was under home isolation. He was admitted to Lok Navak hospital on Wednesday for treatment and tested positive for dengue a day later.



### RFP for Asset Management Company (AMC)

NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCFL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., a Mini-Ratna Corporation of the Government of India under the Ministry of MSME. NVCFL is in the process for setting up of Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund, an FoF to be registered as an Alternative Investment Fund.

NVCFL requires services of a reputed Indian AMC with comprehensive experience, expertise and capability in the field of Fund Management of AIFs, VCFs, PEs, etc.

Indian AMCs, qualifying the eligibility conditions prescribed in the RFP, may submit their proposals latest by **05:00 PM on 19th October, 2020**. The RFP can be downloaded from the website of NSIC (www.nsic.co.in)

OSD, NVCFL Tel.: 011-26924510, Email: osd.nvcfl@nsic.co.in

### उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग रुस्टिद्वार पिन कोड- 249404

पत्रॉक = 71/03(09)/ढी0आर0/ढिग्री/सेवा-02/2017-18 दिनांक :: 25 सितम्बर, 2020 विज्ञपित

लद्हारा सुचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग हार प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या : ०१/०३/ठी०आर०/सेवा–२/२०१७–१८ दिनांव 04 अगस्त, 2017 के अन्तर्गत विज्ञापित अग्निस्टेंट प्रोकेसर– गृह विज्ञान वे रिक्त 14 गर्दो पर चयन हेतु उन्हें अभ्यथियों के साक्षारकार की तिथि 22 अक्टूबर, 2020 नियोरित की गयी है। जर्ड जम्ययी अनुक्रमांकवार सावालकार कार्यक्रम व साधात्कार झाप दिनांक 07 अक्टूबर, 2020 से आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpec.gov.in से ठाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। अहं अध्यर्थियों को फ़्थक से ढाक द्वारा साक्षात्कार ज्ञाप प्रेषित नहीं किवे जायेंगें।

#### (कर्मेन्द्र सिंह) सचिव।



Special Spot Round Admission for MBA-IEV Programmes 2020-22

NSUT invites applications for admission to Two Year Full Time programmes in th Department of Management Studies.

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applications is 511 October 2020. For detailed information about Eligibility Criteria, Reservation and relaxation Admission Procedure, Seat matrix, Counselling Schedule, Application, Process etc University website: www.nsut.ac.in visit

#### https://www.imsnsit.org/imsnsit/nsit\_admissions.htm

-

Application Process: • Candidates will have to register online at https://www.imsnsit.org/imsnsit/nsit\_admissions.htm at www.nsut.ac.in All candidates are required to pay a non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 1000/ ONLINE using Credit Card/Debit Card/Net-Banking. DIP/Shabdarth/0328/20-21 Chairman Admission Committee (NSUT)

ΤΛΤΛ
TATA POWER
The Tata Power Company Limited
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001. Tel: 91 22 6665 8282 Fax: 91 22 6665 8801 CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567
Email: tatapower@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com
NOTICE OF RECORD DATE
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 that Tuesday, 13° October 2020 has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of payment of half-yearly interest to the holders of 10.75% Unsecured Subordinated Rated Listed Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN:INE245A08042) aggregating ₹ 1,500 crore, due on 29° October 2020.
For The Tata Power Company Limited

A

Company Secretary (FCS: 3606)

Mumbai ated : 25th September 2020

### **INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OF POORVA EXPRESS SPECIAL**

This is notified for the information of all concerned that railways have decided to increase the frequency of train no. 02303/02304 Howrah Jn.- New Delhi Poorva special (via-Patna) & 02381/02382 Howrah Jn.-New Delhi Poorva Special (via-Dhanbad) as per following details:-

Train No. & Train Name	Days of Run	Date(s) from originating station
02303 Howrah Jn New Delhi Spl. Poorva Express (via-Patna)	From Howrah Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat	From 02.10.2020
02304 New Delhi Jn Howrah Spl. Poorva Express (via-Patna)	From New Delhi Wed, Thu, Sat & Sun	From 03.10.2020
02381 Howrah Jn New Delhi Spl. Poorva Express (via-Dhanbad)	From Howrah Wed, Thu & Sun	From 07.10.2020
02382 New Delhi Jn Howrah Spl. Poorva Express (via-Dhanbad)	From New Delhi Mon, Tue & Fri	From 08.10.2020

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

### Integrated Helpline No. 139 and Security Helpline No. 182



出行回 2082/2020



### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### **MES DAY: 26 SEP 2020**

1. The Military Engineer Services (MES) is a premier construction agency and one of the pillars of Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army which provides rear line engineering support to the Armed Forces. It is one of largest construction and maintenance agencies in India with a total annual budget to the tune of approximately ₹17000 crore. It is responsible for creating strategic and operational infrastructure other than major roads, as also administrative habitat for all three Services and associated organisations of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

2. MES is the only construction agency in the country which carries out multifarious construction activities such as residential and office buildings, hospitals, roads and runways, marine structure like docks and harbours across the country including border areas. Besides conventional buildings, MES is also involved in the construction of sophisticated and complex laboratories, factories and workshops, hangars, ammunition storage facilities, dockyards, wharves and other marine structures. It also deals with all associated service requirements such as air-conditioning, cold storage, electric and water supply, sewage disposal and so on. Most important of all, the facilities, assets and infrastructure created are maintained in a serviceable state and, in some cases, operated too, by the MES

3. Presently several major infrastructure projects are under execution by MES, which are targeted to be completed in a time-bound manner. Aircraft Carrier Dock constructed under the aegis of DGNP (Mumbai) supported by MES staff/ executives was inaugurated by Hon'ble RM on 28 Sep 2019. A hover port for Indian Coast Guard at Gujrat and runway up-gradation at A&N Islands was also completed in Oct and Dec 2019 respectively. In addition, the infrastructure for SU-30 squadron at an Air Force station and completion of joint user runway at Chandigarh was completed under strict time constraints. In its contribution towards reducing the national carbon footprint, MES is striving for completion of 150 MW Solar Photovoltaic projects by 2021. To augment the energy conservation efforts, measures such as LED lighting and GRIHA green building norms are being incorporated in all new projects. MES has also played a key role in creating and modifying existing assets into COVID facilities across the country and provided uninterrupted services during these uncertain times.

4. MES is also embracing automation on a large scale with implementation of online digital payment through SBI-CMP to all contractors/ suppliers and doing away with cash assignment pan India in all MES units. Web Based Project Monitoring Portal (WBPMP) is in advanced stage of approval as CDAC Pune has submitted its techno commercial proposal and will now include modules of estimation, budgeting, e-MB, construction account and monitoring of works in various stages. MES complaint monitoring module in ARMAAN has been successfully implementing paving way for faster addressing of MES day to day maintenance related issues. MES is also earnestly pursuing implementation of online revenue and accounts management software projects Raksha Awaas and Vishwak, being piloted by CGDA.

5. As far as married accommodation is concerned, in Phase-II a total of 69,904 Dwelling Units (DUs) were sanctioned out of which 57,426 DUs have been completed. The MES organization, comprising of proficient personnel who are deployed across the length and breadth of the county at remote locations in all types of terrain and inhospitable climatic conditions, has been playing an important role in empowering the combat effectiveness of the Armed Forces. The organization is not only geared up to provide works services support during peace time but is also equipped to provide dedicated support during national crisis situations including war.

6. On the occasion of 98th MES Raising Day, Lt Gen SK Shrivastava, PVSM, AVSM, Engineer-in-Chief, congratulates all MES personnel and urges them to continue dedicating themselves to this great organisation and contribute towards Nation Building by providing better services to the Armed Forces



### **PROTOTYPE SCHEDULED TO ROLL OFF PRODUCTION LINE IN 2022 First RRTS train for Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut** corridor unveiled, will touch 180 km/hour

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE GOVERNMENT Friday unveiled the first look of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train which can attain a top speed of 180 kilometres per hour and whose design is inspired by Delhi's iconic Lotus Temple.

Once in operation, it will run on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor and reduce travel time between the two cities to about an hour. Officials said the trains might also feature a business class

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said the RRTS trains with a stainless steel outer body, will be lightweight

and fully air-conditioned. Each car will have six automatic doors, three on each side for ease of access. The business class will have four such doors, two on each side. A National Capital Region

Transport Corporation (NCRTC) official said the RRTS trains will be three times faster than Delhi Metro trains. "RRTS trains will also have business class (one coach per train) with spacious, comfortable and reclining seats which will be accessible through



The first look unveiled by the central government

a special lounge at the platformlevel," the official said. The official claimed people

travelling on RRTS trains will have an "aeroplane-like" experience as coaches will have all

modern facilities available inside a passenger aircraft.

The 82-km-long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor is the first RRTS corridor being implemented in India. The commute time from Delhi to Meerut will be reduced to less than an hour from the current 3-4 hours by road. The prototype is scheduled to roll off the production line in 2022 .

The 17-km priority corridor of Delhi-Meerut RRTS, from Sahibabad to Duhai, will be operational in 2023 and the entire corridor will be operational in 2025, the official said.

The NCRTC, which is execut-

### Demolition at slum, hundreds in lurch

### **ANANYA TIWARI**

CITING THE National Green Tribunal's (NGT) law against construction on river embankments, the Delhi Development Authority demolished more than 100 jhuggis at a slum at the Batla House dhobi ghat

'Approximately 2.5 acre of land got cleared after removal of this encroachment. This land pertains to the Yamuna floodplain and is owned by DDA. The land is well demarcated by installing bollards and even boundary walls – the encroachland over the last few months on site that the land belongs to DDA. These encroachers were informed continuously to clear the site, but nothing happened,"

"The matter was brought to the notice of DDA Vice-Chairman Anurag Jain and it was discussed in detail in the last STF meeting. With the help of a Delhi Police team headed by Joint Commissioner Devesh Srivastava, the encroachment was removed. This is pursuant to guidelines of NGT and DDA's commitment that Yamuna floodplain should be remove from encroachments," the spokesperson added.

ing India's first RRTS, will procure 30 train sets of six cars each for operating regional rail serv-

ices on the corridor and 10 train sets of three cars each for operating local transit services in Meerut. The rolling stock will be manufactured at Bombardier's Savli plant in Gujarat, it said.

"The environment friendly, energy efficient trains will improve quality of life in and around NCR by creating economic opportunities and at the same time reducing air pollution, carbon footprint, congestion, and accidents,' said Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.





The Azimganj serai protected monument in 2017 (top) and 2009. Photos: nizamuddinrenewal.org

### 'Irreparable damage': Forest dept asked to remove 85 trees from monument at zoo

#### SHIVAM PATEL NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THERE IS an imminent danger of irreparable damage to a protected monument, the Azimganj

Serai, built around the 15th or 16th Century and situated inside the Delhi zoo, if 85 trees growing over its archaeological remains are not removed, the forest department has been told.

Inordinate delay in granting permission for removal of trees despite repeated written requests amounts to a "deliberate attempt" to imperil and destroy a protected monument. Delhi's archaeological department head Vikas Maloo told the forest department in a letter on August

"It is once again brought to vour notice that the protected monument has already suffered a great deal of damage due to the inordinate delay in the removal of the unnatural outgrowth of trees on its structure and abutting it," read the letter sent to the Deputy Concernator of Forests

### JNU aspirants complain of clashing tests

### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

AHEAD OF the Jawaharlal Nehru University Entrance Exam (JNUEE), scheduled to begin on October 5, many aspirants have said that they are facing difficulties, including clashing exams schedules and far off exam centres. The JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) has written to the Controller of Examinations, pointing out the issues.

"The exams for the two courses I had applied for – PhD Labour Studies and PhD in Law and Governance - are clashing. I have been given the same date and time for both. Although they're from different schools, because these are interdisciplinary centres with many possible common areas of research, many would have applied for both," said Dev Krishnan, an aspirant.

"I have been given a centre that is 40 km away, with no bus routes from my home. I will have to take the help of a friend or a relative to take me there somehow.' said Krishnan, who's currently staying in Paravur Town in Kerala.

Another student, appearing for the MPhil entrance exam, is currently residing in Chennai but has to give the exam in Delhi.

n we had to fill out c



### START-UP

Children sell masks by the roadside in Ghaziabad. Prem Nath Pandey

### Free meals at night shelters to continue till winter-end: DUSIB

ters on Thursday was 2,559, of

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 25

THE DELHI government Friday decided to extend the provisions of meals for inmates of night shelters till the end of winter, the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) said in a statement. The decision was taken at a meeting of the DUSIB chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal

which 2,363 people had dinner while 1,472 inmates had breakfast on Friday. The decision assumes significance as the occupancy rate at the shelters increases during the winters.

On March 28, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs wrote to the state directors of the urban livelihood missions underlining the "urgent requireprovide the urban poor

available under the National Urban Livelihood Mission with them. "In case of inadequacy of this amount at a local level, states/UTs may contribute additional funds from their own resources," wrote the MoHUA.

Meanwhile, the DUSIB also decided on Friday that around 784 people from Princess Park near India Gate and 350 families from Karol Bagh will be rehabilitated to transit flats in Dwarka til

gone. We were suffering during NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

Thursday.

ers made jhuggis on government despite instructions displayed said a DDA spokesperson.

lockdown but at least we had a roof over our heads. There is no food, no clothes, no electricity or water now. At night we deal with the mosquitoes and during the day, we suffer under the sun." He added that the family

does not have resources to go back to their village in Bihar. "Where will we go? If we crowd on the roads the police come after us? It keeps getting worse for us poor," he said.

Shabnam (35), a domestic help, said, "We do not have adequate money to even eat. And they expect us to go back home to Bihar. What will we do there?"

Akhtari (30), who too works as a domestic help, said, "I have three children below 12 years and my husband works as a labourer. I have not had regular work and neither has he... In addition, they've stopped water supply here.'

The demolition team also razed a toilet block in the area, locals said. Pakeeja (20), a domestic help, said, "They have broken all toilets and the water supply. Where will the women go?"

As of September 15, the Special Task Force has received 59,484 complaints of encroachment, and action on 53,721 have been initiated, the DDA said in a press release. "Anti-encroachnent drives have also been ini

in a 'deemed forest' area, and asked the archaeology department to submit an application for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose.

An area having 250 trees per hectare is considered as a deemed forest in Delhi and permission for non-forest activity in such an area needs to be sought from the Environment Ministry under Forest Conservation Act 1980.

Maloo's letter to the DCF, South. states that the forest department has previously, in 2015, granted permission for cutting of trees growing on and abutting the monument for conservation work and had also stated at the time that further permissions would be granted as required.

"It is surprising how the forest department did not ascertain this (deemed forest) fact earlier and continued to communicate in this respect without taking the same into consideration," the letter states.

Officials involved with the storation m

the trees that need to be re-

moved are mainly vilayati kikar

and subabool - two invasive

tree species – and that permis-

sion for their removal is pending

with the forest department since

2015. Officials also said that they

would plant 10 trees for each one

removed from the site as com-

however, said, "There is no such

application under consideration

A forest department official,

pensatory plantation.

tions for centres, many of us had chosen Delhi because that time there was a possibility that physical end-semester exams may happen," said the student.

Controller of Examinations Hanuman Sharma could not be reached for a comment.

3283

18-00 HRS

INF-969/20-21

-

nual expenditure of the government under this head will be Rs 15.31 crore, the statement added. The inmates of the 223 night

shelters have been getting breakfast, lunch and dinner since March 22. As per DUSIB records, the night occupancy at the shel-

**GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED** 

(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)

with cooked meals so that they can sustain themselves as they may have lost livelihoods due to the lockdown.

The Centre, in its letter, added the states may incur a daily expenditure of up to Rs 100 for three meals per person from the funds

adanı

construction of permanent accommodations are complete

Families from Princess Park will be shifted to facilitate the use of land by the Defence Ministry for the construction of the National War Museum and Memorial, the DUSIB said.

ADANI ELECTRICITY MUMBAI LIMITED

The demolition drive, however, left many without a home. Mohammad Javed (32), a rickshaw puller and father of five, said, "My rickshaw was broken and our household items are tiated on approximately 232 km road length by ULBs (urban local body) between September 1 and 15. North MCD has cleared 60 km and SDMC has cleared 102.7km. EDMC has cleared 44 km and NDMC has cleared 25.3 km," it states.

(DCF), South division.

The serai was once an inn that served travellers who used the Grand Trunk Road, said to be one of the oldest roads that connected Central Asia to India. The fort-like structure, with 108 rooms and a large courtyard measuring about 10,000 sq metres, was the grandest serai in the area.

About 50% of the serai, including its standing portions, was restored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) in 2017, after it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2013 with the Delhi government's archaeology department under which the monument falls.

Manisha Saxena, secretary of Delhi's Art. Culture and Language department, said a second MoU is in the process of being signed with the AKTC for phase II of the restoration work. "We will consider opening the monument for public after completion of conservation work and after consultation with all stakeholders," said

Saxena. However, after an inspection, the forest department declared in April that the project site was now." The principal chief conservator of forests, Ishwar Singh, did not respond to queries. Zoo authorities have raised concerns in the past about a possible disturbance to animals from opening the monument to public. Zoo director Ramesh Pandev did not respond to queries from The Indian Express

on Friday. Gauri Maulekhi, an animal rights activist, said the monument lies close to the elephant and jackal enclosures at the zoo, and public presence at the monument would disturb them.

She added, "You also can't cut so many trees to restore an ancient ruin at the cost of our lives as Delhi breathes in the hereand-now."

### **SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON** General public is hereby informed that

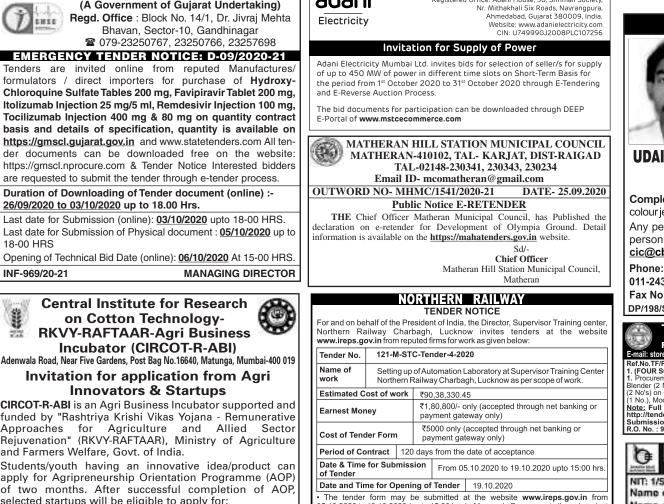


one person namely Irshad S/o Naim Mulla R/o Manjeet ka Makaan, A-Block, Gali No. 10, Vijay Colony, Bawana, Delhi Age 35 years, Height 5'6", Complexion wheatish, Face round, Built medium, For identification: A tattoo 'Rajia Khatun' on right hand, wearing Cream colour T-shirt and Blue colour lower

has been missing since 02.09.2020 from near G-2, DDA Flats, Narela, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 23-A dated 11.09.2020 has been lodged at PS Narela Indl. Area, Delhi

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

Website: http://cbi.nic.in	
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in	SHO
Fax: 011-23011334 Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218	PS Narela Indl. Area, Delhi
DP/482/ON/2020	Ph. 011-27787593, 7065036324



05.10.2020 to 19.10.2020 (up to 15:00 hrs.) • Mannual offers are not allowed agains this tender, any such manual offer received shall be ignored. • Contractors are allowed to make payment against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker's cheque, Deposit receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed. • The tender will be opened on specified date and time as above. In case the above date is a holiday the tender opening would be conducted at the same times on the next working day. No post tender correspondance for submission of additional documents shall be rtained after opening the technical & commercial offers. Even suo-moto pos

Dated: 24.09.2020	i	Tender Notice No. N.R./CB/September/Automation/2020 Dated: 24.09.2020
		Tender Notice No. N.R./CB/September/Automation/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

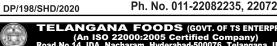
General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), Namely: Udai Bhadur S/o : Sharda Singh R/o: 5997, Gali No. 12 Subhash Mohalla, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 07.09.2020 from his house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 81 dated 12.09.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Gandhi Nagar. UDAI BHADUR Delhi. His physical description is as

under:

Age: 28 Years, Height: 5'5" Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built : Thin, Wearing: Blue colour jeans & checkdhar shirt and chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi at E-mail Id cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in

SHO P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi 011-24368638, 24368641 Shahdara Distt., Delhi Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph. No. 011-22082235, 22072761



TELANGANA FOODS (GOVT. OF TS ENTERPRISE) (An ISO 22000:2005 Certified Company) Road No.14, IDA, Nacharam, Hyderabad-500076. Telangana, INDIA. res.tsfoods@gmail.com, Website: tfoods.telangana.gov.in, GST No.36AAATA4938R126 RIMS001cBabloccession... No.TF/PURMACH/1121/2020-21 FOUR SCHEDULES): Telangana Foods is inviting tender for the follow Programment of Roots Blower on One-time requirement Basis. 2. Procur Programment of VFFS I urement of Roots Blower on One-time requirement Basis. 2. Procurement of Ribbor (2 Nos) on One-time requirement Basis. 3. Procurement of VFFS Packing Machine on One-time requirement Basis. 4. Procurement of Videojet Thermal Transfer Printer Model No.V.16210, on Annual Rate. Contract Basis for the year 2020-21. Full Tender Notification details can be seen and downloaded from Website: ender.eprocurement.gov.in from 26.09.2020 at 11.00 A.M onwards and Bid details and Bid.

bmission Closing date & time: 12.10.2020 at 12.00 P.M. O. No. : 941-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 - Manager (PPN

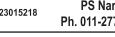


Name of Office : ASE/Slapper, Division, BBMB (IW) Slapper Name of Work : Internal inspection, repair and Mtc. of 2 nos Penstock branches no. 3 & 4 downstream WYE (inclined portion) at Slapper.

Estimate Cost : Rs. 9,96,993/-	Earnest Money : Rs. 20, 000/-
Last Date & time for receipt of Tender form	15.10.2020 upto 16:00 Hrs.
Last Date & time for opening of Tenders	16.10.2020 from 15:30 Hrs.
The detailed N.I.T. may be down https://bbmbeproc.abcprocure.com	
828-PR-BSL-4 Foryout	Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today



New Delhi





Innovators & Startups CIRCOT-R-ABI is an Agri Business Incubator supported and

funded by "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation" (RKVY-RAFTAAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India.

Students/youth having an innovative idea/product can apply for Agripreneurship Orientation Programme (AOP) of two months. After successful completion of AOP selected startups will be eligible to apply for;

(1) Pre seed stage grant in aid up to Rs. 5 lakhs per startup for converting their innovative idea into product/prototype. (2) Agri business Startups having minimum viable product (MVP) based on innovation in agriculture and allied sectors can apply for seed stage funding programme of grant in aid upto Rs. 25 lakhs per startup.

Last date for submission of proposals is 12th October 2020 before 05:00 p.m.

Email : circotrabi@gmail.com, For details visit www.circot.res.in/rabi Director

### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 GOVT & POLITICS



### **DELHI CONFIDENTIAL**



### A STEP AHEAD

A CONGRESS MP seems to be ahead of his BJP counterparts in the Lok Sabha in heeding PM Narendra Modi's call to provide access to sanitary napkins in their constituencies. Congress MP Hibi Eden (above) had launched a scheme in his constituency during his tenure as MLA to install sanitary napkin vending machines and incinerators in the 25 government schools. Now he is expanding it to 150 government schools in his Ernakulam Lok Sabha constituency. Eden prepared a logo with the slogan Breaking Barriers and got it launched by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank earlier this week. Ernakulam will be the first parliamentary constituency where all government schools will have the vending machines and incinerators. Refilling the machines will become easier with the Centre launching a scheme to provide Suvidha pads at Re 1.

### **AFGHAN EQUATIONS**

WHEN EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday met former Afghan Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostum and said India remains fully committed to an Afghan-led, Afghanowned and Afghan-controlled peace process, he posted a picture of a fist-bump with the Afghan leader. Jaishankar tweeted that he exchanged views on developments in Afghanistan and the larger region with Marshal Dostum.

### VIRTUAL MODE

RAHUL GANDHI is back in India, and so are his video jibes on the government. Today, the former Congress president put out a short video on social media, which showed him interacting with "farmers" from states like Bihar, Haryana and Maharashtra virtually. Rahul is in home quarantine after his return from abroad. In a tweet along with the video, he said after speaking to the farmers, it is clear that they don't have faith in the Modi government. Party leaders were clueless when asked why he did not address a virtual press conference.

## Dates out, alliances look at issues within

Anti-incumbency to seat-sharing, BJP up against some hurdles



may be contesting the Assembly elections next month under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of JD(U), EXPLAINED the bigger alliance partner in the state, but the stakes seem to be higher for the BIP.

MANOJCG

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE RULING coalition in Bihar

At least three BJP leaders admitted that winning Bihar, where the party fared miserably in 2015 following an impressive performance in 2014 Lok Sabha electionsthe JD(U) then was part of the Opposition Grand Alliance-is "politically crucial" for the party's 'immediate future, and in the long run".

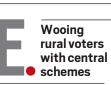
A victory will be important for the party not only to counter the Opposition's campaign against the farm-related Bills and go ahead with the reforms agenda, but also to prove that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity is intact.

Like in states it had won after the 2015 defeat in Bihar, BJP is banking heavily on Modi's credibility in Bihar, too, amid a deepening pandemic crisis, rising joblessness, slowing economy, and escalating tension with China along the LAC.

Ahead of the three-phase polls starting October 28, the party faces multiple challenges.

The first hurdle for BJP would be ticket distribution among allies. With LJP already having problems with JD(U), the BJP leadership will have to use all its skills to placate allies while keeping at bay pressure from its own cadre to increase the share of tickets for party candidates. Sources in BJP indicated that the party wants JD(U) to agree to contest on an equal number of seats. Home Minister Amit Shah had

initiated talks with JD(U), which



The BJP's strategy would be to maintain its base among the urban population and the forward castes, and woo rural voters-whom the party failed to win over in the 2015 Bihar polls—with welfare schemes. A series of development projects for the state, worth Rs 16,000 cr, launched recently by PM Narendra Modi, is set to be publicised aggressively.

the incumbent party chief, J P Nadda, has joined. Party leaders said Shah's absence from public places, due to his health issues. will not affect the talks

Although the ruling NDA appears to have an edge over the Opposition, which still looks disoriented, BJP insiders admitted that the anti-incumbency factor cannot be ignored completely. "There is a fatigue among people against Nitish Kumar. A section of the electorate, including BJP cadres, feels that there needs to be a change. There are also concerns about JD(U)'s future," a BJP MP from Bihar said. To overcome this, the BJP is trying to superimpose the Modi government's initiatives over the Nitish government's performance. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



A hoarding of CM Nitish Kumar in Patna is removed on Friday, in line with the Model Code of Conduct that has now kicked in. Polls will be held on Oct 28, Nov 3 and Nov 7. PT

### Day after RLSP's no to Tejashwi, Cong says no call on CM face yet

### MANOJCG

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25 A DECISION on the chief ministerial face of the Opposition Grand Alliance in Bihar has not been taken yet, the Congress said on

Friday, soon after the Election Commission announced the schedule for the Assembly polls. The Congress's assertion as-

sumes significance since it come a day after Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) chief Upendra Kushwaha on Thursday said that he would "not accept the leadership of Tejashwi Yadav" in the RJDled Grand Alliance, and that his party is keeping all options open. Kushwaha, who had quite

the NDA before last year's Lok Sabha polls, also said that his party is preparing to contest all 243 seats in the coming Vidhan Sabha elections.

Congress's Bihar in-charge Shaktisinh Gohil on Friday said the people of Bihar want the Opposition to fight together to oust the Nitish Kumar-led NDA

government, and all parties asked about Kushwaha's remarks should shed their ego to honour that all options are open for him. that wish of the people. Yadav as the CM face, Gohil said

The RJD has already declared that Yaday would be its CM candidate, and the Congress's assertion signals the continuing tug of war in the alliance.

Gohil said Bihar is a politically vibrant state and friction between parties is natural.

"Our attempt is to ensure that all like-minded parties remain together. The people of Bihar want change. The responsibility is on our shoulders. We have to understand people's feelings and put up a united fight to remove bad governance,' Gohil said. He also maintained that every party wants to contest more seats, "so some amount of friction will be there".

The Congress, he said, is in constant touch with Kushwaha. 'He left the NDA..he was a (Union) minister in the NDA government - he has seen the NDA from close quarters. He left the NDA on a matter of principle...' the Congress leader said when

CM promises irrigation in all fields, medical access in all panchayats

### **SANTOSH SINGH** PATNA, SEPTEMBER 25

SOON AFTER the Bihar election dates were announced, Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar said that if voted back to power, he would ensure irrigation in every field, solar powered light in every village, medical facilities for people and animals in every panchayat, and a incentive of Rs 50,000 for women clearing graduation examinations

Speaking to reporters about the second phase of his Saat Nischay (seven resolutions), he said this would ensure micro planning

"There will be bypass and approach roads in major towns. We will ensure people in villages can reach the nearest town with good approach roads... I fulfilled my promises before 2015 polls even though we changed the alliance partner," Nitish said. He added that he did not mind what some people said about him, in an apparent reference to LJP leader Chirag Paswan's remarks.

Playing down his differences with Chirag, the Chief minister said he had always shared a "good relationship" with Union minister and LJP patriarch Ram Vilas Paswan. He added that seat-sharing in the NDA would be done amicably.

strike rate was good in the 2015 To questions about holding elections amid a pandemic, Nitish said: "There will be meetand form the government with ings and interaction with the public, but we will follow safety protocol. While Covid has been erratic, its numbers have substantially come down in Bihar and testing is above the national average."

Parties in Bihar welcome poll

No clarity on seat share in Oppn camp, dates declaration ticket hopefuls say time running out

SANTOSH SINGH

tions see them as a serious alter- (to the other side) in

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology अ. आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित clared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956) भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग के तहत स्वायत संस्थान An Autonomous Institute under Department of Space, Govt. of India बलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम / Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram 695 547, केरल / Kerala, www.iist.ac.in

establishment vote.'

### PATNA, SEPTEMBER 25

ALL POLITICAL parties in Bihar, barring the Congress, welcomed the poll dates announced by the Election Commission on Friday.

Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar said he doesn't see voting percentage going down. "People are reacting well. They will take adequate safety measures...

LJP president Chirag Paswan said, "I am a bit emotional on the occasion as my father has been unwell... My father will be digitally connected with us and vot-

RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha welcomed the announcement but sought the introduction of additioinal norms to ensure voter safety.

Congress leader Tariq Anwar said, "Holding elections amid Covid-19 is fraught with danger. Now that elections have been imposed, all parties will accept the challenge.'

**DIPANKAR GHOSE** 

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

AS THE run-up to the Bihar elections heats up, prospective Opposition candidates are showing signs of impatience at the lack of clarity on seat-sharing in the Opposition alliance. Behind this is the growing

belief that while there is anti-incumbency against the Nitish Kumar government, the Opposition needs to hit the ground to make optimal use of this. Sources in the leadership of Opposition parties say talks are on, but the negotiations are "complicated" with so many players involved.

A Congress ticket hopeful, who wants to contest from the Munger division, said the mood on the ground was "encouraging". "I want to contest from a difficult seat where the percentage of Muslims and Yadavs is not high. But as I am going around, even people from other castes

With multiple players involved, negotiations are 'complicated'

> seem fed up with this government. The three issues that seem to be in our favour is the anti-incumbency, the economic distress due to the lockdown and floods, and anger among students. Now there may be some effects of the farm Bill, but certainly not as much as in Punjab or Haryana," the leader said. "But our leadership has not even hinted who will get what seat, and what the understanding is. We may be losing precious time."

Opposition leaders on the ground are worried about Seemanchal, a Muslim-dominated region which they see as a stronghold and where the AIMIM is seen to be making headway.

"After the AIMIM won the Kishanganj bypoll, some sec-

#### native to the BJP. This is a threat to the Opposition, because even if the AIMIM wins a few seats, they will divide the Opposition votes in others. We need to hit the ground to tell people we are the only alternative. But AIMIM is already on the ground, and has announced its intention to fight 50 seats, mostly in Seemanchal.

RID leader from the area said. Leaders involved in the negotiations, however, said there are disadvantages to announcing candidates too early.

Why are we wasting time?" an

"The negotiations are not easy. The RJD is the biggest player, but others do not trust each other even though they feel they should come together to defeat the bigger enemy, the JDU-BJP. The Left parties and RLSP and VIP argue that the Congress has no base. The others think the Left is growing obsolete. Some believe that votes of RSLP AND VIP don't get transferred, and that their MLAs are amenable to going over

scenario. The Congress argues that it is seen as the largest opposition. The Left says it is the only one with a cadre that stays loyal, a leader said.

Some state-level leaders said an announcement made too early could leave room for anger within their own camp. But one prospective candidate said. "There are many stages between a formal announcement to the media. Informally, candidates are told you should start preparing, and assurances are given, which generate some confidence. Even that has not happened."

Some party leaders involved in negotiations said there were signs of a breakthrough. "We are in a better place than we were even a week ago. From our point of view, RJD has shifted a little from its rigid stance that it would contest all the seats it had won which was impossible because they won under different conditions with the IDU," a CPI(ML) leader said.

### ADMISSION TO UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES - 2020

On RJD's decision to project

every party has the right to project

its leader. "If RID has declared its

CM face, no one has any objection.

But when it comes to the alliance...

we are talking to all our allies... we

have reached a certain stage.

There is still time. I can't say any-

will discuss and a CM face will be

declared before the elections if

they conclude that such a move

will be helpful. "Otherwise...we

will fight like this (without a de-

Assembly polls. He said this time,

too, "we and our allies, whoso-

ever will be with us, will contest

He said: "We will discuss and

decide...we should keep small is-

sues and our egos aside. There

should be no division in the anti-

Gohil said the Congress's

clared CM face)," he said.

the people's blessing".

thing while discussions are on." He said the alliance partners

IIST announces admission to the following B.Tech and Dual-Degree programmes;

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Candidates are required to Register through the Online Admission Portal (https://admission.iist.ac.in) The IIST Admission Rank List shall be prepared only for the eligible registered candidates.

Important Dat	tes	5 **
Online Registration		27.09.2020 to 07.10.2020
Online payment of Registration fee		On or before 07.10.2020
Publication of IIST Admission Rank List		08.10.2020
Seat Allotment/Acceptance Rounds		Starts from 10.10.2020
** Dates are tentative and any change will be notified or	th	e website

Contact: 0471-2568477/478/618/418, Fax: 04712568556 Email: ugadmission@iist.ac.in

#### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

#### **Auction Notice**

Auction of Lot No 1, N R. Rosa station vard/Rosa campus, 34 numbers Dangerous trees under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway Shahjahanpur will be auctioned in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway Shahjahanpur. All the interested bidders are invited to participate in this auction

Auction place: - Office of the Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway/ Shahjahanpur	on date
22.10.2020. at 11:00 AM	

	Demand draft will be deposited in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railway, Shahjahanpur from 09.00 am to 10.30 AM. After that no demand draft will be accepted.
	Bidders will not make any Kutcha/Pakka construction in the land of Railway. Bid will not be quoted below the base price.
9.	If the balance amount is not deposited within 10 days including the date of auction, then initial deposited amount will be forfeited.
8.	Trees will be delivered and handed over in the presence of SSE/works. ISA and RPF.
7.	Bidders are requested to quote their rates according to the tree locations.
6.	Complete Details of tree with locations will be available in the Divisional Office Moradabad.
5.	Railway has right to close the work any time. In this situation the balance amount will be returned withou interest.
4.	The work should be completed within 60 days including the date of auction.
с	GST @ 18 % will be deposited on total cost within 10 days including the date of auction
b	Balance amount will be deposited within 10 days including the date of auction
а	10% amount of selling price or minimum amount Rs 25,000/- whichever is maximum on purchase of more than Rs 1,00,000/-
3.	Successful bidders will deposit the Demand Draft of SBI or Other Nationalized Bank in favour of S DFM/MB or station earning in cash on same day with following rate
2.	All the bidders who will take part in the auction will also have proper knowledge of Auction rules an others allowances.
	All the bidders will deposit cash Rs 100/- in the office of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Northern Railwa Shahjahanpur which will not be refunded and shall also deposit Rs 8000/- in favor of Sr. Divisiona Finance Manager Northern Railway Moradabad as a Demand Draft of SBI or Other Nationalized Bank.

### **AFTER COMPLAINT BY UTTARAKHAND MINISTER** CM orders probe against IAS officer over tender 'irregularities'

scrutiny.

phone calls.

Government

Kaushik told *The Indian* 

Express on Friday: "The

Chief Minister has or-

dered an inquiry into the

### **EXPRESS NEWS** SERVICE DEHRADUN SEPTEMBER 25

UTTARAKHAND CHIEF Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has ordered an inquiry into a state minister's allegations of irregularities by an IAS officer in a tender process.

Women Welfare and Child Development Minister Rekha Arya had written to the Dehradun DIG that V Shanmugam. additional secretary at her department, was "missing" since September 20 and that his phone was switched off.

Arya said she could not contact him despite multiple attempts and asked the police to probe if he had been "kid-Shanmugam, napped" or had gone "un-

derground" to escape Shanmugam was in quarantine at his home.

> Earlier, minister Arya had also written to the department secretary alleging fraud in the tender process due to negligence by Shanmugam.

allegations the minister Arya had then said that she had summoned the officer over a tender for a department scheme, adding that he did not turn up

will be taken against the spokesperson said. The officer was not available for comment. A

Monday. spokesperson Madan

E-mail:tnscbprocurement@gmail.com Superintending Engineer Project Monitoring Unit



Secretary rank will probe the matter. If allegations were found correct, action

made against the officer in her letter. It will also be inquired why the officer did not respond to her An officer of the Senior

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB), Government of Tamil Nadu has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project. TNSCB now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services for the below mentioned assignments under the World Bank financed Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development

for Urban Poor Project.

DIPR/832/Display/2020

staffer in his office said he has been on leave since

The detailed REOI and Terms of Reference are available in the website - www.tnscb.org/procurement/ and www.tenders.tn.gov.in. The Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted for each assignment separately. Last date and time for submission of EOI is 23.10.2020 up to 5.45 PM. The EOI shall be sent to Superintending

Government of Tamil Nadu TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD

No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai-600 005, Tamil Nadu, India. **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST(REOI)** 

(Consulting Services - Individual Selection)

Project and ADB financed inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Housing

**1.Environmental Consultant** 

2. Procurement Consultant

Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance

Board, No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai-600 005, Tamil Nadu, India,

#### WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE YOU CAN NOT FOOL ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME. - ABRAHAM LINCOLN

### The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ Founded By ∽ Ramnath Goenka BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

### HOLE IN ACCOUNTS

CAG points to flaws in Centre's accounting of GST. Lack of transparency could deepen distrust between Centre and states

N ITS AUDIT report on the accounts of the Union government, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has pointed out grave lapses in the accounting of revenue from the GST compensation cess. According to the CAG, the central government, in violation of the GST Compensation Cess Act, 2017, short-credited the GST compensation cess fund to the tune of Rs 47,272 crore during 2017-18 and 2018-19, retaining the amount in the consolidated fund of India. By doing so, the funds collected through the compensation cess route could be used for purposes other than those provided in the Act. This accounting sleight of hand led to an overestimation of the Centre's revenue, and as a consequence, an underestimation of its fiscal deficit.

Unfortunately, this is not a one-off. In the past, the CAG has pointed out instances of the central government failing to properly account for revenue from various GST streams. In a previous report, the CAG had pointed out that the Centre had devolved the year-end Integrated GST (IGST) balance to states in 2017-18 according to the finance commission formula, in contravention of the provisions of the Constitution and the IGST Act. It had also noted that despite the amended IGST Act providing for ad-hoc apportionment of revenue, there was un-apportioned balance in the account, which meant that states were receiving less funds than they were supposed to. In the current scenario, when many states allege that the Centre is going back on its promise of protecting states' GST revenues, the lack of transparency over accounting of these revenues will only deepen the distrust between the Centre and the states. The issue of not properly accounting for revenue from cesses is not limited to the GST. As the CAG notes, during the past decade, Rs 1.24 lakh crore, collected as cess on crude oil, was not transferred to the designated reserve fund. Similarly, another Rs 10,157 crore, collected through the road and infrastructure cess, was not transferred to the related reserve fund. Now, as the CAG notes, collections through cesses are required to be transferred to their designated reserve fund, and the amounts collected through these sources are meant to be utilised only for the specific purposes intended by Parliament. Not transferring the amounts makes it difficult to ensure that revenue from these streams is being used for the specific purposes for which they were intended.

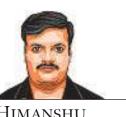
While the Centre's practice of levying cesses and surcharges is itself questionable revenues from these sources do not form part of the divisible tax pool and are thus not shared with states - the lack of transparency in the accounting of these funds is undesirable. Along with other creative ways of masking the true position of government finances, such as rolling over expenses to the next year, it creates an avoidable ambiguity over the state of government finances.

### IN BETWEEN STATE

Upcoming assembly election in Bihar will take place amid a fading of the old, and with the new not yet taking its place

HE ELECTION COMMISSION of India has taken a bold gamble in scheduling the assembly elections due in Bihar over three phases beginning October 28 amid the continuing COVID-19 outbreak. The EC has drawn an elaborate plan to minimise human contact during campaigning, polling and counting and to ensure that even the infected persons and those in quarantine get to exercise their right to vote. But an election held amid social distancing norms will look out of place in one of the country's most politically vibrant states.

Politics in Bihar is poised at an awkward juncture. Leaders who dominated the political landscape for decades are looking jaded or receding into the shadows, and no new leaders have taken their place. Since the advent of Mandal nearly three decades ago, Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar have dominated state politics with Ram Vilas Paswan playing a critical role. In the upcoming election, while the RJD patriarch is in jail, in Paswan's party the baton seems to be all but handed over from father to son. After three continuous terms in office, Nitish Kumar will be up against the visible plateauing of his governance record. "Sushasan Babu", as Nitish Kumar was once called for his emphasis on good governance, alongside the stated commitment to "social justice", seems to have run out of ideas and is banking on self-righteous moralising on tried-and-failed ideas like prohibition and the seeming absence of a credible alternative to win a fourth term. The RJD has turned into a family fief even as Tejashwi Yadav is yet to establish his credentials - under his leadership, the RJD could not win a single seat in the 2019 general election. The BJP seems to be the party on the rise but it is dependent on its central leadership, mainly Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to fetch votes. The Congress and the Left parties are pale shadows of their former selves and have done little to regain their lost base or attracts new voters. While the social justice politics that dominated the electoral agenda since the 1990s seems to have exhausted its radical potential, no new idea, paradigm or cast of characters has emerged. The coming together of Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar, representing two distinct strands of social justice politics under the Mahagathbandhan umbrella, had captured the voter's imagination in 2015. But this time alliances could break and form on the basis of a lack of options. If it wants to exploit the anti-incumbent sentiment, the Opposition will have to transcend the absence of a credible CM candidate with a smart coalition and a transformative agenda, which seems to be missing so far.



Harvest of distrust Farm bills are seen by farmers to deliver freedom –

not to them, but to private capital

HIMANSHU

ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, farmers' organisations across the country gave a call for a bandh to protest the three bills passed by Parliament. These bills, namely the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 (FPTC), the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 (FAPAFS), and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 were passed amid protests by the Opposition parties, without discussion in Parliament. Even the government's allies, such as the Shiromani Akali Dal, have raised apprehensions, lending their voice to the farmers' demands.

Projected as historic reforms, the government promises freedom to the farmers from the "villainous and exploitative" Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) mandis and from the middlemen who charge commission from trade in these mandis. Most farmers would agree that the functioning of the mandis is inefficient, opaque, politicised and often controlled by cartels. The attempt to reform the functioning of the mandis is not new and has been in process for the last two decades, starting from 2001 when the expert committee on agricultural marketing submitted its report. Since then, three different model APMC acts have been proposed by previous governments (in 2003, 2007, and 2013) and in 2017 by the current government, none of which led to the kind of protests that have been witnessed over the last two weeks.

Rather than welcoming the freedom from mandis, this time farmers are on the streets fighting for restoring the primacy of the mandis in agricultural trade primarily because APMC mandis are an essential part of the agricultural trading ecosystem. While they may have a confrontationist attitude to the functioning and administration of mandis, they also share a symbiotic relationship with the middlemen and the mandis extending beyond matters of transaction in agricultural produce. The middlemen are a source of information, inputs, and sometimes credit without collateral.

The anger against the bills is not just about restoring the primacy of the APMC mandis but also over the manner in which the bills were thrust upon the farming community. Not only the farmers' organisations, but even state governments and allies have not been consulted. Secondly, all the earlier attempts at reforming

The fight to retain the APMC despite its shortcomings is also a fight to extract a commitment from the government on maintaining state support to the agricultural sector. With government investment in agriculture declining in real terms and rising input costs and declining subsidy, farmers fear the withering away of the last remaining instrument of state support in the form of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime. While MSP-based procurement did not benefit the majority of farmers and only a few states contributed to the procurement operations of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), it did work as a lifeline for the farmers in those states.

agricultural marketing respected the constitutional separation of powers. While the Centre proposed the model acts, these were implemented by state governments. And most of these proposals were actually acted upon by state governments with waves of reforms in the functioning of the APMC in most states.

Out of 36 states and union territories, 18 states have already enacted reforms allowing for establishment of private market yards/private markets, 19 states have enacted reforms allowing for direct purchase of agricultural produce from agriculturists by processor/bulk buyer/bulk retailer/exporter, 20 states have enacted contract farming acts. Kerala and Bihar do not have APMC mandis and Tamil Nadu has a different system. Most states have exempted levy of taxes and fees on sale of fruits and vegetables. Most of these reforms were enacted by the state governments and rules were framed with farmers welcoming these changes, even though the changes were suggested by the Centre.

On the other hand, the current reforms completely bypass the state governments and weaken their ability to regulate agricultural markets even though it is a state subject. Further, unlike earlier reforms where the focus was on strengthening the functioning of APMC mandis while allowing for greater private market access and participation, the current FTPC bill bypasses the APMC altogether, creating a separate structure of trading. In any case, mandi trade accounts for less than onefourth of the total agricultural trade with the rest accounted for by private markets/traders. The absence of regulation and exemption from mandi fees creates a dual market structure which is not only inefficient but will also encourage unregulated trade detrimental to the primary purpose of providing market access to farmers for better price discovery and assured prices.

Most farmers realise that the FTPC Bill is not about delivering on the promise of freedom to farmers but freedom to private capital to purchase agricultural produce at cheaper prices and without any regulation or oversight by the government. Farmers also realise that this will eventually lead to shifting of trade from regulated APMC mandis to private markets without any commitment to investment in infrastructure and regulation from government. With unequal and differentiated terms of engagement, the decline and disappearance

of the APMC is only a matter of time.

The fight to retain the APMC despite its shortcomings is also a fight to extract a commitment from the government on maintaining state support to the agricultural sector. With government investment in agriculture declining in real terms and rising input costs and declining subsidy, farmers fear the withering away of the last remaining instrument of state support in the form of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime. While MSP based procurement did not benefit the majority of farmers and only a few states contributed to the procurement operations of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), it did work as a lifeline for the farmers in those states. Its effectiveness was only in two crops, wheat and paddy, among more than 1,000 crops grown, but it did provide the assurance that the state was willing to step in when required. It also contributed to revenue to the agricultural marketing boards which was partially utilised in improving infrastructure in the mandis

These fears are compounded by the contract farming bill and amendments in the essential commodities act. Apart from the fact that the provisions of these bills are highly skewed in favour of private capital, with no limits on stockholding and restrictions of government interventions, there is limited recourse to any independent grievance redressal mechanism.

What has also angered the farmers is the deep divide between the rhetoric of the government and its actions on the ground. Even while enacting these reforms and promising greater freedom to farmers, the government has moved swiftly to ban the export of onions and reduced, increased and again reduced import duty on masur in a matter of three months. Agricultural terms of trade have moved against agriculture with rising input prices (with the government increasing diesel prices despite the collapse in international prices) and declining farm gate prices.

The last three years have seen a collapse in prices of major agricultural products. At a time of general demand deflation and the economic slowdown, promising the farmers a bumper increase in agricultural prices through a free market is as good as the promise of "achhe din" by the party that came to power in 2014.

The writer is associate professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU, Delhi

### **PLAYER AND PUNDIT**

Dean Jones' love for the game and eye for detail made him one of its best analysts

IRST AS AN entertaining cricketer and later as a popular TV pundit, Dean Jones, 59, lived more than half of his life in the public eye. Die-hard cricket fans grew up watching him switch roles as seamlessly as he changed gears while batting. As an aggressive batsman he spoke his mind and occasionally got into trouble. Once he had a microphone in hand, he was the avuncular, bantering cricket tragic. The game was so dear to lones that he couldn't just sit home and watch it from a distance on television. He dared to venture into uncharted territories. When the world was wary of traveling to Pakistan, he went and coached Karachi Kings in the Pakistan Super League. Once while commentating in Afghanistan there was a bomb blast outside the stadium. The embassy offered to fly him out but he chose to stay back.

Anyone from the 80s generation who saw his jaw-dropping double hundred in Madras would vouch that Jones wasn't a quitter. They would remember Jones for his sun hat, the zinc-creamed lips, the white wrist band, the audacious batting and acrobatic fielding. For them, he would be forever frozen in a leap near the boundary or the dance down the track to send the ball over long-on. Jones poured his character into every swing of the bat. A couple of years after he retired, he summed up his batting philosophy: "Sometimes I died by the sword but by Jove, I had a few kills along the way.'

The second innings as a commentator had run into early troubles after he called South African batsman Hashim Amla a "terrorist" on air. Later he would say it was a "flippant" comment uttered in the assumption that he was off air. But Jones bounced back. His love for the game and eye for detail made him one of the best analysts. He was also seen as an innovator, unafraid to share some of his out-of-left-field theories. There was never a dull cricket conversation when he was around.



### Pakistan may not be intellectually flexible enough to deal with Arab-Israel thaw

CLUELESS IN WEST ASIA

### KHALED AHMED

AFTER NEARLY 70 years of building a case in favour of conflict, the Middle East may be moving towards peace. On September 13, Bahrain recognised Israel in the presence of US President Donald Trump in Washington. The recognition by a country almost an appendage of Saudi Arabia, physically and politically, signals a tacit pledge of recognition by the Saudis as well. The Palestinian Authority, betrayed by these recognitions, tried to raise the subject at the Arab League but was ignored.

The Arabs feel threatened today, not by Israel, but from states within the Islamic world by non-Arab, non-Semite Iran and Turkey.

Not comprehending what was unfolding, Pakistan joined Turkey and Malaysia, earlier this year, to hold a "separate" Islamic summit to signal to the Semites of the Middle East that it can go its own way. It was soon made to realise, however, that it had made a mistake although it is still unclear whether it will, under clerical pressure, denounce the Arabs getting together with Israel.

Israel already has diplomatic relations with Jordan from 1994 — after three wars and Egypt from 1979 – after four wars – and no one has minded. In fact, Egypt today has joined Saudi Arabia and the UAE to fight Turkey in Libya in the western Mediterranean, and Saudi Arabia now looks to Israel to defend it against Iran. Pakistan, as a "nuclear power", has always

India's non-recognition of Israel was not based on any moral considerations but on the attitude of its Arab friends in the Gulf. Soon, it read the signs of approval that Pakistan couldn't from its perch of moral high ground.

been loyal to Saudi Arabia and the UAE because four million of its expat manpower is located in the two countries. But it may find itself disadvantaged by its "big leader" Imran Khan. Nuclear but economically bankrupt, Pakistan needs a lot of "flexibility" during this period of the grand split within the Muslim world but it may find itself stymied by its charismatic leader who is greatly attracted to the Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Perhaps responding to Pakistan's possible support to the anti-Arab and pro-Iran front, the offended clerics of Karachi took out the largest anti-Shia procession in Pakistan's history, calling the Shia apostates although the country's founder was a Shia. Will Turkey and Iran get together to oppose the Arab trend of "normalising" relations with Israel? Unlikely, because of Erdogan's puritan dislike of the Shia religion. In Lebanon, he has actively supported the Sunni community against the Iran-supported Shia militias, Hezbollah and Amal.

Will China step in after the USmoves out? In Jerusalem, the analysis is that China, a dominant trader in the Gulf, is not really interested in being a guarantor of peace in the region. China is dependent on the region's oil and gas but this dependence is temporary as it moves rapidly to renewable energy. It may not enter the fray to defend an Iran currently engaged in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Lebanon.

The other regional power present in the region – through its good relations with the Arabs and Israel - is India. Close to the US under Trump, it is economically better integrated with the Gulf States than Pakistan through its superior expat manpower and its relationship with Israel. It had involved itself in projects in Iran as well, funding the port of Chabahar to facilitate its trade routes to Afghanistan and Central Asia but suddenly pulled out - perhaps after a signal from Washington - while Pakistan, its regional rival, remained clueless about what was about to happen in the Gulf region.

The "moral" hardening of Pakistan's foreign policy has hampered its diplomacy and consequently its economic development. It was excluded from high-tech weaponry after the US embargo. India got out of this ban by reviving its relationship with Israel as an "alternative" supplier. India's non-recognition of Israel was not based on any moral considerations but on the attitude of its Arab friends in the Gulf. Soon, it read the signs of approval that Pakistan couldn't from its perch of moral high ground. Today, Pakistani military-history authors like Shuja Nawaz recommend recognising Israel but Pakistan is not flexible enough intellectually to change with the winds.

> The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan



### SEPTEMBER 26, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

### IRAN BOMBED

IRAQI WARPLANES BOMBED Tehran as Iraq announced the capture of Iran's main cargo port, Khoramshahr on the fourth day of their undeclared war. Iraq announced that its troops entered the Iranian naval base and a cargo port on Karun river. Iran denied Baghdad's claims immediately. However, reports talk of the fall of the besieged city following Baghdad radio's announcement that advancing Iraqi troops seized the railway that connects Khoramshahr and the oil refinery city of Abadan with Tehran 500 km northeast. Khoramshahr's fall leaves Abadan virtually defenceless with all highway, railway and sea routes blocked for Iranian reinforcements.

**RIVALS SET DEMANDS** IRAQI VICE-PREMIER TARIQ Aziz has reaffirmed that his country has no territorial ambitions in Iran. He outlined Iraq's conditions for ending the four-day-old war. Speaking to reporters after a meeting with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Aziz said that Iraq's conditions were simple: Respect for its integrity over land, good neighbour agreements with Baghdad and other Arab countries, guarantee of non-interference in its internal affairs, and cessation of aggressive postures. Iran has demanded that Iraq vacate its forces from erstwhile peacetime locations and respect its territorial integrity.

#### New Delhi

### INDIAN CASUALTIES

SEVEN MORE INDIANS have succumbed to the injuries they sustained during the bombings on Basra on September 23, taking the death to 17. The foreign office in New Delhi is still trying to get the names of the deceased.

### PRESS ATTACKED

YOUTH CONGRESS WORKERS threw chappals at the offices of Deccan Herald and its sister publication Prajavani, protesting against the publication of what they called "incorrerct news". They also shouted slogans in front of the office of the Indian Express group.





THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

# THE IDEAS PAGE

# The criminalisation of protest

As anti-CAA movement is sought to be projected as precursor of the riots, damage that will be done to a generation of young Indians will be bad enough, but damage done to police could take generations to repair



SALMAN KHURSHID

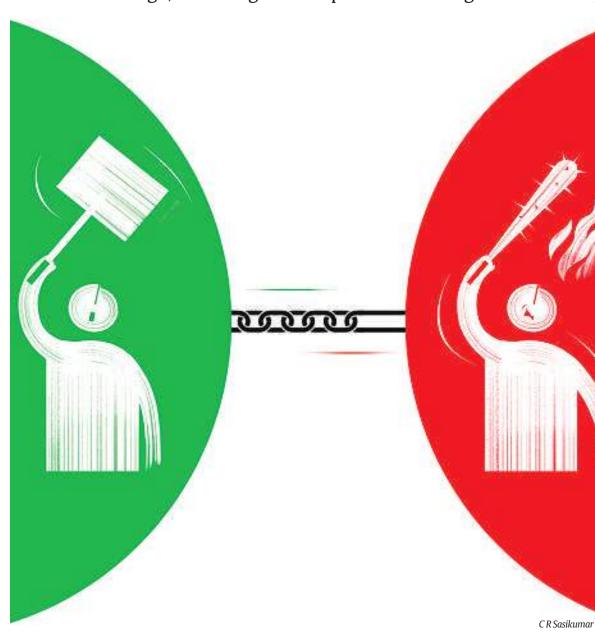
THE PROTESTS AT Shaheen Bagh and Jamia Millia Islamia, not to mention the protests inspired by them across the country against the CAA-NRC-NPR, were a remarkable break from the past and a repudiation of stereotypes. Virtually leaderless masses of students and women took to the streets to register their presence and participation in Indian democracy.

Of course, the usual suspects, activists and would-be leaders from fringe movements, tried to muscle in whilst others put up barriers for the leaders and parties, with whom they had real or imagined scores to settle.

The crowds had Jamaat-e-Islami supporters who kept secularists away, ultra-leftists who queried the invites to former ministers of the Congress, new-age Dalit cause converts who did not wish to cede space to established parties, local musclemen and land grabbers who wanted to use the movement to create safe havens, genteel social activists constantly wary of the potential for confrontation and local politicians trying to elbow each other out. With the filing of the charge-sheets, there is apprehension that fifth columnists had infiltrated the unique movement from the beginning. With friends like these, who needs enemies? When I tried to persuade the organisers at Jamia to invite some former ministers, I was told that it had been difficult enough to accept my presence.

It was COVID-19 and the responsible response to the administration's requests that brought the protests to a pause, hopefully not to an end. It certainly was not the police and government's strong-arm tactics that made the 24x7 protests fold up. It is silly to link the protests to the subsequent riots of February, which cannot be de-linked from the divisive politics pursued by the ruling establishment at the Centre. What might be made of the ambivalent and slippery politics of the AAP, who gathered the reluctant vote of the protesters, is a million-dollar question.

Interestingly, the 17,500-page chargesheet filed in FIR 59/2020 has \$161 (not admissible) and S164 statements mentioning the names of several speakers, including mine. The statements indicate that the speakers used "provocative language and motivated people to join the protests". Putting diverse people together in a statement as though they had a collective or corporate personality and to bind all with one statement is an interesting sleight of hand.



The Mumbai Police blotted its copybook during the 1992-93 riots in the city and the Delhi Police has followed suit in 2020. Assiduously built relationships between the local police and the populace, without which policing is impossible, have been fed to the vultures who feed upon the carcass of a divided society. The damage that will be done to a generation of young Indians will be bad enough, but the police will not escape the damage that could take generations to repair.

There is much history to take lessons from. When the curtains come down on this era of discontent, the downstream perpetrators of injustice will not even be remembered as villains - a sobriquet reserved for the high and mighty who fall from grace.

The right to protest peacefully will be illusory if every such gathering is declared un-

We know that riots happen for a variety of local reasons and the prevailing

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Countries that can influence India should persuade Mr Modi to return to the path of sanity. In this context, sanity and rationality demand that India restore the special status of... Kashmir." - DAWN

### In crisis, play by the book

Unconventional measures may be needed to bring economy back on rails. But discarding principles of sound public policy will do more harm than good



### ISHAN BAKSHI

DURING PERIODS OF extreme uncertainty, there is always a clamour for throwing out the rulebook; for adopting measures that would have been deemed too radical in normal times. The current crisis is no different. Over the past few months, several such policy prescriptions have been put forth. However, one must advise caution. Some of the proposals, a potent mix of policy adventurism and unorthodoxy, while politically expedient, could risk opening the economy to adverse consequences down the road Some unconventional measures may well be needed at the current juncture. But discarding the principles of sound public policy, though it sounds appealing, could end up doing more harm than good.

Take the growing demand for reworking the inflation targeting regime. With the monetary policy committee (MPC) concluding that elevated inflation has constrained it from easing policy rates further, despite growth falling off a cliff, there has been much consternation over the apparent "rigidity" of the "flexible" inflation targeting framework.

One way out of this growth-inflation quagmire, as has been proposed by some, is for the government to relax the inflation targeting framework. This would involve greater tolerance for higher levels of inflation either by adjusting the acceptable range of inflation upwards, or by extending the period over which the MPC has to meet its inflation target. Others have suggested shifting from headline to core-inflation as the nominal anchor of monetary policy or incorporating other indicators such as nominal GDP explicitly into the framework. The more extreme ones talk about doing away with the

inflation targeting framework altogether. The government may well decide to lean in favour of any one of these suggestions. But this would be a mistake. Sure, there is a strong argument for the MPC to look beyond the current spike in inflation and ease rates further. But disagreements with either the rationale or the stance of the committee members must not be construed as disagreements with the framework. Raising the tolerance threshold may sound appealing now, but it will inject a degree of uncertainty and unpredictability in monetary policy. Considering that anchoring expectations around the inflation target takes time, frequent revisions are unlikely to help stabilise household expectations. While explicitly signalling a lack of commitment to maintaining price stability, the implicit message from adjusting the framework will be one of deviating from a rule-based framework.

icy because there was no clarity over the indicator that was dictating the stance of the RBI governor or which indicator would be given preference, and when. Such proposals go against the rationale for shifting to such a framework in the first place – an inflation targeting regime, with a well-defined anchor, is meant to facilitate greater transparency and accountability from the central bank.

Rather, at the current juncture, there must be a concerted attempt to push for more external voices in the MPC, especially since the outcome of the voting seems to bear the governor's imprimatur. And if the government feels that its concerns need to be heard by the committee then, surely, there are better ways of going about it. In the UK, a nonvoting treasury representative sits with the MPC to discuss policy issues. Bringing in, first, a structural change in the conduct of monetary policy and then slowly dismantling it, both, cannot be touted as reforms depending on when one adjudicates the matter.

Another such unorthodox proposal talks about the central bank effectively financing the Centre's capital expenditure on a regular basis. This is problematic at many levels.

First, notwithstanding problems in estimating potential output, monetisation, even in the rarest of rare cases, should be the last resort. The perils of falling back on this longdiscarded policy, and that too on a regular basis, need to be guarded against. Such an arrangement, however well designed, risks falling along predictable lines, tilting the balance of power in favour of the government. Any government, owing to its short-term political imperatives, is likely to be seduced by the apparent simplicity of this idea, unmindful of its long-term repercussions. And it is more likely to favour channeling every last penny it earns on revenue expenditure, leading to a situation wherein the entire budgeted capital expenditure is financed by the central bank. Doing so will mean flirting with crisis, more so when there are demands for easing the inflation targeting framework. It's almost as if the lessons of the past, the electoral calculus of profligacy, have been forgotten or are being wilfully ignored.

The risk also runs the other way. Giving a central bank a degree of control over the government's expenditure priorities is not a prudent approach. Whatever be their policy inclinations and expenditure priorities, elected representatives have to face voters at the hustings. Why should unelected technocrats be in charge of determining the expenditure priorities of the government? Are they answerable to the people? Such proposals blur the lines between fiscal and monetary policy and may lead to what some call the fiscalisation of monetary policy.

Another equally audacious idea that has

Or perhaps it is just plain laziness in an investigation. But the larger issue is that the protests are sought to be perceived as the precursors of the unfortunate riots.

We know that riots happen for a variety of local reasons and the prevailing atmosphere has a great deal to do with it. The riots that took place in northeast Delhi have left many questions unanswered. It is not surprising that former Supreme Court judges and a celebrated former police chief have expressed their disquiet about the investigation.

lawful as a matter of routine. Harsh words against a government that more than deserves them being labelled as sedition will virtually negate Article 19 and free speech. Curiously, many persons who support the action against CAA protestors are lining up to bemoan the Supreme Court showing prima facie concern about the content of the Sudarshan TV tapes on the UPSC selection of candidates coached by Jamia and other organisations. One man's meat is another man's poison.

atmosphere had a great deal to do with it. The riots that took place in northeast Delhi have left many questions unanswered. It is not surprising that former Supreme Court judges and a celebrated former police chief have expressed their disquiet about the investigation.

and barricades will not be occupied again. On the other hand, if they were organic and spontaneous, they will spring up again. The movement would have learnt costly lessons. but one wonders if the government did so too. From the contents of the charge-sheet, it appears that far from learning, the government continues to celebrate ignorance, persecution and falsehood.

While the government may be congrat-

ulating itself for destroying the spontaneous

voice of the people (according to them, only

some people), there are two explanations for

its position: It is either fear of vox populi or a

perverse ideological posture on equality.

Perhaps it is a bit of both. But from the point

of view of democracy, one wonders what

happens to spontaneous movements like the

outburst of young people in the heart of

Delhi after the December 2012 rape and

murder and then the Shaheen Baghs across

India? Are they destined to plant the flag of

protest, leave their footprints on the sands of

time, and move on for another generation to

consolidate? The government will soon dis-

cover if the CAA protests were designed and

executed by the conspirators mentioned in

the charge-sheets, in which case the streets

The writer is a senior Congress leader and a former Union minister

Shifting to a multiple indicator structure will also be problematic. Such a move harks back to the pre-MPC days when there was far greater uncertainty over monetary polbeen proposed is for the cash strapped government to pledge its shares in companies and avail loans against them. This raises questions. Should a sovereign pledge assets to borrow in the local currency? In 1991, India had pledged gold for a foreign currency denominated loan not a local currency loan. So why the collateral? And what happens if the value of the shares pledged falls below that of the loan?

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### A better normal

Covid crisis underlines need to invest in healthcare, infrastructure, environment

### Sunil Alagh

ANYONE MAKING METICULOUS long-term life or economic plans at the beginning of 2019 has seen them go awry. The new norm, in my opinion, should be to focus on immediate and medium-term (two-three year) scenarios. COVID-19 is unfortunately the new reality and will impact our lives through 2021 at the very least. The situation is analogous to crossing a road - one cannot cross with closed eyes due to high risk of getting hit by a passing vehicle. With a cautious approach, looking to the left and right before crossing, we still run the risk of being hit, but at least this is reduced. With our new reality, the government has to take the following steps to mitigate risks and move forward.

It is important to keep in mind the environmental impact of policies. The current Monsoon Season demonstrates the impact of global warming on previously predictable climate patterns and the economic activities that rely on it. We must remember that the environment is the parent of the economy and not vice-versa. Our focus on economic development at the expense of global warming will have dire consequences. The situation is comparable to the impact of alcohol use on the liver. I have been told by esteemed doctors that even if the liver is damaged up to 75 per cent as a consequence of alcohol consumption, it can regenerate after alcohol cessation. But beyond 75 per cent, you reach a point of no return.

By damaging the environment in the name of the economy, we are now getting closer to the point of no return. The government must pay attention to this and not continue the current policy, which allows industrial development to continue unchecked without caring for environmental consequences. Deforestation to set up a factory has an immediate environmental impact, which replanting trees will take years to mitigate. There is a middle path which allows for both job creation and preserving our ecosystem.

The government must take active steps to promote demand. So far, it has rightly looked after the poor, the agriculture sector and the supply side of the economy. But this is not enough as non-agriculture income, even in rural areas, has not grown.

Demand is the oil in the engine of growth without it, the economy will come to a grinding halt. The 300 million Indians who comprise the middle class are the major source for this demand. We must incentivise them to spend. I have been promoting this balanced approach of looking after supply and demand ad nauseam. Little investment and capital expenditure will take place if there is no demand for products. I agree that in the initial stages of the pandemic, it was important to provide for the poor and ensure the agricultural supply chain remained intact. But we cannot afford to ignore the urban middle-class any longer.

In the current uncertain economic environment, providing money into consumers' hands is likely to be inadequate - the mid-

dle class is more apt to save it for a rainy day rather than spend. We will therefore need to devise creative solutions to promote spending, such as tax incentives for expenditure on cars, flats, white goods, travel etc. The government must continue to increase expenditure on infrastructure projects to provide stable employment. A Keynesian model of funding is required. It is only then that our economic trajectory will resume its upward trend.

While the government has increased healthcare spending to the tune of Rs 14,000 crore, this remains woefully inadequate. As the focus has been on creating large COVID isolation centres and reserving ICU beds, routine preventive services such as immunisation have fallen. Resources devoted to other, more critical, healthcare needs such as cancer screening and treatment have also been crippled. While COVID-related infrastructure spending should continue to be a top priority, a healthcare crisis should spur a critical look at all the healthcare needs of the growing population, both urban and rural. India spends only 1.3 per cent of its GDP on healthcare whereas healthcare spending in the developed world is between 10-18 per cent. Even China and Nigeria spend 4-6 per cent.

A less important consideration is how we navigate working from home going forward. The vast majority of workers I encounter are longing to break free from the confines of their homes and collaborate with colleagues in the same physical environment. We must find a way to safely allow this and mitigate

risks through solutions like mandatory masks, working on alternating days and social distancing within the workplace. Wearing a mask is the single most effective preventive measure until a vaccine is widely available.

Working from home is a poor substitute in a fast-paced world where collaboration is key. COVID is here to stay and we must learn to live with it, and not completely ignore the psychological needs and emotions of our workers.

Any crisis brings opportunities for growth and change. This is an opportunity for the government to cut wasteful expenditure and costs, increase expenditure on much-needed infrastructure like roads, ports and airports, insure poor farmers against vagaries of weather and provide food/shelters for the 800 million poor. In doing so, we must never forget the growing middle-class who help to generate demand and keep our factories running. This will increase the fiscal deficit - but it can be reversed in the coming years.

Government and industry leaders have their work cut out for them. In a democracy, we must stop merely criticising but instead offer solutions. As former President A P J Abdul Kalam said, "We must behave like a billion people and not like a million people". We will make mistakes along the way but we must learn from them and move ahead as one - government, Industry and the people of our country.

The writer is a business and brand consultant

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR DISTANT SECULARISM **IDEAS** THIS REFERS TO the article, 'You dare not speak' (IE, September 25). The med-**ONLINE** ley of hate speeches started last year with Pragya Thakur and her comments **ONLY IN THE EXPRESS** on Nathuram Godse. Then we had two more BJP MP's vying to be part of that MALNUTRITION, THE elite club - Anurag Thakur and Parvesh SILENT PANDEMIC: Verma – alongside Kapil Mishra, during the Delhi riots. When we see in a **ANTARYAMI DASH** party with senior and respected leaders and professionals the likes of Sakshi • A PANDEMIC OF FAILURES: Maharaj, Sadhvi Pragya, Usha Thakur, JAVED IQBAL WANI AND Yogi Adityanath, Niranjan Jyoti, Sangeet L DAVID LAL Som, it gives a feeling that "positive secularism", which the BJP speaks about, www.indianexpress.com

Ravi Jain, Zirakpur

### A CIRCUS

is a long way away.

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Hold the nose' (IE, September 25). The Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) relentless pursuit to "uproot the drug citadel in Bollywood", as opposed to secrecy in its investigation, has been rather indiscrete. Is the citizenry getting intoxicated by reading and watching this, and loving it, amid the pandemic-induced unprecedented fall in GDP and massive unemployment? Marie Antoinette and Roman poet Juvenal who are often quoted for "if they have no bread, let them eat cake" and about "bread and circus" respectively, have paled before the media's "Make In India" innovation combining the two "if they have no job, let them watch circus". This reflects pathological symbiosis of politics and

business that defies reason and the rule of law.

#### LR Murmu, Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Hold the nose' (IE, September 25). It seems that all the premier investigative agencies are, by hook or by crook, trying to fill the entertainment space, with exaggeration and fiction. Undeniably, this has given enough fodder to 24 X 7 news channels, who are morphing into gossip-mongering platforms. A common man who is struggling to surmount the pandemic and make ends meet is not at all interested in the drugs celebrities consume. Whatever be the outcome of the investigations, it is certain that ED/CBI/NCB have dented their stature further.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai





# **12** GOVT & POLITICS

### **PROTESTS AGAINST FARM BILLS PASSED IN PARLIAMENT**

# From fields to streets: farmers observe Bharat bandh

Punjab shuts down, CM says he hopes pain of farmers will reach Centre

### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 25

NORMAL LIFE was thrown out of gear as there was a near total shutdown across Punjab on Friday following the bandh call by 31 farm organisations to protest against the farm legislation recently passed in Parliament. Besides farmers, traders, labourers, activists, artistes and women stepped out in support of the bandh. The bandh was peaceful, ex-

cept in Barnala district where Shiromani Akali Dal activists set afire a tractor.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh appealed for a peaceful agitation and said he was hopeful that the "pain of agitating farmers, who braved the pandemic and the heat today to protest against the Agriculture Bills, will reach the Central government, and it will gracefully back off from destroying the farm sector with such ruthless disregard for the farming community". He reiterated his commitment to fight the "draconian laws till his last breath"

Shiromani Akal Dal (SAD), president and Ferozepur MP Sukhbir Singh Badal and Bathinda MPHarsimrat Kaur Badal, who resigned as Union minister to oppose the Bills, led protests in Lambi Assembly segment.

Speaking at the protest meeting, Sukhbir said, "Chief Minister Amarinder Singh should call a Cabinet meeting immediately and come out with an ordinance to declare the entire state as a principal market yard (to circumvent implementation of the three Bills in the state).

Terming it as "complete shutdown", Krantikari Kisan Union leader Darshan Pal said, "As per the reports from the farm organisations across the state, road and railway travel remained suspended, markets, offices and other establishments remained shut during the Bandh.'

He said that October 1 onwards, farm outfits would announce a programme for indefinite rail roko protest in Punjab.





### Maharashtra may not implement farm Bills, decision after consulting experts: Deputy CM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** PUNE, MUMBAI, SEPT 25

ON A day thousands of farmers took to the streets in protest against the farm Bills passed by Parliament recently, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra indicated that it was set to oppose the implementation of the new legislation in the state.

"The Union government got the new farms Bills passed... but there are protests against them across the country. If the Bills have to be considered for Maharashtra... they may not be implemented in

the state. However, we will hold

may decide against implementing the state Congress president.

CM Bhupesh Baghel had said that if required, the Congress could the Bills in the states under its rule.

isters and MLAs from Maharashtra were present during the event.

The Congress in Maharashtra is also set to launch an online protest — #SpeakUp for farmers – on Saturday, following which senior leaders will walk to the Raj Bhavan on September 28 to submit a memorandum against these legislations to Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, to be handed over to President Ram Nath Kovind. On October 2. on the occasion of birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri, the party will observe Kisan Mazdoor Bachao Diwas,

where protest meets will be held across the state.

### PM: Bills to benefit farmers, Oppn spreading rumours

**GUJARAT ASSEMBLY** 

**PASSES LEGISLATION** 

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat

Assembly Friday passed a

Bill amending Gujarat

Agricultural Produce Mar-

kets Act, 1963, which makes

the entire state a "unified

market" where a trader can

buy farmers' produce from

anywhere. The Congress

staged a walkout, calling the

ers got was a jumbled web of

promises and laws, he said. "They are spreading rumours. Saving

farmers from such rumours and

explaining the importance of the

agriculture reforms is the respon-

sibility and duty of all BIP work-

ers, because we have to make the

future of farmers bright," he said.

Produce Trade and Commerce

(Promotion and Facilitation) Bill.

Farmers (Empowerment and Pro-

tection) Agreement of Price Ass-

urance and Farm Services Bill, and

Essential Commodities (Amend-

ment)Bill in the monsoon session,

which wound up on Wednesday,

eight days ahead of schedule.

amid protests by the Opposition.

that the Bills will harm interest of

farmers and benefit corporates, a

claim denied by the government.

Modi also praised the new lab-

While the trade union wing of

RSS has opposed changes in lab-

our laws, its farmers' wing has

taken every marginalised session

along. "The government must use

ised voice against the farm Bills.

Modi said the government has

The Opposition has claimed

Parliament passed Farmer's

ENS

Bill "anti-farmer".

### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

AMID INTENSIFYING protest by farmers in different parts of the country against the farm-related Bills passed by Parliament in the recently concluded monsoon session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said his is the first government in decades to have framed laws that benefit farmers, workers, women and other marginalised sections of the society.

Modi hit out at the Opposition for its attack on his government over the Bills – opposition parties have called these anti-farmer and said those who have always "lied" to farmers are now "shooting from their shoulders" and misleading them for political benefit.

Addressing BJP workers on the 104th birth anniversary of Ian Sangh ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya, the Prime Minister said small and marginal farmers, who constitute 85 per cent of the sector, will benefit the most from these reforms. He said these reforms will give them an option to sell their produce outside agriculture 'mandis' for a better price.

"We have taken well thoughtout decisions that are not for any political benefit (to us) but for the empowerment and benefit of farmers. Earlier, we decided to give MSP that was one-and-a-half times the cost of production and created history," he said.

This was the third time in reour laws passed by Parliament and cent days that Modi spoke in supmaintained that they will ensure port of the Bills and countered the timely salary for over 50 crore organised and unorganised workers. Opposition's criticism.

The BJP has launched an aggressive counter-campaign after the Opposition, NDA ally Shiromani Akali Dal - the SAD walked out of government over the Bills – and some friendly parties are leading protests in agrarian areas, especially in Punjab and Haryana.

its resources more for (develop-Targeting the Congress, Modi ment of) the deprived and the marginalised. This birth anniversaid hollow slogans were given in favour of farmers and workers for sary of Pandit Deendayal-ji is even decades since Independence even more relevant as the reformist decisions taken by the government as the party formed governments at the Centre and in states in their in recent times had the imprint of name. All that farmers and labourthe vision shown by him," he said.

'Only option for govt: get ordinance to

guarantee no procurement below MSP'



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

### **'Productive** Monsoon Session, but **RS** scenes unfortunate'

#### **LIZ MATHEW** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla Friday thanked the ruling and Opposition parties for a productive Monsoon Session but expressed disapproval at the chaotic scenes witnessed in Rajya Sabha during the passage of farm Bills.

"It was unfortunate," Birla said when asked about protests by the Opposition during the last two days of the session. Referring to the practice of either House not commenting on the proceedings of the other. he said: "Efforts should be made to strengthen democratic institutions further." The dignity of the House and

its chair was an important aspect of the parliamentary system. All members have a duty to respect it," he added.

Birla was addressing the media after the conclusion of the Monsoon Session. The session, which began on September 14, was scheduled to end on October 1. It ended on September 23, cut short by the pandemic. Three MPs and a minister died of Covid-19, and several people on the premises tested positive.

The Speaker said the Opposition in Lok Sabha boycotted the last day of the session due to "some political compulsions", but added that its leaders had conveyed that they did not have any issues with him. Birla said he had invited the Opposition leaders for a cup of a tea and requested them to attend the valedictory proceed-

ngs of the House on Wednesday. Speaker Birla also said the construction of the new Parliament building will be completed in 21 months. "We expect to hold the session in the new building when the country celebrates 75 years of Independence," he said.

The estimated cost for the building is Rs 892 crore and is expected to be completed by July 2022. The tender has been awarded to Tata Projects Ltd.

The Speaker pointed out that despite adversarial circumstances and restrictions due to Covid-19. Lok Sabha recorded historic productivity-167 per cent. "On average, 370 MPs attended the House in a day. This is even better than in a session during normal times," he said. He credited the cooperation of all political parties for this.

### How protests played out in other states

HARYANA FARMERS TOOK to the streets

# Ajit Pawar

discussions with experts before any decision is taken," NCP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar told reporters in Pune Friday. Pawar's colleague in the state

cabinet, state Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat, also indicated that stalling the implementation of the farm Bills was an option.

"The Congress is against the implementation of the farm Bills. The Maha Vikas Aghadi is also opposed to these legislations. We

these in the state," said Thorat, also Earlier this week, Chhattisgarh consider non-implementation of

Thorat was addressing the media during the launch of a twomonth long 'mass movement' against the central government for pushing "anti-farmer and antilabour legislations without review". All India Congress's Committee's Maharashtra incharge HKPatil, former chief ministers Ashok Chavan and Prithvira Chavan and senior Congress min-

(Above) Farmers protest on

the Punjab-Haryana border

across the country as part of

near Ambala on Friday.

Protests were organised

a 'bandh' call against the

president Sukhbir Singh

Badal and former Union

Minister Harsimrat Kaur

protest against the farm

Bills in Sri Muktsar

Sahib on Friday.

Badal lead a tractor march in

farm Bills. (Left) SAD

and blocked roads and highways by parking tractor-trolleys. The farmer unions claimed the agitation had impact across the state and Rohtak, Jind and Kurukshetra remained almost disconnected with other parts due to road blockades. Harvana Bhartiya Kisan Union president Gurnam Singh Chaduni said: "Our struggle will continue. The government has to either accept our demands or shoot us."

Farmers raised slogans against PM Narendra Modi amid the tunes of Haryanvi ragnis (folk songs) in Rohtak district. In Fatehabad, patriotic songs were played on loudspeakers.

#### **BIHAR**

RJD FRIDAY backed the call for Bihar bandh by farmers organisations. Leader of Opposition in

### **BALWANT MULTANI MURDER CASE** Punjab ex-DGP appears in Mohali court, says ready to join investigation

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MOHALI, SEPTEMBER 25

FORMER PUNJAB DGP Sumedh Singh Saini Friday appeared before a Mohali court, seeking withdrawal of arrest warrants against him, and said he is ready to join the investigation in the 29-year-old Balwant Singh Multani disappearance case.

The court issued a notice to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Punjab Police, seeking its reply, and fixed September 30 as the next date of hearing.

Earlier in the day, Saini reached Matour police station at around 9.30 am to appear before the SIT. The SIT members, however, were not present at the police station following which Saini reached the district court with his lawyer and filed the plea.

In his application, Saini said



RJD's Tejashwi Prasad Yadav takes part in a protest at Patna. PTT

Assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav drove tractor on Patna roads to lodge protest against the Nills. Tejashwi told reporters: "The

NDA government is adamant on putting an end of MSP, which is the only shield of farmers." Bihar Kisan Manch president DK Tuddu said several farmers'

Former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini

that the Supreme Court has granted him an interim protection from arrest and thus the non-bailable warrant issued against him by a local court be withdrawn. The former state police chief said he was "ready and willing" to appear before the investigating agency and cooperate as and when required.

Saini filed the application two days after he failed to appear before the SIT for questioning at the Matour police station. After hearing the application,

the court of Iudicial Magistrate (First Class) Rasveen Kaur issued the notice to the Punjab Police.

outfits hit the streets in protest. JD (U) spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan Prasad said: "The protest

is misplaced. MSP is not being tampered with."

### WEST BENGAL

THE LEFT Front and Congress held protests across the state.

in various parts of the state and held a sit-in in Kolkata demanding that the Bills be scrapped.

The ruling TMC took out rallies

The Left and Congress took out a joint rally in Kolkata. CPM leader Sujan Chakraborty said, 'This black law has to be withdrawn. It is against the interest

of farmers," Chakraborty said. In Kolkata, farmers affiliated to TMC organised a protest rally.

### **KARNATAKA**

FARMERS IN Karnataka staged demonstrations across the state. A group of farmers blocked the busy Tumakuru road near Yashwantpur in the city. As the police reached the spot to clear the blockade, the farmers courted arrest and were taken away in buses. Demonstrations were also held in other places, including Mysuru and Davangere. -ENS&PTI

### MANOJCG NEW DEI HI SEPTEMBER 25

HARYANA FORMER Bhupinder Singh Hooda Friday said the government should immediately promulgate an ordinance spelling out that a private transaction would be valid only if

the price paid is not less than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and that those found purchasing agricultural produce below MSP would be liable for punishment. He also hit back at the BJP and senior Union ministers, who have been targeting the Congress by saving that contract farming was

launched by its Haryana government in 2007 and that its 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto had promised repeal of Agricultural Produce Market Committees Act. Bhupinder Singh Hooda

"Senior ministers of the BJP government are talking about the Congress manifesto... They are saying contract farming was launched in Haryana in 2007 by the Congress government. I read an interview by Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in The Indian Express... Yes, I was the Chief Minister then. Let them go through the contract farming rules my government framed...,' he told The Indian Express.

"Clause 6 of the Contract Farming Rules my government had come out with clearly says

Quantum of

withdrawal

(m<sup>3</sup>/month)

0-25

26-50

>50

'the agreed rate/contract shall not be less than minimum support price of the preceding year. The buyer shall deposit an amount up to 15 per cent of the total price of the agricultural produce as per agreed rate or MSP (if the rate is not agreed upon) or bank guarantee for the sum with the committee in which is the land is situated as security'," he said and asked

whether the Bills passed by the central government has "such provisions to protect farmers". "The only option before the government now is to promulgate a fourth ordinance which should guarantee the farmer that his crop would be procured not below MSP and mention that any person or entity found purchasing produce below the MSP would be liable for criminal prosecution,"

Hooda said.

On the issue of the Question Hour. Birla said members were given ample opportunities to raise matters concerning peoples' welfare through written questions and the Zero Hour. Asked why the border stand-off with China was not debated in the House, the Speaker said the pandemic was the most challenging issue facing the country. That issue, he said, had come up not just during a general debate but also during a discussion on the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act.

### Now, groundwater NOC must for apartments, industries

CM

#### HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 25

THE CENTRE has notified new guidelines to regulate extraction of groundwater, making it mandatory for new and existing industries, group housing societies, and private water supply tankers to get a no objection certificate (NOC) for withdrawal of groundwater. Noncompliance of NOC conditions

may attract a penalty between Rs 50,000 and Rs 10 lakh.

"All new/existing industries, industries seeking expansion, infrastructure projects and mining projects abstracting groundwater, unless specifically exempted ... will be required to seek No Objection Certificate from Central Ground Water Authority or, the concerned State/UTGroundWaterAuthority as the case may be," say the guidelines notified by Jal Shakti Ministry. The guidelines were notified in the gazette on September 24 and came into force with immediate ef-

fect. The guidelines have exem-

sumers in both rural and urban areas for drinking water and domestic uses; rural drinking water supply schemes; Armed Forces Establishments and Central Armed Police Forces establishments in both rural and urban areas; agricultural activities; and micro and small enterprises drawing groundwater less than 10 cubic metre/day.

NOC - individual domestic con-

However, NOC will be required for groundwater extraction for drinking and domestic use for residential apartments or group housing societies in urban areas where "local government water supply agency is unable to supply requisite amount of water". The entities will also have to pay charges. The NOC issued under the new guidelines will be valid for 2-5 years depending on the entity.

"Sale of ground water by a person/ agency not having valid no objection certificate from CGWA/ State Ground Water Authority is not permitted," the guidelines state. "All private tankers abstractpted 5 categories from getting an ing ground water and use it for

supply as bulk water suppliers will now mandatorily seek No Objection Certificate...," they stated.

For residential apartments, group housing societies and government supply agencies in urban areas, there will be no abstraction charge for domestic use up to 25 cubic metre/month. However, beyond this, they will have to pay. Non-compliance of NOC

guidelines will draw a penalty between Rs 50,000 to Rs 10,00,000, depending on the violation.

The guidelines say extraction of groundwater for commercial use by industries, infrastructure units and mining projects without an NOC will be considered illegal and they will be liable to pay Environmental Compensation. The guidelines authorise district authorities to take action.

In Over-exploited assessment units, No Objection Certificate shall not be granted for groundwater abstraction to any new industry except those falling in the MSME category

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

**GROUNDWATER USAGE:** NOW AT A HIGH COST **RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS & GROUP HOUSING** Rate (₹/m³) No charge

### FOR BULK SUPPLIERS & INDUSTRIES

	<b>a</b>	Ô		逐
Area type	Bulk/Tanker water supplies	Packaged Drinking Water Units	Other Industries & Infra Projects	Mining
Safe	₹10/ m³	₹1-10/m³	₹1-5/m³	₹1-3/m³
Semi Critical	₹20/m³	₹2-20/m³	₹2-8/m³	₹2-4/m³
Critical	₹25/m³	₹4-60/m³	₹4-10/m³	₹3-6/m³
Over Exploited	₹35/m³	₹8-120/m³	₹6-20/m³	₹4-7/m³

\*Charges for packaged drinking water units: other industries & infrastructure projects: and mining will vary with the quantum of withdrawal, measured in m3/day





New Delhi

November 2019, and the minis-

terial engagement of September

2019, the officials exchanged

views on ongoing and proposed

practical cooperation in areas of

connectivity and infrastructure

development, and security mat-

ters, including counter-terrorism,

cyber and maritime security,

with the objective of promoting

peace, security, stability and

prosperity in the Indo-Pacific re-

Modi congratulated the Japanese

PM on his appointment and

wished him success in achieving

the India-Japan Special Strategic

& Global Partnership has made

"great advances over the last few

years and expressed their inten-

tion to further strengthen this re-

lationship based upon mutual

the progress made in the eco-

nomic partnership between the

two countries, and in this con-

text, welcomed the finalization

of the text of the agreement per-

taining to specialized skilled

The two leaders "appreciated

trust and shared values".

The two leaders agreed that

During his call with Suga,

gion, the statement said.

his goals, a statement said.

### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 **13** EXPRESS NETWORK

### BRIEFLY



Tusharkanti Behera

### **ODISHA Sports Minister** tests positive

for Covid-19 Bhubaneswar: Odisha's Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera on Friday said he had tested positive for Covid-19 and urged all those who came in contact with him to get tested. Behera said that he has some symptoms and is in home isolation. "I have tested COVID-positive today. Hence I request all my friends and associates who came in contact with me in last 7 days to test and isolate themselves," he tweeted. Behera is the ninth minister in Odisha to be infected by the coronavirus. PTI

### **TELANGANA** Man killed by kin of wife, honour killing suspected

Hyderabad: In an apparent case of honour killing, a 28year-old man was allegedly kidnapped and killed by his wife's kin, who belong to another caste, with the help of hired goons, police said on Friday. According to Cyberabad Police, relatives of C Avanthi Reddy on Thursday forcibly took her and her husband Y Hemanth Kumar and killed the latter by strangling him. The Cyberabad police have arrested 14 people, including the parents of the woman, in connection with the murder and are on the lookout for four more PTI

MAHARASHTRA Ex-corporator held for builder's

### **NCB detains Dharma employee,** Johar slams 'malicious' claims

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI. SEPTEMBER 25

THE NARCOTICS Control Bureau on Friday detained an employee of Dharma Productions, as part of its investigations into an alleged drug nexus in Bollywood. It also questioned an assistant director linked to the production house owned by Karan Johar.

Kshitij Prasad, identified as exceutive producer, was detained after day-long questioning, while Anubhav Chopra was allowed to leave late in the evening

As part of the probe, actor Rakul Preet Singh on Friday recorded her statement before the NCB along with the manager of actor Deepika Padukone, Karishma Prakash. Padukone, as well as actors Sara Ali Khan and Shraddha Kapoor, are likely to appear before the agency on Saturday.

Late on Friday night, Johar tweeted a statement denying claims that Prasad or Chopra were his aides. He said Prasad had joined Dharmatic Entertainment, a sister concern of Dharma productions, in November 2019 as one of the executive producers "on contract basis for a project which did not



#### Karan Johar said he had never consumed narcotics nor does he promote them.

eventually materialise" while Chopra worked with them on projects for short durations between 2011 and 2013.

NCB officials had raided Prasad's house on Thursday looking for him. Prasad, who was out of town, appeared before the agency on Friday morning.

Rakul Preet Singh came in around 10:30 am and was questioned till 2:30 pm.

In his tweet, Johar said he had never consumed narcotics nor does he promote them. "All these slanderous and malicious statements, news articles and news clippings have unnecessarily subjected me, my family, and my colleagues, and Dharma Productions, to hatred contempt and ridicule," he said, adding that he may not be left with any option but to take legal action.

Johar said he didn't know either Prasad or Chopra personally and couldn't be held responsible for what they did in their personal lives. Chopra, the filmmaker said, was not an employee of Dharma Productions and had been associated with it for two months as second assistant director between November 2011 and January 2012, and as assistant director for a short film in January 2013. In a detailed note, the NCB

clarified why it had suo motu registered a second FIR linked to the death of Sushant Singh Rajput, and arrested 19, including Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik, even as the first one has not led to any arrests.

The first FIR was based on WhatsApp chats purportedly of Chakraborty shared by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) with the NCB. In its note, the agency said, "The NCB received official communication from ED, in which there were chats related to drugs. Taking cognizance, NCB launched an investigation in this matter."

Regarding the second FIR, to investigate what it called "a drug citadel in Mumbai", the NCB said, "Based on network analy-

sis undertaken on technical level the linkages were explored and one of the nodes of the network was busted on the intervening night of 27/28... two persons

Karn Arora and Abbas Lakhani were arrested.' NCB Deputy Director

(Operations) KPS Malhotra said, "Rakul Preet Singh and Karishma Prakash joined the investigation today. Prakash has been asked to join the investigation tomorrow as well.

NCB officials have claimed that chats alone are not the basis of their investigation and their next course of action will depend upon what comes up during questioning. While Padukone has been summoned in connection with chats from 2017 with Rajput's talent manager Jayanti Saha, Kapoor and Khan have allegedly been named by some of those questioned. Chakraborty and Showik's lawyer had earlier said that the two of them had not named anybody.

Meanwhile, there have been no arrests in the FIRs the CBI and Enforcement Directorate had registered against Chakrabortv based on the statement of Rajput's father KK Singh, including charges of abetment to

### PM Modi speaks to Japan counterpart, focus on open and inclusive Indo-Pacific

### SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

SENIOR QUAD OFFICIALS MEET

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday spoke to the newly appointed Prime Minister of Japan, Suga Yoshihide, while senior officials of the Quadrilateral grouping — US, Japan, Australia and India – met through virtual mode at a time when Chinese aggressiveness is evident on the world stage. The officials said that a Quad ministerial meeting will take place later this year.

With an eye on China, Modi and Suga - in their first conversation - concurred that the partnership between the two countries is even more relevant in today's times given the global challenges, including that of the Covid-19 pandemic. "They emphasized that the economic architecture of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region must be premised on resilient supply chains, and in this context, welcomed cooperation between India, Japan and other like-minded countries," a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday.

At the Quad officials' meet-

ing, they also discussed a host of "issues on regional and global issues of common interest" – an oblique reference to Beijing.

In the context of the pandemic, the officials "underscored the importance of enhancing the resilience of supply chains and sharing best practices on how to combat the pandemic", an MEA statement said.

"The officials reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open. prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region based on shared values and principles and respect for international law," it said.

The officials reiterated their firm support for ASEAN Centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms, particularly the leadersled East Asia Summit, in the regional architecture for the Indo-Pacific, and their readiness to work with ASEAN and all other countries towards realising a common and promising vision for the Indo-Pacific. They appreciated the Vietnamese chairmanship of the ASEAN and looked forward to the 15th East Asia Summit in November this year. Following up on the last such

official-level discussions in

Yes Bank case: ED attaches Kapoor's Rs 127-cr London flat

workers"

#### **DEEPTIMAN TIWARY** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 127 crore belonging to former Yes Bank chief Rana Kapoor in connection with its money laundering probe into the financial dealings of the bank when he was heading it.

The attached asset, the ED said. is "a residential flat of Rana Kapoor at Apartment 1,77 South Audley Street, London, UK. The market value of the flat is 13.5 Million Pound (Rs 127 Crore)". According to the ED, Rana purchased the flat in 2017 for 9.9

### Rana Kapoor

others in the case.

"This was basically the quid pro quo modus operandi of Rana Kapoor. Companies were advanced loans by Yes Bank in a financially imprudent manner and these companies in turn advanced oans to those owned by th

As reported earlier by The

Urban Ventures, of which DoIT

Creations is a subsidiary. DoIT

Urban Ventures had received a

loan of Rs 600 crore from DHFL,

when the latter was under a debt

### J&K Police announce SIT to probe killing of advocate in Srinagar

#### **NAVEED IQBAL** SHEIKHPORA (TANGMARG), SEPTEMBER 25

JAMMU AND Kashmir Police on Friday announced the setting up of a Special Investigation team to probe the killing of advocate Babar Qadri (38) outside his residence in Hawal area of Srinagar on Thursday.

"I visited the crime scene. We have constituted an SIT headed by SP Hazratbal and including other officers and a legal expert. The SIT has been directed to solve the case at the earliest and ascertain which militant outfit is responsible," Inspector General J&K Police (Kashmir Zone) Vijay Kumar said.



2 LeT militants killed in gunfight at Anantnag; 4 villagers injured in blast at site

### **BASHAARAT MASOOD** SRINAGAR. SEPTEMBER 25

TWO MILITANTS were killed early on Friday following an overnight gunfight with security forces at Anantnag in south Kashmir. After security forces left the village, a blast at the encounter site left four villagers injured.

On Thursday evening, a joint team of J&K Police, paramilitary personnel and Army cordoned off Sirhama village after receiving inputs about the presence of militants. While the encounter lasted through the night, both the militants were killed Friday

### kidnapping

Mumbai: Four persons, including a former corporator of Bhiwandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporation, were arrested Thursday for allegedly kidnapping a Thane-based builder and extorting money from him. The Thane Crime Branch identified the accused as Mohamed Khalid Shaikh alias Guddu, affiliated to AIMIM, his brother Iftakhar Mustar Shaikh alias Bablu, Fauj Alam and Gulam Khan. The four were produced in court, which remanded them in police custody till ENS October 2.

home in Sheikhpora off Tangmarg road, his father Mohammad Yaseen Qadri said he would not cooperate with any police probe. "I have lost my son. I will not cooperate with the police because I do not trust their investigations," he said.

The father was at Babar's home when the assailants arrived just after 6 pm on Thursday. "One was short and had a stubble and the other was tall, clean-shaven, with short hair. They were not wearing masks," Yaseen Qadri told The Indian Express. He said they entered through

the gates and asked to see Babar regarding a case. "Our helper had them sit in chairs on the lawn, where clients often meet Babar. He came out to meet them and started reading the file they

Advocate Babar Qadri's grave at Sheikhpura village in Baramulla district. Shuaib Masoodi

handed him, and then they beview".

gan shooting at him," he said. "Covered in blood, he ran inside the house, and they kept shooting at him. He fell in the lobby, where his sister caught hold of him, riddled with four bullets." Yaseen Oadri said. He said that Babar's younger

the

brother Zaffar tried to run after the assailants, but he called out to him to get Babar to a hospital. "By the time we reached SKIMS, we had lost him," he added.

Yaseen Qadri said he discouraged his son from appearing on television - Babar often took part in TV debates – "but he would always say that it was his right to express his point of

His father pointed to a couple of episodes that had raised his concern for his eldest son. "In 2016, a senior member of the High Court Bar Association asked me to check Babar and bring him to the right path." Babar's membership to the J&K High Court Bar was suspended

around 2016. Babar had floated a lawyers' collective termed Lawyer's Club Kashmir in 2012. Fellow advocate and his friend, advocate Shafqat Nazir, said that it was not a parallel body to the bar and was "eventually reduced to a Facebook page". Nazir also said there had been previous at-

"They (militants) tried to escape during the night," IGP Vijay Kumar said. "In the morning, we traced them to a house and killed them. We used some explosives too.'

The IGP identified the militants as Adil Bhat, a resident of Kakapora in Pulwama district and Abu Rehan, a Pakistani national. "If you remember, two of our men were martyred in Nowgam. Adil was the militant involved in that," IGP Kumar said.

"Abu Rehan was active in venture called the Justice Party, Kashmir since March 2019 and was involved in many killings,' 5,2019", after which he picked up he added.

After the gunfight was over and the forces left the village, villagers rushed to the encounter site. A sudden explosion left four civilians injured. They were rushed to the hospital.

llion pounds (Rs 93 crore) in Kapoor family," an ED official said. the name of DoIT Creations Jersey Limited, "wherein accused Rana Kapoor is the beneficial owner" Indian Express, the Kapoor family and was trying to sell it off. owns a company named DoIT

"Information from a reliable source revealed that Rana Kapoor is trying to alienate this property in London and that he has hired a reputed property consultant. Enquiries from open sources confirmed that this property has been listed for sale on several websites," ED claimed.

The agency, which had earlier arrested Kapoor, has alleged that the banker took bribes from companies to grant or readjust their loans. These bribes were allegedly taken through investments in companies owned by his family members. It has already filed a prosecution complaint (equivalent to a of Rs 3,700 crore from Yes Bank. Documents available with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs show that DoIT was incorporated in 2012 with Rana Kapoor's wife Bindu as its director. It currently has his daughters Roshini Kapoor and Radha Kapoor Khanna as its directors.

The agency had earlier attached assets to the tune of Rs 2.000 crore in the case. These include assets of the Wadhawan brothers of DHFL

### 'Sang for 4 generations of heroes, will be remembered for 7 generations'

tempts on Babar's life.

debates".

help clients.

The second episode Yaseen

Qadri pointed to was a TV tele-

vision debate where, he said, a

senior member of a political

party said, "Babar, are you still

alive?" Other members of

Babar's family also said they had

warned him "not to speak on TV

but "the idea faded after August

habeas corpus and bail petitions.

mer client of Babar, said, "A lot of

cases Babar took up were pro

bono. He went out of his way to

Activist Ahsan Untoo, a for-

Babar had initiated a political

#### SUANSHU KHURANA & **ARUN JANARDHANAN** NEW DELHI, CHENNAL SEPTEMBER 25

SRIPATHI PANDITARADHYULA Balasubrahmanyam, the playback singer, composer, actor. producer and musician whose evocative voice and the earnestness in it could elevate a simple piece of music to sublimity, died on Friday of cardio-respiratory arrest at MGM Healthcare in Chennai. He was 74.

Balasubrahmanyam, fondly called SPB and Balu, was admitted to the hospital on August 5 after he tested positive for Covid-19. He was later shifted to the ICU after he developed severe pneumonia due to complications. Outside the hospital, an emotional SPCharan, his son, told reporters, "SPB belongs to everyone. He will live on in his songs".

Widely believed to be one of the finest male playback singers, Balasubrahmanyam had a 50year career and transcended lanthem including Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil. He found success in the Hindi film industry. In South Indian film music there was more – a cult status and genuine affection from people. From MG Ramachandran (MGR), Sivaii Ganesan, Gemini Ganesan to Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth, Mohan and a slew of actors in the present day, Balasubrahmanyam's voice was

often the fixture for all of them. That he held the Guinness World Record for singing the highest number of songs – 40,000 of them – was just another feather in his cap. In all of them, that tender, velvety voice triumphantly stood out as one of a kind -- unpretentious yet grand. And that's where the magic was.

Yet, his voice was turned down once. During the music making process of S Balachandar's Rati Agnihotri and Kamal Haasan starrer Ek Duje ke Liye (1981) — a Hindi remake of the director's Telugu film Maro Charitra \_ composers

guage barriers by singing in 16 of Laxmikant-Pyarelal were displeased. They felt that Balasubrahmanyam, "Madrasi" singer they were asked to work with, could not correctly pronounce Anand Bakshi's Hindustani lyrics. Balachandar's condition was clear – Balasubrahmanyam was to sing for Haasan since Vasu, his character, was not supposed to be good at Hindi. The composer duo relented.

The songs Balasubrahmanyam's smooth baritone, many of which were duets with Lata Mangeshkar, captured the nation's attention. He received the National Award for Best Male Playback Singer for Tere mere beech mein in the pathos-driven raga Shivranjini.

Subsequently Balasubrahmanyam was cast as Salman Khan's voice in Sooraj Barjatya's Maine Pyaar Kiya (1989) by composers Ram Laxman. The voice fit Khan like a glove. The singer continued being Khan's voice through the 1990s in Andaz Apna Apna (1994)



S P BALASUBRAHMANYAM 1946-2020

and Hum Aapke Hain Kaun ferred to him as "nek insaan" (1994) among others. (good person).

In a condolence message on Balasubrahmanyam was born in Konetampet village, located in Twitter, Haasan said, "A great singer who sang for four generpresent-day Tiruvallur, into a ations of heroes will be remem-Telugu family to a Harikatha artiste and his wife. His interest in bered for seven generations to come", while Mangeshkar remusic began early. Bright in academics, Balasubrahmanyam wanted to become an engineer and took admission in Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh. While going to college on his cycle he would often hear Deewana huya baadal, the OPNayyar ditty immortalised by Mohammad Rafi, in a shop. "I could hear Rafi sahab's smile in that song. I would cry... it felt nearest to godliness,' Balasubrahmanyam said once in a conversation with singer Sonu Nigam on the sets of the show SaReGaMa.

his early 20s, In Balasubrahmanyam was the leader of a music group that had him as vocalist and his friend Illiyaraja on the harmonium. They would perform in villages and cities, take part in competitions and visit composers for work. Finally, Balasubrahmanyam made his singing debut in 1966 with Telugu movie Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna, which was scored by his mentor S P Kodandapani. He was soon recording songs in Tamil and Kannada. His song Aayiram nilave

vaa, picturised on MGR and J Jayalalitha in the 1969 film Adimai Penn, was a huge success.

chargesheet) against Kapoor and

made But what Balasubrahmanyam a force to with reckon was Sankarabharanam (1980), the Telugu musical drama that remains one of the finest films on classical music. Singer M Balamuralikrishna was the top choice for the complex Carnatic classical compositions. But composer K Mahadevan decided on Balasubrahmanyam, who even-

tually won his first National Award for the songs. In the Tamil industry, he worked extensively with Illiyaraja, M S Viswanathan and later A R Rahman among others. The collaboration between Balasubrahmanyam and Rahman for the song *Thanga* Thamarai won him another National Award, his first for a Tamil song. There was also the title song of *Roja* where the two collaborated. The tender romanticism paired with powerful vocals is likely to remain one of the

singer's finest hours. Rahman posted just one word on Twitter today: "Devastated."

Balasubrahmanyam was also a well-known dubbing artiste and dubbed for Haasan, Rajinikanth, Salman Khan, Anil Kapoor among others for Telugu versions of their films. He also acted in a few films.

In 1997, there was a rare live concert by Lata Mangeshkar titled Lata An Era In An Evening. It was televised and had every major name from the film industry present. For one of its segments, Mangeshkar invited Balasubrahmanyam to sing with her and said, "Inka upkaar rahega mujh par ki ye mere liye aaye (It's his beneficence that he has come for me." Balasubrahmanyam gave Mangeshkar a toothy smile and said, "Jab bhagwaan bulaate hai toh aana hi padta hai (When god calls, you have to show up)," before breaking into their famed pieces together.

Balasubrahmanyam is survived by wife Savithri, son S P Charan and daughter Pallavi.

### 14 EXPRESS NETWORK



### CAG flags pending defence offset deals: Karnataka passes **Dassault, Boeing, Russian ROE in list**

**Amish Devgan** 

### Top court to examine if case against anchor **Devgan needs** investigation

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE SUPREME Court on Friday said it will examine whether the charges against news anchor Amish Devgan in connection with a TV show, where he allegedly made some remarks on Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, warrants an investigation.

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna told senior advocate Manish Singhvi that the ingredients of Section 295A IPC were not present in the FIR, and thus the court will look into it

Section 295A punishes deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings by insulting religion or religious beliefs. The court was hearing a plea by Devgan seeking quashing of FIRs registered against him in various states in connection with the show 'Aar Paar' on News 18 India on June 15.

Singhvi, who appeared for Rajasthan, opposed the plea to quash the FIRs and said the show had hurt religious sentiments and there was "malicious intention" on Devgan's part. He said the concept of mens rea [criminal intent] cannot be ascertained at this stage, and it is for the investigating agency to decide whether it was said maliciously or not.

On Devgan's apology following the show, Singhvi said, "We want to know why it was done after 30 hours. Whether he was trolled for it [online] and was forced to tender it [apology]." He said Devgan's Twitter account will have the answer to this.

Appearing for Devgan, advocate Siddharth Luthra said none of the FIRs said anything about breach of law and order as a result of the alleged remark.

L Adimoolam elected INS president

**KRISHN KAUSHIK** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE COMPTROLLER and Auditor General (CAG) of India has criticised Defence Ministry's offset policy, introduced in 2005, stating that it has brought "negligible Foreign Direct Investment", and that Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) "has not acquired any high technology so far".

In its report for 2019, tabled in Parliament on September 23, the CAG noted that its audit found that "in many cases vendors make offset commitments in order to get the main contract. But later they are not earnest about fulfilling these commitments and raised new issues which delayed offset implementation.'

It has listed cases of a deal to buy 80 helicopters from Russian

Rosoboronexport (ROE), 36 crore are "due to be completed by Rafale fighter jets from France's 2024". But "the rate at which for-Dassault Aviation, and a contract eign vendors have been fulfilling their offset commitments was with US giant Boeing to buy 10 military transport C-17 iii aircraft. about Rs 1300 per year," so "given The CAG mentioned that of the situation, fulfilling the comtotal offset obligations of Rs mitment" in the next six years 66,427 crore between 2007 and will be a "challenge", it noted.

2018, Rs 19,223 worth of offsets

should have been discharged.

But only Rs 11,396 crore worth of

it had been discharged, of which

Rs 5,457 worth of offset claims

have been approved, it reported.

pending or have been rejected"

by the Controller General of

Defence Accounts (CGDA), it

buyer gets from a seller - tech-

nology/capability that Indian in-

dustry gets from a foreign ven-

dor selling equipment to India.

ligations worth about Rs 55,000

The CAG noted that offset ob-

Offsets are benefits that a

stated

"Rest of the claims are either

Among contracts it reviewed was the deal to buy 36 Rafale jets from Dassault Aviation in 2016 for which, CAG has noted that the foreign vendor has "not confirmed the transfer of technology" to DRDO that "wanted to obtain Technical Assistance for indigenous development of engine (Kaveri) for the Light Combat Aircraft". The CAG noted that in April 2016, DRDO identified six new technologies to be obtained under offsets obligations, but "did not agree on transfer of five technologies, as most of them were not within the ven-

dor's core competencies".

**MAHOBA KILLING** 

**MANISH SAHU** 

that too CGDA rejected 87 per cent of the claimed value. Only the project to buy Indian airborne equipment for SU-30 MK was completed, the CAG noted. The Defence Ministry, the

Another deal mentioned is

offset obligations of Mi-17 V5

Medium Lift Helicopters, signed

with ROE in December 2008.

The CAG said a general offset

agreement was "signed for dis-

charge of offset obligation of USD

405.7 million" through four proj-

ects by December 2012. The CAG

found that of four projects, only

one had been completed - for

CAG said, "failed to recover penalties against the four projects as there was no provision of Bank Guarantee either in the main contract or in the offset contract". In the deal with Boeing, "an offset contract with total obliga-

SIT says businessman shot with

his own gun, no one else in car

tion of USD 1,115 million was

signed" on June 14, 2011. The CAG noted that the offset obligations were to be discharged within seven years of signing the contract through seven projects with 14 Indian Offset Partners (IOP).

"DRDO was one of the maio IOP and was to discharge 47 per cent of the offsets", with "two major projects". The projects were High Altitude Engine Test Facility (HAETF) for \$315 million and Transonic Wind Tunnel (TWT) worth \$195 million.

Both projects have been extended till June 2023 --- the CAG said the delay has been "mainly on account of export restrictions by the US Government".

On the entire offset policy, CAG said "objectives of the offset policy remain largely unachieved, even after more than a decade of its adoption".

When asked if anyone had

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

# **Bill to increase** borrowing limit

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 25

THE KARNATAKA Assembly on Friday passed an amendment to the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2002, which will enable the B S Yediyurappa government to increase its fiscal deficit limit from the current 3 per cent to 5 per cent in order to facilitate borrowing to the tune of Rs 33.000 crore to compensate for revenue losses due to the pandemic.

The Congress party staged a walkout after its demand for restricting the fiscal deficit increase to 3.5 per cent and to curb administrative costs for the current fiscal was ignored by the ruling BJP.

State Law Minister J C Madhuswamy said, "It is considered necessary to amend Section of the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2002 to raise the fiscal deficit to 5 percent of the estimated Gross State Domestic Product(GSDP) for the year 2020-21 as a one-time relaxation.

"The central government has permitted an increase in borrowing limits up to 5 per cent of GSDP due to the Covid-19 crisis. The state will be able to borrow Rs 36.000 crore under the amended law but we have decided to borrow Rs 33.000 crore," the minister said.

Leader of the Opposition and senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah, along with his party colleagues H K Patil and Krishna Byre Gowda accused the BJP government of pushing the state into a debt trap, where the government may not be in a position to finance development or even pay the salaries of govern-

ment employees in the future. "Difficult times call for difficult measures. Government should adopt stringent measures to cut down on unwanted expenditure. Administrative re-

forms have to be adopted to trim committed expenditure and make room for capital expenditure. Non-tax revenue should be increased." Siddaramaiah said. 'The state government is ready to take an additional loan of Rs 33,000 crore because the chief minister is forced to take the burden of the central government's

dence in it. PTI

No objection to

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief

Minister BS Yediyurappa on Friday said he has no objection

to the Congress moving a no-

confidence motion against his

government. The no-confi-

dence motion and discussion

in this regard is likely to be

taken up in the Karnataka

Assembly on Saturday. "I have

no objection to it (no-confi-

dence motion). Let them bring

it...," Yediyurappa said in re-

sponse to a question. Leader of

the Opposition Siddaramaiah,

who has given the notice for

no-confidence motion, has

claimed the government has

failed on all fronts and the peo-

ple of the state and the

Assembly has lost its confi-

no-confidence

motion: BSY

failure to compensate the GST gap. The current year's liabilities may increase from Rs 46,072 crore to Rs 93,682 crore due to relaxation in fiscal deficit targets," he said.

Siddaramaiah said the Fiscal Responsibility Budget Management Act, 2002 was enacted to "bring in financial discipline in the state and central governments. It mandated revenue surpluses, fiscal deficit below 3 per cent of GSDP and total debt below 25 per cent of GSDP for states"

Anganwadi workers swim through the river to reach remote villages. Express

Anganwadi workers trek, swim to reach

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE RECOVERED: 47,56,164 CASES: 207 58,18,570 | DEATHS: 92,290 DAYS SINC Pandemic Began TESTS: 68,928,440 DOUBLING RATE: 45.64\*\* SURGEIN DOUBLING **KEYSTATES** TOTAL 7-DAYAVG TOWATCH 24HOURS **GROWTH\*** TIME\*\* CASES 12,82,963 19,164 1.63% 44.23 Maharashtra 654,385 7.855 1.21% 59.40 Andhra 5,692 1.01% 71.32 ■ Tamil Nadu 563,691 Uttar Pradesh 374,277 4,591 1.54% 46.74 Delhi 260.623 3,834 1.51% 47.75 \* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days \*\* Calculated over 7-day growth **CASE FATALITY RATIO** DAILY IN, DAILY OUT POSITIVITY RATE 7 DAYS EARLIER: DETECTED TODAY 7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.62 8.47 86,052 NOW: RECOVERED TODAY NOW: 1.59 8.44 81,177 Positives against number tested Deaths as a ratio of Becoming sick vs positive cases (in %) recovering; more recoveries for 14 days indicator of progress in averting deaths (in %); indicator of the spread of disease may signal the peak Data as on September 24, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive

Kerala housing project scam: CBI takes over probe, registers case for FERA violations Swapna Suresh, confessed to the Administration Minister A C

### LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 25 THE SPECIAL Investigation Team (SIT) of UP Police, formed to probe the role of former Mahoba district police chief Manilal Patidar and other policemen in the murder of a 44-year-old local businessman, has concluded

that Indra Kant Tripathi was shot from close range and the bullet was fired from his own licensed

"Through scientific evidence and the bullet was fired from his own weapon. We will submit the report to the DGP soon," said Inspector General Vijay Singh Meena, who is heading the SIT. On September 8, Tripathi

### pistol. In a report, the SIT stated that it has found no evidence to suggest that there was any other person present in the car besides Tripathi when he got shot. it has been proved that the victim was shot from a close range

injury in his neck in a car near Bagwakheda village in Mahoba. Just a day before he was shot, Tripathi, who ran a business of supplying explosives to people involved in mining, had accused the then Mahoba district police chief Mani Lal Patidar of extortion and criminal intimidation in a video message that had gone viral. After the incident, Patidar and policemen were suspended. Five days later, Tripathi died and Patidar and others, including

booked for murder. Additional Director General (Prayagraj) Prem Prakash said that no one has been given clean chit so far, and added that they

### **2009 CPM LEADER MURDER CASE** NIA seeks custody of TMC leader Chhatradhar Mahato

have recommended narco test of all the suspects. Businesman

forced Tripathi to commit sui-Indra Kant Tripathi

cide, Prakash said that the evidence collected so far hinted that the businessman was "depressed" and "due to some circumtances he was in trouble". According to the SIT chief, the first two persons who had

was found injured with a bullet

two local businessmen, were

spotted an injured Tripathi inside the car had found the pistol lying between his legs. "They rushed him to hospital and handed over the pistol to Tripathi's businesss partner Bal

Kishore alias Ballu Maharaj's brother Asha Ram, who in turn gave it to Tripathi's wife.' Meena said, adding that the SIT

is not drawing any conclusion in the case and has just put up a fact-finding report. The SIT chief also said that

Tripathi's family did not hand over the pistol to the police earlier, saying they had lost faith in law enforcement authorities.

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 25**

THE 81ST Annual General Meeting of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) was held here on Friday

LAdimoolam of Health & The Antiseptic was elected president of The Indian Newspaper Society—an apex body of publishers of newspapers, magazines and periodicals in the country-for the year 2020-21. He succeeds Shailesh Gupta of Mid-Day.

DDPurkayastha (ABP group) is the deputy president, Mohit Jain (Economic Times) is the vice-president and Rakesh Sharma (Aaj Samaj) the honorary treasurer of the society for 2020-21.

Mary Paul is the secretary general of the society.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION U.P. JAL NIGAM, MUZAFFARNAGAR SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 4280/200/91 Dated : 24.09.2020 Online percentage rate e-tenders on two bid system in different villages of different blocks in Distt. Muzaffarnagar for Pipeline Extension/Replacement of existing defunct pipeline of various sizes and Function House Tap Connections (FHTC) works In New/Existing W/S pipeines with all materials, abour, T&P etc. Complete under JJM with 12 Months defect ability period, are invited by U.P. Jal Nigam from from reputed firms/contractors having requisite work experience and financial apabilities. Tender document shall be available at erocurement website http://etender.up.nlc.in. nterested contractors may view and download tender documents on e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in from date 30.09.2020 (15:00 Hrs.) to 09.10.2020 upto 12:00 hrs. Upload duly filled online Dt. 09.10.2020 (upto 12:00 hrs.), Bid opening Date 09.10.2020 (at 15:00 hrs) at Office of the Executive Engineer. Construction Division, U.P. Jal ligam, Muzallamagar.

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 25

THE CBI on Friday registered a case to probe alleged Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) violations in a housing scheme for the poor, which is part of the Kerala government's flagship project Life Mission, being constructed with financial aid from Emirates Red Crescent.

Emirates Red Crescent is the UAE affiliate of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

criminal conspiracy and FERA violations, will probe the deal for the construction of a 140-apartment complex at Wadakkanchery in Thrissur district, signed between Red Crescent and Kerala-based

The FIR names UNITAC man-

registering the case. The scam involving Life

smuggling case pertaining to diplomatic cargo to the UAE Consulate in Kerala. The key accused in the smuggling case,

ED and NIA that Rs 4.25 crore had

The CBI case, pertaining to

UNITAC.

aging director Santhosh Eapen as one of the accused, and the CBI searched his premises soon after

Mission's one of the projects surfaced as an offshoot of the gold

been paid as commission in the housing project, and she also pocketed a part of the kickbacks.

The Opposition raised corruption charges against the LDF government, which initially remained adamant against any probe, saying the deal was between the builder and the UAE agency. On Wednesday, the government ordered an investigation by the state vigilance and anti-corruption bureau into the scam. But the Congress de-

manded a CBI probe into the issue and party legislator Anil Akkara moved a complaint with the CBI, alleging an anomaly of Rs 9 crore in the Rs 20-crore project implemented at his constituency

of Wadakkancherry. The Central agency took over the case on Friday.

The CBI stepping into the investigation is a severe setback for the LDF government as three other Central agencies - the ED, NIA and Customs – are probing various aspects of the gold smuggling scandal and have already brought the state's Higher Education Minister, KT Jaleel, un-

der the ambit of their investigations. Leader of the Opposition and MLA Ramesh Congress Chennithala has sought the resig-

Life Mission. "They cannot dodge responsibility in the scam, CBI probe would bring out corruption. Things are heading to a stage that the Chief Minister would be ques-

Moideen, who is vice-chairman of

tioned by CBI," he said. However, the CPI(M) state secretariat said the CBI probe was politically motivated. "It shows the BJP is misusing investigating agencies for their political end. The probe order is an outcome of a nexus between the Congress and the BJP. The case was registered violating all precedents," the party secretariat said in a statement.

The MoU for the housing project at Wadakkanchery was signed between Red Crescent and Kochi-based private builder UNITAC on July 11, 2019 in Thiruvananthapuram by the project's CEOUV Jose and representatives of Red Crescent in presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who is the chairman of Life Mission.

After the scandal surfaced along the side-lines of the gold smuggling scandal, it was alleged that senior IAS officer M Sivasankar had intervened to rush the deal. Sivasankar was the former principal secretary to the Chief Minister and was recently removed over his links with key accused Swapna Suresh.

vention per year will be pro-

For 'orthodox' tea-growers,

the state government will give a

ready provides a Rs 3 subsidy

per kg of 'orthodox tea', making

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 25

THE NIA on Friday sought the custody of Trinamool Congress leader Chhatradhar Mahato and four of his associates in connection with the murder of a CPI(M) leader in West Bengal's Lalgarh area in 2009. At the time, Mahato was the convener of the People's Committee Against

Police Atrocities (PCAPA), which was known as a frontal organisation of CPI(Maoist). Special Court judge Prasenjit Biswas said the plea would be taken up on Monday after

Mahato did not appear in court, complaining of illness. The PCAPA murdered CPI(M) leader Prabir Mahato in Lalgarh's Dharampur village on June 14, 2009. It controlled the area at the height of Maoist presence in the Jangalmahal region, of which Lalgarh is a part.

In an undercover operation on September 28, 2009, policemen posing as journalists arrested Mahato. He was then charged under the UAPA, and convicted in May 2012. Four months later, the Calcutta High Court granted Mahato the status of political prisoner along with eight other activists.



TMC leader Chhatradhar Mahato outside the Bankshal court in Kolkata on Friday. Express

Mahato, who is in his fifties, was released from prison on bail on February 1. ending his 11-year spell behind bars. In July, the Trinamool Congress inducted him into its state committee as it wants to re-establish its electoral dominance in Jangalmahal and consolidate its votes to stop the BIP from making further.

The NIA has also questioned Mahato in connection with the hijacking of a New Delhi-bound Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express by the Maoists in October 2009. The train had been hijacked to demand his release. The rebels held the train hostage for five hours before CRPF and state police commandos forced them to flee.

The TMC leader has claimed that the NIA investigation into his alleged role in these two cases are "politically motivated".

### remote Odisha villages

tisgarh

Chhat

**Odisha** 

Bay of

Benga

Bhubaneswar -

MALKANGIRI

Andhra/Pradesh

In the village of roughly 400

Pramila Pelmal, 37, who works

people. Sisa at present is tending

to five pregnant women, four new

mothers, and 27 pre-school kids.

as anganwadi worker in nearby

Suapali village, has faced similar

circumstances for the last nine

vears. "Due to Covid-19, there is

more to do than what we usually

did. We also have to regularly

monitor the health of all villagers.

village, so we cannot do it over the

phone – we have to be physically

present to send weekly reports,"

Pelmal said. Her youngest daugh-

ter was six months old when

Pelmal started leaving her at

home and staying away in Suapali

There is little connectivity in the

0r

**AISHWARYA MOHANTY** BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 25

FOR RESIDENTS of Nerudupali, a remote village in Malkangiri, Odisha's southernmost, Maoisthit district, a connect with the world outside is the visit every Monday by their "anganwadi appa (elder sister)" — Hemalata Sisa. The wait gets arduous during

the monsoon months, when the little river abutting the village gets swollen.

Monsoon Mondays are, thus, tricky for Sisa. Lack of connectivity and absence of boats means she has to swim across the Maliguda, a tributary of the Godavari, after a 1-km trek through a dense, hilly forest to attend to her duties as anganwadi worker.

The day The Indian Express went to the village, the 28-yearold arrived drenched - barefoot. empty pots tightly roped around her waist to substitute as floaters, and a dry pair of dry clothes wrapped in a plastic bag. Sisa said she has been doing this for the last 10 years, and there seems to be no end in sight.

prefers to stay back in the village

to avoid crossing the river every

day. She sleeps and cooks at the

village anganwadi centre before

returning home to her daughters,

aged five and two, for the week-

end. "There have been incidents

of people being swept away, so

we avoid swimming across every

day," she said. "It can be even

more dangerous in the dark

level remains high, the overnight

At times, when the water

(while returning home)."

stay turns into days.

for work -- "the children eventu-"There is a road to reach anally got used to it," she said. other village close by, but it is an The administration, Pelmal additional 15-km ride. When it is said, had started constructing a road, "but it gets washed away not raining, the water in the river is at least waist deep and we manduring monsoon". She said, "The age to walk through. But the monflow of water is high, so boats are difficult to row. Besides, people soon is a difficult period," she said. During the rainy season, she

here do not own boats." Sanjukta Sahoo, coordinator for anganwadi workers in the block, said repeated attempts to apprise the administration of the situation has yet to yield results.

In August, the district administration had proposed construction of a bridge over the river but is awaiting approval from the state government. "We have already submitted a proposal under the Setu scheme for a bridge and are pursuing with the government," Malkangiri District Collector Manish Agarwal said.

#### उ०प्र० जल विद्युत निगम लि० शुद्धिपत्र (प्रथम) पुनः ई-निविदा सूचना

निगम हित में इस कार्यालय द्वार प्रकाशित ई–निविदा सूचना सं( टी—02 / EGD / MZN / 2020—21 जल विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड, मुजफ्फरनगर न अन्तर्गत, सलावा जल विद्युत गृह की मशीन सं0—01 के अनुरक्षण का कार्य को अपरिहार कारणवश पुनः आमंत्रित किया जाता है वेबसाईट पर निविदा स्वीकार करने तथ डाउनलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि/समग 02.10.2020 / 17:00 बजे तक किया जाता है तथा निविदा का प्रथम भाग खुलने क तेथि/समय को 03.10.2020/11:30 बजे केया जाता है। अन्य नियम व शर्ते पूर्ववत् ई रहेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त सूचना https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध हैं अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत उत्पादन खण्ड 195-पटेल नगर, नई मण्डी, मुजफ्फरनगर ''राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें'

### **TAX HOLIDAY, SUBSIDIES** New schemes for tea-growers in Assam

**ABHISHEK SAHA** GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 25

nations of CM Pinarayi and Local

THE ASSAM government on vided to those establishments Friday announced four which have taken a working schemes for the state's tea incapital loan, with an overall cap dustry, including a push for the of Rs 20 lakh. production of 'orthodox' variety of leaves – which are a masubsidy of Rs 7 per kg of the vajor export. riety. The Tea Board of India al-

State Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a three-year tax holi-

it a total subsidy of Rs 10 per kg. day on agricultural income tax for all tea gardens in the state. Also, Sarma said that if a tea In addition, a 3% interest subgarden purchases new machin-

ery to manufacture 'orthodox' tea, then the state govt will provide a 25% capital subsidy. 'Orthodox' and 'CTC' refer to

two different styles of tea leaf production and processing. For producing the 'orthodox' variety, traditional methods of plucking, withering, rolling, oxidation and drying are involved while making the 'CTC' – Crush,

Tear and Curl - involves passing leaves through rollers.

Sarma said, producing 'orthodox' tea costs the gardens more. "We are trying to shift Assam's tea production from 'CTC' to 'orthodox' as much as we can. Because it is 100% export," he said.

Sarma added that the state government expects tea garden authorities to provide a bonus of 20% to workers on the occasion of upcoming Durga Puja.

### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 **EXPLAINE**

the federal government before ap-

proving it for public use. Cuomo said

this was because of fears that the fed-

eral government might rush through

a vaccine for political reasons with-

out having adequate regard for its

the federal government's opinion, and

"Frankly, I am not going to trust

I would not recommend to

New Yorkers, based on the

federal government's opin-

ion. Unfortunately, we can

no longer trust the federal

government," Cuomo was

quoted as saying in a New

When most companies and ex-

perts had been saying that a vaccine

would not be available before early

next year, US President Donald Trump

had insisted that it could be ready by

the end of this year itself. Later, he said

the vaccine could be made available

before the election date as well. Since

then, the timeline for vaccines, at least

for their availability in the US, has

been advanced to the end of this year.

970,116

safety or effectiveness.

York Times report.

### **CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD**

**C<sup>®</sup>VID-19 VACCINE TRACKER** 

### Serum Institute vaccine in phase-I/II trials in Australia

APART FROM bringing some of the leading contenders of a coronavirus vaccine to India, the Serum Institute of India is developing its own vaccine as well. It is partnering with SpyBiotech, a spin-off of Oxford University, for this purpose. Their vaccine candidate has entered into combined phase-I/phase-II clinical trials,

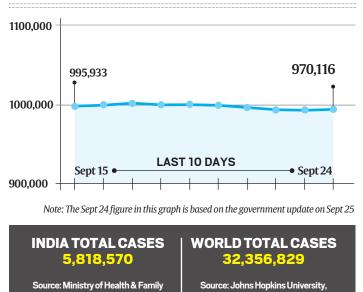
which are being done in Australia. The trials began in the first week of September.

The Serum Institute of India, based in Pune, also has the license to produce and market two of the leading

vaccine candidates, one being developed by AstraZeneca and University of Oxford, and the other one by US company Novavax. The Oxford University vaccine is currently undergoing phase-II and phase-III trials in India.

**NEW YORK REVIEW:** In further politicisation of the debate over coronavirus vaccine, New York Governor M Cuomo on Thursday said his state would review any vaccine cleared by

### **INDIA ACTIVE CASES**



Statins found associated with

severity of Covd-19 disease

# 'We need a 5-yr, 10-yr plan to get labour participation rate right'

MAHESH VYAS, CEO of the think tank Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, discusses how to save jobs and create new ones in the wake of the pandemic. He spoke before a nationwide audience on Zoom

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explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

### **explained.Live**

#### On the state of jobs in India since the pandemic started

There is a marginal difference between the official statistical machinery that generates the employment data and the CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) machinery.

The headline number used to be understood as the unemployment rate. But for a country like India... unemployment rate is not the most important indicator to look at.

One of the good starting points is the labour participation rate, which is how many people of all the people who can work, are actually willing to go out there and work. Those people as a proportion of all the people who are qualified to do this, which are people more than 15 years of age, that ratio is called the labour participation rate. Globally this number is of the order of 66% or so. Where are we in India? According to us, we are at a pathetic 41%. Where were we until recently? We have come down even by government statistics. It was around 50% till recently, then in around 2016-2017 or 2017-18, according to official statistics it came to 48% (we say it came down to 46%). Now, in recent times, it has come down to 43% in 2019-20, and now it is 41%. It went down all the way to 35% in April when the big lockdown hit us and it's back to 41%. Mind you, 2% down compared to 2019-20, just appreciate this number. The working-age population in India is a billion. If you knocked out between 2019-20 and now, 2% of the labour participation, you've knocked out 20 million people.

The second thing, unemployment rate. Of all the people who come into the market to work, how many get jobs and how many are left without a job? Traditionally in India, this number used to be 2-3%, because most people in India couldn't afford to remain unemployed. NSSO surveys have over decades shown us that the unemployment rate was of the order of 2-3%, till the PLFS came out and said in 2018 that this number had risen to 6.1%. Now CMIE has got a similar number for the same period – of the order of 6% in 2017-18. This number in 2019-2020 went up to about 7.5% or so, and in the pandemic lockdown we saw it rise to 23.5%. A quarter of the people who are seeking jobs were unable to find it and, mind you, the number of people seeking jobs itself came down very sharply, double whammy. This 23.5% remained till June. Then it came down to 8.5%, but 8.5% on shaving off of 2% of labour force.

Now, if you take a combination of these two, the number that I think is the most important is the employment rate. How many people are actually employed? That number is down to 37.5%. It was 39% in 2019-20, it was a little more than 40-43% or so before that. So only 37.5% of the people today are employed, of all the people who can work.



returns on that to be higher than themselves going out into the labour market. Even then, for decades together we are seeing labour participation among women falling... For India's demographic

dividend to play out, we don't have much headroom amongst men, because 75% of them are anyway participating. conversation with The headroom is all among Udit Misra, Deputy women, which is down to 10-11%. Female labour participa-Associate Editor. The tion even in urban India is ex-Indian Express tremely low, in fact lower than in rural India. So, we are losing

out on educated, urban women who could be in the labour force, who could be increasing our per capita income, and could have helped the country grow much faster...

### On trends in jobs lost

In 2019-20, we had a total employment count of 403 million and the lockdown came at the end of 2019-20. We lost 121 million jobs in April. Since then, many jobs have come back... So, what was 121 million jobs lost in April, in August is 11 million jobs lost, but what is the composition of this? The story of gender comes back again: 7 million jobs are of men, 4 million are of women. Of the 403 million, only 11% are women. (In) the proportion of job loss, 4 out of 11 are women, whereas only 11 out of 100 were women in jobs. Women lost jobs in demonetisation, they lost jobs in GST, disproportionately high, again we see women lose jobs disproportionately in this shock as well.

Now, the lockdown opened up in rural India faster, MNREGA helped increase jobs over there, the kharif crop was very good. Still, by the end of August, the distribution of the losses of this 11 million is broadly in line with



gain of 14 million, small businesses have seen a gain of 7 million Mahesh Vyas (top) in On whether Atmanirbhar

Bharat Abhiyan can create more jobs My one-line answer this is,

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan does not help save jobs, does not help create jobs. I am making a very categorical statement: It does not help on this front at all. In a broad economic sense, the term Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan suggests like Vocal for Local, an economy that does not really encourage globalisation. Although nothing said in Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan seems to suggest that, the heading does, except there is one clause which says that you can't have global tendering, which I think is counter-productive. But I think if you

try to make the country atmanirbhar, which means self-reliant, that means you should shun foreign goods and services and I think that's not a very good thing to happen for the country. We require to export a lot, we require to import a lot, rather than be an inward-looking economy. We have suffered in the past by being an inward-looking economy. In 1992 we realised our folly and we have stupendous growth for many many years after that because we opened up...

What was the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan proposal all about? It was about providing liquidity, easy loans to MSMEs. MSMEs did not want easy loans, and if you give very easy loans, you just spoil them. They will just create massive NPAs, become irresponsible. Also look at this in one more way: What does ban-rural breakup (of jobs), 70-30 is the distri- easy liquidity do? It does not help labour. It

helps the owners of MSMEs, who have got easy finances available with them. What makes you think that this will go to labour? Not necessarily. They could use it for settling anything or they can even run away with it because anyway this is a very easy loan. So I think this is getting it wrong, this is not good for labour at all.

#### On how many jobs the government can provide

There are many elements in this question. The first thing is, how much does the government really offer in terms of jobs? Our survey shows us it's of the order of 14-15 million jobs that are there with the government, all kinds of governments put together. Our numbers are closer to 14 million than 15 million, but let's keep it at 15 million and let us say that the whole pie is 400 million. So what are we looking at? It is an extremely small share. So the government jobs are hardly any jobs.

Another thing is, look at incrementalism, the additional jobs are next to nothing, they don't even count. Total jobs are 15 million maximum. The central government official budget document says that the people employed in the central government is on the order of some 3.6 million. So 3.6 million over there and all governments put together we are talking about 14 million jobs out of 400 million jobs that aren't much... The government should be itself providing a lot more jobs than it is providing today.

Usually people say government should create infrastructure, but what do we mean by infrastructure? It is usually your roads, ports, airports, those kinds of things, but once those roads and airports are made then it does not create any more employment. It is capital intensive. But you also require other infrastructure, social infrastructure - primary education, primary health centres – we require many more of them' we require those labs we were desperately in need of when the pandemic hit us.

### On how many jobs India needs

In an arithmetic way... people who are more than 15 years of age, their population is growing at a rate of 2 million per month, approximately. And, we have a labour participation rate of about 40%. So, 2 million per month, you cut it down to 0.8 million per month because of 40% labour participation rate and you multiply that by 12, you should be getting around 9-9.6 million jobs per year. So I think we require of the order of 9 million jobs, if you are willing to accept a labour participation rate of 40% (which in my opinion is not acceptable)... We have got about 35 million unemployed people right now. Are we going to leave them the way they are or at least take some of them away into jobs? And we have a very low labour participation rate stock, how are we going to raise that labour participation rate to close to 65% that the world has? So the number of jobs that we are going to create is really massive, if we want to really grow into becoming a high per capita or a middle per capita income country. If we are willing to live in the conditions in which we are right now, we require about 6-8 million jobs per annum. That's going to be very poor. So the number of jobs we should be creating... what we should be doing strategically for a country is to say, "How do I get my labour participation year up to 60-65%?" Maybe a 5-year, 10-year perspective plan to get that right, and that's how we will be able to exploit our demographic dividend. Otherwise we are letting it go by.

research from US San Diego (University of California at San Diego) School of Medicine associated statins with re-CLIP duced risk of developing severe Covid-19 disease, as well as faster recovery NEW RESEARCH times. Now another re-

STATINS ARE a widely

used medication for low-

ering cholesterol. Recent

Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Sept 25

search team, also from UC San Diego School of Medicine, has explained why this happens. The first study is published in The EMBO Journal, and the new one in the American Journal of Cardiology.

In short, statins remove cholesterol from cell membranes, which in turn prevents the coronavirus from getting in.

We know that SARS-CoV-2, the

### PAPER

as ACE2 on the cell surface. ACE2 can be affected by prescription statins.

virus that causes Covid-

19. enters the human cell

updated at 11 pm on Sept 25

Researchers retrospectively analysed the electronic medical records of 170 patients with Covid-19 and 5,281 Covid-negative control patients hospitalised at

UC San Diego Health between February and June 2020. Among the patients with Covid-19, 27% were taking statins on admission.

Statin use was associated with a more than 50% lower risk of developing severe Covid-19. Patients taking statins also recovered faster than those not taking statins.

Source: UC San Diego Heath

#### On low labour force participation rate among women

This has fallen even according to official statistics and we show this fall far more steeply compared to the official statistics. Just take the difference, the labour participation rate for men is of the order of 75% (72% according to us) and for women is 25%. That's a huge difference. According to us, 72% of men are willing to work and only around 11% of women are willing to work. Now why is this the case? Initially what happens is that as per capita GDP increases, women who are participating in agricultural activities... find it more useful to stay at home and help children's education. They themselves get educated, then they help their children get educated, and they find the the share of rural and urban... 70-30 is the ur-

**AUDIENCE** OUESTIONS

#### On what the government could have done to prevent such a steep fall in employment

By stopping imports, we do no good to consumers (or) to the small enterprises who require those inputs. The best thing to do now is to spend money, and the government is making a gross mistake by not being willing... This year so far, the government has spent just 11% higher compared to a year ago. If aggregate demand is not supported by government spending, no consumption can grow. You may make as many toys as you want, but households don't have the income to actually buy them.

#### On whether labour participation rate includes people who have retired, and entrepreneurs

In labour participation, if a person becomes an entrepreneur, he is a part of the labour force, so he is counted in. If a person is retired and is not willing to work anymore, he wants to lead a retired life. then he is not in the labour participation rate. There is no age bar – (if you are) 80-90 years and are willing to work, you are part of the labour force. We require our education policy to make it more relevant for skills required in the job markets. That's a larger problem for the country to solve.

TRANSCRIBED BY MEHR GILL (Edited excerpts) VIDEO: youtu.be/XrIMDOGGYtA

### Retrospective taxation: the Vodafone case, and the Hague court ruling

#### **AASHISH ARYAN** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

IN A unanimous decision, the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague on Friday ruled that India's retrospective demand of Rs 22,100 crore as capital gains and withholding tax imposed on the British telecommunication company for a 2007 deal was "in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment". The court has also asked India not to pursue the tax demand any more against Vodafone Group.

#### What is the case?

In May 2007, Vodafone had bought a 67% stake in Hutchison Whampoa for \$11 billion. This included the mobile telephony business and other assets of Hutchison in India. In September that year, the India government for the first time raised a demand of Rs 7,990 crore in capital gains and withholding tax from Vodafone, saying the company should have deducted the tax at source before making a payment to Hutchison.

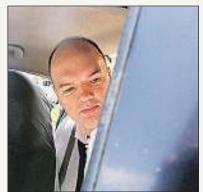
Vodafone challenged the demand notice in the Bombay High Court, which ruled in favour of the Income Tax Department. Subsequently, Vodafone challenged the High Court judgment in the Supreme Court, which in 2012 ruled that Vodafone Group's interpretation of the Income Tax Act of 1961 was correct and that it did not have to pay any taxes for the stake purchase.

The same year, the then Finance Minister, the late Pranab Mukherjee, circumvented the Supreme Court's ruling by proposing an amendment to the Finance Act, thereby giving the Income Tax Department the power to retrospectively tax such deals. The Act was passed by Parliament that year and the onus to pay the taxes fell back on Vodafone. The case had by then become infamous as the 'retrospective taxation case'.

#### What is retrospective taxation?

As the name suggests, retrospective taxation allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed.

Countries use this route to correct any anomalies in their taxation policies that have, in the past, allowed companies to take advantage of such loopholes. While governments



Vodafone Group CEO Nick Read outside the Indian Parliament earlier this year. Express Archive

often use a retrospective amendment to taxation laws to "clarify" existing laws, it ends up hurting companies that had knowingly or unknowingly interpreted the tax rules differently. Apart from India, many countries including the US, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Australia and Italy have retrospectively taxed companies, which had taken the benefit of loopholes in the previous law.

#### What happened after India passed the retrospective taxation law?

Once Parliament passed the amendment to the Finance Act in 2012, the onus to pay the taxes fell back on Vodafone. The amendment was criticised by investors globally, who said the change in law was "perverse" in nature.

"The retrospective amendment that overturned the decision of the highest court of the land was badly drafted in its wide generalities and carried a perverse sense of vindictiveness," said Nigam Nuggehalli, Dean of the School of Law at BML Munjal University.

Following international criticism, India tried to settle the matter amicably with Vodafone, but was unable to do so. After the new NDA government came to power, it said it would not create any fresh tax liabilities for companies using the retrospective taxation route.

By 2014, all attempts by the telco and the Finance Ministry to settle the issue had failed. Vodafone Group then invoked Clause 9 of the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) signed between India and the Netherlands in 1995.

What is the Bilateral Investment Treaty?

On November 6, 1995, India and the Netherlands had signed a BIT for promotion and protection of investment by companies of each country in the other's jurisdiction.

Among the various agreements, the treaty had then stated that both countries would strive to "encourage and promote favourable conditions for investors" of the other country. The two countries would, under the BIT, ensure that companies present in each other's jurisdictions would be "at all times be accorded fair and equitable treatment and shall enjoy full protection and security in the territory of the other".

While the treaty was between India and the Netherlands, Vodafone invoked it as its Dutch unit, Vodafone International Holdings BV, had bought the Indian business operations of Hutchinson Telecommunicaton International Ltd. This made it a transaction between a Dutch firm and an Indian firm.

The BIT between India and the Netherlands expired on September 22, 2016.

#### What did the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague say?

One of the major factors for the Court of

Arbitration to rule in favour of Vodafone was the violation of the BIT and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

In 2014, when the Vodafone Group had initiated arbitration against India at the Court of Arbitration, it had done so under Article 9 of the BIT between India and the Netherlands.

Article 9 of the BIT says that any dispute between "an investor of one contracting party and the other contracting party in connection with an investment in the territory of the other contracting party" shall as far as possible be settled amicably through negotiations.

The other was Article 3 of the arbitration rules of UNCITRAL, which, among other things, says that "constitution of the arbitral tribunal shall not be hindered by any controversy with respect to the sufficiency of the notice of arbitration, which shall be finally resolved by the arbitral tribunal".

In its ruling, the arbitration tribunal also said that now since it had been established that India had breached the terms of the agreement, it must now stop efforts to recover the said taxes from Vodafone.

### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 **16** THE WORLD

### MEANWHILE NZ DIVIDED OVER HISTORIC MARIJUANA VOTE

A referendum to be held on October 17 on legalising recreational cannabis has divided opinion in New Zealand. If passed, New Zealand would be only the third country in the world after Uruguay and Canada to legalise the adult use and sale of cannabis. A Horizon Research survey showed 49.5% of respondents were in favour of legalising cannabis while 49.5% were against, and 1% gave no response.

### TOPOFTHE WORLD



Queen Elizabeth II

### BRITAIN

### Queen to trim costs as Covid hits income

BRITAIN'S QUEEN Elizabeth II and her family are facing a £35 million (\$45 million) hit from the coronavirus pandemic, partly due to a shortage of tourists, the monarch's money-manager said Friday. Releasing the royal household's annual accounts, Keeper of the Privy Purse Michael Stevens said a lack of income from visitors to royal buildings was likely to bring a general funding shortfall of £15 million (\$19 million) over three years. He said the impact of the pandemic is also likely to cause a £20 million (\$25.4 million) shortfall in a 10-year, £369million programme to replace antiquated heating. plumbing and wiring at Buckingham Palace, the queen's London home. AP

### THAILAND FB, Twitter sued for allowing banned material

THAILAND'S GOVERN-MENT lodged complaints with police Thursday against Facebook and Twitter, alleging they failed to comply with court orders to block content judged illegal under Thai law. Minister of Digital Economy and Society Buddhipongse Punnakanta said at a news conference that it was the first time his ministry has taken such action against the social media companies under Thailand's Computer Crime Act. It has prosecuted website and account owners and



### **RBG IS FIRST WOMAN TO LIE IN STATE AT US CAPITOL**

The flag-draped casket of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is carried into Statuary Hall in the US Capitol, where Ginsburg will lie in state. Ginsburg broke one final barrier on Friday, becoming the first woman and the first Jewish American to lie in state in the Capitol. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said it was with "profound sorrow" that she welcomed the liberal icon and opened the private service. Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, sat quietly with other elected officials, friends and family. His running mate, Senator Kamala Harris, also attended. AF

### North Korea's Kim offers rare apology for killing of S Korean

#### **HYONHEE SHIN** & SANGMI CHA SEOUL, SEPTEMBER 25

NORTH KOREAN leader Kim Jong Un apologised on Friday for the shooting death of a South Korean man to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, the South's national security adviser said, as public and political outrage over the killing grew.

The apology came in a letter from the North's United Front Department, which handles cross-border ties, to South Korean President Moon Jae-in a day after South Korean officials said the North's soldiers killed the man, doused his body in fuel and set it on fire. The rare conciliatory mes-

sage from the North Korean leader came as Moon faced intense political fallout over the incident, which coincided with a renewed push by him for engagement with North Korea. "Chairman Kim Jong Un asked



### At the Seoul Railway Station on Friday. AP

to convey his feeling that he is greatly sorry that an unexpected unsavoury incident occurred in our waters which hugely disappointed President Moon Jae-in and compatriots in the South," the adviser, Suh Hoon, told reporters. Suh said the letter was a response to requests for an explanation for the incident and included a promise to prevent any recurrence.

North Korea expressed hope the incident would not undermine recent efforts to foster trust, Suh said, adding Moon and Kim had exchanged letters this month. REUTERS



### ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 25

**UN agency** 

advises Pak to

THE INTERNATIONAL Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has advised Pakistan to undertake "immediate corrective actions" and suspend the issuance of any new pilot licenses in the wake of a scandal over falsified licences, according to an official and a document seen by Reuters.

The recommendations from ICAO, a United Nations agency that works to ensure safety in international air transport, come days after Pakistan opened a criminal probe into 50 pilots and five civil aviation officials who allegedly helped them falsify credentials to secure pilot licences.

"Pakistan should improve and strengthen its licensing system to ensure that it ... prevents inconsistencies and malpractices before new licences are issued," ICAO said in a letter to the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority. **REUTERS** 

FEARS OVER TRANSFER OF POWER At Pentagon, concern rife that Trump will pull military into election row

Officials say top generals could quit if President orders active-duty military into streets to quell election protests

#### JENNIFER STEINHAUER & HELENE COOPER WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 25

PENTAGON LEADERS have a lot to worry about – Afghanistan, Russia, Iraq, Syria, Iran, China, Somalia, the Korean Peninsula. But chief among those concerns is whether their commander in chief might order US troops into any chaos around the coming elections.

President Donald Trump gave officials no solace Wednesday and Thursday when he again refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power no matter who wins the election, and Thursday, he doubled down by saying he was not sure the election could be "honest". His hedging, along with his expressed desire in June to invoke the 1807 Insurrection Act to send active-duty troops onto American streets to quell protests over the killing of George Floyd, has incited deep anxiety among senior military and Defence Department leaders, who insist they will do all they can to keep the armed forces out of the elections.

"I believe deeply in the principle of an apolitical US military," Gen Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had said in written answers to questions from House lawmakers. "In the event of a dispute over some aspect of the elections, by law, US courts and the US Congress are required to resolve any disputes, not the US military. I foresee no role for the US armed forces in this process."

But that has not stopped an intensifying debate in the military about its role should a disputed election lead to civil unrest.

On Aug 11, John Nagl and Paul Yingling, both retired Army officers and Iraq War veterans, published an open letter to Milley on the website Defense One. "In a few months' time, you may have at 12.01 pm on Inauguration Day.



Trump at a rally in Jacksonville, Florida, on Thursday. Reuters



to choose between defying a lawless president or betraying your constitutional oath," they wrote. "If Donald Trump refuses to leave office at the expiration of his constitutional term, the United States military must re-

move him by force, and you must give that order.' Pentagon officials swiftly said such an outcome was preposterous. Under no circumstances, they said, would the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff send Navy SEALs or Marines to haul Trump out of the White House. If necessary, such a task, Defence Department officials said, would fall to US Marshals or the Secret Service. The military, by law, the officials said, takes a vow to the Constitution, not to the president, and that vow means that the commander in chief of the military is whoever is sworn in

themselves about what to do if Trump, who will still be president from Election Day to Inauguration Day, invokes the Insurrection Act and tries to send troops into the streets, as he repeatedly threatened to do during the protests against police brutality and systemic racism. Both Milley and Defence Secretary Mark Esper opposed the move then, and Trump oacked down. Defence Department officials have privately discussed the possibility of Trump trying to use any civil unrest around the elections

But senior leaders at the

Pentagon, speaking on the condi-

tion of anonymity, acknowledged

that they were talking among

to put his thumb on the scales. Several Pentagon officials said that such a move could prompt resignations among many of Trump's senior generals, starting at the top with Milley.

The Air Force chief of staff, General Charles Q. Brown, the officials said, would also be unlikely to salute and carry out those orders. In the days after the killing of Floyd in police custody, Brown released an extraordinary video in which he spoke in starkly personal terms about his experience as a Black man in America, his unequal treatment in the forces and the protests that gripped the US. NYT

### users in the past. AP

### **BRITAIN**

### Police officer shot dead at custody centre

A BRITISH police officer was shot dead in the early hours of Friday by a man who was being held at a custody centre in south London. Police said the incident occurred at 2.15 am while the man was being detained at the Crovdon Custody Centre where arrested suspects are processed. The unnamed officer was treated at the scene and taken to hospital where he died. A 23-yearold man was detained and is in hospital. **REUTERS** 

### Paris: Terror probe after 2 stabbed near former Charlie Hebdo office

#### **ANGELA CHARLTON** & OLEG CETINIC PARIS, SEPTEMBER 25

**FRENCH TERRORISM authorities** are investigating a double-stabbing outside the former Paris offices of a satirical newspaper where a dozen people were killed in 2015, and two suspects have been arrested in Friday's violence, authorities said.

France's counterterrorism prosecutor said authorities suspect a terrorist motive because of the place and timing of the stabbings: in front of the building where Charlie Hebdo was based until the Islamic extremist attack



### At the site of the attack in Paris on Friday. AP

on its cartoonists and at a time when suspects in the 2015 attack are on trial across town.

Prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said that the chief suspect in Friday's stabbings was arrested, along with another person. Ricard said the assailant did not know the people who were stabbed, two workers in a documentary production company who had stepped outside for a smoke break.

unprecedented

KIM'S APOLOGY to South

Korea is a rare, but not un-

precedented event. It was

the first apology in Kim's

Korean leaders have in the

past expressed regret to their

South Korean counterparts

over the loss of civilian life af-

ter violent episodes in 1996

and 2002. With the furore

over the killing growing in

the South, the North's apol-

ogy also serves to mitigate

the crisis, and comes at little

cost for Kim domestically,

where the state-controlled

media have remained silent

on the episode.

name, but other North

The suspects' identities have not been released, and it is unclear exactly what prompted the attack. An investigation was opened into "attempted murder in relation with a terrorist enterprise," according to an official at the terrorism prosecutor's office. French Prime Minister Jean

Castex said the lives of the two wounded workers are not in danger. He offered the government's solidarity with their families and colleagues. **REUTERS** 

than education. Global scores

compiled by the Organisation for

Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD) for 2018

### First man cured of HIV now has terminal cancer

TIMOTHY RAY Brown, the first person known to have been cured of HIV infection, said he was now terminally ill from a recurrence of the cancer that prompted his historic treatment 12 years ago. Brown, dubbed "the Berlin patient" because of where he lived at the time, had a transplant from a donor with a rare resistance to the AIDS virus. That was thought to have cured his leukemia and his HIV infection, and he still shows no signs of HIV. But in an interview, Brown said his cancer returned last year and has spread widely. He's receiving hospice care where he now lives in Palm

Springs, California. AP

### workforce training programme

US announces \$150 mn for H-1B

#### LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 25

THE US will invest \$150 million in training for middle-to-highskilled H-1B occupations in key sectors, including in information technology which employs tens of thousands of Indian professionals.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

According to the Department of Labor, prominent among these sectors are information technology, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, transportation, wherein the H-1B One Workforce grant programme The training models will include a range of classroom and on-thejob training, customised training and registered apprenticeships

would be used to upskill the present workforce and train a new generation of workers to grow the future workforce.

The coronavirus pandemic has not only caused disruptions in the labour market, but also forced many education and training providers and employers to rethink how to deliver training, the department said in a statement. In this grant programme, the department has set out to streamline funding and resources to encourage a more integrated workforce system that will push the applicants to provide an innovative mix of training strategies, leveraging innovative modes of training delivery, including online, distance and other technologyenabled learning

Through local public-private partnerships, the grantees will deploy training to provide individuals in their communities with skills necessary to advance career pathways to employment in middle-to-high-skilled H-1B occupations within key industry sectors. The training models will in-

clude a broad range of classroom and on-the-job training, customised training and registered apprenticeship programmes. PTI

**US Justice Dept seeks** 

immediate WeChat ban

### AMID PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTESTS LED BY COLLEGE STUDENTS, SCHOOL KIDS ADVANCE THEIR OWN REBELLION 'Our first dictatorship is school': Thailand's kids revolt

### JUARAWEE KITTISILPA BANGKOK, SEPTEMBER 25

WEARING WHITE ribbons, publicly hacking off their hair and making "Hunger Games" salutes - Thailand's high school students are doing their best to shake up the country's rigid education system.

As university students stage weeks of high-profile campus protests for democracy, their younger brethren are advancing their own rebellion to Thailand's establishment

'There's a viral saying that 'our first dictatorship is school'," 17-year old Peka Loetparisanyu told Reuters at her apartment.

"They are trying instill in us that we are only the little people in an authoritarian society,"

Loetparisanyu said. "This means that a lot of our rights have been violated.

The movement sweeping through Thai high schools has been dubbed "Bad Student" by its leaders. Its namesake is a book written by university student activist Netiwit Chotiphatphaisal about his experiences in high school titled "A Bad Student in an Excellent Education System."

As well as supporting the broader aims of the anti-government protests, the high school movement is targeted at gaining self-expression for students via the abolition of rules they deem as archiac.

Traditionalism runs through Thailand's education system. The royal anthem is played at morning assemblies, uniform and deportment rules are strict



As well as supporting the broader aims of the antigovernment protests, the high school movement is targeted at gaining self-expression for students. Reuters

and students are expected to be unquestioning of authority.

Critics say the school system is aimed at compliance more

show Thailand far behind top performer Singapore and also lagging neighbouring Malaysia in reading, maths and science. Still, conservatives were furi-

ous last month when some students wore white ribbons and raised three-finger "Hunger Games" salutes during the morning anthem recital to support the pro-democracy movement. The salute has been a symbol of calls for democracy since Prime Minister Prayuth Chanocha first took power in a 2014 coup. The white ribbons represent the purity of the students.

Education Minister Nataphol Teepsuwan earlier this year bowed to demands by students to relax the rules that prescribe specific hair length and styles for male and female students.

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS cussion was needed on calls to NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25 abolish uniforms and other ma-

THE JUSTICE Department is "I don't think the students are seeking an immediate ban on my opponents," he told Reuters. downloads of WeChat in Apple "I feel that by listening to them, and Google app stores, saying I'm giving them an opportunity the Chinese-owned messaging to voice their concern safely." service is a threat to the security Fifteen-vear-old Beniamaporn of the United States.

Last week the US Commerce Department moved to ban WeChat from US app stores but on Saturday, Magistrate Judge passersby to cut her hair as sym-Laurel Beeler in California agreed bolic 'punishment' for infringing to delay US restrictions, saying they would affect users' First She's now set her sights on Amendment rights.

In a filing Friday, the Justice 'They should revoke all the Department asked Beeler to allow outdated rules, not just that for an immediate ban while the one," she told Reuters. "Those case works its way through court. rules shouldn't exist in the first WeChat is a messaging-foplace. They violate our human cused app popular with many Chinese-speaking Americans

that serves as a lifeline to friends, family, customers and business contacts in China. It's owned by Chinese tech giant Tencent.

The Justice Department says WeChat allows the Chinese government to collect and use personal data on Americans to advance its own interests. The filing states WeChat has approximately 19 million active daily users in the US in a range of formats, includ-

ing text, images, video, and audio. The Justice Department argues that the US will suffer irreparable harm, both substantive and procedural, if the court does not stay its decision.

The Trump administration has targeted WeChat and another Chinese-owned app. TikTok, for national security and data privacy concerns, in the latest flashpoint amid ristensions between ing Washington and Beijing.

Nivas became one of the first faces of the 'Bad Student' movement when she sat in public places with a sign around her neck inviting

But Nataphol said more dis-



rights." **REUTERS** 

the haircut rule.

further reform.

ior changes

New Delhi



SILVER

**(() ()** 

national market data till 1900 IS

### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 37,388.66 ▲ 835.06 NIFTY: 11,050.25 ▲ 244.70 NIKKEI: 23,204.62 ▲ 116.80 HANG SENG: 23,235.42 ▼ 75.65 FTSE: 5,805.23 ▼ 17.55 DAX: 12,419.33 ▼ 187.24

### VODAFONE GROUP PLC-GOVT CASE AT PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION Govt may have to shell out 785 cr if it decides not to appeal

₹45 crore towards tax collected from Vodafone Group Plc, ₹40 crore towards administrative cost charged by tribunal

#### **AANCHALMAGAZINE** & PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

RS 85 crore - this would be the Centre's liability should it decide to not appeal against Friday's ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Rs 22,100-crore tax dispute with Vodafone Group Plc. The arbitration tribunal ruled in favour of Vodafone Group against India's retrospective demand of capital gains tax. Of the Rs 85-crore outgo, Rs 45 crore will be towards the tax collected from Vodafone so far and Rs 40 crore, or 4.3 million pound sterling, towards the administrative cost charged by the tribunal.

According to Finance Ministry sources, since Vodafone had not paid the initial tax demand of Rs 7.900 crore and interest and penalty on it, the question of India

**JAY MAZOOMDAAR** 

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

TWO FIRMS in the British

Virgin Islands, Anterna

Limited and Belinea Services

Limited, made over 200 trans-

actions of at least \$118 million

between 2009 and 2014 as

#### paying back Rs 22,100 crore did not arise. Further, the tribunal has not accepted the claim of Vodafone for award of damages, sources added.

The issues, however, are expected to crop up for Indian government at another level, with the possibility of other pending cases under arbitration following suit as the Vodafone case, experts said. "Vodafone's win in the arbitration against the government in the retrospective taxation of indirect transfers is very significant

as it may cause other similarly placed companies to seek arbitral reliefs. While many bilateral investment treaties have been scrapped by Government or modified not to cover taxation within their ambit, this space is likely to witness further action.' Kumarmanglam Vijay, Partner, J. Sagar Associates said. They also said that if the

### As per Finance Ministry sources, since Vodafone Group Plc had not paid the initial tax demand of ₹7,900

### crore and interest and penalty on it, the question of India paying back ₹22,100 crore did not arise

Government of India does not decide to implement the ruling, Vodafone Plc can seek remedial action for implementation by approaching Indian courts. "The Government of India will need to take a view on it, whether to accept it or not. Or to seek some sort of review. And, if the government does not decide to implement it, then Vodafone can seek remedy in Indian courts," former Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Member Akhilesh Ranjan said.

India is bogged up in several international arbitration cases including some on account of retrospective tax claims against companies such as Cairn Energy. The company is seeking full restitution for its losses totalling over \$1.4 billion resulting from India's expropriation of its investments in India in 2014. The Centre also has a track record for challenging arbitration rulings. The government had appealed against the \$476-million arbitration awarded to Vedanta and Videocon in 2011, but this was turned down by the Supreme Court. Arbitration proceedings had resulted in a \$476-million award to Vedanta and Videocon pertaining to the Ravva oil and gas fields that they had jointly developed in the 2000s. As per the Malaysian Arbitration Act, 2005, an award (the decision of the arbitration) was pronounced in favour of the respondents on

January, 2011.

In July 2014, presenting the Budget, then Finance Minister Arun Jaitlev had said that the NDA government will not retrospectively create a fresh tax liability and that all fresh cases arising out of 2012 retrospective amendments will be scrutinised by a high-level committee before any action is initiated. "... consequent upon certain retrospective amendments to the Income Tax Act 1961, undertaken through the Finance Act 2012, a few cases have come up in various courts and other legal fora. These cases are at different stages of pendency and will naturally reach their logical conclusion," Jaitley had said.

The government's stated intent has been that investment treaties should not cover tax matters, one of the reasons for objection to the arbitration in this case since it was covered under the Bilateral

Investment Treaty (BIT) was unacceptable to it in this case was because it was and not the tax treaty. Since then, the government has modified nearly 60 such treaties to exclude taxation matters.

"BITs entered by India in the past were wide enough to cover tax issues. This was something which India was not comfortable with and therefore India came out with a model Bilateral Investment Treaty in 2015 which left out tax and most favored nation clause among various other changes ... However, the new model BITs have found few takers with some countries like Bangladesh entering into the BITs based on the 2015 model. Going forward, this decision will not result in more companies opting for this approach as most BITs have already been terminated by India," Amit Maheshwari, partner, AKM Global said

Securities, the investor senti-

ment was dented as rising coro-

navirus cases led to the possi-

bility of fresh lockdowns in

some European countries,

which could further slow down

the pace of global economic re-

covery. Firmness in the US dol-

lar also put pressure on domes-

performed the benchmark in-

dices with BSE Midcap and

Smallcap indices declining by

4.7 per cent and 5.3 per cent re-

telecom index fell over 10 per

cent, followed by media (down

by 9.3 per cent).

were down 8 per cent.

Among the sectoral indices

Metal and PSU bank index

spectively during the week.

The broader markets under-

tic shares.

### Sensex recovers 835 pts despite negative global cues

### **ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 25

BENCHMARK INDICES on Friday almost recouped the losses in Thursday's trade despite negative global cues and uncertainties surrounding the Covid pandemic and the economic recovery. The Sensex, which plummeted 1,114 points on Thursday, gained 835 points to 37,388.66 and the NSE Nifty Index rose 241 points at 11,050.25.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said, "this relief rally was in spite of mostly negative global cues and seemed to be based on the hope of more

#### **PART SIX** three global banks kept flagging the wires for suspected "money laundering/structurlically unidentifiable" entities exhibiting high-risk transac-

BANK OF CHINA, JP MORGAN CHASE, BNYM

Arms agent kin's

firms routed

funds via Russia,

Seychelles and Israel

ing" without blocking any. The firms were part of a fition patterns such as repetitive, large and round dollar nancial structure set up by the family and associates of amounts sent in clusters with London-based international multiple payments on the arms agent Sudhir Choudhrie. same day with no apparent economic, business, or lawful The transactions were

flagged by US branches of Bank of China (BOC), Bank of New York Mellon (BNYM), and JPMorgan Chase (JPMC) in 10 Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) filed with the Financial

nt Network

JPMorgan Chase also looed four fa

jurisdictions.

purpose, large imbalance in

funds sent against funds re-

ceived, and use of "accommo-

dation addresses" in offshore

**AN EXPRESS** 

INVESTIGATION

# Sensex closes at 37,388. File

NCAER QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE ECONOMY 'Growth to stay negative in remaining 3 qtrs, FY21 to see 12.6% contraction'

the previous peak output level of 2019-20 only by the end of 2022-23. If that annual growth path of 7 per cent can be sustained over THE GDP growth rates in the rethe long term, again a heroic assumption the economy will catch

#### trend in the markets after a huge inflows in August." The factors which prevailed against the markets like the selloff in the tech sector, the emer-

gence of the second wave of the pandemic and probability of geopolitical tensions centering around Chinese stand-off etc may continue to influence the course of the markets in the coming weeks," said Joseph Thomas, Head of Research, Emkay Wealth Management. However, expectations of another fiscal package from the government ahead of the festival season is a factor that may endow the markets with some strength, he said.

According to Deepak Jasani, head-retail research, HDFC

### Ticket refund for cancelled flights: SC reserves order

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE SUPREME Court on Friday reserved its order on petitions seeking refund for tickets booked on flights that were cancelled owing to the Covid-19 lockdown, with 'entre clarifying that the pr

posed 'credit shell' can only be in

the name of the passengers even

The Directorate General or

Civil Aviation (DGCA) had earlier

told the court that the rules re-

quire immediate refund but given

the financial distress of some air-

lines amid the pandemic, it sug-

gested setting up a transferrable

credit shell with life upto March

31, 2021 and refund if it still re-

mains unused on the cut-off date.

the Centre to explain the status of

booked through travel agents.

tween travel agents and airlines.

The apex court had then asked

booked through travel agents.

GOLD

₹50,824

### **OVER THE YEARS: THE VODA-GOVT LEGAL BATTLE**

RUPEE

₹73.61

 $\odot$ 

The 13-year-long legal tussle between British telecom giant Vodafone Group Plc and the government over a Rs 22,100 crore-tax demand took a fresh turn on Friday, with an international arbitration tribunal in The Haque ruling that India's imposition of a tax liability on the telco was in breach of an investment treaty agreement between India and the Netherlands. A detailed break-up of how the case has unfolded over the years:

OIL

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market: gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 1930 IST

May 2007 — Vodafone closes the \$11-billion deal under which it purchases India mobile assets from Hutchison

September 2007 — India's income-tax department raises a demand of Rs 7,990 crore in capital gains tax from Vodafone, saying the company should have deducted the tax July 2014 — Finance Minister at source before making Arun Jaitley says in Budget payment to Hutchison speech that the NDA January 2012 — Relief for aovernment will not Vodafone as Supreme Court retrospectively create a fresh rules that the I-T department tax liability. All fresh cases cannot levy tax on the deal arising out of retrospective March2012 — Finance Minister amendments of 2012 to be Pranab Mukherjee proposes scrutinised by a high-level changes to the Finance Bill committee before any action is seeking to tax such deals initiated. Hopes for existing where both the buyer and the cases to reach logical seller are located outside India. conclusion The amendments have

retrospective implications thus February 2016 — Vodafone bringing the Vodafone deal receives another tax demand under the fold notice of Rs 22,100 crore. April 2012 — Vodafone invokes including interest the bilateral investment treaty January 2017 — Vodafone serves

(BIT) between India and the a second arbitration notice Netherlands and issues a under the UK-India BIT notice to Indian government to initiate arbitration proceedings Court allows Vodafone to January 2013 — Vodafone

initiate the second arbitration receives a revised tax demand after the Delhi HC restrained notice of Rs 14,200 crore the company from doing so including interest

September 2020 — The clears proposal of a settlement Permanent Court of Arbitration

mber 2017 — The Supreme

of the dispute through a nonin The Hague rules in favour of Vodafone, says that the Indian government's demand of retrospective tax was "in challenges the government's breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment"

Irdai lists LIC, GIC Re, New India as 'too big to fail', need enhanced supervision EXPLAINED the RBI norms, these banks will

June 2013 — Union Cabinet

binding conciliation

January 2014 — Vodafone

tax demand under the

Netherlands-India BIT

#### **GEORGE MATHEW** MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE INSURANCE Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has named three public sector insurance companies – Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), Ceneral Insurance Corno (GIC Re) and New India Assurance - as 'too big or too important to fail' institutions or Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs). which will require enhanced regulatory supervision and a higher level of corporate governance.

have to set aside more capital for their continued operation. **Failure may** bring distress

The insurance regulator said D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global inter connectedness whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system "Therefore, the continued functioning of D-SIIs is critical for the uninterrupted availability of insurance services to the national economy. D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are 'too big or too important to fail" it said. This perception and the perceived expectation of government support may amplify risk taking. reduce market discipline, create competitive distortions, and increase the possibility of distress in future. These considerations require that D-SIIs should be subjected to additional regulatory measures to deal with the systemic risks and moral hazard issues, Irdai said. In order to identify such insurers and to put such insurers to enhanced monitoring mechanism, Irdai developed a methodology for identification



stimulus measures by the government. On a weekly basis, the recovery today enabled the benchmark indices to limit to around 3.8 per cent loss for the week. FPIs have net sold close to Rs 2,000 crore so far this month ... which indicates the uncertain

(FinCEN) of the US Department of Treasury between 2010 and 2017, records investigated by *The Indian* Express show.

As reported by The Indian *Express* in the Panama Papers investigation in 2016, Sudhir Choudhrie's son Bhanu was director of Belinea Services Limited and Anterna Limited. two companies set up in the BVI in October 2002.

Bhanu resigned as Anterna's director in January 2016 after the company's shares were transferred from Protype Services Inc (Seychelles) to Sumant Kapur, son of Sudhir's uncle BK Kapur, former chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

According to Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca's records, Dubai-based businessman Aman Chopra joined Bhanu on the board of Belinea in May 2010 and held the shares of Hollister Consulting Inc(Seychelles), the sole shareholder of Belinea.

In November 2016, an internal communication of Mossack Fonseca recorded the client's confirmation that Belinea would be struck off the BVI register.

In the SARs, the transactions between 2009 and 2014 show that Anterna had an address in Israel and accounts with two Israeli banks -Union Bank of Israel and Bank

Hapolim BM. Belinea, on the other hand, used Mossack Fonseca's Seychelles address and transacted through Vnesheconombank

(Moscow), a Russian state corporation, and Bank of China (Suisse). Incidentally. Belinea transferred at least \$5.7 million between the two bank accounts in Russia and Switzerland "for the purpose of investment in that region". The SARs described Belinea and Anterna as "pub-

ing \$1.84 million between May 2015 and January 2016, involving Choudhrie's sons Bhanu and Dhairya; Bhanu's wife Simrin; Dhairya's wife Optima Karina. and International Group SA, a firm registered by Mossack Fonseca in the BVI.

According to Mossack Fonseca's records, Optima International was incorporated in BVI in July 2007 for the purpose of "investment holding in Switzerland" and Bhanu Choudhrie was the ultimate beneficial owner.

The source of funds was 'distribution of the UBO family trust" that collected dividends from the UBO's various businesses. Three Choudhrie family trusts – Keys Trust, CDC Trust, and CSA Trust – held equal shares in Optima through a trustee firm in Guernsey and later in

client, and filed a SAR with the **BVI** Financial Investigation

Agency. Reached for comment, a

financial crimes.' New York Mellon did not respond to multiple emails for comment.

emails for comment.

of Sudhir Choudhrie and an offshore company to FinCEN. An August 2016 SAR re-

ported 13 transactions, total-

Switzerland. Days after the Panama Papers investigation was published in April 2016, Mossack Fonseca decided to drop Optima International as a

spokesperson for JPMorgan Chase, citing legal reasons not to respond to specific queries, said: "We follow all laws and regulations in support of the government's work to combat

Bank of China and Bank of

Emails and phone calls to Choudhrie family firm London-based C&C Alpha Group did not elicit any response. Bhanu Choudhrie, Aman Chopra and Sumant Kapur, too, did not respond to nancial year - i.e. July-September, October-December and January-March – are expected to remain negative at (-)12.7 per cent. (-)8.6per cent and (-) 6.2 per cent, respectively, with the overall gross

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** 

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

domestic product (GDP) growth rate for the full year seen at (-) 12.6 per cent, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) said Friday.

The think-tank, in its quarterly review of the economy, said that the Indian economy will catch up with its pre-pandemic growth path of 7 per cent only by 2037-38. "Post 2020-21 annual growth of 7 per cent would imply a growth swing of 20 per cent not ever seen so far in India. Assuming optimistically that 7 per cent growth is indeed achieved because of the base effect of a steep decline in 2020-21, combined with strong policy measures to re-

vive growth; we would still reach a higher growth path," it said. 'Harley-Davidson close to deal

### with Hero MotoCorp after ceasing local manufacturing'

#### REUTERS NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

HARLEY-DAVIDSON INC is in advanced talks with Hero MotoCorp for a distribution deal which will allow the US company's motorcycles to be sold in India, after it stops local manufacturing here, three sources told Reuters

The Milwaukee-based company said on Thursday it will stop sales and shut its manufacturing plant in India, effectively abandoning the world's biggest motorcycle market after a decade of unsuccessful efforts to gain a foothold.

Harley, however, is in talks with Hero over a distribution arrangement that will allow the latter to import and sell Harley bikes as its sole distributor, two sources with familiar with the talks said. "Hero will be the master distributor for Harley bikes in India ... This

up with its pre-pandemic growth path only by 2037-38," it said.

A more likely scenario is that in cases where the tickets were after getting back to its previous peak output level by 2022-23 the economy will settle back to its prepandemic growth path of 5.8 per cent, it said. NCAER said the references to V-shaped recovery obfuscate more than they reveal.

"The fact is that economic hysteresis, the medium to long-term footprint of a major economic shock, is indeed very long," the think-tank said.

Going ahead, to bring back the economy on a higher-growth path would require reforms similar to the scale seen in 1991. "To nudge the economy to any higher growth path would require ambitious economic reforms across a wide front like the 1991 reforms. A strong revival of global demand could also move the economy to

Harley exit to

jobs: FADA

cost up to 2,000

New Delhi: The Federation of

Automobile Dealers Associa-

tions (FADA) said Friday the

### ONGC Hazira gas plant resumes supply; normal ops likely from today pplies around 30-32 million met-New Delhi: State-owned ONGC's

Hazira gas processing plant has resumed operations a day after a pipeline rupture caused a fire, supplies to customers.

GMR Infra to divest 51% stake in Kakinada SEZ to Aurobindo Realty

### **ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 25

GMR INFRASTRUCTURE on Friday announced signing of definitive agreements to sell 51 per cent stake in Kakinada SEZ (KSEZ) to Aurobindo Realty and Infrastructure Private (ARIPL) for a total consideration of Rs 2,610 crore.

The GMR Group has been dito let Hero become a contract manufacturer for at least one vesting assets to pare debt and Harley motorcycle with 300-600 simplify its group structure. The stake is held by its whollycc engine capacity, which it will

launch later, the first source added. owned subsidiary GMR SEZ and

The regulator's move has come ahead of the government plan to list the shares of LIC – India's largest financial entity with assets of Rs 32 lakh crore – on the stock exchanges through an initial public offering (IPO) next year. GIC Re and New India are already listed on the exchanges

refund in cases where tickets are LIC's gross total income grew to Rs 6,15,882.94 crore for the year On Friday, Solicitor General ended March 31, 2020 from Rs 5,60,784.39 crore, showing a Tushar Mehta told a bench of growth rate of over 9.83 per cent. Iustices Ashok Bhushan. R Subhash Reddy and MR Shah the GIC Re is the largest reinsurance regulatory framework only recogcompany - or insurer's insurer nises the contract between a paswith a gross premium income of senger and airline and not be-Rs 51,030 crore. New India, which is the largest general insurance

ric standards cubic meters (MM-

SCM) of gas per day, has resumed

Port Holding. Of the total consid-

domestic and global inter connectedness whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.

THE INSURANCE regula-

Systemically Important

market importance and

insurers of such size,

tor said Domestic

company in the country, had total global assets of Rs 74,609 crore as of March 2020. "Given the nature of their operations and the systemic importance of the D-SIIs. these insurers have been asked to raise the level of corporate governance and identify all relevant risk and promote a sound risk management culture," Irdai said.

The RBI had last year named State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks(D-SIBs), which in other words mean banks that are too big to fail. As per

### **RBI:** Positive pay system for cheque payments from January 1

### **ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI. SEPTEMBER 25

IN ORDER to check banking fraud, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce from January 1, 2021, the 'positive pay system' for cheque, under which re-confirmation of key details may be needed for payments beyond Rs 50,000.

eration, Rs 1,600 crore would be received on the closing date and Under this process, the issuer of the cheque submits electronibalance Rs 1.010 crore would be received over two or three years. cally-through channels like SMS, mobile app, internet banking, Proceeds from the transaction will be used to reduce the com-ATM, etc. - certain minimum details of that cheque (like date, pany's debt. GMR's consolidated gross debt as on June 30, stood at name of the beneficiary / payee Rs 32,100 crore, while net debt amount, etc.) to the drawee bank, was at Rs 26,300 crore. As part of details of which are cross checked the proposed transfer of stake of with the presented cheque by CTS. KSEZ, the 100 per cent equity Any discrepancy is flagged by CTS stake of Kakinada Gateway Port to the drawee bank and presenting bank, who would take redressal measures, RBI said. WITH PTI

and supervision of D-SIIs. Full report on www.indianexpress.com

### BRIEFLY -S&PaffirmsIndia's sovereigncreditrating

New Delhi: India's weak fiscal settings will worsen this year, said S&P. However, it said external settings have improved. "We are affirming our 'BBB-' long-term and 'A-3' short-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings," it said.

### **Faceless** tax appeals system

New Delhi: The government Friday issued a notification operationalising 'Faceless Income Tax Appeals' system.

### **₹**1 crore fine on Rana Kapoor

New Delhi: Sebi fined Rana Kapoor, ex-MD and CEO of Yes Bank, Rs 1 crore. PTI

held by KSEZ would also be transferred to Aurobindo Realty. FE

up to Rs 130 crore for it's dealer partners in India. PTI will be a partnership, a strategic alliance," said one of the sources. Discussions are also ongoing

closure of Harley-Davidson's operations in India would result in up to 2,000 job losses workers across the brand's 35 dealerships, and a loss of

operations and is supplying 10 forcing the company to cut gas MMSCMD of gas to consumers and is set to resume normal oper-The plant, which ordinarily suations by Saturday. ENS

### 18 CALENDAR

**BY PETER VIDAL** 

It's certainly an

excellent moment

for all professional individuals to plan

sensitive relationship with

Pluto, planet of

Business matters

take a forward leap,

even though it seems as if you may

You really have little choice but to listen

to other people, and

It's an emotional

best. Work hard,

You're in a state of some flux. Social

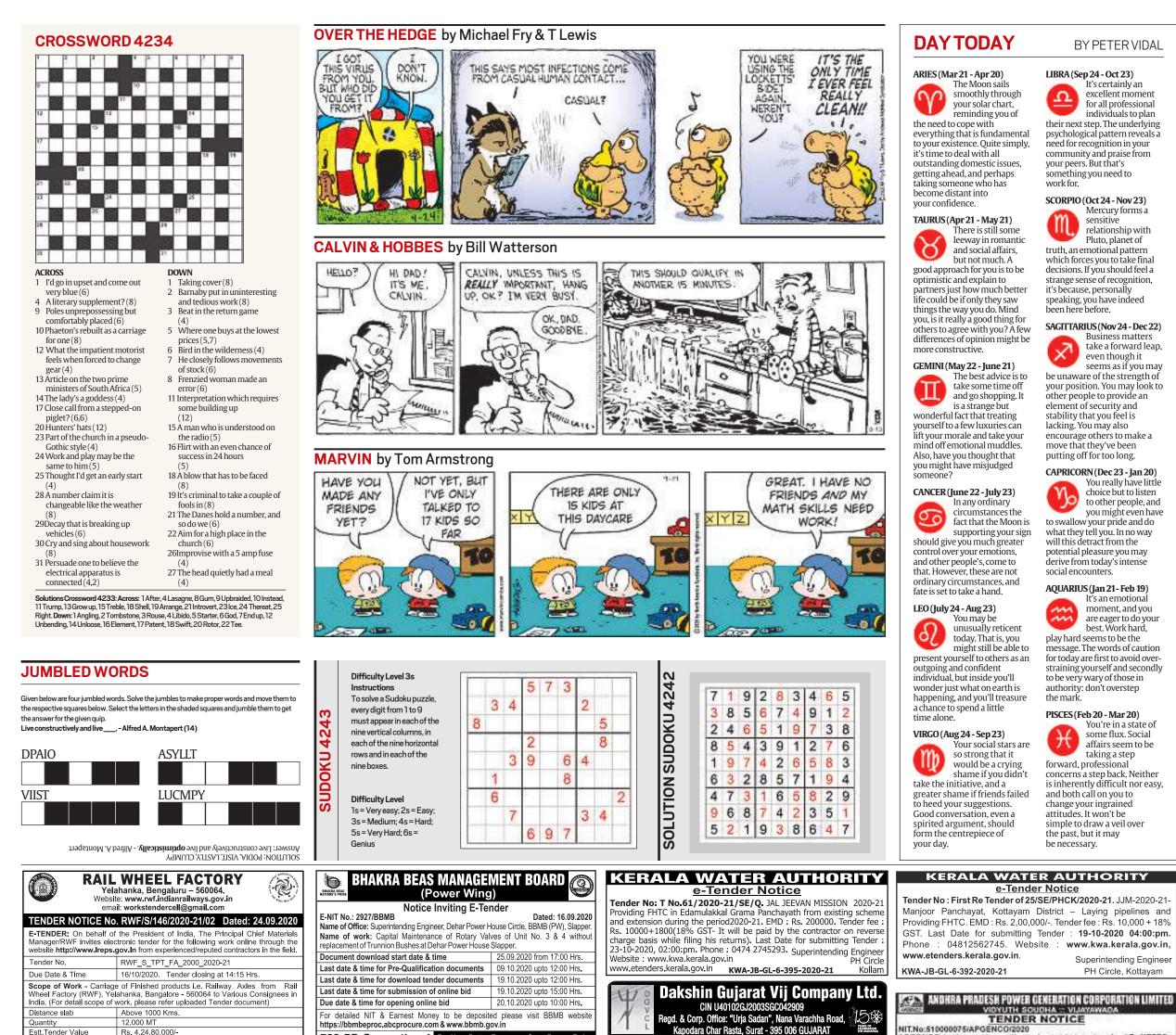
affairs seem to be

Superintending Engineer

PH Circle, Kottayam

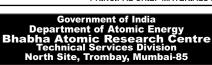
taking a step

moment, and you are eager to do your



	PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER
Contract Period	12 (Twelve) months from the date of commencement of Work
EMD Amount	Rs. 3,62,400/-
Estt.Tender Value	Rs. 4,24,80,000/-

Estt Tender Value



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### **NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**

The Chief Engineer, Technical Services Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, North Site, BARC, Trombay, Mumbai - 400 085, on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tenders or two bid system for following work :-

NIT NO. BARC/TSD/155/2020-21, Name of Work - Fixing Deco Grill External Structural Repair & External Painting, Repairing of PH Shafts & Replacement of PH Service Pipe network in PH Shafts of CT&CRS Building, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai 400094 ; Estimate cost - ₹1,61,00,000/ Earnest Money - ₹3,22,000/- ; Period of completion - 12 months ; Last date and time of submission of bid - 06.11.2020 (23:59 Hrs.).

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the Website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE or www.barc.gov.in Changes if any, in the above scheduled date etc. will be notified only

in the website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.

Contact for assistance / clarifications 24x7 @ 9969395522 Shri Rudresh e-mail: rudresh.tenderwizard@gmail.com **Chief Engineer** 

### DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN Government of ledia, Ministry of Finance. (Department of Financial Services 2<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK, 24817 PUBLICATION NOTICE IN O.A. No. 147 OF 2020

SUMMONS INDER SUB-INCTION IS OF SECTION 15 IF THE RECEVERY OF DESIS AND RANKKIPTOT ACT, 1900, READ WITH SUB-PLAC CALOR FILLE SOF THE DEET RECOVERY THEIR AL PROCESSING RULES 1933 AS MENDO FROM THE TO THE

Date : 14-09-2020 Dy. No. 400 Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) VIs Deepankar Sharma & Ors.

Niss Asmita Sharma D/o Shri Deepankar Sharma R/o House No. 82 Parasnath, Muzaffamagar 251001 3.

Second Address: House No. 23/1, New 33, Mohalla Abhupura West Muzaffamagar 251001

Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted OA.No. 14. of 2020 against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 36,16,795,881- in which Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice UIs 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the fon'ble Presiding Officer on 10-09-2020.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it s not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practilioner before the Tribunal on 25-10-2020. Further, you are required to show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if and the state defense to a preserve the deal of the other and the show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if and the state defense to a preserve the should be a should be a should be a state of the should be a should be a state of the should be a should be a state of the should be and the should be a state of the should be as a state of the any, in your defence in a paper book form in sets and produce all th documents and affidavits under which your defence or dam for set off counter claim, in this Tribunal personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner within 30 days from the date of the publicatio

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.

NOTE: For appearance in person or through legal representative on the next date of hearing through V.C. contact the Registrar on Mobile No. 95600-72576 or through e-mail on the official e-mail ID of the DRT registrar-driddn@gov.in at least three days in advance along-with details of e-mail ID as well as whatsapp enabled mobile number. So that V.C. Inh could be provided in advance to participate in the hearing through V.C.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of mber, 2020.

By order of Tribunal Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun M.: 95600-72676, (0.): 0135-2720854

		CIN No.U273 SECOND FLOOR, JVL PLAZA	OF INDIA ENTERI 10WB192060100360 , NO. 625, ANNA SALAL INAI- 600 018	PRISE) 11
150	urceful	Offer(s) in two part sy and experienced partie following work:		
SI. No		cription of work and NIT No.	Tender Document available on B&R's Website	Due Date of submission of Bid
1.	Manufa Testing Solar Assem System 5 Year and d applica of State NIT No EESL	gn, Engineering, schung, Supply, Erection, g & Commissioning of LED Street Lights in h, including complete warranty and its AMC for s under MNRC Off-Grid ecentralized Solar PV titors Scheme on behalf a Nodal Agencies (SNAs) b.: B&R / MDS / 71108 / SSLS / ASSAM / NIT / 735 dated 25.09.2020		08.10.2020

730-PR-Generation-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

ender documents from Co's Website http://www.bridgeroof.co.in. Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, shall be hosted in Co's Website http://www.bridgeroof.co.in only.

#### RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION-LUCKNOW ( )

### **OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

Open e-Tenders in single pocket system are invited by the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Railway Electrification, Izzatnagar for & on behalf of the President o India for the following work:

Name of Work: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning c (Supervisory Remote Control and Data Acquisition) SCADA system along with comprehensive maintenance contract of SCADA system for 04 years after warrantee period as per RDSO Specification No TI/SPC/RCC/SCADA/0130 Rev-2) with A&C slip No.1, 2 & 3 with amendments in Shahjahanpur-Pilibhit Tanakpur (Gr 302) section of Izzatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway.

SN	Description	Details		
1	Tender No.	RE-IZN-SCADA-GR-302		
2	Completion period.	10 months from the date of issue of Acceptance Letter		
3	Approximate Cost of the work	₹ 12934353.49 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Nine Lakh thirty four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Three and Paisa Forty Nine) only.		
4	Earnest Money to be deposited	₹ 214700/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred) only.		
5	Cost of Tender document	NIL		
6	Tender Closing Date and Time	19.10.2020 15.00 Hrs.		
7	Validity of offer	45 Days		

1. The cost of Tender Document & Earnest Money shall be deposited only hrough payments mode available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card credit card etc or payment gateway only as per payment option available in http://www.ireps.gov.in web site. The cost of Tender Document and Earnest money in any other form shall not be accepted. 2. For other details and to download the entire Tender Paper, please visit website http://www.ireps.gov.in 3. Online offer without earnest money will be summarily rejected. 4. Manual offers are not allowed against this Tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **5.** Railways reserve the right to accept / reject any or all tender s withou assigning reasons to any or all tenderers. **6.** General Condition of Contract July 2020 of Railway or latest correction slip upto closing date shall be applicable in this tender

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer Railway Electrification, Izzatnagar For & On Behalf of President of India PR/527/2020/ANU

"Serving Customers with a Smile'

DGVCL Toll Free No. 19123 (0r 1800 233 3003)			
Install MCB/ ELCB/ RCCB & Prevent Electric Shocks/ Electrical Accidents			
Tender Notice			
Details for the tender mentioned hereunder are available on <b>www.dgvcl.com</b> (for view and download tender documents) and <b>www.dgvcl.nprocure.com</b> (for view, download and online tender submission).			
Sr.No.	Tender No.		
1	DGVCL/SP/20049/MVCC		
Note: Bidd	lers may visit the Company website for regular updates till opening		

of the tenders. ACE (P), DGVCL, Surat

**NEW MANGALORE PORT TRUST CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT** 

#### No: CIVIL/EE (C)/ESTATE/11/LNG/2020 Dtd 15.09.2020 **INVITING E. O. I**

(This notice is issued only to elicit an Expression of Interest from Parties interested in the Project and does not constitute any binding commitment from NMPT to proceed with the Project or invite any o all the parties in the subsequent bidding process)

New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT) invites Expression Of Interest (E.O.I) from individuals / firms for allotment of approximately 35 Acres of Land in Thannirbhavi area adjacent to old NMPT guest house, including water front for Installation of storage facilities with intent to augment cargo, Port related commercial exploration such as Tank farms / bottling plant, storage infrastructure etc on long term lease for a period of 30 years on annual rental basis / upfront premium basis. The interested individuals / firms may opt for the land

Interested applicants are requested to submit their EOI not later than 15:00 hours IST on or before 13.10.2020. For detailed information visit NMPT website www.newmangaloreport.gov.in. Amendments to the E.O.I (if any) will be issued through above website only. For any clarification and site visit, interested party may contact Chief Engineer (Civil) NMPT or Executive Engineer (C), NMPT.

> Sd/-Executive Engineer (C)

### NORTHERN RAILWAY **TENDER NOTICE**

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi for and o behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for

ie under noted work:-			
. Name of work and location	Plantation of 2310 no of plants, transplantation of 70 no's trees and maintenance of plants/trees on land of Railway in Delhi area Delhi-Rohtak Section.		
Completion period of the work	04 Months		
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 72.31 Lakh		
Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 1,44,600/-		
Sale/availability of tender document on Railway Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u> from 05.10.2020 to 19.10.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.		
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	19.10.2020 upto 11.30 hrs. Tender dcouments can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 05.10.2020 to 19.10.2020.		
Date & Time for . submission of E-tender and opening of tender	19.10.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after closed of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet sytem. Financial bid of the eligible tenderer would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on.		
. Opening of tender	19.10.2020 at 11.30 hours (immediately after closed of uploading of tender).		
No.: 370-ACS-C-SSB Date: 18.09.2020 2077/2020			
Serving C	ustomers with a Smile		
New			

GENCO I ers wil d system for PLATTP. Procurement of MS ERW pipes of leas than 200 mm diameter, Carbon Sied pipes, Gi pipes, Cl pipes and various pipe specials for CAM-I, II.6 IV, BM-W, MM-CHP and Civil Divisions " brough A.P.e-Procurement Approximate Value of work: Rs.65,00,000/. Bid Sant Dute & Time : From 25.03,2020, 3.00 PM, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time : up to 12 10 2020. 4 00 PM. For further details visit website: www.apgenco.gov.in.or https://dender.apgenco.gov.in/t/porta/ ExecutiveDirectertCivit/APGENCO,Vidyut Soudha



Head Office, C-4, G Block, Information Technology Department, Star House-II, 8th floor, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051, E-mail: Headoffice.it@bankofindia.co.in

> TENDER NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR PROCUREMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CASH MANAGEMENT AND CHANNEL FINANCE SOLUTION

Details available on the Bank's Corporate Website www.bankofindia.co.in under "Tender" section from 22/09/2020. Last Date of Submission - 15/10/2020 (till 3.00 pm)



Tender Notice Letter No.: 577 Dated: 25.09.2020 Office of the Executive Engineer (M) Tiloth Power House, Uttarkash invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary o tender is given below :

Tender No. (1) 09/EE(M)/2020-21, (2) 10/EE(M)/2020-21, Name of work : (1) Operation of surge shaft gate and miscellaneous works. (2) Annual repairing and rewinding of different induction motors Estimated cost: (1) 7,34,258.00 (excluding taxes), (2) 5,40,677.00 (excluding taxes), Date of availability of bid document on website 28.09.2020 at 16:00 hrs., Last date of submission of tender 21.10.2020 at 16:00 hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com. Executive Engineer (M)

### "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. JHS/DYCEE/WS/T/05/2020-21 Dt. 18.09.2020 Name of Work: Part (A) Proper dressing of wiring and cables arrangement: in cable trench in officers gallery with complete power wring and cables analogements in cable trench in officers gallery with complete power wring and provision of lamp post in Mill right and Shatabdi garden in Jhansi workshop and Part (0) Rewring and electrical work in health unit, all the toilets, meal shed, canleen and RPE office mais ratio in health unit.

11/07		(5)	(?)	Form (₹)
DYCEE/ WS/T /05/ 2020	"Part (A) Proper dressing of wiring and cables arrangements in cable trench in officers gallery with complete power	₹2131526/- (Rs. Twenty One Lakh Thirty One Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six Only)	₹ 42600/- (Rs. Forty Two Thousand Six Hundred Only)	₹3150/- (3000+ 150 ST)
27.10.2020 at 15.00 h Tendering	In Jhansi workshop i health unit, all the toil gate in Jhansi Worksi on period: 04 mo 0 at 15.00 Hrs. and o trs on 27.10.2020 i mabsile www.ireps. RailwayE-Tenderin	ets, meal shed, car top premises", onths. Date of pening 15,30 hrs and is available gov.in. 2. For dat	Closing & e 1, Tender will on Indian Ra- alled informatic	Mice main opening be closed lwoys E

#### WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 **19** SPORT

### **ON THE TUBE INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE**

Kolkata Knight Riders vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, 7.30pm, Star Sports Network

### Dutch team allowed to wear sex toy company logo

Netherlands top flight club FC Emmen will be allowed to display the logo of a sex toys company on their shirts, following a decision of the Dutch football association (KNVB) to reverse a ban.Emmen were stopped last week from displaying the logo of new sponsors EasyToys, described as an erotic webshop, but the KNVB changed their minds after a storm of criticism and talks with the club. FC Emmen will play at home against Willem II for the first time with EasyToys on the chest on Sunday. Emmen were originally set to sign a three-year sponsorship but have now agreed to just one year while the KNVB revise their regulations. Emmen played their opening two matches of the new league season without shirt sponsorship because of the ban but received such demand for replica sales, with the EasyToys logo, that they were forced to extend selling hours REUTERS

### No regrets leaving Real: Bale

Gareth Bale said he has no regrets after leaving Real Madrid to seal a return to Tottenham Hotspur and that his tumultuous but trophy-laden seven-year spell with the Spanish champions had helped him grow up.Bale left the north London club in 2013 for a then world record 100 million euros (\$116.61 million) and went on to win four Champions League titles and two La Liga crowns with Real, scoring more than 100 goals. However, he divided opinion in Spain because of a perceived lack of commitment and poor injury record and after a falling out with Real manager Zinedine Zidane. "I don't have any regrets, no," Bale, 31, told Sky Sports. "I just try and play, that's all I can do and everything else that's said externally is out of my control."Whatever anyone else has said, that's up to them. I know my opinion of myself and my family know exactly what I am, so that's all I'm worried about." REUTERS

### Have to be at my best, says Nadal

Rafa Nadal may have won the French Open a record 12 times but the Spaniard feels this year's conditions will be the most difficult at Roland Garros and mean he must be at his best. The claycourt Grand Slam is usually held in May-June but was pushed back to the end of September due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The weather is much cooler at this time of year and the temperatures have further dipped due to rain in Paris. The organisers are also using a different ball, making the conditions more unfamiliar for the Spanish world number two."What you need is the right energy to accept every single thing. That's what I'm doing," said Nadal, who prefers warmer conditions and faster clavcourts in Paris. "Just stay positive knowing that the conditions are not perfect for me, maybe not perfect for others either, and accept that I am going to need my best version to have REUTERS chances.

# BRIEFLY Youth has oldies' number

Diffident, ageing CSK fail to get going after Shaw lays foundation for Delhi in big win

### **Synopsis**

Dhoni walks in too late again after Shaw shows his class.

#### **TUSHAR BHADURI** SEPTEMBER 25

THESE ARE still early days in the tournament, but it seems age is finally catching up with Dad's Army. Winning and losing is one thing, but there seems to be a diffidence in Chennai Super Kings' approach to the game this season so far.

While chasing not such a big target of 176 on Friday, Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men never got in the contest. Every batsman struggled to get close to the requirement, with Murali Vijay struggling big time at the top. The object of the exercise seemed once again to salvage the net run rate much before the end.

They didn't manage that either, going down by 44 runs as Delhi Capitals soared to the top of the points table.

### Dhoni walks in too late

Dhoni's batting position seemed to have become a national obsession, but it's not influencing the man himself. As in the previous match, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Redar Jadhav came before him. When the skipper finally made it to the middle at No. 6, there were only 26 balls left with 76 needed off them. Continuously greeted with short balls didn't help his cause either and Dhoni seemed a shadow of his best self.

Earlier in their innings, Axar Patel and Amit Mishra kept the opposition on a tight leash, and when they were through with their spells - conceding just 41 runs in eight overs – the match had already gone too far from CSK's grasp.

Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje were too big a challenge for them. The Super Kings will try to get their house in order before their next game after a week-long break.



Opening the innings, Prithvi Shaw made 64 off 43 balls. BCCI/IPL

### Shaw shows his class

Less than two years ago, Prithvi Shaw burst onto the big stage with a debut Test century. But that seems an age ago now. The youngster has gone through a lot in the intervening period, while still in his teens, including a serious injury and a ban for consuming a banned substance.

His playing style has prompted a few comparisons with another short-statured batsman from Mumbai. Shaw gets into trouble from time to time on the pull shot - did so on Friday as well - but in between those played some delightful shots, especially on he off-side.

Most teams try to maximise runs in the Powerplay, but Delhi Capitals managed just 36 there. Shaw and opening partner Shikhar Dhawan were guilty of looking for only boundaries, and not singles. But once the spinners came after the fielding restrictions were off, the next four overs went for 52 as the openers put on 94 in less than 11 overs. Some of the inside-out lofted shots by Shaw really caught the eye. Ravindra Jadeja

and Piyush Chawla were not allowed to settle, and even though the latter made a comeback with two wickets, the left-arm spinner's four overs went for 44. This hurt Dhoni's game plan as he relies on his spinners to control the game in the middle overs.

But as it happened in their first match, set batsmen getting out in quick succession hurt their progress, If a team loses just three wickets in 20 overs, it is expected to get close to 200 or above it. But Rishabh Pant and Shrevas Iyer struggled to hit Sam Curran off the square in the 19th over.

Pant showed a different dynamic to his game, seemingly taking a bit more responsibility to bat deep and not go for the big shot too early in his innings. At the end of their innings, Delhi Capitals seemed to be 10-15 runs short, but their disciplined bowling and the cautious approach by CSK batsmen ensured that 175 was more than enough on the day. BRIEF SCORES: Delhi Capitals 175/3 (Prithvi Shaw 64, Rishabh Pant 37; Piyush Chawla 2/33) bt Chennai Super Kings 131/7 (Faf du Plessis 43; Kagiso Rabada 3/26)



Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game.

### For his eyes only

As the IPL has gone on, an integral part of the listening experience has been heightened with regards to the commentary, especially when the visuals and sounds of fans are a lot fewer. There is a lot more scrutiny on the words, actions and emotions of the commentary team. One such instance happened during the CSK innings when one of the commentators chanced upon Shikhar Dhawan in a pair of sunglasses that suggested he was dealing with a lot more lighting than the rest of the folks. Peals of laughter ensued as the man at first slip wore his comically large eyewear. The laughter led to comparisons with Dinesh Karthik's sunglasses and that general mood was met with some chuckles on the field by the man himself who clearly seemed to be enjoying all the attention he was getting. SHASHANK NAIR

Runs via throwing tantrums Old habits die hard. Harder if you are a

bowler. It's normal for bowlers to pick the ball if it's in their range and throw the ball back to the keeper or a fielder in longer forcially if they are bowling well, rush through the ball, after Rishabh Pant could only bunt it fore he U-turned and flung the ball to MS standing. He was miles away from where the the throw, the ball blitzed to the boundary. returning as CSK's most economical bowler (6.75) of the night.

No emotion saves Shaw

It's the absence of emotion that stood out when Prithvi Shaw edged a ball and was caught by the 'keeper in the first over of the match. There was no emotion from the fielding team as no one appealed; not Dhoni the catcher, not Deepak Chahar the bowler. The only man who must have known that there was an edge was Shaw, who hung his head on the completion of the shot as if he had just failed to connect. He played his part well, not jerking back nervously as some batsmen are wont to do after edging. In fact, if not for some alert ears in the broadcasting network, no one would have known. It's a bit strange as in the absence of crowds, the theory was that edges would be better heard. What his face didn't contort at, his hands made up for when fielding in the covers later. As he unsuccessfully juggled a catch that popped up after it punched his gut. He splashed around in vain, all at sea trying to catch the hot potato. **SRIRAM VEERA** 

SANDIP G

### Chronology of the controversy:

#### THE SITUATION. (THURSDAY EVENING)

RCB were 3/2 when Kohli walked in to bat, chasing KXIP's target of 207. It was in the third over (at the 2.2 over mark precisely) that Gavaskar said in Hindi: "Woh jaante hain jitni practice karenge ussi se toh woh behtar ban sakte hain. Ab jo lockdown tha toh sirf Anushka ki bowling ki practice ki unhone, wo video dekhi hai (reference to a viral video), usse to kuch nahi hona hai (He knows that more you train, more you get better. During the recent lockdown he only practised to Anushka's bowling, I saw a video. But that is not going to be enough)." Kohli had just come in to bat and was on 1 off 3 deliveries.

spect for me and us? I'm sure you can have many other words and sentences in your mind to use to comment on my husband's performance from last night or are your words only relevant if you use my name in the process?" She would further say: "It's 2020 and things still don't change for me. When will I stop getting dragged into cricket and stop being used to pass sweeping statenents?

#### GAVASKAR DENIES BEING SEXIST (FRIDAY EVENING)

Gavaskar told India Today TV that he and fellow commentator Aakash Chopra had been talking about the fact there has been very little chance for any proper practice in the lockdown, for everybody. "It showed in the rustiness of some of the players in their first matches. Rohit (Sharma) didn't strike the ball well, now in the second match he has got runs, MSD (Mahendra Singh Dhoni) didn't strike the ball well in the first match." He then explained: ".....Anushka was bowling to him, so that's what I said, that's the only bowling, I have not used any other word."

### Don't drag me into cricket: Anushka I didn't blame her: Gavaskar

### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

Batting legend and TV pundit Sunil Gavaskar has clarified that he wasn't blaming film actress Anushka Sharma for the failure of her husband - India and RCB captain Virat Kohli. The IPL commentator was reacting to Sharma's Friday afternoon Instagram story where she rebuked Gavaskar for dragging her into Kohli's cricket.

This much-talked about social media post was in connection to a comment that rise, purportedly showed Kohli and Sharma playing cricket in their front yard.

By Friday morning, Gavaskar's comment which was twisted in some posts - would divide opinion on social media. While some called him sexist, there were also those who didn't find anything objectionable with Gavaskar's comment.

This was followed by Sharma putting out a long Instagram story where she said: "It's 2020 and things still don't change for me. When will I stop getting dragged into cricket and stop being used to pass sweeping state-



mats. Less so in T20s, where bowlers, espethe overs. They just grab the ball and walk back to their mark,. So Sam Curran picked back to him, and seemed to walk back, be-Dhoni. Rather, where he intended Dhoni was ball eventually landed, and in the power of Dhoni flung sideways, but his wingspan was not broad enough to be in the distant radar of the ball. Dhoni gave him a stink eye. Poor Curran was petrified. But he did come back and pick the wicket of Shreyas Iyer, besides



Gavaskar made during Thursday's IPL game that Kohli's Royal Challenger Bangalore lost by 97 runs to Kings XI Punjab.

It was during the RCB innings that Gavaskar, referring to a viral video of the couple, had said that Kohli's only practice during the COVID-19 lockdown was facing Sharma's bowling.

In May, a social media video, shot by a fan looking down from a neighboring highments?" Sharma's confrontation with India's seniormost commentator and batting great would coincide with #BoycottGavaskar trending on social media

In the evening Gavaskar, on India Today TV, would give his side of the story by saying that he wasn't "being a sexist".

"Where am I blaming her, where am I being sexist in this. I am only stating what was seen on the video ... I am only saying that the



Gavaskar's comment when Virat Kohli was batting divided opinion on social media on Friday.

video says that she was bowling to Virat. So Virat has played only that bowling in the lockdown period ... Where am I blaming her for Virat's failures," he said.

#### ANUSHKA'S DISAPPOINTMENT (FRIDAY MORNING)

Calling his comment distasteful, Sharma though urged Gavaskar to offer an explanation about "such a sweeping statement on a wife accusing her of her husband's game?" She said: "I'm sure over the years you have respected the private lives of every cricketer while commentating on the game. Don't you think you should have equal amount of re-

He went on to say that, "I have not been sexist, if somebody has interpreted it, what can I do," Gavaskar shrugged.

### Lockdown effect: Athletes deficient in Vitamin D

#### NIHAL KOSHIE NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 25

STAYING INDOORS during the lockdown and subsequently resuming training early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid the sweltering summer heat has caused an unexpected problem for India's top track and field athletes. Not getting enough sunlight has resulted in low Vitamin D levels, that help in muscle recovery and improved bone density. Lack of the Vitamin D, produced when the body is exposed to the sun's rays, can lead to stress fractures or muscle injury, especially when athletes resume training after long breaks.

Athletes across sport, including the country's top cricketers, have spoken about taking time to regain muscle memory to play a stroke, build endurance and getting used to training regimens after lockdown-enforced breaks. However, even changes in nutrition levels can make a world of a difference if not detected early.

Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) high performance director Volker Herrmann said the Vitamin D deficiency was observed in all the national campers in Patiala following results of blood tests in June.

Athletes belonging to the core group, including those who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, have been based at training centres in Bangalore and Patiala since the start of the first lockdown announced towards the end of March. Throwers and the 400 metre squads are based at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala.



Javelin throwers are among those training in Patiala.

lacking in Vitamin D. We were thinking whether it was due to the lockdown. They spend so much time inside and not outside. It might be one of the reasons. Vitamin D is produced by sunlight. We took blood samples after the lockdown in June. In general they were more or less back in their rooms, it is one possible explanation," Herrmann told The Indian Express.

Vitamin D supplements were purchased and given to all athletes at the national camp after the blood test results came out. The next round of tests will be conducted in October, before training begins for the upcoming season. The lack of Vitamin D can adversely affect athletes as it is central to calcium absorption of the body.

"Vitamin D helps with recovery, espe-"Interestingly a lot of our athletes are cially of the muscles and it also reduces the



### **Importance of Sunshine Vitamin**

ATHLETES WHO play indoor sports or apply excessive sunscreen are prone to Vitamin D deficiency. Lack of it for long periods can lead to stress fractures, loss of muscle strength and increased recovery time between training sessions. Exposing oneself to the sun is not the only way for the body to get Vitamin D. Including tuna, mackerel, beef liver, egg yolk, fortified juice, cereal or supplements in one's diet helps boost Vitamin D levels.

recovery time. That is the main aspect. Vitamin D is also related to the bone density. Sometimes athletes are dealing with stress fractures and that can be due to an overload but it can also be because of Vitamin D deficiency," Herrmann added.

During the first phase of the lockdown, athletes were restricted to their room but later began to train in batches, one set in the morning and another in the evening to ensure there was no overcrowding. Even when

they began training outdoors in May, their exposure to the sun was limited to avoid higher summer temperatures, especially in Patiala where it touched 45-degree centigrade.

Sprinters and jumpers changed their training schedule from 9 am to 6 am while the evening session began at 5 pm. "We had to adjust because of the weather conditions. Because of the heat in Patiala we always had to train very early in the morning or late in the evening," Herrmann explains.

#### Iron an issue too

The collection and testing of blood samples, once in three months, is helping to ensure nutrition levels of elite athletes are optimum. In addition to lack of Vitamin D in all athletes, some were found to have low levels of iron. Iron deficiency was more common among women athletes.

"With performance athletes we take these blood samples around every three months, because you have to ensure that no athlete is dealing with any deficiency. One of the main problems is iron as well because they can't eat red meat. Especially female athletes are often dealing with the deficiency in iron. We need to monitor this very closely. We are working with recovery experts and nutritionists to find ways to (improve levels) in a natural way and if required with supplements as well. Iron supplements were added only if required. We are trying to get food which has natural iron as well," the AFI's high performance director said.

The collection of samples to monitor the blood profiles of athletes is vital to aid highlevel of performance and this would continue, Herrmann said.

### Messi lashes out at Barca for Suarez's unceremonious exit

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BARCELONA, SEPTEMBER 25

LIONEL MESSI criticized the exit of teammate and good friend Luis Suarez on Friday, dealing another blow to the damaged relationship between the Argentine and Barcelona's leadership.

Messi posted a photo of himself with Suarez on Instagram with a message expressing his sadness for his friend's departure and his anger at how the club transferred him to Atletico Madrid. "It is going to be so strange seeing you in another shirt, and even stranger to have to play against you," Messi wrote. "You deserved a sending-off fit for what you are: one of the most important players in club history, both for what you did for the group and individually - not the one they gave you. But it is true that at this point nothing surprises me.

Barcelona decided to overhaul its squad after the 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League last month. The 33-vearold Suarez was told by incoming coach Ronald Koeman that he was no longer wanted. The club, hard hit financially by the coronavirus pandemic, also needed to reduce its expenditures on salaries for its players.

Suarez bid farewell to Barcelona's fans in an emotional news conference on Thursday. He leaves Camp Nou as the club's third leading scorer with 198 goals. The Uruguayan helped Barcelona win 13 titles since arriving in 2014 from Liverpool, including four Spanish league trophies and the Champions

You deserved a sending-off fit for what you are: one of the most important players in club history, both for what you did for the group and individually - not the one they gave you. But it is true that at this point nothing surprises me."

#### LIONEL MESSI

IN A SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGE TO LUIS SUAREZ

#### League in 2015.

Suarez forged a dynamic scoring duo with Messi over the years, and the two South Americans became neighbors and fast friends, along with their families. "I was accepting the idea (of your departure), but not until I entered the changing room did I realize what it means," Messi wrote. "How difficult it is going to be not sharing each day with you, both on and off the field. We will miss you very much. These have been many years of many mates, lunches, dinners ... many things I won't forget from all those days together.'

Barcelona transferred Suarez to Spanish league rival Atletico for 6 million euros. Messi had tried to leave the club he has been a part of for 20 years after the debacle against Bayern, but Barcelona replied that he must finish the final year of his contract.

Suarez also took Messi's side in the dispute on Thursday when he said, "I have to accept it if the club decides it is time that I go, just like the club should accept it if a player wants to leave."

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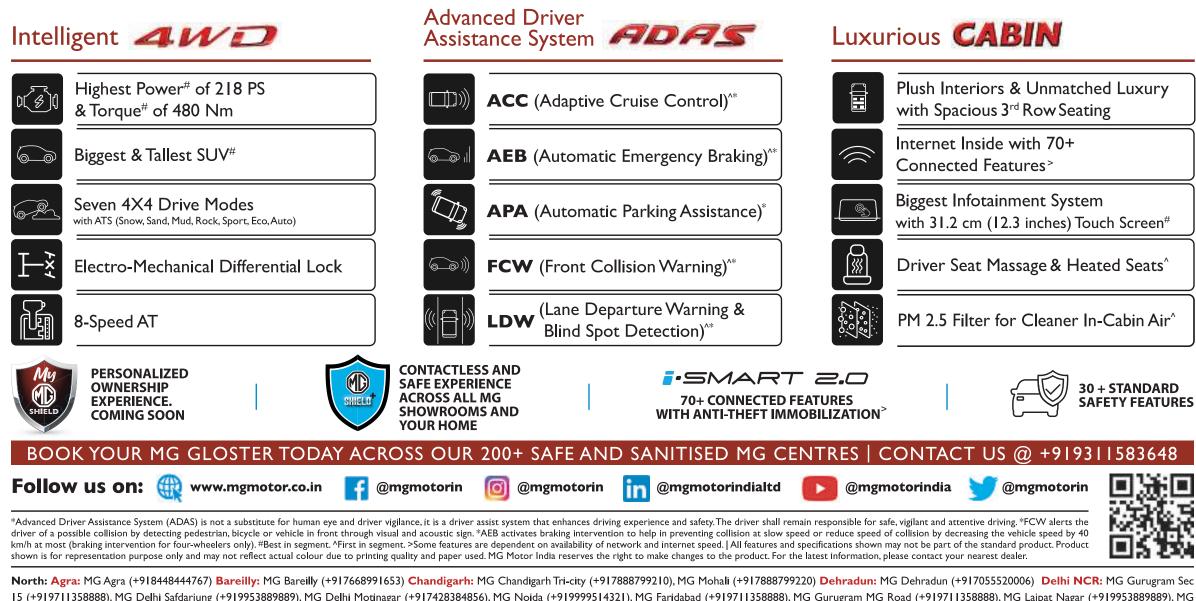
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