The Indian EXPRESS



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The Indian EXPRESS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE **SINCE 1932**

₹6.00 (₹8 PATNA & RAIPUR, ₹12 SRINAGAR) WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

SIX MONTHS INTO PANDEMIC No end date, no vaccine yet; stimulus rolling, won't hesitate to spend: FM Rural economy picking up, labour DEA XCHANGE

'Every sector could decide cost, buyer; farmers couldn't. New laws will give freedom to trade' NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE PAGE 9

back, Ministry response quicker: FM

PVAIDYANATHANIYER NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

SIX MONTHS INTO the Covid-19 pandemic, and a sharp 23.9 per cent GDP contraction in April-June following a strict national lockdown, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Saturday the economy continues to face challenges of a different nature with no clear-cut end date for

INSIDE **FARMERS THE HEART OFATMANIRBHAR** NATION: PM ON MANN KI BAAT PAGE 8

the pandemic, especially in the absence of a sure-shot vaccine. In an interview to The Indian **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



NIRMALA **SITHARAMAN** UNION FINANCE MINISTER TOMORROW

'Hurting the farmers? How? Ask us one question we can't answer'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

POINTING OUT THAT her Cabinet colleague Narendra Tomar. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, had wideranging consultation with all stakeholders including the From RBI & public sector banks to LIC, ₹205 cr to PM Cares from staff salaries

YOUR RIGHT

TO KNOW

AN EXPRESS RTI

APPLICATION

Indian Express to Rs 349.25 crore.

which manages the fund, has de-

clined to furnish details of contri-

butions received, saying that PM

CARES is "not a public authority

tor banks and institutions that

responded to RTI queries (see

chart), LIC alone gave Rs 113.64 crore to PM CARES under various

categories: Rs 8.64 crore from

staff salaries, Rs 100 crore under

"Corporate Communication"

and Rs 5 crore under "Golden

Topping the list of public sec-

under the...RTI Act".

Iubilee Foundation".

The Prime Minister's Office,

SHYAMLAL YADAV NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

IT'S NOT just a wide range of central educational institutions, at least seven public sector banks, Opposition before introducing seven other leading financial inthe three reformist farm Bills in stitutions and insurers, and the Parliament, Finance Minister RBI, have together contributed Nirmala Sitharaman said the Rs 204.75 crore from their staff Congress and other political parsalaries to the Prime Minister's ties were doing a "disservice", Citizen Assistance and Relief in particularly after having pro-Emergency Situations (PM fessed the same reforms in their CARES) fund, RTI records accessed by The Indian Express show. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** Of these, records show, Life

Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Însurance Corporation of India (GIC) and National Housing Bank also contributed over Rs 144.5 crore separately from their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) allocation and other provisions.

Records show that LIC's con-

FREEDOM TO SELL This takes the total contribu-**BY ASHOK GULATI** tion from the 15 government tribution of Rs 100 crore was made on March 31 – Rs 5 crore, **PAGE 11** banks and institutions that responded to RTI queries from The **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** JASWANT SINGH | 1938-2020 The courteous scholar-politician often out of sync with his party

COOMI KAPOOR

own manifestos

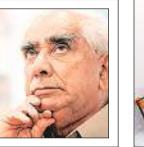
THE IDEAS PAGE

THE FARMER'S

JASWANT SINGH, 82, was always somewhat of a misfit in the BJP, a party he helped found in 1980, and which he ably represented as a nine-time parliamentarian and minister with key portfolios in the Vajpayee years between 1998 and 2004.

with his liberalism, courteous old world military mannerisms, his interest in books and scholarship, and his outspokenness, was often out of sync with many in his party – the reason he was twice expelled from the BJP.

At the time of his death, Singh was no longer in the party, but the tributes paid to him by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath





Rajnath Singh pays tribute to Jaswant Singh, in New Singh, who were partly responsible for his removal in 2014, indicated that despite differences, Delhi on Sunday. PTI

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

Singh's biggest supporter in **AN HONOURABLE** the BJP was Atal Bihari Vajpayee, MAN who recognised his worth. During Vajpayee's two tenures **BY SUDHEENDRA KULKARNI** as Prime Minister, Singh was **PAGE 10** CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MP Siva was in seat but order key for division: Dy Chairman



'Was surrounded by some hostile members

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

RESPONDING TO The Indian Express report that two Opposition MPs were in their seats when they asked for division on the farm Bills, Deputy Chairman Harivansh, in a statement Sunday, said it was "true' that DMK MP Tiruchi Siva had demanded a division from his seat but he pointed out that "order in the House" is "equally important" to have a division.

The Indian Express, after reviewing the official footage of Rajya Sabha TV between 1 pm when the Deputy Chairman extended the sitting - to 1.26 pm when the House was adjourned for 15 minutes, reported that Siva had demanded a division at at 1.10 pm. And tha CPM's K K Ragesh, too, was in his A DAY after snapping ties with seat at 1:11 pm when he demanded a division on an amendment moved by him to the bill. This contradicted the Deputy Chairman's contention that members needed to be in their seat to ask for a division. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



A LONG HAUL

Army soldiers operating a T-90 Bhishma tank near the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh on Sunday. ANI

NDA only in name...no meeting called by PM all these years: Sukhbir

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL CHANDIGARH SEPTEMBER 27

the BJP, Shiromani Akali Dal

(SAD) president Sukhbir Singh

Badal on Sunday said the

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) had lost credibility in the

last 10 years and was an alliance

Speaking to The Indian

"just in name".



remember a day in the last 10 vears when the Prime Minister called an NDA meeting for lunch ss what the

mind. Alliances should not be on

paper... Before this, during (Atal

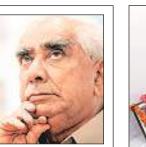
Bihari) Vajpavee's time, there

After meeting with Shah, leaders from Ladakh call off

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

But the former Army Major







Ex-staffer linked to Johar firm claims NCB forced him to implicate director

implicate Johar and other execu-SADAF MODAK & **MOHAMED THAVER** MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

A FORMER executive producer of Dharmatic Entertainment, the sister concern of Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, told a Mumbai court on Sunday that the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had forced him to falsely

tives of the film production company in a case of alleged consumption of drugs. The former Dharmatic

Entertainment employee, Kshitij Prasad, was called in by NCB on Friday in connection with its investigation into the alleged "drugs nexus" in Bollywood, and placed under arrest on Saturday. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



used to be a proper relationship. Express, Badal said, "For the last My father is a founder member seven, eight ... 10 years or so, NDA of the NDA... It's sad that we created the NDA but the NDA is not is just in name. There is nothing in the NDA. No discussions, no planning, no meetings, I do not

there today.' **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

THE WORLD



REPUBLICANS IN SENATE MOVE TO **CONFIRM TRUMP'S** SUPREME COURT **PICK BARRETT PAGE 13**

poll boycott

DIPANKAR GHOSE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE GOVERNMENT on Sunday announced it would consider all "issues related to language, demography, ethnicity, land and iobs" for which the Ladakhi people have demanded constitutional protection.

The People's Movement for Constitutional Safeguard, an umbrella body of the Ladakhi leadership, agreed to call off its boycott of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections scheduled for October 16.

The contours of a broad understanding were reached at a meeting of three senior Ladakhi leaders with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday. The announcement was made by Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**





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LEGAL EDUCATION

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193rd GUNNER'S DAY

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Rhea ki aukaat to waiver from govt: how Bihar DGP stoops to conquer

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, SEPTEMBER 27

SEVEN MONTHS ago, he started his own YouTube channel and got professionals to manage his Facebook and Twitter accounts. Then, he took on the Opposition for questioning the Bihar government's handling of a triple murder case in Gopalganj. Last month, he became the face of the state's pursuit of the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case. On Sunday, it all fell into place.



Pandey with Nitish Kumar in Patna Sunday. PTI

Within just five days of taking voluntary retirement, his three-month notice period waived off, former Bihar DGP

Gupteshwar Pandey joined the ruling JD(U) in the presence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** EXPLAINED Bending the bar

BY WAIVING off his three-month notice period, the Bihar government has bent over backwards to facilitate former DGP Gupteshwar Pandey's entry into politics. It's not the first time, though, Pandev took VRS in 2009, too, to contest the Lok Sabha polls before changing his mind – he was allowed

to return as IGP.



2 THE SECOND PAGE

The Indian EXPRESS

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM DOWNLOAD APP VISUAL STORIES DAILY BRIEFING #The Indian DERESS R **BENGALURU AIRPORT TO CITY CENTRE IN 10 MINS? VIRGIN HYPERLOOP TO STUDY** PODCASTS WEB **The FinCEN files: How FEASIBILITY** CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE Virgin Hyperloop and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) Sunday signed an MoU to conduct a dirty money travels R 28 - 00 feasibility study for a proposed hyperloop corridor from Kempegowda International Airport to Bengaluru city. **Indian Express** around the world ****1 4.6 **VIDEO OF THE DAY EXPRESS EXPLAINED NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY ODISHA CENTENARIAN** WHAT IS THE COUPLE Today on the '3 Things' podcast, we talk explained **TEACHES KIDS FOR FREE CHALLENGE?** about the key takeaways of the FinCEN files investigation and what it reveals about big Why is the police The Jajpur man has SCAN THIS OR CODE TO warning people not to banks. been teaching for the a top posi in ICC Test Batting Bankings DOWNLOAD THE APP last 75 years participate? oper pipped warmakers literer Smith second wiver back to the No. 1 prestine in the ICE

FROM PAGE ONE

Sitharaman

Express (detailed transcript to be published tomorrow). Sitharaman said, "Six months haven't really reduced the challenges but the nature of challenges has changed... and the ministry is now quicker than what it was in terms of responding."

She said that although the numbers per million and the mortality ratio were both low for a variety of reasons – including heightened public awareness and caution – the Covid-19 was still very much a worry. From social distancing to face masks and frequent hand-washing, "you are doing all this with no mate-

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Veena spouse of Pardeep Kumar, address house number 109 Preet colony. Jandli, Ambala, Haryana 134003 have changed my name from Veena to Veena rani vide affidavit dated 25/07/2020 before magistrate Ambala Haryana. 0050169730-1

I,Reeta,W/o-Vinod Kumar,R/o-H.No.1/9994,Gali No.3,West Gorakh Park, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Ritu for all future 0040549787-1 purposes.

I,DEVENDER KUMAR,S/O HARI CHAND MIDHA R/O-37, THIRD-FLOOR NORTHEX, MODEL-TOWN, DELHI-110009, DECLARE THAT MY NAME HAS BEEN WRONGLY WRITTEN AS DEVENDER MIDHA IN MY MINOR DAUGHTER(LAVYA MIDHA)EDUCATIONAL-DOCUMENTS. THAT ACTUAL-NAME OF MINE IS DEVENDER KUMAR. 0040549787-2

I, Rajendra Kumar R/O 90/56 S.F., Malviya Nagar, New Delhi have changed my name to Rajendra Kumar Agarwal for 0040549688-1 all purposes.

rial change in terms of handling the pandemic", she said.

'You don't have a sure-shot vaccine, you don't have a clear-cut end date; and with reports in some places that people who have been cured, are getting it back... big uncertainties are playing in the minds of entrepreneurs, small and medium," she said.

This has adversely impacted economic activity, particularly the services sector, which accounts for almost 55 per cent of GDP. Manufacturing sectors have slowly bounced back with capacity utilisation across several industries reverting to pre-Covid-19 levels. From India Inc, she said, she

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🍻

E-TENDER NOTICE OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 05SEE20

21. The DRM (Engg.)/SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 15.10.2020 up to 13:00 hrs. All information and tender documents related to E-tender is available n website - www.ireps.gov.in. Name of Work with Item no. : Wate Control and Fishing Right in the section lajipur (in) - Sonpur (ex) north and south side of railway track excluding G.M. Office campus and land proposed there for from Km 265/13-265/70 and Km 264/11 to 263/12 approx. 200 acre land. Approx Cost

in ₹) : ₹5,18,100/-, Earnest Money (in ₹) 10,400/-. Name of Work with Item no. : Water ontrol and Fishing right between Sahebpur Kamal – Khagaria Section from Km. 136/4 to 128/7 Bridge No. 16 under jurisdiction of ADEN/E/BJU for the period 36 months 1.04.2020 to 31.03.2023). Approx Cost (in : ₹22,00,143/-, Earnest Money (in ₹) 44.000/-

. Name of Work with Item no. : Water control and Fishing right of Umesh Nagar – Mansi Section from Km. 128/7 to 116/0 inder jurisdiction ADEN/E/BJU for the period 36 months (01.04.2020 to 1.03.2023). Approx Cost (in ₹) ₹22,64,031/-, Earnest Money (in ₹) ₹45,300/-

4. Name of Work with Item no. : Water control and Fishing Right on Railway land rom Barauni (ex) to Bac section in the jurisdiction of ADEN/West/ Barauni for the period of three (03) years from 01.04.20 to 31.03.2023. Approx Cost (in ₹) : ₹1,04,610/-, Earnest Money (in ₹) ₹2,100/-

had gathered that migrant workers were returning to labour-intensive industries such as garments and apparel, and exports in certain sectors (steel, for example) was also picking up, with

the pace of increase in overseas demand higher than domestic demand. "This matches with the ministry's own findings," she said. The economy can draw comfort from rural areas which were witnessing full-blown activity. "This is a big story... not just agriculture, but non-agriculture rural activities are also robust," she said. Broad high-frequency indica-

tors reveal that the economy has, over the last three months, recovered large parts of lost ground.

a six-month high of 52 in

August from 46 in July. A PMI

over 50 represents an expan-

sion when compared with the

of GDP contraction in the sec-

ond quarter - 4.5 per cent

(Ficci) to 13.7 per cent

(Goldman Sachs), have

prompted many recommend-

ing to the Prime Minister a

much bigger fiscal stimulus.

Between PM's Garib Kalyan

Yojana and AtmaNirbhar

Bharat, the additional spend-

ing by the government has

been just about 1.2 per cent of

GDP. In presentations made to

the PM in June-July, the Niti

But still, various estimates

previous month.

by the Agriculture Produce This is reflected in GST rev-Market Committee (APMC). enues, which in August were 88 To a question on the hurry to per cent of that in August 2019. pass these laws and why couldn't E-way bills generated in August the government instead re-promwere 97.2 per cent of the value ulgate the Ordinance and refer the in the corresponding period Bills to a Select Committee as delast year; the IHS Markit India manded by the Opposition, the Manufacturing Purchasing Finance Minister said, "There is no Managers' Index (PMI) rose to end to the debate... It is not in the

Sukhbir Badal

merit of the matter."

be able to pull it off?" she said.

able to answer you...,

that the law would only provide

produce, beyond the mandis run

Saying the Akalis have always taken the BJP allong in the state, Badal said, "Alliances should be run the way my father Parkash Singh Badal did. For every decision, he would call the BJP. Whenever we went to the Governor to submit any memorandum, the BJP would be with us. We are the majority partner (in the state) and they are minority partner. Despite that, we took them into confidence for everything." The three farm Bills received

the Presiden't assent on Sunday. laswant

given important responsibilities Aayog, the Chief Economic Advisor's office and the PM's that included holding, at differnt reinstated Singh, but his re-Economic Advisory Council. ent points of time, the three mahave suggested extra spending jor portfolios of Finance, External turn was short-lived. of up to 4.5 per cent of GDP. Shortly after his defeat in Affairs and Defence. But even Vajpayee could not 2014, Singh slipped and fell in always protect Singh. When the bathroom of his government bungalow on Teen Murti Marg, Vajpayee took oath in 1999, Singh was included in the origiand suffered a major head concussion. He was rushed to the nal Cabinet list as Finance Minister. But in a midnight coup, Army hospital, where he rethen RSS chief KS Sudarshan enmained in a coma until Sunday sured that his name was omitmorning, when he died after ted, reportedly at the behest of a multiple organ failure. top industrialist who was suspi-NCB cious of Singh's long-time

United States, which had slapped

U

15. The three ordinances were down in diplomatic manoeuvres. The low point in Singh's promulgated within three

tenure as External Affairs weeks on June 5. Even then, they just wondered, "Will Modi Minister was the hijacking of (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) Indian Airlines flight IC 814 with 175 passengers to Kandahar, "When the protests are going Afghanistan, by Pakistan-backed on – look also at the places terrorists. The Vajpayee government conceded the demands of where the protests are being held - what exactly are you the hijackers, and Singh personprotesting for? Which part of the ally escorted Masood Azhar, who Act is hurting you? Hurting the would later mastermind several farmers, how pray? I challenge terrorist attacks against India, these people... ask us that one and two others who were let out question, where we won't be of Indian jails, to Afghanistan. In return, the hijacked passengers Sitharaman said, pointing out were returned unharmed. From 2004 to 2009, Singh a choice to farmers to sell their was Leader of Opposition in

Rajya Sabha, and acquitted himself as an outstanding parliamentarian both in debates and as leader of various parliamentary committees, including the Public Accounts Committee. After the 2009 Lok Sabha

polls, when the Congress returned to power and the BJP under L K Advani was once again soundly defeated, Singh along with Arun Shourie and Yashwant Sinha, was outspoken enough to ask for introspection by the party leadership. In the hierarchical party structure, this did not go down well, and he was soon persona non grata. Especially as a few months later he released his book, Jinnah: India-Partition-Independence. None of his party colleagues attended the release because they had an inkling of what was com-

ing. In the book, Singh blamed Nehru and Patel for Partition, for accepting the "fallacious notion that Muslims are a separate nation and permitted the nation to be dissected". In contrast, he eulogized Jinnah. Not surprisingly, he was expelled from the party.

Nitin Gadkari as party presithe Mumbai unit of the NCB.

₹205 cr to PM Cares from salaries

Banks/other institutions

State Bank of India

Union Bank of India

Central Bank of India

Reserve Bank of India

Bank of Maharashtra

Punjab & Sind Bank

Bank of Baroda

Canara Bank

NABARD

EXIM Bank

LIC

SBI TOPS GOVT BANKS

too, was donated in March but with no date specified in the response.

SBI topped the seven public banks that responded to RTI queries with a contribution of over 107.95 crore -- the first tranche of Rs 100 crore was paid on March 31. In its response. SBL which is the largest banker in the country, stated that its entire contribution was from the salaries of its employees.

The national banking regulator, RBI, stated that its Rs 7.34 crore was from "contribution by employees".

PM CARES was set up on March 28 this year following the Covid outbreak and had a corpus of Rs 3,076.62 crore by March 31 itself, of which Rs 3,075.85 crore were listed as "voluntary contributions", according to its official website.

On August 19, The Indian Express had reported that 38 PSUs used their CSR funds to together contribute over Rs 2,105 crore. Five days ago, this newspaper reported that several central educational institutions and regulators contributed Rs 21.81 crore in the form of "voluntary contributions" from salaries of teaching and non-teaching staff, and from students and pensioners.

RTI replies received by The Indian Express from banks and financial institutions detailing their contributions from staff salaries and related benefits show

Canara Bank did not pro-

state that its Rs 15.53 crore was the "total amount contributed". Union Bank of India (Rs

14.81 cr): one-day privilege leave encashment of employees. Central Bank of India (Rs 11.89 cr): two-day privilege leave

for Agriculture and Rural 5 crore): one-day salary and Development, (Rs 9.04 crore): two-day leave encashment of salaries of "employees and retired employees"

■ SIDBI, Small Industries Development Bank of India. (Rs 80 lakh): "voluntary contributribution".

The Ladakhi leaders said they the status to question the CM)."

tion from salary" of employees. ■GIC(Rs 14.51 lakh): "one-

day salary" of employees. IRDAL Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, (Rs 16.08 lakh): "voluntary contribution" by em-

Contribution from

107.95 crore

15.53 crore

14.81 crore

11.89 crore

9.04 crore

8.64 crore

7.34 crore

2.41 crore

1 crore

80 lakh

16.08 lakh

14.51 lakh

3.82 lakh

204.75 crore

5 crore

staff salaries (₹)

20 crore

ployees. ■ NABARD, National Bank

Asked about that comment.

Pandey said: "Sushant was the

pride of Bihar. I stood by his aged

father and the FIR was filed as

per CrPc provisions, and the

Supreme Court also upheld it. As

■ National Housing Bank (Rs 3.82 lakh): "employee con-

SIDBI IRDAI General Insurance **Corporation of India National Housing Bank** Total *Source: Information under RTI Act; EXIM Bank annual report. vide any detail other than to

I. Indra Kumari R/O 90/56 S.F.,Malviya Nagar, New Delhi have changed my name to Indra Agarwal for all purposes. 0040549689-1

I, Anjali Sharma d/o Ram Pavitira Gupta r/o WZ-842 Badial Mohalla, Palam Village, Delhi-110045 have changed my name to ANJALI GUPTA. 0040549748-1

I Anurag Son Of Manoj Kumar Srivastav resident of house no 594 gali no 1 near air force station, Rajokri South West Delhi 110038 have changed my name from Anurag TO Anurag Srivastav vide affidavit dated 22/09/2020 at

सार्वजनिक सूचना

मवक्किल सरदार अंतर सिंह सुपुत्र स्व. १ ु दिवान सिंह निवासी डब्ल्यू जेड—39, सन्त नग क्सटेंशन, तिलक नगर, नई दिल्ली ने आ दिन घर में चल रहे पारिवारिक झगड़ों के कार अपने पत्र स. राजेन्द्र सिंह एव पत्री गरचर कौर पत्नी कुलविन्दर सिंह, परमजीत कौ धर्मपत्नी राजीव उपरोक्त सभी को अप नगरत चल–अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल कर हये पारिवारिक सम्बन्ध समाप्त कर लिये हैं , विष्य में उपरोक्त तीनों से किसी प्रकार ब कोई लेन–देन रखेगा, उसकी जिम्मेवारी मे मवक्किल सरदार अंतर सिंह की नहीं होगी।

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5. Name of Work with Item no. : Left over work of newly opened line between Bhagwanpur - Ghoshwar section of Hajipur- Ramdyalu doubling project. Approx Cost (in ₹) : ₹2,11,90,050.39, Earnest Cost (in ₹) : ₹2,11,90, Money (in ₹) : ₹2,56,000/-. Name of Work with Item no. : Betwee lajipur – Chhapra Gramin Section : TRR (S) of existing 52 kg/72 UTS rail on PSC - 60 sleeper with SH 52kg/90UTS rail in loop nes of different yards Total = 3.49 TKm. (Ancillary works of maintenance of loop nes and yards between Hajipur – Chhapra Gramin under ADEN/Line/SEE Approx Cost (in ₹) : ₹48,71,721.44, Earnest Money

in ₹): ₹97,400/-. Name of Work with Item no. : Periodical ainting of major bridges no. 78DN, 77ADN, 78A DN. 78B DN. 78C DN. 10 (Kursela) ROB Muzaffarpur – Ramdyalunagar, ROB-28 Spl (Mansi) for the year 2019-20 in Sonpur division under Dy. CE/BRL/HJP. Approx Cost (in ₹) : ₹56,63,724.68, Earnes Money (in ₹): ₹1,13,300/-.

8. Name of Work with Item no. : Between Bachhwara - Hajipur Section : Through switch & crossing renewal with 60kg, 1 in 12 curved switch & CMS crossing on existing PSC Sleeper Total = 40 sets (Ancillary work deep screening of turn out and miscellaneous items under ADEN/Line/ Sonpur. Approx Cost (in ₹) : ₹61,94,869.40, Earnest Money (in ₹) : ₹1,23,900/-. . Name of Work with Item no. : At Hajipur

Supply and fixing of fire extinguisher. ydrant and Underground RCC tank for GM Office at Haiipur (HQ), Approx Cost (in ₹) ₹67,58,926.97, Earnest Money (in ₹) ₹1.35.200/-

> 10. Name of Work with Item no. : At Sonpur proposed repairs of roofing wall, sump for ubway and Binod Bhawan. Approx Cost (in) : ₹73,13,723/-, Earnest Money (in ₹) 1,46,300/-

1. Name of Work with Item no. : Nayagaon : Repair of Wharf surface, pproach road and improvement of basic acilities of goods shed. Approx Cost (in ₹) ₹66,20,493.16, Earnest Money (in ₹) ₹1.32.400/-.

Name of Work with Item no. : Between lajipur – Chhapra Kachehri Section : (i) WR = 23.03 Km. (ii) TTR (CS-CMSC) = 7 Sets, (iii) SEJ Renewal = 38 Sets (Ancillary Work : TTR, SEJ Renewal and other ancillary works in Hajipur – Chhapra kachehri Section under ADEN/Line/SEE. Approx Cost (in ₹) : ₹60,28,901.58, Earnest Vioney (in ₹) : ₹1,20,600/-.

The above tender notice is available on website www.ireps.gov.in. RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER: Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone /modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. Divisional Railway Manager/Engg./ ECR/Sonpur

PR/0682/SEE/Engg./T/20-21/124

FM on farmers

In an interview to The Indian Express, she said, "I am not surprised, I am disappointed... because the extent to which consultations had happened... not just with the stakeholders... but MPs were asked for their views, farmers were asked for their views... Tomarji went through the Nusli Wadia whole rigour."

According to Sitharaman, all consultations were majorly done - talking to people, taking their inputs, and then bringing it to Cabinet – by the time she announced these agri reforms as part of the AtmaNirbhar package on May

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🕼

E-TENDER NOTICE ender is invited on behalf of the Presiden of India for the under mentioned work. e-Tender No. : ECR-CAO-C-S- ETEN-20-20-21 in Two Packet System

Name of work : Earth Work in Cutting, filling, blanketing, turfing, construction of major & minor bridges, Limited Height Sub-way Height guage, Retainining wall, Drain, S & T buildings, water supply arrangements approach road, supplying and fixing various Board, Land Boundary pillars, bridge inspection steps and other associated works as per Railways' specification and standards for construction of ROR Line to avoid surface crossing at Garhwa Road Station By ROR under jurisdiction of DyCE/C/BRKA. Approx cost of the work in

(₹) : ₹83,46,79,135.13, Earnest money in (₹) : ₹43.23.400/-. Period of work completion : 24 [Twenty Four] Months.

Date and time for closing of tende 14.10.2020 15.30 hrs. Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website http://www.ireps.gov.in. Note : Ir

case of any descripencies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps.gov.in atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc. in connection with this e-tender. Chief Administrative Officer/C/S/

ECR/Mahendrughat, Patna PR/0687/CON/Engg./T/20-21/48

The agency's Deputy DG friendship with businessman (South West), Mutha Ashok Jain, Within months, however, refuted the allegation, and said the Singh was appointed External investigation were being carried Affairs Minister. He displayed his out in a "professional manner". obvious flair for diplomacy in Prasad (30), was part of

helping mend bridges with the Dharmatic Entertainment in November 2019. The NCB sanctions on India in the wake of claimed that a "roll joint believed to be remains of smoked ganja' the nuclear tests. Singh was engaged in regular talks with was seized from his house.

Strobe Talbott, the US Deputy Prasad's lawyer Satish Maneshinde said that his client Secretary of State. They met 14 times at 10 different locations, had told the court that his stateand Talbott was to concede ment had been recorded by that Singh beat him hands Sameer Wankhede, in-charge of

"wherein various patently false claims were inserted despite his (Prasad's) protests".

"...Kshitij was categorically informed by Sameer Wankhede in the presence of several other officers, that since he was associated with Dharma Productions, they would let him off if he implicated Karan Johar and some others, falsely alleging that they consumed drugs. Kshitij refused to comply with this despite the pressure being mounted on him as he did not know any of these people personally and did not wish to falsely implicate anyone," Maneshinde said.

Wankhede denied the allegations. "It is routine practice on the part of the accused to make such allegations," he said.

Metropolitan Magistrate V J Dongre granted NCB custody until October 3.

Ladakh

Kishan Reddy, and the Ladakhi leaders on Sunday morning.

had agreed to call off the boycott in the light of the government's commitment, but also because they did not want to adversely affect "national security" at a time the situation on the China border is tense.

employees.

encashment of employees.

Bank of Maharashtra (Rs

for my remarks on Rhea, I Rijiju said Reddy would fly to promptly apologised to her." Leh on Monday with the three A day after Pandey took VRS, delegation leaders - former a music video depicting him as "Robin Hood" went viral. Rajya Sabha MP Thiksay Rinpoche, former Ladakh MP Harivansh Thupstan Chhewang, and former Minister Chhering Dorje -In his statement today, the and communicate the agreement to members of the People's Deputy Chairman said: "The Movement, with a commitment statutory resolution disapproving

to begin a dialogue with a larger

firmed that the 59-year-old

1987-batch IPS officer is in the

running for a party ticket from

Buxar or Shahpur for the state

polls starting October 28 - or the

Lok Sabha bypoll in Valmiki

held during the same period.

earlier, too, after making his po-

before the 2009 Lok Sabha elec-

seat, Pandey was allowed to re-

that time was out of the false im-

I had not approached the BJP for a

contesting as an Independent,'

was vocal in defending the gov-

ernment on TV channels and so-

cial media. He also took on

Maharashtra Police for having

quarantined Bihar IPS officer

Vinay Tiwari in Mumbai. And

when Chakaborty questioned

In the Rajput case, Pandey

Pandey told The Indian Express.

Consider this:

representatives from Kargil.

Pandey

number of people in Leh, and ment for the reference of the bill to select committee moved by Sri K K Ragesh were negatived by voice vote by the house at 1.07 p.m The next step? "I will follow as Sri Ragesh was in the Well of the the instructions of the party," he house and not on his seat in the said. But JD(U) sources con-

gallery at that point of time." "This can be seen from the video as after calling him to move his resolution and amendment, I looked at the gallery, but he was not there," he said.

the ordinance and the amend-

The visuals show Ragesh on his seat at 1.11 pm when his amendment to the bill was taken up during clause by clause con-

"It is true that Sri Tiruchi Shiva demanded a division on his amendment for reference of his bill to select committee from his seat at 1.10 p.m. You will see from the same video that around 1.09 p.m, one member was tearing the rule book and throwing on me. Besides I was surrounded by some hostile members, who were trying to snatch papers from me," the Deputy Chairman said.

per rules and practice, in order to have a division, two things are essential. Firstly there should be a demand for division and equally important that there should be order in the house.'

The Deputy Chairman's office also put out an "incident report" on the minute-by-minute proceedings of the House from 12:56 pm to 1.57 pm.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

Telephone: (0522) 2977709 (O), E-mail: upldb@rediffmail.com L. No.:383(2) /UPLDB/AES/SS:VBPTK/2020-21 Date: Sept. 25, 2020 TENDER NOTICE Utar Pradesh Livestock Development Board (U.P.L.D.B.) is a registered society under the Society Registration Act, 1850 established as per Govt. of India directives is inviting online lenders through e-procurement system from reputed manufacturers or Authorized distributor of a manufacturer for approval of rates for procurement of Visual Bovine Pregnancy Test Kit for A.I. programme (Second Semen) the year 2020-21 & 2021-22.

| No. & date of Tender | Tendered Hems/ Instruments (As per details given in the tender documents) | document (Rs.) (Tender | 1.0 | Availability and start date & time for on-line Submission of e-Bids | and the second sec | Opening of online Tenders (Technical bids) |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|--|--|
| LDB/AES/SS: VEPTK/2020 - | Visual Bovine Pregnancy Test Kit (Asper Specifications given in eTender) | 23250.00 (19700.00 + 3550.00) | 132500.00 | 28.09.2020 05:00 P.M. and 28.09.2020 5:30 P.M. | 14.10.2020 upto 3:00 P.M. | 14.10.2020 3:30 P.M. onwards |

The complete e-tender details will be made available on U.P. Govt. e-procurement porta http://elender.up.nic.in as per information given in above table. For information purpose the same is also available on UPLDB's website http://upidb.up.gov.in. Any corrigendum/amendment in this notice of e-tende document shall be uploaded and informed on e-procurement website only. UPLDB reserves the right to cance any or all the e-Bids without assigning any reason and decision of UPLDB shall be final and binding. It is also to inform that those lenderers who are registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation (UPLC's website www.upic.in) for e-tendening and having digital signatures in reference with this office memorandum No.54/UPLDB/AES/E-Tender Pranal/2017-18, DI. 13.04.2017 or registered with UPLC till 13.10.2020 and having valid digital signature, shall be eligible to participate in the e-tender. (Dr Arvind Kumar Singh lic Chief Executive Officer, U.P. Livestock Dev. Boa

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, U. P. LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD, BADSHAH BAGH, GOKARAN NATH ROAD, LUCKNOW

New Delhi



Nagar, which is expected to be Pandey had taken VRS once sideration of the bill. litical ambitions from Buxar clear tions. But when BJP's Lalmuni Choubey refused to vacate his join. "My decision to contest at pression that I was very popular. ticket, and people advised against

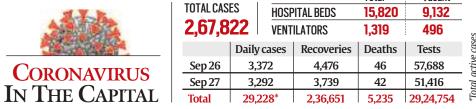
The Deputy Chairman said "as

Nitish Kumar for the Patna FIR, Pandey told reporters: "Rhea Chakrabortv ki aukat nahin hai mukhyamantri se sawal karne ki (Rhea Chakraborty does not have





THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 **HECTY** 3



| total cas 2,67,8 | | | PITAL BEDS | Total 15,820 1,319 | Vacant 9,132 496 | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| | Daily | cases | Recoveries | Deaths | Tests | 30303 |
| Sep 26 | 3,372 | | 4,476 | 46 | 57,688 | |
| Sep 27 | 3,2 | 292 | 3,739 | 42 | 51,416 | |
| T (1 | 20.7 | 200* | 0.00.054 | E 005 | 20.24 75 4 | - 6 |

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

highest number of Covid deaths

in home isolation was in

Northwest Delhi (11), followed by

West Delhi (9) and Central Delhi

tients to these centres had previ-

ously been the cause of friction

between the elected government

and the L-G, who had ordered in

June that all those who test posi-

tive must be first sent to a Covid

Care Centre for a period of at least

five days. After objections were

raised by the government, the or-

der was reversed and patients

who were cleared by a team of

doctors were allowed to isolate at

home. The Delhi government

then decided to provide pulse

oximeters to those under home isolation to check oxygen satura-

On Sunday, meanwhile, 3,292

cases were recorded as number

of tests done fell from an average

of around 59,000 per day to

51,000. The toll rose to 5,235 as 42

people were reported dead. 46

Covid patients had died on

Saturday. The doubling rate in the

city is around 50 days, Health

Minister Satyendar Jain said. "The

number of deaths and cases will

come down in the coming

Mandatory shifting of pa-

'UP's new film city to begin ops by early 2021'

TO BE LAUNCHED BY DEC; 843 FLATS IN JASOLA, DWARKA In some districts, flip-flop New flats, better amenities on on home isolation of Covid offer under new DDA scheme patients older than 60 yrs

AMIL BHATNAGAR NOIDA. SEPTEMBER 27

THE GAUTAM Budh Nagar Film City is likely to see its first film shooting by early 2021, officials said. The proposed land for the project in Greater Noida was inspected by ACS Home Awanish Awasthi and senior officials of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) Sunday.

Earlier this month, the state government announced that the "biggest" film city will come up in the district. Thousand acres of land at Sector 21 at the Yamuna Expressway has been identified for the purpose. Officials said the industrial area (studios, sets, etc) will be spread over 780 acres while 220 acres will be used for commercial purposes. The authority will be fast-tracking the process of preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Film City. Once the report is ratified by the government, tenders will be allocated and construction will be given a green signal. "The DPR will likely be ready in two weeks. We will also study several numerical factors involved in calculating the the project's feasibility," said Shailendra Bhatia, OSD, YEIDA.

Iewar MLA Dhirendra Singh said: "Officials want the Film City to begin in the next three-four months. All possible efforts will be made to ensure that. Already some directors have expressed interest in making a movie here. They will be given the right environment so that they can portray our country's wonderful culture."

MAHENDER SINGH

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

A 38-YEAR-OLD man was al-

legedly beaten to death by a

barber shop owner and his

brother over payment of Rs 20

more for a shave in North

September 24 in front of the vic-

The incident took place on

ABHINAV RAJPUT NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

MULTI-LEVEL underground parking with up to three parking spaces for a flat, 14-floor buildings, three-tier in-house water management model, rainwater harvesting, adherence to the National Building Code 2016 for the first time, these provisions will be part of the 2020 DDA housing scheme for its Higher Income Group (HIG) flats. The scheme will be rolled out

this December. On offer are 843 flats: 215 Higher Income Group flats near Jasola Vihar-Shaheen Bagh Metro station, 352 Middle Income Group (MIG) flats in Dwarka Sector 19-B, and 276 Economically Weaker Section (EWS) flats in Dwarka's Manglapuri.

DDA commissioner (housing) Rajiv Gandhi said the agency is giving finishing touches to the newly constructed flats. "We are hopeful of launching the scheme in December," he said.

While the HIG flats would be 3BHK and priced above Rs 2 crore, the MIG ones are 2BHK and will cost over Rs 1 crore. The 1-BHK EWS flats are priced below Rs 25 lakh, said a senior official.

According to the senior official, the HIG flats will have a three-tier in-house water management plan under which inhouse treatment plants will recycle water for use in urinals and



The 14-floor HIG flats in Jasola Vihar-Shaheen Bagh. These flats will have features like underground parking with up to three parking spaces for a flat, rainwater harvesting, among others. Praveen Khanna

for horticulture. Water generated from rainwater harvesting can be used for bathing and kitchen purposes, and ROtreated water for drinking, the official said.

The National Building Code 2016 guidelines followed in the project deal with provisions of structural and fire safety, design provisions for wind and seismic loads, modern lighting techniques such as LED and induction light and faster lifts for taller buildings. "It would also be a

benchmark for all future projects to ensure no one returns flats after allotment," said a senior DDA official In the past, the DDA has lost

Mukesh.

ficer.

Man 'beaten to death' by barber shop owner

before teenage son over payment of Rs 20

out on potential buyers to private builders in the NCR, apart from seeing several cases of surrender of houses sold in the previous schemes. Around 11.000 flats. mostly LIG 1-BHK flats that were part of 2014 scheme, were returned due to lack of amenities like water, last-mile connectivity and small sizes. DDA had to use different methods to ensure the flats were sold.

This time, the DDA has come out with only fresh flats and in areas that have Metro connectivity and amenities in an attempt to re-affirm its image as the agency with better facilities than private ones at subsided rate, senior officials said.

shave. The barber asked him to

pay Rs 50. My husband gave

him Rs 30 and said he would

pay the rest by Friday, which led

to a heated argument. They told

him that he cannot go without

paying Rs 20 and started beat-

ing through the market and

found his father was being at-

tacked... he tried to intervene

to rescue him but they pushed

him. Onlookers were standing

by but no one came to rescue

ing him. My elder son was pass-

ON OFFER HIG: 215 flats in **JASOLA VIHAR** Over ₹2 crore each. 13-&14-floor apartments,

including underground multi-level parking MIG: 352 flats in DWARKA, SECT 19B Over Rs1 crore each, 8-10 floors, including underground parking EWS:276 flats in

MANGLAPURI, DWARKA Rs 25 lakh each, 12-floors, with stilt parking facility

An official said that in the next three-four months after December, the process of scrutiny of applicants, draw of lots, issuance of demand-cumallotment letter and handing

over the flats would be done. The computerised draw is held using a method called the 'random number indicated technique' in the presence of the media and judges. It is also broadcast live on the DDA website. A successful candidate has the option to surrender his/her flat after the draw within a prescribed period, else allotment will be automatically cancelled.

In the coming months, the agency will issue details and clauses on the amount one would have to pay for applying and the process of applying.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DELHI POLICE'S vigilance department has reg-

istered an FIR under the Prevention of

Corruption Act and NDPS Act against four po-

licemen, including two sub-inspectors of

Jahangirpuri police station in Northwest Delhi,

days after they allegedly misreported the

quantity of marijuana seized from a local drug

peddler during a raid on September 11. All four

personnel have been dismissed from service

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

MALLICA JOSHI & ASTHA SAXENA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

OVER THE past week, confusion over the institutional isolation of Covid patients above the age of 60 and those who have comorbidities has persisted in the city. While the government has said these patients are allowed home quarantine if the team of doctors that assesses them gives them clearance, at least two districts in Delhi were following different norms.

Southwest Delhi passed an order on September 21, stating that all Covid patients who have comorbidities or are above the age of 60 will have to be admitted in Covid Care Centres or Covid Health Centres. The order was withdrawn Sunday, hours after The Indian Express enquired about the difference in guidelines.

The order passed by the office of the district magistrate of Southwest Delhi had said, "All SDMs in coordination with medical officer in-charges (MOIC) and local police shall ensure that all Covid-19 positive cases having age more than 60 years or Covid-19 positive cases with co-morbidities have been shifted to CHC/CCC (Covid Health Centres/Covid Care Centres). Non-compliance of the order shall be viewed seriously."

District DM Rahul Singh said the order was withdrawn Sunday owing to "inconvenience". "We had passed the order keeping in mind the risk faced by these two

FIR lodged against four cops for

misreporting on seized drugs



At Sarai Kale Khan ISBT on Sunday. DM Southwest said the order was withdrawn due to 'inconvenience'. Gaiendra Yadav

groups and that ICU beds were filling up fast in the city. We decided to withdraw the order after people said it was causing inconvenience. A lot of people would resist the decision to shift to institutional care. We did not want to cause inconvenience." he said.

same template, though officials said no written orders had been passed. The decision, the official said, was taken to make sure that no deaths took place under home isolation since both these categories of patients are most at risk. According to data provided by

the Delhi government, between the first week of March, when the Capital reported its first Covid case, till September 23, a total of 41 Covid patients under home isolation have died.

In this period, the highest number of active Covid patients under home isolation – 3,077 – was in West Delhi, followed by 2,261 in Northwest Delhi and 1,844 in Southwest Delhi. The

> **EXPRESS OF INTEREST** We propose to acquire the existing Company having into the business of life Insurance on as is and whereas basis. If anybody is interested in sale of Insurance business with Company Please email your details to : Email ID:- bhimji@bnpparibar.in

weeks," he said.

BNP PARIBAR 1107, 11th Floor, Remi Commercio, Plot No. 14, Shah Industrial Estate, Off Link Road, Andheri (West). Mumbai-400 059

🚯 Indian

Express

GROUP

to district lines on Sunday for lack of supervi-Tel. No.: 022 6236 3155

sion. Police said 164 kg of marijuana was seized after a raid by personnel from Jahangirpuri police station. "But the suspected peddler was let off after the personnel allegedly took a bribe from him," a senior police NATIONAL CENTRE FOR CELL SCINCE (NCCS) PUNE

officer said. The suspended policemen allegedly reported only 920 grams of contraband and sold (An Autonomous Institution of the Department of Biotechnology) the rest.

and the SHO of the station has been also sent

tion levels and report to hospital or call an ambulance if the levels dip. At present, there are 8,137 West Delhi, too, is following the beds in Covid Care Centres. Of these, 3,763 are vacant and 1,402 are occupied by those under institutional quarantine after taking international flights. There are 527 beds available in Covid Health Centres, of which 193 are vacant.

tim Rupesh Kumar's 13-yearold son.

Delhi's Burari.

MANRAL

Police said both accused, barber shop owner Saroj and his brother Santosh, have been arrested and sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

Kumar, a vegetable vendor, lived with his wife and their five children in Sant Nagar.

According to police, the incident came to light at around

Rupesh Kumar (38) was allegedly beaten to death in Burari on September 24

11 pm when they received a call regarding a quarrel near Chaudhry Dairy in Sant Nagar.

Personnel of Burari police station rushed to the spot and came to know that the injured

After allegedly attacking him, the accused assumed Kumar was dead and fled the spot. With the help of technical

surveillance, police arrested them from where they were hiding in North Delhi.

man was taken to Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital by his brother

He was then referred to

On the basis of Mukesh's

statement, an FIR of murder

was lodged. Mukesh alleged

that Saroj and Santosh as-

saulted his brother with a plas-

tic pipe," said a senior police of-

Safdarjung Hospital, where he

succumbed to his injuries dur-

ing treatment on Friday.

Kumar's wife Hemlata said, "After returning home on Thursday evening, my husband had gone to a nearby salon for a

my husband. My son then rushed to his uncle's home and informed him about the incident.' "I had asked him to have his dinner but he told me he would

eat after shaving and bathing.. We came to the city from Bihar's Supaul around 15 years ago for a bright future for our children," said Hemlata.

OSBI IT-ATM Department, 2nd Floor, MTNL Building, State Bank Global IT Centre, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL State Bank of India has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for procuremen of on-premises Issuer host solution & services on licensed model for open loop transit/ smart city & other related projects (RFP No. SBI/GITC/ IT-ATM/2020/2021/717 dated 28.09.2020). Kindly visit Bank's website https://bank.sbi/. Check "Procurement news" section for detailed RFP document. For future announcements, if any, in this regard, please keep referring to the website. Sd/-Place: Navi Mumbai Date: 28.09.2020

Deputy l Manage General (IT-ATM

Advt.No.- PMC/P-02/Online/2020

SUB:ONLINE INTERVIEWS FOR PROJECT POSITIONS UNDER EXTRA-MURAL PROJECTS.

Online Applications are invited for different project positions to be filled pure ly on temporary basis at NCCS under extramural projects. Please send the application through email on pmconline@nccs.res.in

For the detailed specifications of the post/s, the prescribed application for mat and other terms and conditions, please see our Advt.No.PMC/P02/Online/2020 under Project Positions in Careers tab on our website (www.nccs.res.in). For any updates please check our website. Director, NCCS

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



(25 MAY 1973- 28 SEP 1997) On the occasion of SHAHEEDI DIWAS of Capt KC Pritham Kumar of 141 Medium Regiment (KARGIL) on 28 Sep 2020, the Commanding Officer, all ranks, their families and the Buzurgs of the Unit pay homage to the martyr

141 MEDIUM REGIMENT(KARGIL)

who made the supreme sacrifice for the Capt KC Pritham Nation who had endeared himself to all by his

Kumar zest for life and bubbly enthusiasm. Upholding the highest traditions of the Indian Army, he laid down his life on 28 Sep 1997, while fighting the odds in the highest battlefield of the world, Siachen, leaving a void which will never be filled. His valour & heroism continues to inspire all of us. On this day, we pledge to take the name of the Unit to even greater heights and glory in the times to come.

CO & All Ranks 141 Medium Regiment (KARGIL)



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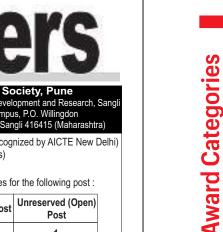
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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020



'The best is yet to be' for the legal profession

The many career prospects for students learning law

PROFESSION OF LAW AND CONSTITUTION

This is a momentous year for every Indian. The year 2020 marks the completion of 70 years as the Republic and it also marks the commemoration of 70 years of the Constitution of this great country. The Constitution of India, which is perhaps the Magna Carta of the contemporary times, is 70 years young (Institutions will always continue to be young as it is only the human beings who age with time).

Law students and legal professionals should know that the only profession that finds a mention in the Constitution of India is the legal profession. Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India states:

"No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest nor shall he be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a LEGAL PRACTITIONER of his choice"

So, the legal profession is the Profession which is constitutionally ordained. Take up the cudgels to perform your constitutional obligations first by becoming a law student and then by choosing law as a career.

QUALITY LEGAL EDUCATION

Gone are the days when law colleges used to act as parking spaces for vehicles which could not be parked elsewhere. At one point of time, pursuing legal education was considered as a national pastime for those who had nothing else to do. It used to be derisively said that India had the dubious distinction of producing brilliant lawyers in spite of the law colleges and not because of them

CK Daphtary, MC Setalvad and Nani A Palkhivala were exceptions and not the rule. But when quality legal education became a matter of high concern because of the poor delivery system, a laudable initiative taken by the Bar Council of India was the introduction of 5-year integrated LL B programme and then the establishment of National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore.

The Advocates Act, 1961, entrusted the responsibility of maintaining standards in legal education and legal profession to the Bar Council of India. Armed with the mandate, the Bar Council of India immediately initiated the measures to democratize legal education by starting the 3-year LLB programme, which is open to all those who have completed graduation in any discipline.



INTRODUCTION OF 5-YEAR LL B PROGRAMME

When this 3-year LLB programme (of all hues including the one imparted in the evening colleges) failed in producing quality law graduates and started churning out only "half-baked lawyers", the conceptualisation of "CATCH-ING THEM YOUNG" took place. The confluence of the Bar Council of India, members of the judiciary, and the distinguished jurists and academicians gave birth to the 5vear LLB programme. As in other professional courses like Medicine and Engineering, admission into 5-year integrated LLB programme was sought to be made after +2 stage.

The establishment of the first National Law School at Bangalore in 1986 sponsored by the Bar Council of India brought a total paradigm shift in legal education and as they say, the rest is history as today there are more than 24 National Law Schools. The brightest young minds have started joining law schools and today there are youngsters who reject seats in IITs/AIIMS to join Law Schools.

Today, 5-year integrated LLB Programmes are offered in National law Schools, Departments/Colleges of State Universities, Private Universities, deemed to be Universities and reputed Private Institutions affiliated to different universities among others.

ADMISSION TO 5-YEAR LLB PROGRAMME

Admissions into 5-year integrated LLB Programmes are made through entrance examinations. For all National Law Schools, the admission is through CLAT, for NLU Delhi through AILET, for some others through LSAT and still some other institutions/universities conduct their respective entrance examinations.

For students taking these tests, all the entrance tests require careful planning and studious preparation. Adequate attention should be given to current affairs including Indian polity, logic or reasoning, comprehension and legal aptitude among others. Regular practical exercises to judiciously deal with time factor are necessary to hone your skills.

Normally the following streams are offered in 5-year integrated LLB Programme:

B.A LLB (Hons.) (For those with penchant for Social Sciences);

B.COM LLB (Hons)/BBA LLB (Hons) (For those with a passion for Commerce/Management) and

BSC LLB (Hons.) (For those with an aptitude for law, science and technology).

You can follow your heart in choosing the course.

CAREERS OPENINGS FOR LAW GRADUATES

The career openings for a law graduate are diverse and varied. Traditionally it was believed that law graduates could only become "Black Coat" Advocates and start practicing in courts. But today's openings are manifold, law graduates can become human rights activists, environmental activists, work with NGOs (Non-governmental organisations), LPOs (Legal Process outsourcing), MNCs (International Business Front), Banking sector, opt for civil services and above all opt for a career in judiciary, teaching or go for higher studies.

A career in judiciary, with All India Judicial Services on the anvil, is also a bright option for the youngsters on the threshold. At the moment, most of the states are filling up vacant posts of judicial officers in the subordinate courts by giving opportunity to fresh law graduates. Recently in the states of Rajasthan, Bihar and Punjab, law graduates as young as 23 years got selected as judicial officers and what a bright career awaits them!

Teachings as a career has become attractive with the seventh pay commission scales. Today, law students are treated with "Respect, Awe and Admiration". Always remember, "You are the master of your fate and you are the captain of your soul". "The best is yet to be" for the Legal Profession.

Prof (Dr) R Venkata Rao

Chairperson, VSLLS, VIPS, New Delhi & Former Vice Chancellor, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru

Noida International University

CHOOL of Law and Legal Affairs, Noida International University is one of the top private law schools in Delhi/NCR. With Courses such as BA LLB(H)/ BBA LLB - 5vears, LLB - 3 vears, LLM and PhD Programmes approved by the Bar Council of India, it strives to create the best legal professionals for the country with theoretical as well as practical training of

students. School of Law and Legal Affairs provides a platform for the students where they enjoy the process of clinical legal education. The students get exposure



Dr. Devesh Kumar Singh Chairman, Noida International University

tions across the country. The motto of SLLA is that legal education is the primary pillar of nation building.

Fairfield: Law school with global outlook

AIRFIELD Institute of Management and Technology (FIMT), New Delhi, (under the aegis of The Fairfield Group of Institutions) was established by Sh. VK Nangalia Bhardwaj , a visionary leader, educationist and social entrepreneur. It is a leading private educational institution situated in NCR and an 'A' Grade college by the Govt. of NCT Delhi. It is approved by the Bar Council of India, National Council for Teacher Education, and

recognised by the UGC Act of 1956 and affiliated to the renowned Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi. It offers professional courses in various educational streams viz. BBA (Gen.), BCA, BA-JMC, B.Com.(H.), BA-Eco.(H.), B.Ed and the prestigious Fairfield-School of Law offers integrated five-years B.A.-LLB and B.B.A-LLB programs to its students. The criterion for admission is as per the GGSIP University norms. For admission in the Law programmes, the Fairfield- School of Law accepts CLAT Scores/ CET of GGS IP University.

The FAIRFIELD-School of Law is the first affiliated college of GGSIP University to host the 31st



Bhardwai

Institutions

All India Inter-University Moot Court Competition of the Bar Council of India and also to prepare our students for today's transnational legal practice.

didates who have cleared vari-

ous judicial services examina-

Moving beyond standard law school offerings such as study abroad, journals and coursework, the law school has taken a fresh approach to international legal training that distinguishes us from our peers. Our

Chairman, FIMT Group of Global Initiatives facilitate by connecting with law schools and legal institutions in the most dynamic legal markets around the world. Each year, delegations of faculty and students from the member schools meet to address pressing legal problems facing nations around the globe. This forum provides innovative and meaningful ways for students and faculty of the member schools to interact, and forges an expanding cross-border appreciation of critical issues

> in the law. We believe that a supportive educational environment creates better lawyers, and employers who've hired our graduates have told us time and time again that we are right.







BBA LL.B. (Hons.) LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M.

NLSIU Bangalore

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- M. Phil. Clinical Psychology
- Professional Dip, in Clinical Psychology
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- D.Ed Special Education (Hearing impairment, Intellectual Disability Autism Spectrum Disorders) Academic Guidance by Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital & VIMHANS

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WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020



Faculty of Law, SGT University: Grooming Next Gen Legal Professionals

N recent times, legal studies have gained tremendous attention because of the expansion of its scope and operation, both nationally and internationally. This has opened up new vistas of growth and employment for legal professionals. It is to fill this vacuum in quality legal education that the SGT University has stepped in. It has been offering some of the most competitive and sought-after courses in the legal profession.

Situated in the heart of Gurugram, the University has a sprawling campus with World-class infrastructure. The University established its faculty of law in 2014 intending to provide an academically rich environment to students and groom them for the legal profession. It offers a diverse range of legal courses, which comply with the rules of the Bar Council of India and UGC as well.

The SGTU Faculty of Law offers the following courses:

Three years Bachelor of Law



(LLB) (Hons) (UG Programme) Five years integrated BA LLB (Hons)(UG Programme)

Five years integrated BBA LLB (Hons) (UG Programme)

LLM (One year) (PG Programme) PhD (Full Time Programme)

The Faculty of Law also boasts of an impressive moot courtroom which is inspired by the Supreme Court of India. It helps students in getting acquainted with real courtroom settings and offers them an opportunity to participate in intra moot court competitions which are

held periodically. The Faculty of Law also organises seminars, panel discussions, and conferences on contemporary legal issues that are presided over by legal luminaries from academia, judiciary, public and private sectors. Classroom lectures are supplemented with seminars, presentations, group discussions, interactive sessions, and field-based learning.

Field-based group projects organized by the Faculty of Law include the following:

- Voting Awareness Campaign
- Legal aid to underprivileged people of Budhera, Gurugram
- Nukkad Natak based on consumer rights in India
- Legal awareness camp based on the theme of crimes against minors
- ■Legal awareness camp based on dowry deaths and domestic violence Legal awareness camp for preventing

female foeticides The faculty has adopted a reflective and collaborative pedagogy in teaching. Every branch of law is being taught to face professional challenges and get em-

ployment. The courses are futuristic and structured to increase practical knowhow. This helps in promoting experiential learning. Additionally, legal quizzes and debates are regularly held for the enhancement of knowledge of students. National Moot Court Competition is organised every year wherein prominent law schools across the country participate in it.

The faculty of law follows a curriculum that is at par with National and Public Law Universities. The faculty offers interaction with eminent lawyers and law firms which helps in live case handling. Also, collaborations with foreign professors allow students in knowing the legal framework more comprehensively. Students are not only equipped with professional and academic skills but also get imbibed with the social, moral values to be responsible

citizens. Overall, SGTU aims to provide holistic learning and groom legal professionals for the future.

The NorthCap University

CHOOL of Law at The North-Cap University has established itself as a preferred destination of learning law in Northern India. Having located along with the Schools of Engineering and Management, it offers a wide range of interdisciplinary courses including foreign languages, enhancing employability skills. The School gives a strong emphasis on the teaching pedagogy through use of modern resources for teaching, sessions with

experts, industrial visits etc. Under the guidance of Prof (Dr) Manjula Batra (Former Dean, Jamia Millia Islamia), NCU Law School has strengthened its hand in research and teachinglearning process. Experienced faculty with academic excellence is a value addition in ensuring

quality education. With a vibrant culture of mooting and client consultation, students get a unique exposure to hone their communication skills through trainings under Centre for Language Learning. To instil a sense of social responsibility, it encourages pro-active legal aid services with Legal Services Authorities. With a structured internship programme, the students have made places in reputed law firms apart from pursuing higher studies. The Mentor-Mentee Scheme for

Dr. Archana Sarma, Head, NCU Law School

> personalised grooming, fee-concession and scholarships to meritorious students are some of the initiatives for the welfare of students. With well-equipped infrastructural resources, NCU Law School paves the way for the overall growth of young minds.

SRM University Law School Legal education: In pursuit of excellence

ODAY global scenario is undergoing a churning process in all the spheres of Law. Be it the developments in the Law of Trade; Environment Development and Climate Change; Law of Sea; Maritime and Mercantile Law; Health Care and Medicine Law; Cyber and Space Law; Law of warfare and neutrality as well as Global Financial and Business transactions. The Covid-19 has opened up renewed areas of discussion and deliberations in the spheres of International Law and Global Relations, functioning of UN and other international organisations, weakening of civil, economic and constitutional liberties as well as human rights and humanitarian liberties. This in turn is generating an enormous pressure and is threatening the very premise of human civilisation.

In light of all these facts the legal education system is also seeking readjustment and realignment to yield space to more innovative ideas, creative actions and technology intervention. Keeping these factors in consideration the New Education Policy 2020 has offered a differential space for the legal education pedagogy, pro-bono lawyering, social action initiatives and community leadership programmes. Indian Legal system, which along with the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and hitherto Hongkong, belongs to the common law traditions which prompts us to offer the best possible solutionbased instructions and training systems. We offer alternative paradigm of Legal Education model which is entirely based on case law studies.

As an upcoming Centre for Excellence, the Faculty of Law SRM University strives to be a global leader for providing intellectual environment to nurture the talent with world class facilities, faculty, curriculum, pedagogy, intellectual delivery. The academic model is designed on the research platform, clinical and lab based programmes and training through outreach and extensive activities. We offer an environment of learning, training and development for all those who want to excel in Legal profession, corporate matters, research and academics as well as various other

fields of Legal entrepreneurship. Law is always in a state of flux. To



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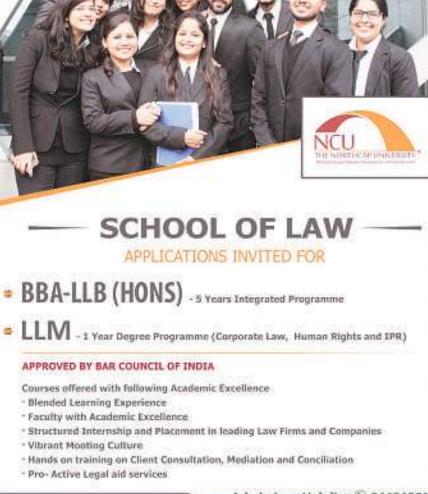
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to evolve in accordance with the domain requirements and professional demands

We at SRM University Law School have been already seeking engagement in carving out all these options. These initiative are to seek a clinically based Legal education Model that functions as per the framework of globally established best practices which are like lab-based clinical training and

seek a better comprehension of this phenomenon we at SRM Law Faculty are constantly engaged in pursuit of a dynamic legal education model that shall seek the accommodation of every day change that occurs in the domain of Law locally, nationally and across the Globe.

Prof (Dr) Ashok K Kantroo Dean, Faculty of Law,

SRM University, Delhi NCR Sonipat

DIRD: A cut above the rest



HE Delhi Institute Of Rural Development, Delhi, popularly known as DIRD, is duly affiliated to GGSIP University, Delhi, and is recognised by the Bar Council of India, thereby fulfilling the need for a Centre of Excellence in legal education in the modern era of globalisation and liberalisation. DIRD came into existence in 2002 under the imperatives of Mr Rafi Lal, Chairman, who is pragmatist, philosopher and has a very strong passion for education.

Mr Rafi Lal, Chairman

Our endeavor is to serve the soci-

ety through reforms in legal services by way of preparing professionally competent lawyers, inquisitive researchers, able administrators, conscientious judicial officers, and above all, socially responsible citizens, who shall be whole-heartedly and continuously engaged in the process of nation building.

We have always believed that legal education is incomplete without an experience of practice. Thus, we have set a tradition of holding Mock Trials and Law Moot competitions (intra college) and encouraging our students to the national level competitions as well. The splendid history of DIRD is the result of the unremitting efforts of highly qualified and proficient faculty. Our student fraternity has won us laurels in the various spheres of national moot court competitions, paper presentations and various cultural activities. We strive for an all round and inter-disciplinary academic excellence in sync with the other Law Schools of GGSIP University.

DIRD attracts students coming from diverse social, cultural and religious backgrounds from all corners of India. Students passing out from DIRD work in law firms in India, some practice in courts and while some have entered the field of legal academics. It is pertinent to mention here that two our students namely Mr Ankit Nautiyal and Mr Himanshu Tyagi have been selected as Judge Advocate General (JAG) in Government of India. DIRD students have also pursued further studies at leading Universities in the UK and US.



(Delhi Institute of Rural Development)

AN ISO CERTIFIED INSTITUTE (ISO 9001:2008) (Approved by Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Affiliated with G.G.S.I.P. University) (Near, The Mann Public School) Holambi Delhi –110082 (3 K.M. From Swami Shradhanand College, Delhi University), Alipur www.dirdcollege.com, E Mail : dirdcollege456@gmail.com Mobile: 09667035333, 09667036333 Landline : 011-27700167, 27700815

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
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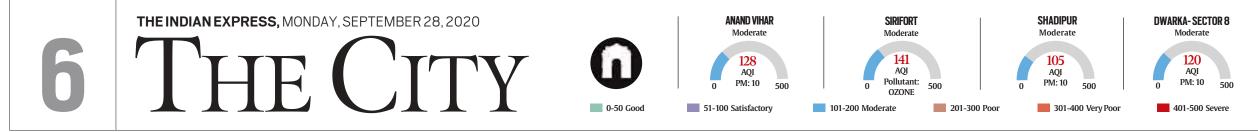


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96% overall attendance for JEE (advanced) exam

ASHNA BUTANI NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE JOINT Entrance Examination (Advanced) was conducted across 1.001 centres on Sunday and saw 96% attendance

Paper 1 of the exam had been conducted in the morning with 1,51,311 candidates and paper 2 was conducted in the afternoon with 1,50,900 candidates

The 1,001 centres in which they were conducted were located in 222 cities across the country.

In Delhi, candidates appeared for their examinations with masks and carrying sanitisers in transparent bottles. Surbhi Sinha (18), from Khadda Colony, Jaitpur, sat for the exam in Mathura Road. She said, "Social distancing norms were followed inside. It was even more organised than JEE Mains.'

Her mother Suman Sinha, who waited outside the examination hall, said, "Surbhi is the first in our family to take her studies so seriously. She never went for coaching because it is very expensive. Yet, we know she will succeed in whatever she does. My two younger children wish to follow her footsteps.'

However, many parents said that changing the JEE examination dates repeatedly disrupted the flow of studies. Dr BB Singh (52) was among them. He said.



Students come out of a IEE exam centre in Mohan Estate on Sunday. In total, there were 1,001 exam centres in 222 cities across the country. Abhinav Saha

"The exam was delayed over line.'

and over again, breaking their concentration. But I still have hopes that my son will make it to the IITs.' After the examination, Parn

Pratap Singh (18) and Sanat Vohra (17) discussed the difficulty levels of the paper. Sanat said, "The mathematics portion was a bit difficult. Calculus questions that have never been asked before appeared in the

exam." On the flow of his preparation, he said, "The last few months, we became a bit lax as it kept getting delayed. We did not have any coaching classes, iust a few revision sessions onon Sunday.

He added that candidates sat in alternate seats in the hall while giving the examination. Before entering the examination hall, candidates were asked to sanitise their hands.

Security guards ensured that candidates don't bump into each other.

They entered and exited one at a time. The seating areas were sanitised in between the two shifts. When students entered the centres, thermal checks were conducted at the

Self-declaration forms were to be filled on the admit card beforehand.

LOW WIND SPEED TO CAUSE 'IMMEDIATE STAGNATION' City's air quality set to dip with incoming dust, stubble burning

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

INTRUSION OF dust from countries northwest of India and particulate matter from farm fires in stubble burning states are being noted in Delhi's air, but high wind speed is helping in their dispersion. This could change by next week due to an "immediate stagnation" of winds brought on after the withdrawal of monsoon over Delhi-NCR. which is expected around October 1, air pollution and weather experts said

An official from the Ministry of Earth Sciences said, "Dust lifting process is happening from areas around Afghanistan and Rajasthan, because there is suspension of dust as temperature rises in those regions. Since wind speed over Delhi is very high, it is unlikely to affect air quality for now."

The official added, "The immediate stagnant wind conditions brought on after the withdrawal of monsoon and the dust lifting... these two combined conditions could affect air qualitv.'

Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) regional weather forecasting centre in Delhi, said the withdrawal of monsoon would begin on Monday from west Rajasthan. "Conditions are favourable for withdrawal from most parts of northwest India in subsequent two-three days, including Delhi-NCR." he added.

Pawan Gupta, senior scientist at Universities Space Research Association, NASA, also posted on

AIR QUALITY IN THE CAPITAL

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| Tuesday16551AdvisoryModerateSatisfact | Monday | 134 | 41 |
| Advisory Moderate Satisfact | Advisory | Moderate | Satisfactory |
| | Tuesday | 165 | 51 |
| So | Advisory | Moderate | Satisfactory |
| | | | Source: Sa |



IMD officials said smoke from farm fires in Puniah and Haryana is being noticed in Delhi's air. Abhinav Saha

Twitter Saturday: "Dust transport from the west is expected to affect air quality in northern-central India over the next two-three days." Gupta also posted data from a NASA satellite that showed close to 290 fires in Puniab on Saturday and over 20 in Haryana on Sunday.

IMD officials also said smoke from farm fires in Punjab and Haryana in the form of particulate matter of 2.5 micrometres (PM2.5) is being noticed in Delhi's air.

They said northwesterly winds were blowing over the city, which facilitate the transport of pollutants from stubble burning states.

Board member secretary Karunesh Garg said nearly 60 farm fires have been confirmed in Amritsar and Tarn Taran districts between September 22 and 26. "We visited 129 sites, of which 72 were reported to not have any fires – meaning there could be some other fire, such as a fire in the city area or a cremation ground in an open village, that the satellite may have captured," Garg said.

He added that fines totalling Rs 55,000 have been imposed on farmers for 15 fire incidents so far and proceedings for others are

Haryana State Pollution Control Board member secretary S Narayanan said 55 farm fires



AS TEMPERATURES dip, the ability of pollutants to accumulate also rises. September this year has been warmest in five years. Because of the lockdown, the city has seen good quality air, the cleanest in several years but the combined effect of change in wind direction, dipping temperatures and stubble burning means Delhi's air is going to turn foul again soon.

have been reported in the state between September 25 and 27, mostly in Karnal district. He said 34 incidents were reported on Sunday.

"We have shared a list of 30 top stubble burning villages based on our experience of previous years - to all DCs for effective monitoring and enforcement. Hopeful of a sharp reduction in the coming season compared to previous years," he said.

A forecast from the Centrerun air quality and weather forecasting agency SAFAR on Sunday said, "Late withdrawal of monsoon and the associated highpressure system and stagnant wind conditions are likely to influence Delhi's air quality negatively by the end of next week." Delhi's air quality index on

Sunday was 117 in the 'moderate range, as per data from the Central Pollution Control Board.

• •

BRIEFLY

Journalist sent to judicial custody

New Delhi: A Delhi court Sunday sent freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma, arrested in an espionage case under the Official Secrets Act, to judicial custody, his lawyer said. The judge also sent two co-accused in the case – a Chinese woman and a Nepalese man - to judicial custody after they were produced before him, Sharma's advocate Adish Aggarwala said. PTI

All intermediate yr DU students to be promoted without exam

New Delhi: All intermediate year students of Delhi University are being promoted in the academic year 2019-2020, with the opportunity to clear any examination in which they may have failed in the next year. While the university has been conducting online Open Book Examinations for final year undergraduate and postgraduate students, it had decided that students of intermediate years would be assessed without examinations - 50% based on internal assessment and 50% based on marks from previous semesters.

Cops on patrol rescue man from assault

New Delhi: A 32-year-old, who was allegedly being beaten up by five men armed with knives and sticks, was rescued by policemen in Central Delhi's Anand Parbat. Head Constable Damodar and Constable Vijay were on patrolling duty when they came across the victim, who sustained stab injuries on his head and abdomen. A video of the incident went viral on the internet. "The victim and his friend went to have dinner at a restaurant but

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा (विद्युत एवं यांत्रिकी विभाग) क्रमांक /वि.एवं यां./ई -टेण्डरिंग /2020 -21 /71 खण्डवा, दिनांक : 26/09/2020 -: ई -निविदा विज्ञप्ति (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) :-निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु निविदाऐ ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है उल्लेखित, कार्य की निविदा का विस्तृत वेबसाइट http://www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

| क्र. | टेंडर आई डी | कार्य का नाम | अनुमानित लागत (लाख में) | धरोहर राशि | निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि | ठेकेदार की श्रेणी | लागू SOR | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि | Jamia entrance tests | | — |
|--|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | to begin on Oct 10 | AAP, bac | z in Cong |
| 1 | 109428_1 | External Electrification work of Proposed Transport Nagar New Krishi Mandi Indore Road Khandwa | लाख | 69500/- | 10,000/- | लो. नि.वि. नवीन पद्धति पंजीयन श्रेणी "स" व अधिक एवं अ श्रेणी विद्युत ठेकेदार | म.प्र.प.क्षे. वि.वि.क. लि के प्रचलित SOR | 3 माह | EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE | SOURAV ROY BARMAN | Kumar was given |
| 2 | 109441_1 | External Electrification work of Proposed Transport Nagar 33/11 KV Sub Station Construction Near New Krishi Mandi Khandwa | लाख | 82400/- | 12,500/- | लो. नि.वि. नवीन पद्धति पंजीयन श्रेणी "स" व अधिक एवं अ श्रेणी विद्युत ठेकेदार | म.प्र.प.क्षे. वि.वि.क. लि के प्रचलित SOR | 3 माह | NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27 ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS to various undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Jamia Millia Islamia will begin on | NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27 A YEAR after he joined AAP, for- mer IPS Ajoy Kumar returned to the Congress Sunday, saying there was no doubt that the | charge of AAP's Jharkhand unit in March 2020 |
| 3 | 2020_UAD_ 109449_1 | Khandwa External Electrification work of Housing Unit under PMAY at Sant Vinoba Bhave Ward AHP Site Chirakhan Khandwa | लाख | 53200/- | 12,500/- | लो. नि.वि. नवीन पद्धति पंजीयन श्रेणी "स" व अधिक एवं अ श्रेणी विद्युत ठेकेदार | म.प्र.प.क्षे. वि.वि.क. लि के प्रचलित SOR | 3 माह | October 10, with the varsity re- leasing the exam datesheet on Sunday. In line with the University Grants Commission's guidelines A Jamia official said they are | Arvind Kejriwal-led party was being steered by decent people, but "decent people must also be guided by a polestar". Kumar, for- mer Jamshedpur MP, had joined | and was given charge of AAP's Jharkhand unit in March 2020. Asked what had prompted the move, Kumar told <i>The Indian</i> <i>Express</i> that the Kejriwal-led |
| 1. | निविदा ऑनल | नाइन क्रय एवं प्रस्तुत क | ' रने की अंति | म दिनांक | |)/2020 (शाग | | | that classes for first year stu- dents should start in November, trying to begin classes for most programmes by Nov 1 | AAP in the presence of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish | party, "which has many decent and good people", has given him |
| | | ो समस्त जानकारी वेबर | | | mptende | | र देखी जा स | कती है। | a university official said they are | Sisodia ahead of the 2019 Jharkhand Assembly polls. He | no reasons to complain. "But de- cent people must be ready to pay |
| नि | विदा में यदि वि | न्सी भी प्रकार का संशोध | ान किया जा | ता है तो व | ह केवल वेब | | काशित किय आयुक्त ालिक निगम | | programmes on November 1. Every year, Jamia conducts its entrance exams in May, but here here here here here here here here | had previously headed the Congress's Jharkhand unit before resigning over differences with | the price, decent people must be ready to follow a polestar, and have a value system. They must |
| | | AE Consortium | | | | | | re | has been unable to do so until now due to the Covid-19 pan- domin | the state leadership. AAP did not comment on his | be ready to pay the price for what is right The Congress has its |
| | , | LB/8, Sector | r-III, Bidha | an Naga | r, Kolkata | -700106 | , | | demic. On Sunday, the university re- based a datashapt to conduct | statements. Kumar announced his return | own set of challenges but it is the only party and Rahul Gandhi is |
| | Ph. No | 0. 033-2335-8035, 03 <u>NOTICE IN</u> | | | | , | 2335-7008 | | leased a datesheet to conduct 126 papers between October 10 and Neurophysical and Statesheet Participation Statesheet Par | to the Congress on Twitter. "Silence becomes cowardice | the only leader raising issues that matter and fighting to save the |
| | | R, Kolkata Centre of ble bidder(s) for the | | | | parately seal | ed cover i | n Single | and November 22. cities outside Delhi which we Controller of Examinations mention in our prospectus," he | when occasion demands speak- ing out the whole truth & acting | country's social fabric." A communique signed by |
| | No. | per Furnace having N | Bri | ef Descr | iption | Degree C) | _ | | Nazim Jafri said the varsity is yetsaid.to finalise the exact number ofThe six cities where exams | accordingly.'-Mahatma Gandhi. Driven by my conscience to | Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said party president |
| | (Detail | as per Tender doc zed Water purificatio | ument No | | | | | | centres in which the examina- tions will be conducted. will be conducted are Calicut, Lucknow, Patna, Guwahati, | speak up against injustice & in- stitutional capture, I've been in- | Sonia Gandhi has approved the proposal for Kumar's rejoining. |
| | (Detail | as per Tender doc | ument No | | | | | | "In Jamia itself, usually we Srinagar and Kolkata. have the capacity for 12,000 This year, Jamia has seen an | spired by Shri Rahul Gandhi & decided to come back to INCIndia | "Welcome back @drajoykumar. You had never actually left as far |
| | (Detail | Dryer used for sam as per Tender doc | ument No | | | | -80 Degree | e C) | candidates. However, due to the increase in the number of appli- needs of social distancing and cants for the entrance tests, from | today," he tweeted. Kumar was a part of the panel | as I was concerned," Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh |
| | | ntal Tube Furnace (1 as per Tender doc | | | C/PUR/30 | 5 | | | precautions, this capacity has 1,53,544 last year to 1,70,992. | of AAP national spokespersons | tweeted. |
| | | op Hydro-thermal Au as per Tender doc | | | C/PUR/03 | 00 | | | POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH | SI 'aboata | at' friand |
| | 6 Standa | rd reference materia as per Tender doc | als | | | | | | Advertisement No. PGI/RC/020/2020/3321 Dated: 27.09.2020 | SI 'shoots a | at menu, |
| | 7 High P | urity Elements (Che | micals) | | | | | | RECRUITMENT NOTICE The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh invites ONLINE applications from Indian Nationals for filling up of 95 posts of Senior Residents and 14 posts of Jr. | leaves her | on road |
| | | as per Tender doc urity Oxide Materials | | | C/PUR/30 | 2 | | | Sr. Demonstrators in different specialities in PGIMER, Chandigath and 12 posts of Senior Residents and 5 posts of Demonstrators in different specialities in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh for a maximum period up to 03 years as per details given below: | | |
| | • | as per Tender doc 1 12 V SMF VRLA B | | _ | C/PUR/30 | 1 | | | TIMELINE(S)/ REMARKS | EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE | a drive. A fight broke out be- tween them which allegedly led |
| | (Detail | as per Tender doc 12 V SMF VRLA B | ument No | DUC_CO | C/PUR/01 | 01 | | | DETAILS OF VACANCIES & OTHER RULES/ AS PER DETAILED GUIDELINES WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO BE COMPLIED WITH THIS ADV. NOTICE AT www.pgimer.edu.in DEFINITY DATE FOR UNITY DETAILED AT 10 2020 | NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27 | to the firing. SI Dahiya allegedly left the |
| | (Detail | as per Tender doc | ument No | | | | | | OPENING DATE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION 01.10.2020 FOR FILLING UP OF ONLINE APPLICATION ON PGIMER'S WEBSITE www.pgimer.edu.in | A 36-YEAR-OLD Delhi Police sub-inspector allegedly shot his | injured woman on the road and fled. |
| 1. | | hould be valid for ac ider document: Rs | | | | | | | (Recruitment link at Home Page) CLOSING DATE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION 21.10.2020 | friend inside his car in Outer Delhi's Alipur on Sunday. Police | DCP (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said, "We received in- |
| Cost of tender document: Rs. 200/- for each item, payable by Demand Draft (non-refundable) drawn in favour of "UGC-DAE CSR, KOLKATA CENTRE" Detailed tender document can be obtained in person or by post/fax/e-mail from | | | | | | | | ` | & SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS DATE FOR COMPUTER BASED TEST 19.11.2020 | said SI Sandeep Dahiya, posted | formation about the firing from |
| | Administrati | ve officer –I (P & S cost of tender docu |), UGC D | AE, CSF | at the a | bove-mentio | ned addre | ss, after | CBT) FOR 75 MARKS EXAMINATION CITY 4 CITIES IN INDIA (REMCAULTURE CHANDICARTH, DEL HIMOR) | at Lahori Gate police station, is absconding. | SI Jaiveer, who is posted at Shahbad Dairy police station. |
| | website ww | w.iuc.res.in Document can also | | | | | | | (BENGALURU, CHANDIGARH, DELHI/NCR & KOLKATA) | Police sources said the SI al- legedly shot his friend after she | He said he was near Sai Mandir on GTK road when he spotted a |
| | the Tender D | Document is down lo | aded from | the web | site, the T | ender Docur | nent cost F | Rs. 200/- | Admit cards of eligible candidates will only be uploaded on the website. <u>APPLICATION FEE</u> • Persons with Bench-mark Disabilities (PwBD): Exempted from payment of fee. | asked him to marry her. The victim, a 32-year-old | woman lying on the road with bullet injuries. He rushed her to |
| | received wit | of Demand Draft sha hout tender fee, will | not be co | nsidered | | | | | SC/ST category: Rs. 800/- plus Transaction Charges as applicable. For all others including General/ OBC/EWS: Rs.1500/- plus Transaction | woman who works in a private firm, sustained multiple bullet | a hospital in his car. On the way, the woman told him about SI |
| | in execution | should be of high rep of similar equipmer | nt to actua | l user. | | | | | Charges as applicable. The candidates can deposit the above application fee through online | injuries. | Dahiya and how he shot her." |
| | 16.00 hrs.) | ument will be availa | | - | - | - | | | payment gateway available at the ONLINE APPLICATION portal w.e.f. 01.10.2020 to 21.10.2020 using Debit/ Credit Card/ Net Banking. IMPORTANT: The candidates willing to apply may visit the Institute's website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in | According to police, the woman met Dahiya last year on | The woman's condition is stable, said police. A case has |
| | Last date fo 15.00 hrs. | r receipt of Sealed T | ender/Bid | docume | nt at the a | above addres | | | (Recruitment link at Home page) for detailed guidelines/ information, number of posts, eligibility criteria, etc. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent | social media and the two be- came friends. | been registered against SI Dahiya on a complaint by the |
| | | | | | | | A.0 | -l (P&S) | Corrigendum/ Addendum/ updates will be uploaded on the Institute's website only. | On Sunday, she called him to meet her and the two went for | woman and teams have been deployed to arrest him. |



got into a fight with the owner due to slow service. The owner and the others later attacked them," said an officer.

Two arrested for cheating

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly cheating over 1,500 people under the pretext of selling them liquor online. Police said the accused, Huzaifah and Hafiz Tufail, posted ads on Facebook selling liquor during the lockdown when the alcohol outlets were shut.

CM appeals to **RWAs to join** anti-dengue campaign

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday appealed to residents welfare associations (RWA) in the capital to push households to join the government's anti-dengue campaign. "I appeal to all RWAs to talk to people in their societies as well and motivate them to join the '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' antidengue campaign, we have to defeat dengue together," said Kejriwal. ENS

'Use tech to clear pensions speedily'

New Delhi: Delhi Women the help of technology. PTI

New Delhi

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and Child Development Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam has directed his department to clear the pendency of pension cases at the earliest with

IN TRIBUTE

"During Atal ji's govt, he handled crucial

portfolios and left a strong mark in worlds of finance, defence and

external affairs.

PRIME MINISTEF

NARENDRA MODI

"He was known for his

sharp, analytical mind

and respected by

people across the

L K ADVANI

BJP VETERAN

political spectrum."

"Jaswant Singh ji's

in our national and

public life that

cannot be filled."

SONIA GANDHI

CONGRESS PRESIDENT

passing leaves a void

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 EXPRESS NETWORK 1



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



RETAINED AGAIN

IN THE national team BJP chief J P Nadda picked Saturday, Bhupender Yadav (above), who retained his position as general secretary, has a unique distinction of being in the national office bearers' team continuously for a decade now. Yadav has worked under party presidents Nitin Gadkari, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and now Nadda.

TALK OF RESHUFFLE

WITH SONIA Gandhi back in India, there is talk of yet another reshuffle in the Congress. This time, many AICC secretaries and some state presidents could be replaced. With Randeep Singh Surjewala becoming general secretary, the communication department is going to get a new head. Those in the reckoning include Pawan Khera and Supriya Shrinate. Some among the 23 letter writers are interested, but it is to be seen whether Sonia entrusts one among them with such a key job.

ACTION-REACTION

THE APPOINTMENT of A P Abdullakutty as BJP vice-president has triggered protests from party leaders in Kerala, which goes to polls next year. Party insiders said state BJP leaders have complained to the leadership. While the central leadership explains the appointment of Abdullakutty and that of Tom Vadakkan as national spokesperson as part of its "Operation Kerala" ahead of the Assembly polls, state leaders point out they have been sidelined for long. Even the RSS unit, considered to be one of the most active in the country, said the party has been accommodating personalities from outside and ignoring those who worked for the organisation.

CHHATTISGARH Will bring resolution against farm Bills in Assembly: Baghel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 27

CHIEF MINISTER Bhupesh Baghel said on Sunday that his government would introduce a resolution in the Legislative Assembly against the new farm legislation

cleared by the Centre. Speaking at a press conference Rainur he said the three Bill

Governor Anusuya Uikey also condemned the incident after journalists from Kanker sought her intervention, even as journalist organisations in several districts registered their support for 53-year-old Kamal Shukla, editor of Bhumkal Samachar.

Dismissing parallels drawn between his government and the previous regime in the context of treatment of the Pres "Under their regime, a journalist in Bastar was booked under serious allegations and even his own publication had refused to associate with him. Now. journalists can come to me and demand action. That is the difference. It should have never happened, but now that it has, we are investigating and strict action will be taken." He added that more sections might be added to the FIR. if all the accusations of Shukla mentioned in his statement are found to be true.

JASWANT SINGH | 1938-2020 Soldier, politician, diplomat

From BJP founder member to a veteran in the cold

LIZ MATHEW NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE PASSING away of Jaswant Singh Sunday marks the end of another chapter in the fading out of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee era in the BJP. Coincidentally, the demise of one of the chief architects of the BJP's coalition politics occurred a day after its traditional ally, Shiromani Akali Dal, walked out of the NDA.

The political significance of Singh's presence in his party shrunk long ago - he was expelled from the BIP in 2009 over a book he wrote and was denied a ticket in the 2014 general elections. He contested from Barmer as an Independent but lost. Soon after the polls, he met with an accident and was unwell since then.

Singh died after a cardiac arrest at Army Hospital (R&R) where he was being treated for Sepsis with Multiple Organ Dysfunction Syndrome, hospital authorities said.

PM Narendra Modi remembered Singh's "unique perspective on matters of politics and society". "He also contributed to the strengthening of the BJP. I will always remember our interactions." the Prime Minister tweeted.

Singh's partymen would remember his knack in managing alliance partners during the NDA's first tenure at the Centre. He had a good rapport with then AIADMK supremoJJayalalithaa. Whenever there were cracks in the alliance, then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee would rush Singh to Chennai. He also enjoyed warm ties with AGP leader Prafulla Kumar Mahanta

In 2009, Singh, a founding member of the BJP, was expelled over his book, Jinnah: India, Partition, Independence, that the BJP leadership felt glorified Mohammad Ali Jinnah and criticised Sardar Patel for Partition. His relationship with Modi al-

ways remained strained. As Gujarat CM, Modi banned Singh's book in the state in 2009. He also warned then BJP leadership that it would hurt the party in the civic polls. The leadership could not ignore the warning and Singh was asked to stay away from the BJP's 'Chintan Shivir' the same month.

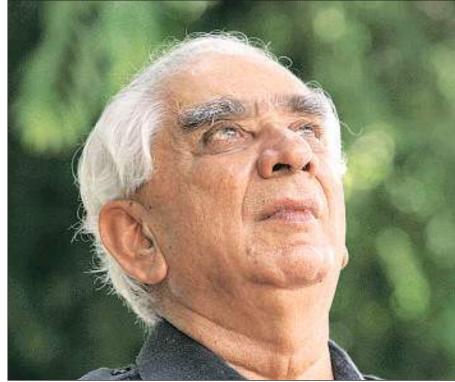
Along with Advani and others, Singh had stayed away from the 2013 party conclave in Goa where Modi's national role was to be discussed. He had admitted later that he sought Modi's removal as CM after the post-Godhra riots.

As a BJP politician and a minister, he was always closer to Vajpavee. He also opposed L K Advani's Ram Rath Yatra. But the distancing from the BJP leadership in his later years – people close to him say he never tried to "patch up" -brought him closer to Advani.

Some political observers considered Vajpayee, Singh and Bhairon Singh Shekhawat as the "moderate trio" in the BJP. "I am not a mosque breaker," Singh would tell people. At a time when a delegation of BJP chief ministers visited Ayodhya, Singh had told a senior journalist who asked him whether he considered the disputed site as a mosque or a temple: "It is neither a mosque, nor a temple.'

Born in Jasol village of Rajasthan's Barmer district in 1938, Singh went to Mayo College in Ajmer and later joined the Army. He became a Rajya Sabha member in 1980. Since then, he remained an MP till 2014 - he served as a member in both Houses.

Despite facing difficulties in his political career due to keeping a distance from the RSS, Singh never seemed to have made a serious attempt to win its confidence. One incident people familiar to him cite was his visit to the RSS office where he walked into the Sarsanghchalak's room with sandals on.



1998 Nuclear tests, Kargil: How he redefined India vis-à-vis US, world

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

ONA winter evening of December 1999, I had the first encounter with the then External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh. As a city reporter, I managed to get inside a private meeting between Singh and the relatives of the hijacked passengers of the IC-814 plane.

When one of the passengers said, "Sir, please do something for the sake of our children", Singh replied, "If by keeping my son as hostage, I could release those passengers, I am willing to offer my son." What I did not know back then was that he had even discussed this with his son, a fact Singh recorded in one of his books. That Singh's eventful career as

Minister for External Affairs, Defence and Finance is remembered for this Kandahar hijack episode, which culminated with his accompanying the three terrorists, including Masood Azhar. s something that rankled him



With then US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott. File

rorism". Later, in an Idea Exchange at The Indian Express in 2012, he said, "Governments have to take a decision not as if they are white or black... it's not decisions have often to be taken, most often to be taken, when the choice is between shades of grey, between bad and less bad. And in this case to release three in prison terrorists, is in-principle bad. To know that your action-inaction would result in the deaths of 166 innocent people is very bad. No government can possibly let a 166, some of them are not even your citizens, die...if I were to make a choice I would unhesitatingly make a choice for the life of human beings."

gave us false assurances..." Singh said, with a smile, "No Madeleine, far from it. Your agencies betrayed you... The outcome of these negoti-

ations have been the bedrock of Indo-US ties in the 21st century. He was also External Affairs

Minister during the Kargil conflict and worked towards building international consensus on Pakistan being the aggressor in the conflict.

One of the abiding memories among Indian diplomats is Singh's finesse when he read the riot act in June 1999 when Pakistan Foreign minister Sartaj Aziz visited Delhi.

TCA Raghavan, who worked as Singh's aide and later became the High Commissioner to Pakistan, wrote in his book, The People Next Door: The curious history of India's relations with Pakistan: "Singh, a former cavalry officer who carried his military bearing wherever he went, was in no mood for a long discussion." Singh later told c

were passed in an "unconstitutional" manner in the Parliament and accused the BJP-led Central government of introducing the legislation through the "backdoor'

"We will follow up with legal procedures if they force implementation," he added.

Addressing the attack on the editor of a regional daily in Kanker district a day earlier, Baghel condemned the incident and assured strict action against the guilty.

RAJASTHAN VIOLENCE Highway to **Gujarat** reopens after 3 days as protest called off

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, JAIPUR,

SEPTEMBER 27

POLICE IN five districts of Gujarat that share border with Rajasthan remained on high alert on Sunday in the wake of a violent protest and arson by tribal youth of Udaipur in Rajasthan, even as the situation improved later in the night when the agitation was called off and National Highwav-48(Ahmedabad-Udaipur)finally opened after three days.

Since Friday, hundreds of local youth have been protesting over their demand to fill unreserved seats for teachers in Raiasthan with Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates.

MLLather, DG (Crime Branch) of Rajasthan Police, said "the highway has opened now." He said that as of Sunday, as many as 21 FIRs were registered in connection with the violence and the protests which began on September 24. "We have arrested more than 40 persons so far." he said.

As protestors blocked the highway near Kherwara in Rajasthan, Gujarat police had blocked the particular highway route for vehicles from their side.



With LK Advani, Pramod Mahajan and Narendra Modi. File

In his book, 'A Call to Honour: In service of emergent India', he reproduced his diary jotting on December 31, 1999 on board the special flight to Kandahar with the terrorists, "I do not really

know what to term my mission a rescue mission, an appeasement exercise, a flight to compromise or a flight to the future?" He recalled it as a "searing experi-

ence" as he battled between "two moral rights: saving the lives of innocents and a fight against ter-

Singh, who served as External Affairs Minister from December 5, 1998 to July 1, 2002, was key to India's foreign and strategic pol-

reations with American inter locutor Strobe Talbott on matters related to nuclear policy and strategy.

icy at the turn of the century. He

shaped India's engagement with

In the aftermath of India's nu-

the world at a critical juncture.

clear tests in 1998, he was de-

puted by then PM Atal Bihari

Vajpayee to act as India's repre-

sentative to hold conversations

with the US. He had several con-

Talbott, in his book *Engaging* India wrote that he and Singh met 14 tims at 10 locations in seven countries on three continents.

In July '98, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met Singh on sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting. Albright started the meeting, according to Singh in his book, "You have betrayed us, Jaswant. You Raghavan, "Aziz's proposal to have a ceasefire...so totally irrelevant that I could hardly hide my impatience." On Sunday, after hearing of his demise, Indian ambassador to

Madagascar and Comoros, Abhay Kumar recalled that after joining Indian Foreign Service, he would often visit Khan Market. "Once we saw Jaswant Singh and told him that we were IFS probationers. He bought us all books." That was quintessential Jaswant Singh.

His CMship shaky, Yediyurappa fights on another front: emergence of his 'Super CM' son

JOHNSON TA BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 27

SINCE FEBRUARY, two anonymous letters have surfaced la-

belling Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's younger son B Y Vijayendra, 45, as a "Super CM" whose word can seal project clearances and transfers. The second letter, which has signatures purportedly of a few BJP MLAs, suggested that the son's aides collected a "Vijayendra Service Tax". This letter was released by Congress leaders in Mysore at the end of August.

The letters coincide with murmurs of growing unhappiness in the BJP over the way the government is being run. There are allegations of corruption and interference in the administration by members of Yediyurappa's family. The CM has been kept hanging on a Cabinet reshuffle by the BJP's Delhi leadership.

Off the record, BJP MLAs sav Vijayendra, who became a vicepresident of the Karnataka BJP two months ago, has emerged as a key player in the government. "There are two CMs in the state. Vijayendra is the de facto CM, Yediyurappa is the de jure CM," Congress leader and former CM Siddaramaiah said after the sec-



Yediyurappa with his sons B Y Vijayendra (to his left) and BY Raghavendra after the 2018 assembly polls. File

ond letter emerged. Another former CM. H D Kumaraswamv of the JD-S, has talked of "a bidding process for transferring officials".

Recently, a tweet from a handle linked to a former police officer associated with the BIP, Shankar Bidari, tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and asked, "Why are you tolerating the worst kind of corruption by your CM and family in Karnataka"

While in Delhi earlier this month, Yediyurappa had said there was no truth to the allegations against Vijayendra and

claimed there was "a systematic conspiracy to create confusion".

While Yediyurappa's elder son BY Raghavendra, 47, is also in politics and a BJP MP from the family's home district of Shimoga, Vijavendra, a lawyer, is considered to be the CM's natural political heir. Over the last one year, Vijayendra has been projecting himself as a leader "for the future" with the help of a team of publicists and media professionals.

According to sources, the BJP's national leadership had specifically instructed Yediyurappa to ensure that his



THE 77-YEAR-OLD Yediyurappa's family has created problems for him earlier too. In 2011, he was forced to guit as CM, and subsequently jailed, over allegations of corruption involving Vijayendra and Raghavendra. All three were acquitted by a CBI court in 2016. One of the reasons why Yediyurappa fell out with the BJP leadership ahead of the 2018 Assembly polls was his push for a ticket for Vijavendra from Mysore's Varuna constituency.

family and close aides like MP Shobha Karandlaje did not interfere in the administration, given the 2008-11 experience. The murmurs about Vijayendra coincide with talk of the BJP central leadership easing Yediyurappa out of the CM's post in the next few months into a "margdarshak" role - its parking lot for leaders above 75 years of age.

However, a BJP MLA said,

hit Council roadblock "Nothing is likely to happen until the Bihar elections. There has to be a plan to rehabilitate Yediyurappa first, since he too, is a mass leader?

Yediyurappa's popularity, in fact, is the main reason for the party to not rush into action against him. In 2011, after he was forced to resign as CM. Yediyurappa had floated his own party, which was instrumental in sinking the BJP in the 2013 Assembly polls. He had returned to the BJP fold in 2014 after Narendra Modi, by then the BIP's Prime Minister pick, had sought him out

But the corruption allegations could make it easier for the BJP. "If these become a big issue, the leadership can use them to get Yediyurappa to step aside without hurting the sentiments of the Lingayat community," a legislator said.

Yediyurappa and Vijayendra have denied the charges. In February, Vijayendra had said, "This is being spread as part of efforts to curb my political growth." Speaking in Delhi on September 18. Yediyurappa said. "It is natural for people to become intolerant of those who are growing politically. Vijayendra has not interfered for a moment (in the state administration)."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 27

Karnataka: Land,

labour amendments

IN A marathon session that stretched into the early hours of Sunday, the BJP government in Karnataka managed to pass Bills to modify key land and labour laws through the Assembly amid Opposition walk-outs, but was stymied by the Legislative Council

where it does not have majority. The amendment to the land law seeks to repeal sections that restrict rights over farmland to only agriculturists and those earning below Rs 2 lakh per annum. The labour Act amendment, meanwhile. looks to allow industries with up to 300 employees to shut down without government approval-the existing upper limit is 100 workers.

Congress called the land reforms amendment a "death warrant" for farmers. But JD(S) supported it. An ordinance promulgated on July 13 to repeal four key sections of the land reforms law, which restricted the sale of farmland, is still in force. The Karnataka Land Reforms

(Amendment) Bill, 2020 contained a modification of the July 13 ordinance and the original Bill

tabled in the House, with the government deciding against repealing a section of the Act to increase land-holding by a family of five from 10 units (54 acres) to 20 units (108 acres) and for a family of 10 from 20 units (108 acres) to 40 units (216 acres).

State Revenue Minister R Ashok, said the sections sought to be repealed facilitated corruption while not benefiting farmers.

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah argued that the Bill was in the interest of the "real estate mafia" in Bengaluru.

JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister HDKumaraswamy supported the Bill saying he himself had to face allegations of violation of the Act. While the land reforms legislation was stalled in the Council, the labour law amendment-The Industrial Disputes and Certain Other Laws (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2020-was defeated in the Upper House. The legislature also passed the Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development)(Amendment) Bill 2020 — mirroring the Centre's legislation- amid an Opposition walk-out.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



8 **EXPRESS NETWORK**

MANN KI BAAT

TOTAL

CASES

13,21,176

6,68,751

5,75,017

3,82,835

2.67.822

* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days

CASES:

209 DAYSSINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

KEY STATES

TOWATCH

Andhra

Delhi

Maharashtra

Tamil Nadu

Uttar Pradesh

CASE FATALITY RATIO

7 DAYS EARLIER:

1.61

1.58

Deaths as a ratio of

positive cases (in %);

indicator of progress

in averting deaths

ARUN JANARDHANAN

late

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

59,92,532 | DEATHS: **94,503**

TESTS: 7,12,57,836 DOUBLING RATE: 48.10**

SURGE IN

24HOURS

20,419

7,293

5,647

4,302

3.372

POSITIVITY RATE

7 DAYS EARLIER:

8.48

8.41

Positives against number tested

(in %); indicator of

the spread of disease

Data as on September 26, 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

Hogwash, hurtful: SPB

family on rumours over

hospital bill payments

RECOVERED: 49,41,627

7-DAYAVG

GROWTH^{*}

1.53%

1.14%

1.00%

1.35%

1.41%

** Calculated over 7-day growth

DAILY IN, DAILY OUT

DETECTED TODAY

88,600

RECOVERED TODAY:

92,043

Becoming sick vs

recovering; more recoveries for 14 days

may signal the peak

DOUBLING

TIME**

47.08

63.21

72.29

53.31

51.24

KERALA

Women thrash YouTuber for 'vulgar' remark, get support from Pinarayi

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 27

FED UP with alleged police inaction on an online abuse complaint. a dubbing artiste and two other women barged into the residence of a Kerala YouTuber, beat him up and elicited an apology on live

video before seizing his laptop and handing it over to the cops. One day after the episode in Thiruvananthapuram, artiste Bhagyalakshmi, and activists Sreelakshmi Arakkal and Diya Sana. Sunday won the strong backing of Chief Minister Pinaravi Vijayan, Health and Social Justice

Minister K K Shailaja, as well as a wide section of civil society. Bearing the brunt of the women's fury was YouTuber Vijay

P Nair, known to upload videos with derogatory and sexually explicit comments on his channel. He was slapped, doused with motor oil and made to apologise on a Facebook Live video.

Vijayan said the government would intervene to ensure justice for the victims as well as punishment for the accused. "Direction has been given to police for conducting a comprehensive probe into the complaints. However, everyone should be careful not to take law into their own hands," he said in a statement.

"Stringent action will be taken against those who have abused women through social media. If the law is not suitable for that, we will think about legislating a new law," he said

It was only after this incident that police registered a case Nair based on against Bhagyalakshmi's week-old complaint. The police said they registered three more cases-one against the women on a complaint by Nair, another against Nair after Arakkal's complaint, and the last against director Santhivila Dinesh, who made an offensive comment about Bhagvalakshmi on the incident.FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

💿 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tender Notice No. EL-50-DNR-OPEN-18-2020-21, The Divisional Railway pen e-tender notice No TRD-OT-08-CB-SEB-20-21 E-tenders are invited from

Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur for and on reputed contractors having proven experience, behalf of the President of India is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open from the reputed electrical license and sound financial standing supported by the valid documents contractors working in State/Central Govt naving valid Electrical contractor license for for the work as per details given below : . Name of work with location : Providing of the required voltage level issued by State/ Central Govt licensing board for the new circuit breaker & Relay panel against CB-11 & 12 at SEB/GSS in MGS Division. following work fulfilling the Eligibility Criteria Approx. Cost of the work : ₹46.94.642.52. and terms conditions mentioned in tender Earnest money to be deposited : ₹93,900/document. Tender No. : EL-50-DNR-OPEN-Last date and time for submission of

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

Parliament this week. Prime

Sunday said his government's

higher price according to their

Bharat", and "in the recent past,

these areas have liberated them-

selves from many restrictions

and tried to break free from

radio address, the Prime

Minister sought to illustrate with

examples how farmers stood to

In his monthly Mann Ki Baat

many myths", Modi said.

benefit from the changes.

wish".

in Haryana, who would earlier often have his produce and carts WITH FARMERS' organisations confiscated if he tried to sell outand Opposition and regional side the mandi. parties stepping up protests

"But in 2014, fruits and vegagainst the farm Bills passed by etables were excluded from the APMC Act, which greatly bene-Minister Narendra Modi on fited him and fellow farmers... Four years ago, he along with felagriculture sector reforms have low farmers of his village, given farmers the power to sell formed a Farmer Producers' Organisation (FPO). Today farmtheir produce "anywhere and to anyone... where they can get a ers in the village cultivate sweet corn and baby corn. Their produce is being supplied directly to "Our farmers, our villages are Azadpur Mandi, Delhi, big retail the very basis of Atmanirbhar chains, and five star hotels," the PM said.

> "Today, the farmers of the village are earning Rs 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh per acre annually by cultivating sweet corn and baby corn. More than 60 farmers of this village... are producing varieties of tomato, cucumber and capsicum and earning Rs 10 lakh to 12 lakh per acre every year."

5 more detained for Dalit lawyer's killing



With stories of innovation, PM stresses:

farmers the heart of Atmanirbhar nation

Farmers can sell 'anywhere and to anyone': PM

Modi asserted that "the one who is rooted to the ground is equally firm during the course of the biggest of storms", and that "in this difficult period of Corona, our agricultural sector, our farmers are living testimony to this". At a difficult time for the economy, the farm sector had been resilient, he said, and "if our farmers, our villages... remain strong then the foundation of Atmanirbhar Bharat will remain strong".

Modi cited the example of the Sri Swami Samarth Farm

Producer Company Limited, an FPO in Maharashtra. that had used the reform to improve the situation of many farmers.

"Farmers in Pune and Mumbai are themselves running weekly markets," Modi said. "In these markets, the produce of about four and a half thousand farmers, of nearly 70 villages, is sold directly without any middleman!

"The rural youth are directly involved in the process of farming and selling to this market. This directly benefits the farmers and the youth of the village are gainfully employed." Modi also mentioned the

Tamil Nadu Banana Farmers' Produce Company, a farmers' collective that purchased hundreds of tonnes of vegetables and fruit from nearby villages during the lockdown, and supplied a vegetable combo kit to Chennai. "Just think, how many

youth... they employed, and the

interesting fact is that, due to the absence of middlemen, not only did the farmer profit, but the consumer too benefited," he said

In Lucknow too, the Prime Minister said, a group of farmers called the 'Iraada Farmer Producer' had procured fruits and vegetables directly from cultivators during the lockdown, and sold it directly in the city's markets without the involvement of middlemen.

In Rampura village of Gujarat's Banaskantha, Modi said, farmer Ismail Bhai had used drip irrigation to cultivate potatoes. "Today... he is growing potatoes that are of very high quality. Ismail Bhai directly sells these potatoes to large companies, the middle men are just out of the question. And the result: he is earning handsome profits. He has now repaid all the debts of his father ... he is helping hundreds of farmers in his region (and) changing their lives too."

1 held by NIA in **Bengal terror** module case

Kolkata: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has said in a statement that it has arrested Samim Ansari, the tenth accused in its probe into the Al-Oaeda module in West Bengal,

in Murshidabad. The arrest, NIA said, was made in association with the Special Task Force of West Bengal. Ansari will be produced before a special court in Delhi, it said. The agency earlier made six arrests from Murshidabad and three from Ernakulam.

Sources said Ansari worked in Kerala for three years and returned to Nowdapara village in Murshidabad a year ago. He now works as a mason

"He has no connection with terrorists and is being falsely implicated," said his wife Chand Tara Bibi. ENS

CHENNAL SEPTEMBER 27 DISMISSING RUMOURS that Vice President Venkaiah Naidu had to pay the hospital bills of singer S Balasubrahmanyam during his last days, the artiste's family

Sunday said such claims were 'offensive" and hurtful. Balasubrahmanvam was ad-

mitted to MGM Healthcare from August 5 until his death on Friday. Soon after, rumours started circulating on social medeath. dia that his family was unable to pav the bills, had to seek help from "Delhi", and that it was the

Vice President who stepped in. Balasubrahmanyam's son SP Charan said on Sunday: "There are rumours about bills and that we paid something and there was balance, and that we reguested the Tamil Nadu government but they did not reciprocate, and I had gone to the Vice President of India and they had reciprocated instantaneously... Also, that unless we had paid the balance amount, the hospital was not releasing my dad's body for last rites. Let me just say one thing, this is all a big hogwash. I don't know why people do this, without even consulting us..."

He added that the situation had forced him to issue a clarification even as the entire family was still grieving his father's "They (rumour-mongers)

don't seem to realise how offensive this was for people associated with this issue. It was very disheartening. Very sad that we still have such people around us... SPB was a person who would have forgiven this person who spread this rumour," he said

A Government of India Enterprise) INDIAN RAILWAYS **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS** (RAILWAY BOARD) E-Tender Notice (Open Tender Enguiry for Domestic Bidding) E-TENDER NO.2020RSI1742TC CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT/ENGINEERING & PROJECTS DIVISION **CORRIGENDUM NO. 3** Dated 28.09.2020 0 Tender will be closed at 15 00 hours on 19 11 2020 instead of 25 09 2020 2.0 All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged. Director, Railway Stores (W) NMDC invites bids in e-tender mode on MSTC website (NMDC's e-tender Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi service provider); http://www.mstcecommerce.com for the work of Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning for and on behalf of the President of India of Process Control System for Crushing Plant and Loading Plant of Donimalai Iron Ore Mine (DIOM), Donimalai, Karnataka on Lump Sum Turnkey (LSTK) basis and Comprehensive AMC (CAMC) for 2068/2020 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 27

TWO DAYS after Kutch-based Dalit activist-cum-lawyer Devji Maheshwari was killed, allegedly by a Mumbai-based man over his alleged "anti-Brahmin"

posts on social media, police detained five more accused in the case on Sunday. So far, six accused, including

Bharat Raval, a Mumbai resident who hails from Kutch's Rapar. have been detained in the case.

Meanwhile, as a Special Investigation Team comprising seven senior police officers of Kutch Range was formed on Sunday to investigate the case.

Fifty-year-old Maheshwari was killed on Friday evening in Rapar, allegedly by Raval, who is seen in the CCTV footage following the victim inside a building in Rapar town. Nine were booked



complaint by the victim's wife. Mayur Patil, superintendent

of police, Kutch Gandhidham, told The Indian Express: "The main accused was held from Mumbai on Saturday and we detained five more accused today (Sunday). We are yet to corroborate with the main accused regarding the role of the remaining accused in the murder and legal proceedings such as Covid test of the detainees are going on... An SIT with seven officers, including me, has been formed."

On Saturday, Raval was held by the Mumbai Crime Branch and handed over to the Gujarat Police.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🕅 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🌆 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY Providing of new circuit E-TENDER NOTICE E-TENDER NOTICE beaker & relay panel

RD/SEE/ET/20-21/7 Date : 25.09.2020. . Name of work with its location : Provision of Auxiliary Transformers in different works over Sonepur division. 2. Approx. cost of the vorks (₹) : ₹39,94,827/-. 3. Earnest Money to be deposited (₹) : ₹79.900/-. Cost of tender forms (₹) : ₹3,000/-. 4. Date & time for submission of e-tender and opening of etender : Submission of e-tenders 28.10.2020 till 11.00 hrs. Opening of etenders : on 28.10.2020 at 11.00 Hrs. in the officer of the Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer

ATA tiny shop inside a housing society at Malad West where he repairs and sells printers, Mahesh Bhoja wonders how a former employee went from issuing

Killer couldn't tolerate insult to

Brahmins, says former employer

drunken threats to actually murdering a Dalit lawyer in Gujarat on Friday. Bhoja hails from Rapar in

SRINATH RAO

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

Gujarat's Kutch district, the same town as Bharat Raval (22), who was arrested Saturday for the killing of Dalit lawyer and activist Devji Maheshwari over his "anti-Brahmin" social media posts. The relationship between the three men goes much deeper than merely being locals of Rapar. Bhoja holds Bharat's father, Jayantilal

OPEN TENDER Batch No : 44/20 dated 25.09.2020. E-Tender Notice for supply of

materials-"participation in through" web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in offers

are invited for supply of the following

materials : The closing time for all tenders i

Tender No: 09205054, Brief Description

Optical Coherence Tomography, Quantity 01 Nos., Published on/time : 25.09.2020

12:33:20, Closing on : 16.10.2020, Fund

at 14.00 hrs.

Fund is available

Raval, in high regard. "Bharat belongs to the Maharaj Brahmin community. I hired Bharat on his father's request." he said. Maheshwari, meanwhile, was Bhoja's lawyer in a 13-year-old land dispute. "Devjibhai was a

refuse to take up a case and promise to get it resolved." Bhoia said. "Bharat was fond of drinking. But every time he got drunk, he would start abusing. He would become angry at Devjibhai's

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

ender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/ PCS/DIOM/2020/223

[MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC/HO/42/20-21/ET/500]

'Khanij Bhavan'. 10-3-311/A. Castle Hills

the entrance of the neighbouring shop." said Bhoia. after which he was let go.

very brave man. He would never

Facebook posts. He could not tolerate anyone insulting Hindus or Brahmins," Bhoja said. It was his "hot-headedness" that cost Bharat his job. "One night, he urinated on

| 1. Name of work with its location : Provision of 2nd class AC waiting hall at HWH end besides Mortuary at Danapur station. 2. Approx cost of the work (NIT value) : ₹58,32,092.76, 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹1,16,700/r, 4. Date & time for online submission and closing of all above tenders : On 15.10.2020 up to 12.00 Hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where | Website par of e-tender ca Sr. I ECF | culars from where the details n be obtained : www.ireps.gov.in Jivnl. Elect. Enginner (Tr-D)/ /Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya U/ETRD/T/20-21/24 | A E.C. Rallway, Sonpur. Jlars and notice board complete details of seen : WEBSITE : vin. NOTICE BOARD s, E.C. Railway, Sonpur. ectrical Engineer/TRD/ ECR/Sonpur | ine through the web portal d irreps.gov.in before the closin ne. Other details regardin nd detailed description of ailable in tender document i on the above portal. Dal Chief Material Manage ECR/Hajipu Store/T/20-21/28 | For viewing/downloading the schedule of e-bidding and the detailed NIT alongwith pre-qualification requirements and tender document, prospective bidders may visit MSTC web site link: http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/ and register on-line as 'New Vendor'. For further help, the 'Vendor Guide' given therein may be referred. Link to MSTC e-tender platform is also available through NMDC website www.nmdc.co.in. The tender documents can also be accessed from NMDC website: www.nmdc.co.in and CPP Portal http://eprocure.gov.in. Any corrigendum to the tender will be uploaded only in above mentioned websites. Prospective bidders should visit these websites from time to | WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION RAIN WATER HARVESTING, PROVIDING WALL/ANTI CRASH BARRIER & COVER SHED, U-WALL APPROACH & DRAINAGE BARRIER & COVER SHED, U-WALL APPROACH & DRAINAGE MAD ANCILLARY WORKS E-Tender Notice No. 13 of 2020-21 date 23.09.2020, Office Address : Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot, Gujarat- 360 001. Website : www.ireps.gov.in Sr. E-Tender Name of work Approximate EMD NIT Cost Cost No. No. No. Name of work NIT Cost Cost 01 DRM-RJT- 20-E-33 Go office Building & Station ₹ 34,86,042.91 ₹ 69,700.00 |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| all the above tender form can be seen : CRIS website http://www.ireps.gov.in, Office of the Sr. DEE (G)/DNR, D.R.M. Building, 1st Floor, East Central Railway, Danapur. Note : All corrigendum will be uploaded on website before 15 days if required. Divinl. Railway Manager (Elect/G)/ | n | Administrative Bui Website: v | ustrial Developme Iding, Sector-6, Noida G www.noidaauthorityonlii ER NOTICE | .B Nagar, (U.P.) | time to take note of corrigendum, if any. For further clarification, CGM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on fax: 040 - 2353 4746, Tel: 040 - 2353 2800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in Extracts@nmdc.co.in हर एक काम देश के नाम इस्पाती इरादा | Buildings under Rajkot Division (10 Locations). 02 DRM-RJT- 20-E-34 Dahinsara - Maliya Miyana: Providing wall/Anti crash barrier ₹ 2,19,10,138.14 ₹ 2,59,600.00 to protect embankment and to ensure safety of running traffic from road vehicles. 03 DRM-RJT- 20-E-35 Wankaner-Navlakhi: Providing anti crash barrier for safety of trains from road vehicles in highway running close to Railway Track. ₹ 2,47,900.00 |
| ECR/Danapur PR/0678/DNR/EGEN/T/20-21/40 | jobs ag schedu official to see th | Tender are invited from firms / contract ainst which bids can be uploaded ar e mentioned. The details and conditior vebsite : <u>www.noidaauthorityonline.</u> hese websites for any changes / amend | or registered with UPLC Luckn nd same shall be opened / c ns of all tenders are available o <u>com</u> & <u>https://etender.up.nic</u> Iments & corrigendum etc. | ownloaded as per n Noida Authority's s.in. Please ensure | NOTICE INVITING BID | 04 DRM-RJT- 20-E-36 Rajkot Division: Providing Cover shed, U-Wall approach & drainage ₹ 1.07.49.970.06 ₹ 2.03.800.00 with pumping on RUB in connection with elimination of Level Crossing No. 68, 70, 79, 15 under Divisional Engineer (East) Rajkot jurisdiction. 0 DRM-RJT- 20-E-37 Rajkot Division: Providing U-Wall/ approach and ancillary works on RUB ₹ 24.97.242.31 ₹ 50.000.00 in connection with elimination of Level Crossing No. 114 under Divisional Engineer (East) Rajkot jurisdiction. 14 under Divisional |
| Manager, E.C. Railway, Danapur for and on behalf of the President of India is inviting online (E-Tendering) Open from the reputed contractors working in State/Central Govt having valid Electrical contractor license for the required voltage level issued by State/ Central Govt licensing board for the following work fulfilling the Eligibility Criteria and terms conditions mentioned in tender | 1. 22 / (Tel / 20 | B NO. NAME OF WOR Advt. / ADVERTISING RIGHTS ON Isildar) OPERATION & MAINTENAN 20-21 05 YEARS BETWEEN FILM & DALIT PRERNA STHAL, N hich can be uploaded by date 14-10 | BOT BASIS FOR CE OF FOB FOR CITY SECTOR-16A OIDA | 9.84 First Time | Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Flood Lights including 4 year operation & comprehensive maintenance after one year DLP for practice Football pitches in proposed centre of excellecne in International Corporate Park (ICP) at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. | For all above Tenders: Date & Time of Opening of Tender: 22.10.2020, 15.00 Hrs. s6 Like us on: ☐ facebook.com/WesternRly-Follow us on: ☐ twitter.com/WesternRly BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking) (CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438) |
| document. Tender No. : EL-50-DNR-OPEN- 19-2020-21. 1. Name of work with its location : Repair, maintenance & manning of all types of electrical assets in Officer's flat (Block-A&B, G+7 building, PHODs Bunglow-12 nos. GM Bunglow, Sports Club & Hospital Building at Patiliputra Rail Parishar, Digha for 02 years. | opened | CLEAN, GREEN, SA | .00 AM. T | (R.M. Saxena) ehsildar, Noida | CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of e-tendering invites " ON LINE " item rate bids from the experienced prospective bidders fulfilling the mandatory eligibility criteria, registered with CIDCO Ltd. or with Central Govt., or with State Govt. of Maharashtra and its undertakings in appropriate class & category and the authorizes LED manufacture who have completed work | BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement) BESCOM invites tenders from the eligible bidders vide Enquiry Nos.: BESCOM/BCP-1230/2020-21 to BESCOM/ BCP-1247/2020-21 (18 Enq. Nos.) for Nelamangala, Hosakote, Ramanagar, Magadi, Kanakapura, Chandapura, |
| 2. Approx cost of the work (NIT value) : ₹6,729,828.35, 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹1,34,600/-, 4. Date & time for online submission and closing of all above tenders : On 15.10.2020 up to 12.00 Hrs. 5. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where | MPROC | M.P. ROAD DEVELOPMEN (M.P. State Highway Authority - Go 45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011, (Fax : 0755-2572643, Website : mpr Phone : 0755-2597290, 2765205, C | vernment of Madhya Pradesh (M.P) rdc.gov.in CIN : U45203MP2004SGC0167 | Undertaking) 58 | of Similar nature like Design, Supply Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Flood Lights for any of the National or International Sports facility for the work mentioned below: 1) Name of Work : Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Flood Lights including 4 year | Kolar, KGF, Chikkaballapura, Chinthamani, Tumakur, Tiptur, Madhugiri, Kunigal, Davanagere, Harihara, Chitradurga and Hiriyuru Divisions respectively for execution of CAPEX works (Action plan works) and works under revenue budget under item wise fixed price contract in Bengaluru Rural Area Zone and Chitradurga Zone for a period of two years on total / |
| all the above tender form can be seen : CRIS website http://www.ireps.gov.in, Office of the Sr. DEE (G)/DNR, D.R.M. Building, 1st Floor, East Central Railway, Danapur. Note : All corrigendum will be uploaded on website before 15 days if required. Divinl. Railway Manager (Elect/G)/ ECR/Danapur | INVITA M.P. Ro Madhya | 6847/MPRDC/Procu/MPDRIISP/AIS/4 FION OF NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BID MADHYA PRADESH DISTRICT ROA and Development Corporation Limite Pradesh registered under Companies llowing Works in the state of Madhya | DDING FOR PROCUREMENT O ADS II SECTOR PROJECT (MP ed, a fully owned Company s Act, 1956, invites Physical Bi | DRIISP) of Government of ds for Procurement | operation & comprehensive maintenance after one year DLP for practice Football pitches in proposed centre of excellecne in International Corporate Park (ICP) at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. 2) C. A. No.: 01/CIDCO/EE(Elect-CP)/2020-21 3) E.M.D.: Rs. 9,50,000/-4) Registration Class : Class – Ain Electrical Work (Unlimited) (For Authorized Manucacturer, | partial turnkey basis (Distrubution Transformers supplied by BESCOM) under percentage quoting on each item basis. Bid document available from: 05.10.2020 onwards to 03.11.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs. Last date for bid submission: 03.11.2020, 15:00 Hrs. Opening of bid document: 04.11.2020, 15:15 Hrs. All the payments such as tender cost, EMD, etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further, bidders can |
| PR/0679/DNR/EGEN/T/20-21/40 | Sector Sr.No. | Project (MPDRIISP). Description of Work | Completi | | Registration is not mandatory) 5) Completion Period : 275 (Two Hundred Seventy Five) Days (including monsoon) 6) Tender Processing Fee : Rs. 11,800/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) | take assistance with e-procurement help desk at 080-25501216 and 080-25501227 or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Sd/- |
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9 IDEA EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 **IDEA EXCHANGE** Newsmakers in the Newsroom

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE

Every sector could decide cost, buyer; farmers couldn't. New laws will give freedom to trade

The Union Minister asserts new farm reform laws will free farmers from clutches of mandis but won't affect APMCs which are a state subject, denies rush in passing the Bills in Parliament, and calls chaos by Opposition in House a taint on democracy. The session was moderated by Assistant Editor Harikishan Sharma

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR:

Over the past five-six years, the Prime Minister has taken several steps to help farmers double their income. In 2009-10, the Agriculture Ministry's budget was

Rs 12,000 crore, and Animal Husbandry and Fisheries was a department in the ministry. Today, while they are separate departments, we alone have a budget of Rs 1,34,000 crore for the Agriculture Ministry. The MSP has been increased, an infrastructure fund has been instituted. The three Bills - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020; and, The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 - have been passed by Parliament. It is a revolutionary change, and when such changes happen, there is always some opposition. But the current opposition is politically motivated. The Bills will help the farmer, it is for their benefit. The Bills will be instrumental in increasing the earnings of farmers... It will free them from the clutches of the mandis... There are provisions to ensure that the farmer can break away from the agreement when he wants but the processor can't do so. The processor has to pay the farmer the amount that was agreed upon. So these Bills are meant to protect the farmer, to improve their situation, to ensure that they can use the latest technology, and that they do not face any hurdles while exporting.

There have been attempts to spread rumours about the Bill for political reasons. Farmers are being told that MSP will be abolished. I want to clarify that we had declared the MSP for kharif crops earlier. The crops will be harvested soon and the government will buy it. This is the government's commitment.

Secondly, we have also recently got the MSP for rabi crops approved by the Cabinet, and I made a statement about it in Lok Sabha as well. There should be no confusion regarding MSP. It is the government's decision and we have constantly increased the MSP, and the farmer has benefited from it. Earlier, only wheat and paddy were bought. Under PM Modi's leadership, we also began the purchase of oilseeds and the farmer is



WHY — NARENDRA TOMAR

is ministry has been at the centre of the three farm Bills passed during the Monsoon Session. Despite protests from farmers, and demands by the Opposition and one of its allies to send the Bills to a select committee, the Centre dug in its heels. Since 2014, Tomar has helmed many departments, and now also heads the ministries of Rural Development and Food **Processing Industries**

sugarcane and maize directly from farmers. What has been seen in the case of sugarcane is that for years the dues of farmers are not paid. In the case of maize, the business was good last year, but this year because of Covid, there were no buyers, despite the produce having an MSP. So, how will you ensure that the dues of the farmers are paid,

and paid on time? Before these Bills also, there was no law to ensure that the farmers will get their dues. The APMC Acts had no such provision. Our Bills have a provision to ensure that the farmer is paid within three days of selling their produce. The mo-

ment the produce is delivered, the buyer will have to give the farmer a receipt, which will ensure that the farmer has proof of sale, and within three days the payment has to be made.

Secondly, this issue is not linked to sugarcane at all. The process to decide the FRP of sugarcane is different and it comes made), we have authorised the Sub-Divisional Magistrate to undertake an investigation and report within a fixed time. The SDM is under the state government... In the courts, the matter will take a long time. The farmer can approach the SDM any time. That is why we have authorised the SDM to examine matters. So all I would say is, let the law get implemented and the farmer will

definitely benefit No state has written to me from it. about increasing NREGA As far as onions are concerned, there days. Can give extra 50 days can be shortage of some produce or in special circumstances. If there can be surplus production. There is we get a proposal, we will process... deliberate over it Sometimes, prices can increase, whether to allow that, or allow the ex-

port of some products... the Commerce Ministry examines these aspects constantly. So they have taken a call this time. But I want to assure everyone that the Central government is closely watching food prices.

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: The Akali Dal has been pointing out that they had presented a note of dissent to the government on the Bills, and that they were told that their concerns, which were primarily linked to the MSP, will be addressed. They have been complaining that the BJP did not pay attention to their concerns despite the fact that the ties between the two parties go back a long way. What is your response?

I believe the issue of farmers should be kept away from politics. The country has spent a long time politicising issues related to farmers. This is 21st century India, and we have a responsibility to take India forward. For that, we have to take agriculture forward. So that is why I want to request leaders of all parties

benefiting from it.

I also want to clarify that the APMCs will not get affected by it. They have been set up under state laws and they will continue to operate. Outside the APMC premises, the farmer will have the option of selling their produce and there will be no tax on it, either by the Centre or state. So this will definitely give the farmers more freedom and in the coming days, from the point of view of agricultural production, productivity, earnings, increasing GDP of agriculture, this move will be helpful and improve the lives of our farmers.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA: You are saying the new laws are in favour of farmers, but the farmers have many apprehensions. Why was there a rush to pass the Bills in the middle of a pandemic?

The proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are broadcast live. In Lok Sabha, there was a four-hour-long discussion on the Bills before they were passed. When the Bills came to Rajya Sabha, dis-

cussions were held for four hours again and all parties expressed their views on it. When the discussion ended in Rajya Sabha, I was called to give a response. Within 10 minutes of that, there was chaos. What happened in the Rajya Sabha is a taint on democracy.

But it is ab-

solutely wrong to say that we were in some kind of rush to get these Bills passed or that we got it passed through the force of our numbers in the House. If you look at the details of the discussions, no Opposition leader has raised any specific objection. Their speeches were only political and were meant to mislead the country. They are going against what they mentioned in their own manifesto. The Opposition is not listening to agriculture scholars either... I want to clarify that the government was in no rush to pass these Bills.

Second, if any reform has to be introduced, then the government must do so with courage. The country has voted for PM Modi to ensure development. Because of that mandate, it is the Prime



Minister's responsibility to ensure that reforms that have been stuck for years, because of which the farmer was being exploited... If the reform is introduced now, the farmers will benefit now. If it is done after a year, the benefits will come after a year. It is the Prime Minister's commitment that if any decision has to be taken for the good of the country, then it is the government's responsibility to take

the decision without caring about votes. If the law was necessary for Earlier too, such dethe MSP, then why did you cisions have been taken and will con-(Cong) not make it?... MSP tinue to be taken in the future too. I am was not a part of the law confident that agrieven earlier and MSP is not culture and farmers both will benefit part of the law even today. from the legislation.

> LIZ MATHEW: During discussions

on the farm Bills, it was not just the Opposition but even parties that are considered friendly to the BJP, like the BJD, who suggested that the Bills be sent to the select committee. The Akali Dal said that there is an issue of perception and it must be tackled. Why did you not consider their suggestions?

It is true that many people suggested that the Bills be sent to the select committee. Ordinarily, Bills that are very long and complicated are the ones that are sent to select committees. These (farm) Bills are very small and their provisions are very clear. There was no need to send them to the select committee.

The only thing that we are changing is that there will be no tax on the trade

that happens outside the APMC. The farmer should get the freedom to do that trade. If you look at any industry, they have the freedom to decide the cost of their product, who they want to sell to... Till now, the farmer did not have this freedom, to decide the price of their crops, to sell to a buyer of their choice. This had also led to corruption. We have allowed trade outside APMC without tax. This will allow for inter-state trade, private investment will reach villages, there will be electronic platforms which will provide jobs and will also lead to transparency.

We are saying in the Bill that at the time of sowing itself, the agreement on price will be done, and this will ensure that the farmer will be willing to take a chance with any crop. Today, many farmers want to do organic farming, but they don't have a market to sell their produce. Through these Bills, the people in the market will reach the villages. If there were objections to specific provisions, or if someone's rights were being snatched, then the select committee would have discussed the issues. But there were no such issues and that is why we said that the Bills need not be sent to the select committee ... Now if your criticism is not valid, you cannot climb on to the desk of the Deputy Chairman. If the Congress considers this an accomplishment, they will have to suffer the consequences of their action.

HARISH DAMODARAN: You are saying that MSP will not be affected. Why didn't you mention this specifically in the law?

Through you, I want to tell the people of the Opposition that all of you have been in government for many years, if the law was necessary for the MSP, then why did you not make it?... MSP was not a part of the law even earlier and MSP is not part of the law even today. MSP is an administrative decision of the Government of India and procurement has been taking place as a result of MSP. The Modi government had started declaring MSP by adding 50 per cent profit to the cost... We declared rabi MSP before sowing of crops

The Opposition does not have any

specific criticism and that is why they are

raising the MSP issue. They are saying

that the APMCs will go. How can that

happen? The APMCs have been created

through state Acts. It is up to state gov-

ernments to make laws for APMCs... So

all I want to tell farmers is that they must

guard against misinformation, and they

can call or write to me if they want any

clarification and I will give them a pres-

HARIKISHAN SHARMA: The Centre

decides the Fair and Remunerative

maize. In Bihar, where the APMCs

have been abolished 14 years ago,

corporate buyers purchase both

Price (FRP) for sugarcane and MSP for

entation and assure them.

trade outside the

mandi premises.

and the kharif crop is due in a few days, Long, complicated Bills are which will be procured on MSP. The referred to select, standing Prime Minister has committees. These Bills are said that the MSP will continue, so very small, their provisions why does anyone are clear. There was no need need to worry? And MSP has nothing to to send them to the panels do with these Bills. The Bills deal with

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

under the Consumer Affairs Ministry. Also, a certain number of farmers are linked to sugarcane factories and they can give their produce only to that factory. So that is a separate issue.

Yes, the price of maize has come down this year. Covid has had an impact on the business. Maize was used a lot to feed poultry, and that industry has been hit. We are working constantly to avoid such an imbalance.

> PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS: How will
> you ensure that the farmer is paid
> within three days?
> Also, prices of potatoes, onions, tomatoes are increasing. How
> will the Essential Commodities
> (Amendment) Bill, 2020, ensure that

such inflation does not happen and there are no limits on stocks in the future?

There is no doubt about the fact that APMC is a state subject... But it is the Centre's responsibility to ensure that there is one kind of market for the entire country.

Secondly, we must not underestimate the farmer. When buyers approach the farmer, they will vet the buyer. They will decide on a price, they will choose the trader. It is not like farmers will sell their produce to everyone. They will weigh their options and take a call. If the Act has a provision stating that the farmer will have to be paid in three days, then the payment has to be made in three days. If there is a situation (where payment is not that there should be no politics on agriculture and farmers. If you look at the Congress manifesto dur-

Congress manifesto during Lok Sabha elections, or even the manifesto of the Punjab Congress during the Assembly elections, they said they will abolish the APMC Act. They said that they will ensure that purchase outside APMC happens without any tax, that inter-state trade is promoted... Now, either the Congress should say that we are retracting from what we said in our manifesto, and that now we have a different position... We also mentioned these aspects in our manifesto.

When we mentioned revoking of Article 370 in our manifesto, they said the country will burn. But the Prime Minister went ahead and removed Article 370 legally. Similarly, when we said in our manifesto that we will bring reforms in agriculture, we did it. The Bills were passed as per process and these laws will bring a big change in the lives of farmers.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA: The pandemic has forced nearly one crore labourers to return to their villages where MGNREGA is the only source of employment. Many families have completed their 100-day quota and cannot get work under MGNREGA any more. Are you looking at increasing the time period for MGNREGA employment?

When the pandemic struck, employment opportunities were hit in villages. A large number of migrant workers also returned to their villages. Under MGNREGA, a Rs 61,000 crore budget was provided, but given the situation, an additional Rs 40,000 crore was offered. In the entire year now, Rs 1,01,500 crore will be spent on MGNREGA. Secondly, the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan was also launched to ensure jobs and Rs 50,000 crore was provided for it.

As far as increasing employment days is concerned, no state has written to me about it yet and states have the right to increase the days and bear the cost for it. When a natural calamity strikes or under special circumstances, the Central government takes decisions to provide for an extra 50 days of work, but we don't have such a proposal now. If it comes to us, we will deliberate over it.





THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE CULTIVATORS OF THE EARTH ARE THE MOST VALUABLE CITIZENS. - THOMAS JEFFERSON

The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ Founded By ∽ RAMNATH GOENKA BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE NAVIGATOR

As foreign minister, Jaswant Singh reshaped India's diplomacy at the turn of the millennium

ASWANT SINGH, WHO died after a long illness on Sunday, is one of the few Indian political leaders in recent memory to leave a strong imprint on the Union ministries they had the opportunity to run. In the two national governments led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee during 1998-2004, Singh served as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, minister of external affairs, defence and finance. But it was in the diplomatic domain that his legacy will most endure. Delhi confronted a hostile international moment and deteriorating regional dynamic with Pakistan and China after it conducted a series of nuclear tests and declared itself an atomic power in May 1998. It found its man of the moment in Jaswant Singh, who helped India navigate the crisis with aplomb and come out of it with an enhanced international standing. His extended dialogue with the US Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, during 1998-2000 not only helped blunt much of the international reaction to India's nuclear defiance but also paved the way for resolving the costly conflict between India and the global nuclear order that persisted since the early 1970s.

Even more importantly, Singh's atomic diplomacy laid the basis for ending the decades of political estrangement between Delhi and Washington and building a productive India-US strategic partnership. His handling of the post nuclear crises also helped India explore solutions to the long-standing territorial conflicts with Pakistan and China. Put simply, Singh, along with Vajpayee's national security adviser, Brajesh Mishra, turned the nuclear crisis of 1998 into a huge opportunity for writing a new script for India's foreign policy. To be sure, the attempts to reform and reorient India's international relations began under Rajiv Gandhi (1984-89) and gained some urgency under PV Narasimha Rao (1991-96), but it was the Vajpayee years that saw the long-overdue overhaul of Indian diplomacy. Unlike with the US, where Singh's initiatives produced quick and visible transformation, his hopes for negotiating early border settlements with Pakistan and China have remained unfulfilled. But his conviction that India needs settled frontiers with Pakistan and China remains as relevant today as when he was in charge of Indian diplomacy. It is also important to recall Singh's success in breaking out of India's traditional zero-sum thinking about the Middle East. He insisted on bringing India's controversial relationship with Israel out of the political closet and simultaneously pursued a vigorous engagement with key Islamic nations like Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Beyond the determination to restructure the foreign policy framework, Singh brought a new sensibility, rooted in an immense confidence in India's international possibilities, to the nation's diplomatic conduct. His personal grace and dignity helped Delhi to shed the defensive prickliness that had come to mark Indian foreign policy in the preceding decades. As an impressive parliamentarian and genuine liberal within the BJP, Singh stood out within the political class of his generation. For reshaping Indian diplomacy at the turn of the millennium, he will be long remembered as one of India's most consequential foreign ministers.

The right redress

Statutory backing to MSP makes no economic sense. Farmers would be better off with income support that is crop-agnostic

HE ONGOING FARMERS' protests against the agriculture reform bills passed by Parliament have seemingly crystallised into a single demand: Make the minimum support price (MSP) a legal right. The main concern articulated by protesters is over the government - in the guise of giving farmers the freedom to sell outside state-regulated wholesale mandis - gradually discontinuing its MSP-based procurement operations. The Narendra Modi government has denied this. Not only did it announce the MSPs for rabi crops on September 21 (as against October 23 last year), but the procurement of the current season's paddy has also been kicked off five days before the usual date. PM Modi has stated that the "system of MSP will remain" and "government procurement will continue". However, these assurances have cut no ice so far. Farmer organisations want the MSP to become an entitlement, similar to the right to subsidised foodgrains (under the National Food Security Act), work (under the MGNREGA) or free and compulsory education for children. On the face of it, it is a fair demand. Farmers have saved the day. They produced all the grain that was given out free to alleviate the distress of people most impacted by the COVID-19-induced lockdown. Agriculture was also the only sector that grew even as the Indian economy contracted 23.9 per cent year-on-year during April-June. Farmers have every reason, then, to feel suspicious about the hurried manner in which the recent reform legislation was rammed through. But seeking redress by giving statutory backing to the MSP makes no economic sense. There are established institutional mechanisms - the public distribution system (PDS), gram panchayats and government schools - to ensure right to food, minimum workdays and education. But what can the government do if safflower, nigerseed or ragi prices fall below the MSP in hinterland markets? How much can it buy and how would it dispose of these crops - unlike rice and wheat that are at least sold through the PDS? Once the MSP becomes a "right", the government is duty-bound to enforce it. In this case, successful enforcement would mean not just distorting, but supplanting the market. The time has come to rethink the MSP. Farmers would be better off with income support that is crop-agnostic. The idea of a universal basic income (UBI), mooted in the 2016-17 Economic Survey, is worth considering. Let all 12 crore-odd farm households receive a UBI of, say, Rs 24,000 annually, which is four times the amount already extended under PM-Kisan. The extra money required can be found by phasing out the MSP and all market-distorting input subsidies. A UBI to complement the three reform laws will unleash the transformative potential of Indian agriculture.



Sudheendra Kulkarni

A SOLDIER, A scholar, a lover and author of books, a stalwart of the BJP who believed in an inclusive and kinder India, a trusted colleague of both Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani, and a politician who would be a complete misfit in the BJP of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, is no more.

Jaswant Singh, who passed away yesterday at 82, was a leading intellectual of the BIP from the time of its founding in 1980 till the beginning of its decadal decline in 2004. He was a pillar of strength for the Vajpayee-led NDA government from 1998 to 2004, in which he served in the defence, finance and external affairs ministries. He was a senior figure in the second tier of the party's leadership, along with Pramod Mahajan, Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley. All four have departed from this world. The only other person, Modi, who belonged to that category, and was indeed junior to them in the party hierarchy, became India's prime minister in 2014. Singh could not witness his party's meteoric rise in the Modi era because, even though he was alive, he spent the final six years of his life in a coma. Had he been in good health, he would have been deeply disillusioned with Modi's politics of communal polarisation, his government's assaults on India's democratic institutions, and the all-pervasive atmosphere of jingoistic intolerance. Like two other former stalwarts of the BJP - Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie – he would have been a strident critic of the Modi government.

Life was unkind to him in its last lap, just as it was to Vajpayee and George Fernandes, Singh's close friend and another pillar of strength for NDA-I. Prolonged coma – that liminal state between life and non-life – pushed him into national oblivion. Nevertheless, remembering some signposts from his life helps us better understand a turbulent period in India's recent political journey. They also make us aware of the inherent complexities of the issues he dealt with and the controversies he courted.

Major Jaswant Singh quit the Indian Army in 1966 and joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (the previous avatar of the BJP). One of the reasons for this decision – the India-China war in 1962 – has resurfaced in a different form

within the BJP earlier, and reviled later? A plausible answer lies in the fact that, under Vajpayee's leadership, the BJP was attempting sincerely to broad-base itself by becoming a liberal and secular party. Hence, it welcomed and empowered persons like Singh even though they had no RSS links. Singh frequently voiced his dissenting views in party forums, for which both Vajpayee and Advani respected him.

Why was Singh admired

right now at the LAC in Ladakh. In his book A Call to Honour, he squarely blames Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership for India's debacle in the war. "Leaders at the very top, military, diplomatic and political, failed India, criminally and unforgivably." But as a minister in Vajpayee's government, he advocated cooperation with China, along with cautious talks on solving the boundary dispute.

He played a more central role in formulating the government's policy on Pakistan. However, this road was strewn with more thorns. Vajpayee's Bus Yatra to Lahore in 1999 was followed by Pakistan's betraval in Kargil. Not one to remain jubilant over India's victory, Singh, along with Advani, wanted Vajpayee to continue the peace process. The result was the Agra Summit with Pervez Musharraf in July 2001. Singh tried his utmost to save it from failure, but failed. Between these two events came an episode that landed him in a big controversy the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane by Pakistan-backed terrorists in December 1999. He was heavily criticised for escorting Masood Azhar and other terrorists, who were swapped to secure the release of hijacked passengers. Singh, in his defence, later said, "I was not going on a holiday jaunt, 166 lives were involved."

He risked another controversy when he said in a TV interview that India was prepared to discuss with Pakistan conversion of the LoC into the "final border". Many Indian - and Pakistani - politicians privately hold this view, or a variant of it, such as transforming the LoC into a "soft border". Sadly, public posturing in both countries has remained inflexible. Sartaj Aziz, Pakistan's former foreign minister. whom I met him in Islamabad two years ago, said to me that Singh and he had discussed innovative solutions to the Kashmir dispute.

The BJP's defeat in the 2004 parliamentary elections, and its second consecutive debacle in 2009, led to Singh's marginalisation. By this time, Vajpayee had quit active politics. Advani had been disempowered by the RSS after his 2005 visit to Pakistan, where he made some perfectly factual remarks about Mohammed Ali Jinnah. Among the few BJP leaders who stood by Advani was Singh. This was not surprising because he had, at this time, begun writing his book Jinnah – India, Partition,

Independence, which became a bestseller upon its publication in 2009.

The book was highly critical of the founder of Pakistan, tracing his "epic journey" from being the ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity to a cynical advocate of the Two-Nation theory. However, it also countered a lie that still survives in India - that Jinnah was the sole villain of partition. "...Jinnah did not win Pakistan," Singh wrote, "as the Congress leaders – Nehru and Patel - finally conceded Pakistan to Jinnah, with the British acting as an ever-helpful midwife". Singh was by no means the first one to state this unpalatable truth. Ram Manohar Lohia's classic Guilty Men of India's Partition (1960) uncovers the culpability of the Congress, and is even more devastating in its criticism of Hindu communal forces. Singh had to pay a heavy price for writing this book. He was expelled from the BJP. The book was banned in Gujarat, where Modi was chief minister. Even though he returned to the party briefly, yet another humiliation awaited him in 2014, when he was denied a ticket to contest the Lok Sabha polls. His self-respect thus shattered, he suffered a stroke after a fall in 2014, from which he never recovered.

Why was Singh admired within the BJP earlier, and reviled later? A plausible answer lies in the fact that, under Vajpayee's leadership, the BJP was attempting sincerely to broad-base itself by becoming a liberal and secular party. Hence, it welcomed and empowered persons like Singh even though they had no RSS links. Singh frequently voiced his dissenting views in party forums, for which both Vajpayee and Advani respected him. After the demolition of the Babri Mosque in 1992, they even encouraged him to conduct a reconciliatory dialogue with Muslim leaders and BJP critics. Singh later wrote a book on this subject.

All this is unthinkable in the new BJP under Modi and Shah, who abhor democracy both within the party and in India's larger socio-political life. Had Singh recovered from his coma, he would have found the party he devotedly served for over four decades unrecognisable.

The writer was an aide to former Prime Minister Vajpayee and worked closely with Iaswant Singh



Under A Dark Cloud

In Monsoon Session, government violated norms to push through anti-farmer laws

An honourable man

Jaswant Singh stood for a more inclusive India, a kinder BIP

FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY

Forget permanent friends. you have a permanent enemy ... and a virtual ally.

BINOY VISWAM

THIS MONSOON SESSION of Parliament will forever be remembered for the draconian pieces of legislation that turned India's farmers and workers into slaves of capitalist greed. The propaganda machine of the BJP has been in overdrive to whitewash the evil content of these laws. But it failed to convince even the party's closest allies.

In its enthusiasm to pass the bills, the government blatantly violated parliamentary norms and rules of procedure in both Houses. The basic principle of a vibrant democracy ensures the vitality of the Opposition as they represent a different view from that of the government and act as a safeguard to represent the often-suppressed voices of the people. In the Monsoon Session, especially in the Raiva Sabha, the ruling party was extra cautious to bypass the Opposition, maybe because of their uncertainty regarding the often "managed" majority. Some of their most trusted allies chose to support the farmers and workers instead of the government.

Rule 252 of the Rajya Sabha Rulebook clearly states that it is the right of any member to ask for a vote by "division". Unfortunately, the rules and traditions of democracy held little value. The arrogance of the ruling party reached its zenith as it twisted the narrative and eight Rajya Sabha MPs were suspended. The Farmers' Produce Trade and

Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Prices Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020 and The Essential

The anti-farmer laws will take away the farmers' unquestionable control over land as their authority on the produce is nullified due to pre-existing contracts with corporates. The labour codes entrench the power of private capital over labour and ensure that collective bargaining is systematically undermined.

Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, sounded the death knell for the Indian farmer as these effectively open up the entire agricultural sector to large agri-businesses while leaving farmers in the lurch. The institutionalisation of contract farming is a noose around the neck of farmers – 86.2 per cent of whom own less than five acres of land.

The government claims it is empowering these farmers to sell their produce freely, but one must ask how fair and free this trade will be when large agri-businesses come to negotiate. The experience of farmers, both locally and internationally, where corporatisation in the agricultural sector has been enforced, is disturbing. In Bihar, which abolished the APMC system in 2006, small and marginal farmers have been left to the mercy of traders and private players as government procurement remains low and private investment for the creation of new markets scant. The 2019 case by PepsiCo against nine potato farmers in Ahmedabad claiming damages of Rs 1 crore serves as a reminder of the fate of farmers in a corporatised agricultural sector. In Brazil and Mexico, corporatisation of agriculture has left millions of farmers struggling to survive while large corporations reap the rewards of the farmers' labour.

The three labour codes passed by Parliament - industrial relations, social security and the occupational safety, health and working conditions codes - follow a similar ideology of favouring private capital over the rights of workers. From the restriction of the

definition of the term "worker" to exclude and disenfranchise platform workers, to the war on unions, and the assault on job security via the normalisation of fixed-term contracts, the government's anti-worker agenda is laid bare. The deregulation of occupational safety, health and working conditions is especially critical in a scenario where more than 40,000 deaths are estimated to take place at worksites every year in India. For the over 90 per cent of the workforce that operates in the informal sector, the linking of social benefits to the size of the establishment will leave out millions. The "hire and fire" culture being promoted by these pieces of legislation is a direct threat to the lives and livelihoods of workers. The rights of workers that the Indian labour movement has struggled for since before Independence have been undone.

Land, labour and capital form the three pillars of production. The anti-farmer laws will take away the farmers' unquestionable control over land as their authority on the produce is nullified due to pre-existing contracts with corporates. The labour codes entrench the power of private capital over labour and ensure that collective bargaining is systematically undermined. But then, it is natural for a government that holds privatisation and corporatisation as a "silver bullet" to all economic problems to enact policies that benefit only the rich and powerful.

The writer is secretary, National Council, CPI and leader of the party in Parliament



countries. The fall of Ahwaz means that Iraqi units have penetrated 64 km into Iran, and they hold the next major city north from the embattled Iranian oil centres at Abadan and Khoramhahr. This gives them control of the province that Iran's largest Arabic speaking population. Iran has conceded that long strips of border territory have suffered three days of almost continuous shelling. Meanwhile Tehran radio has reported that Iranian troops have destroyed the military airport of the northern Iraqi city of city of Kirkuk.

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT ZIA-UL-HAQ, who is trying to mediate in the Iran-Iraq war arrived in Tehran. The Pakistan leader who is also slated to address the UN General Assembly as a spokesperson from the Muslim world has emerged as a prominent face in the politics of this world. He will leave for Baghdad after his Tehran sojourn.

NO MEDIATION

IRAN RULED OUT mediation in its six-day war with Iraq, which it looked upon as one of conflicting deals imposed on Iran. Iran's posture reflected a stiffening of positions came at a press conference in response to mediation ef-

forts by the Islamic Conference Nations and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat. Tehran said it could offer aid without strings and from those who did so out of humanitarian consideration.

INDIAN EMBASSY FAILS

NEARLY EVERY INDIAN fleeing the Persian Gulf had one lament, the officials of the Indian embassies in both Iran and Iraq were nowhere in sight to help the Indians in distress, as a result of the war raging the region. Visa formalities were difficult as most Indians had lost their passports in the bombing. In contrast, their employers have received good words from Indians.

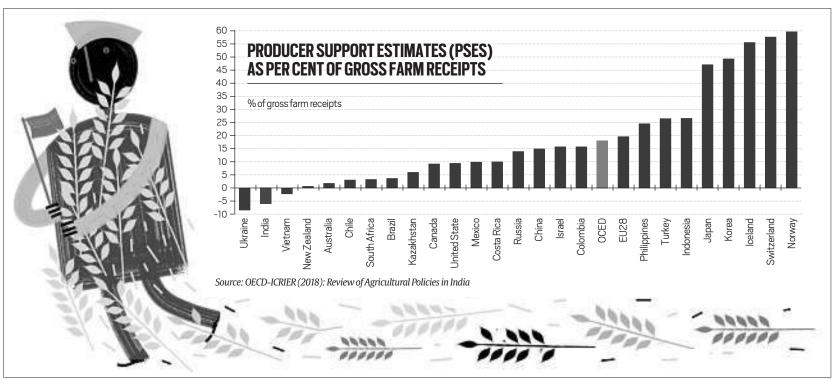






THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

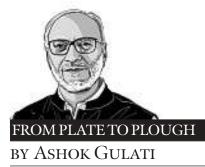
THE IDEAS PAGE



C R Sasikumar

The farmer's freedom to sell

On farm bills, government must get its act together, but Opposition is misguided



The passing of the farm bills in both the Houses of Parliament has sparked a major controversy in the country. The government claims that it is a historic step taken in the interest of farmers, giving them the freedom to sell their produce anywhere in the country and to any one they want. But the opposition parties described the passing of the bills as a "black day" because these pieces of legislation could destroy the existing system of minimum support price (MSP) and the APMC markets, leaving farmers at the mercy of big corporations.

Where does the truth lie? Let us dig a little deeper into the economics and politics of it

The bills – The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 (FPTC); The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 (FAPAFS); and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (ECA) – have to be seen in totality. Essentially, the

by consumers. It will also encourage private investment in storage, thus reducing wastage and help contain seasonal price volatility. It is because of these potential benefits that I had compared these pieces of legislation to the delicensing of industry in 1991 ('A 1991 moment for agriculture', IE, May 18). I had also suggested that for these legal changes to deliver results, we need to create Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and invest in marketing infrastructure. In that context, it is good to see that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated programmes for the creation of 10,000 FPOs and an Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) of Rs one lakh crore to handle post-harvest produce, anchored largely with FPOs. NABARD has been entrusted to implement this along with other agencies and state gov-

and, at the same time, reducing the price paid

ernments I must caution that sometimes good ideas/laws fail because of bad implementation. Just to cite an example, late Arun Jaitley had announced a scheme called TOP (tomatoes, onions and potatoes) to stabilise the prices of these farm products through processing and storage. He also allocated Rs 500 crore for it. The scheme was entrusted to the Ministry of Food Processing for implementation. But even after three years of the scheme, not even 5 per cent of the money promised has been spent. No wonder, the government is back to export bans of onions, fearing a spike in onion prices. This is contrary to the signal that the government wants to give through the farm bills that farmers have freedom to sell.

It seems the government has one foot on the accelerator to liberalise agri markets, and The Opposition has now changed the goal post. It is asking MSP to be made legal, implying that all private player buying below this WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"US' highway robbery of TikTok completely violates market principles and the spirit of the rule of law. It is a distorted hegemonic behaviour under the forced intervention of the US government." — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Fields of change

Indian agriculture has moved on from Green Revolution, is no longer centred in Punjab and Haryana. Reform is about giving farmers choice



BIBEK DEBROY

A LOT HAS been written on farmers. How many farmers are there in India? Almost 111 million are registered for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan). This is based on self-declaration, with penalties for false declaration. Registration requires the family to hold cultivable land, duly registered. If a family member is relatively privileged (MP/MLA, pension exceeding Rs 10,000, an income-tax payer, or a professional), one can't opt for the PM-Kisan benefits. Therefore, 111 million is a lower bound figure. Other than some categories being barred from PM-Kisan benefits, not every eligible farmer has necessarily registered for PM-Kisan.

Every five years, we have an Agriculture Census. The last one was in 2015-16. That gave us 146 million holdings, an increase from 138 million in 2010-11, a result of further fragmentation. If the agricultural landholding is conditional on being a farmer, apart from a possible further increase since 2015-16, 146 million is possibly the upper bound. Every definition of "farmer" is not contingent on the ownership of land. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act of 2001 is an example where status as a farmer depends on cultivating land (or supervising cultivation), not owning it. That issue was also flagged by the National Commission on Farmers, such as in the Draft National Policy for Farmers (2006), where "farmers" included agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tenants and so on. When talking and generalising about farmers, it is necessary to specify which set one has in mind. For instance, a hike in agricultural wages is good for agricultural labour. But it squeezes a landholder.

If land is a prerequisite for defining someone as a farmer, surely one should ask questions about the quality of land records in various states. The Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms (2009) was devastating in its critique. "The Committee also takes a note of the fact that the Survey and Settlement Operations in the Permanently Settled Areas have not been taken up and where they have been taken up, for instance in Bihar, they tend to never conclude... The last extensive survey and settlement in India was conducted two to three decades prior to Independence. Post-Independence, some states have not undertaken revisional Records and Services Index (LRSI). In the 2020 rankings, the top three states are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra. Punjab and Haryana, the backbone of India's Green Revolution and vanguard of India's farmer interests, rank 16th and 18th respectively. DILRMP is often about digitising/modernising existing land records. But as that 2009 report mentioned, we need surveys/re-surveys. The dashboard tells us these have been completed in only 11.5 per cent of villages. Gujarat, West Bengal and Tripura score high on this (over 90 per cent). Punjab's track record is 0 per cent.

With agriculture in the State List, should everything be left to the states? If land records are in this condition, some farmers will conceivably be excluded from the farmer definition, because land records have not been updated. We may have one country one tax, but rules on who can buy agricultural land vary across states. Therefore, in urban suburbia, there are farmers who have bought agricultural land and live in farmhouses. Until that land is converted to non-agricultural use, they too will be farmers. Should their voices also influence policy decisions? However, such numbers are insignificant. In deciding whom to hear, there must be some sense of which farmers are more important. With diverse and heterogenous agriculture, all farmers will not have identical views.

The 2015-16 Agricultural Census tells us that most operational holdings are in UP, Bihar, Maharashtra and MP, in that order. The highest operated areas are in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, UP and MP, in that order. 86.1 per cent of holdings are small and marginal (less than 2 hectares) and only 0.6 per cent are large (more than 10 hectares). There is increasing FCI procurement of rice from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, and of wheat from MP, UP and Rajasthan. E-NAM (National Agricultural Market) has more coverage from MP, UP, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat than from Punjab or Haryana. There is a chamber of commerce and industry known as PHD, active primarily in North India. (Disclosure: I worked there for a while.) When initially established, the acronym PHD stood for Punjab-Haryana-Delhi. As it diversified, it shed that antecedent and became progress, harmony and development, but many people still think of it as Punjab-Haryana-Delhi. I think this is a good metaphor for the way we look at Indian agriculture.

The face of Indian agriculture has changed and is no longer what it was in the Green Revolution days, centred on Punjab, Haryana and western UP. With realistic input costs, that form of agriculture is no longer viable in those Green Revolution tracts. Farmers, and governments, in Bihar and Kerala, don't want APMCs, nor do UP, MP, Gujarat and Karnataka. There is no evidence that this has made those farmers worse off. I knew the late Sharad Anantrao Ioshi well and he used to say it is a myth that India has liberalised since 1991. Reforms are about choice, competition and efficiency and those haven't touched agriculture. Why should farmers, even those in PH, not have the choice?

FPTC breaks the monopolistic powers of the APMC markets, while FAPAFS allows contract farming, and ECA removes stocking limits on traders for a large number of commodities, with some caveats still in place.

The economic rationale of these pieces of legislation is to provide greater choice and freedom to farmers to sell their produce and to buyers to buy and store, thereby creating competition in agricultural marketing. This competition is expected to help build more efficient value chains in agriculture by reducing marketing costs, enabling better price discovery, improving price realisation for farmers the other foot is on the brake (ban on onion exports). All this dents its credibility. I am saying this to emphasise that NABARD has a lot of heavy lifting to do, else they will fail the country by not realising the full potential of these legal changes. NABARD must get its act together, take professional advice and work with implementing agencies in the private sector, including various foundations already working with farmers. The pay off will be very high. It will make Indian agriculture globally competitive, and benefit farmers and consumers alike.

But then why is there so much opposition?

price could be jailed. That will spell disaster in the markets, and private players will shun buying. The government does not have the wherewithal to buy all the 23 commodities for which MSP is announced. Even for wheat and paddy, it cannot assure MSP throughout India. of agri-produce is sold at MSPs. The rest of the farming community (94 per cent) faces imperfect markets. It is time to "get agri-markets right". These farm bills are steps in that direction.

The Congress is leading the charge. But its

manifesto for the 2019 general election said,

"Congress will repeal the Agricultural Produce

Market Committee Act and make trade in agri-

cultural produce - including exports and in-

ter-state trade - free from all restrictions". And

further: "We will establish farmers' markets

with adequate infrastructure and support in

large villages and small towns to enable the

farmer to bring his/her produce and freely

market the same" (points 11 and 12 of the

manifesto under the section on 'Agriculture').

I fail to understand how this is different from

what the three bills are about? I don't have any

political affiliation, but all my professional life

has been spent in analysing agri-policies; I

have found how farmers in India have been

implicitly taxed through restrictive trade and

marketing policies. This is so much in contrast

with China and other OECD countries that

heavily subsidise their agriculture (see graph).

So, the freedom to sell is the beginning to-

wards correcting this massive distortion and

goal post. It is asking MSP to be made legal,

implying that all private players buying be-

low this price could be jailed. That will spell

disaster in the markets, and private players

will shun buying. The government does not

have the wherewithal to buy all the 23 com-

modities for which MSP is announced. Even

for wheat and paddy, it cannot assure MSP

throughout India. The reality, as the 70th

round of NSSO on Key Indicators of Situal

Agricultural Households in India shows, is

that only six per cent of farmers gain from

MSPs. Roughly the same percentage of value

But the Opposition has now changed the

that's why I welcome this move.

Some states fear losing revenue from mandi fees and cess. The Centre can promise them some compensation, for say three-five years, subject to reforms in APMC markets. Arhtias are smart. They can take on new roles of aggregation for the private sector.

> The writer is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIER

survey and settlement so far."

Two or three decades prior to Independence means the 1920s, for some states. Of course, there have been improvements since 2009 and the Department of Land Resources has a Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DIL-RMP) and the dashboard shows what various states have accomplished under DIL-RMP. Using various indicators obtained through DILRMP, NCAER publishes a Land

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal



The absence of Isher

Isher Judge Ahluwalia will be missed as independent academic and institution-builder

N K Singh

THE DEMISE OF Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Isher to her friends, has left a deep void in many lives, including mine. I had known Isher for decades. Her warmth, affection and appropriateness on every occasion were, to say the least, overwhelming. It would be fair to say that the academic and research communities have lost a brilliant economist and an institution builder.

I have known her husband Montek Singh Ahluwalia for much longer, having studied with him at St Stephen's College and thereafter as he pursued his career with the World Bank. I came in closer contact with Isher after Montek's return to India when he was an important Joint Secretary during the tenure of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Thereafter, my interactions with Isher spanned over several facets of my career.

During the critical years of India's balance of payments crisis, she was an informal, but very mature advisor to what the Delhi circles often pejoratively described as the Singh Darbar (this meant Manmohan Singh, Montek and, perhaps, me). She never intruded, in any way, with the decision-making process, but her congenital reform instincts greatly contributed in enabling the policy leadership to adopt the changes which liberated India's economy. She played this informal advisory role with great equanimity and rectitude. Rectitude was also a guiding factor both in her personal and official life.

Looking at Isher's independent career as a professional economist, there could be no better description than the one she has used in her autobiography titled *Breaking Through*. In the chapter "The Battleground", she describes a critical phase in India's economic reforms when Montek was the Finance Secretary: "He was entering what would become the most exciting phase of his career, with the longest tenure as Finance Secretary. I had reasons to be satisfied that my work contributed to the change in thinking. My challenge now was to avoid becoming Mrs Finance Secretary!"

Her independence of thinking and contribution to institution building has been summed up in this sentence. While providing perfect companionship to Montek and mentorship to her sons Pawan and Aman, she never compromised on her integrity and identity as an academic and serious researcher.

It was during this period that both of us were members of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), which, at that time, was in its formative stage. The late K B Lall had set up this institution and had drawn some people whom he had mentored in the past including Amar Nath Verma, Montek, Isher and myself. When Isher became the director of ICRIER, she soon realised that autonomy of

research organisations must be paramount. No research entity would have credibility unless it is independent of governmental interference. At that stage, ICRIER was dependent, in no small measure, on the financial support received from the Ministry of Finance. She felt uncomfortable and embarked on the challenging trajectory of making ICRIER financially independent. She was relentless in her pursuit, seeking endowments and creating a corpus, which did enable ICRIER to become a fully independent and, in the truest sense of the term, autonomous research organisation.

In these complex endeavours, she never allowed the highest quality of research at ICRIER to be compromised. Her eye for the best talent was ever-roving to secure academics and researchers who could contribute to high-quality research. It is no surprise that ICRIER has been rated among the leading independent think-tank institutions, even by the daunting international standards. Institution-building and their longterm financial viability in this country are never easy. Isher realised this challenge first as ICRIER's director and, subsequently, as the chairperson emeritus of the Board of Governors for the last 15 years. Given her passion. I remained a member of the Board until giving up this responsibility to accept my current office.

Isher was also a great believer in en-

hancing academic understanding between India and major global economic players. In no small measure, her support was critical to the continuation of the Neemrana Conference where ICRIER became a copartner with the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), and at the annual conference of the Stanford University Centre for International Development. Her presence was catalytic in securing an interaction between key US and Indian academics, policy-makers and leading corporates on emerging global challenges. The seeds of many economic reforms were sowed during these conferences. Her legacy in other international institutions as the chairperson of the board of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the chairperson of the High-Powered Expert Committee on Urban Infrastructure Services is invaluable.

Isher will be sorely missed. In multiple ways, she has lived up to every expectation she had of herself of not being described as Mrs Finance Secretary. Of her legacy, it will be apt to quote the American philosopher William James. who has said: "The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it." I have no doubt that ICRIER will fulfil this quest.

> The writer is chairman, 15th Finance Commission

for the shot' (IE, September 25). Without a vaccine we cannot breathe easy till mid-2023 — the year when we can start measuring the benefit of total pan-India vaccination, provided we work with efficiency and focus. We need to rid society of fear, without which a revival is difficult.

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Prepare

SS Paul, Nadia

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WELCOMING US

TILL 2023

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Friends & neighbours' (IE, September 24). The unanticipated proactiveness from of a non-resident power in theIndian Ocean is already challenging the status quo in this significant channel of global trade and communication. The US-Maldives agreement on defence cooperation should be seen as a development aimed at ensuring stability and security in the larger Indian Ocean region.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

LET THEM SPEAK

New Delhi

This refer to the article, 'You dare not speak'(IE, September 25). It is sad that the free voice of raw youth is under attacks, with their role models(teachers) also being let down in front of them. This is the last thing that should happen to the future leaders of this country. The more you suppress the youth, the greater the fortification of their idealism. Let's not crush the spirit of the youth for vested interests. Let's stop this ONLY IN THE EXPRESS •THE MALICIOUS WHISTLEBLOWER: MEENAKSHI ARORA AND PAYAL CHAWLA •INSOLVENCY CODE FLAWS: ARUSH KHANNA www.indianexpress.com

IDEAS

ONLINE

vitiation of the public conversation and environment in the country. **R D Singh,** *Ambala*

POLICE AND PROTEST

This refer to the article, The criminalisation of protest' (IE, September 26). The Delhi police's farcical investigation into the February riots was foreshadowed by its treating with kid gloves some of the BJP's leaders making provocative outbursts against the anti-CCA protesters. Now with the start of the investigation, instead of being evenhanded, they are implicating with abandon academics, social activists and intellectuals.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 12 THE WORLD

TOPOFTHE WORLD



NOSIVIWE MAPISA-NOAKULA South Africa's Defence Minister

SOUTH AFRICA Defence minister's pay docked over military plane use

SOUTH AFRICA'S President has reprimanded Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Ngakula and docked her pay for three months for taking a delegation to Zimbabwe on an air force plane, his office said. The opposition had accused Mapisa-Ngakula of misusing state resources by letting the group from the ruling party travel with her to Harare in September. The presidency said Mapisa-Nqakula was on an official trip. But her decision to let the delegation, who were travelling to Zimbabwe on unrelated business, join her on the flight was an "error of judgement". **REUTERS**



PORTLAND POLICE CLASH WITH PROTESTERS, PRESS

At a rally against police violence and racial inequality in Portland, Oregon. Police clashed with protesters and pushed back members of the press in downtown Portland into early Sunday morning, making more than 20 arrests. The violence followed a relatively peaceful rally by the right-wing Proud Boys group and counter protests by anti-fascist and Black Lives Matter activists on Saturday. Videos published online showed police pushing protesters and photographers to the ground and jabbing them with batons as officers drove them out of an area near Portland's federal courthouse. Reuters

Fighting erupts between Armenia, Azerbaijan over disputed region

16 killed, over 100 injured; Armenia claims it shot down Azerbaijani helicopters

EUROPE Swiss voters reject curbs on **EU** immigration

SWISS VOTERS have overwhelmingly rejected a right-wing party's attempt to scrap a pact allowing the free movement of people from the European Union, according to a projection of results by broadcaster SRF on Sunday. The Swiss People's Party (SVP) had called a referendum on the EU agreement – a vote that was seen as an important test of attitudes towards foreigners who make up a guarter of the population. The SVP has pushed to take back control of immigration, echoing the arguments pro-Brexit politicians used in the run-up to Britain's exit

AVET DEMOURIAN YEREVAN, SEPTEMBER 27

FIGHTING ERUPTED anew Sunday between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the disputed separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh and a top territorial official said 16 people were killed and more than 100 wounded, while Azerbaijan's president said his military has suffered losses

Armenia also claimed that two Azerbaijani helicopters were shot down and three Azerbaijani tanks were hit by artillery, but Azerbaijan's defense ministry reiected that claim

KHYBER-PAKHTUNKHWA PROVINCE

Heavy fighting broke out in the morning in the region that lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by



Azerbaijani tanks at the contact line of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan. AP

Armenia since 1994 at the end of and the towns of Martakert and a separatist war. It was not im-Martuni. Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun mediately clear what sparked the fighting, the heaviest since Hovhannisyan also said Azerbaijani shelling hit within clashes in July killed 16 people from both sides. Armenian territory near the Nagorno-Karabakh authoritown of Vardenis.

ties reported that shelling hit the region's capital of Stepanakert

said that 16 people were killed and more than 100 wounded. It wasn't immediately clear if the figure included both soldiers and civilians. Earlier, the Armenian human rights ombudsman said a woman and child had been killed in the shelling.

Another Armenian Defense Ministry spokeswoman, Shushan Stepanyan, said "the Armenian side" shot down two helicopters and hit three tanks. Azerbaijani President Ilham

Aliyev ordered martial law be imposed in some regions of the country and called for a curfew in major cities. In a televised address to the

nation, Aliyev said that "there are losses among the Azerbaijani forces and the civilian population as a result of the Armenian bombardment," but didn't give further details. AP

Senate Republicans ready quick push on Trump's SC nominee

President officially announces Barrett as pick to replace RBG

LAWRENCE HURLEY **& STEVE HOLLAND** WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 27

US SENATE Republicans on Sunday prepared a concerted push toward quickly confirming President Donald Trump's third Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, despite strenuous objections by Democrats who appear powerless to stop them.

In a White House Rose Garden ceremony on Saturday, Trump announced Barrett, 48, as his selection to replace liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Sept. 18 at age 87. Barrett said she would be a justice in the mold of the late staunch conservative Antonin Scalia. Her confirmation would result in a 6-3 conservative majority on the court.

Trump urged Republicans, who hold a 53-47 Senate majority, to confirm Barrett, a federal appeals court judge and a favorite of religious conservatives, by the Nov 3 election. He has said he expects the justices to have to resolve the election in which he faces Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

The Supreme Court has only once in US history had to resolve a presidential election, in 2000. Trump also has declined to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses the election.

"As I have stated, this nomination will receive a vote on the Senate floor in the weeks ahead,' said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has made confirming Trump's judicial appointments a paramount priority.

Barrett is expected to begin meetings with individual senators on Tuesday. Trump said the Senate Judiciary Committee would begin confirmation hearings on October12.

Like Trump's two other appointees, Neil Gorsuch in 2017 and Brett Kavanaugh in 2018, Barrett is young enough that she could serve for decades, leaving a lasting conservative imprint. **REUTERS**



Judge Amy Coney Barrett applauds as Trump announces her as his nominee to the Supreme Court, at the Rose Garden of the White House on Saturday. AP



RACE FOR

THE WHITE

HOUSE

Calls for recusal

DEMOCRATS ARE urging

Barrett, who is likely to be

ity Senate, to recuse herself

from any potential cases re-

lated to the Nov 3 election.

They argue that since Trump

has publically said he wanted

his nominee confirmed soon

because the election results

could go to court, this could

case. But while US law re-

influence Barrett in any such

quires justices to recuse them-

selves in case of a conflict of

interest, it leaves it to the jus-

tutes conflict of interest. So,

the final decision on the re-

tice to determine what consti-

confirmed by the GOP-major-

XPLAINED

Trump again stokes doubt on election process

MICHAELD SHEAR & MICHAEL CROWLEY MIDDLETOWN, SEPTEMBER 27

US PRESIDENT Trump sought again on Saturday night to cast doubt on the integrity of the presidential election, telling supporters the only way Democrats can win in Pennsylvania is to "cheat on the ballots" and raising the prospect that a disputed election could be decided by Congress.

Pressing his baseless case that the election in November will be a "disaster", Trump said at a rally just outside a hangar at the Harrisburg airport that he would have "an advantage" if Congress were to decide.

"I don't want to end up in the Supreme Court, and I don't want to go back to Congress, even though we have an advantage if we go back to Congress. Does everyone understand that?" Trump told supporters. Trump appeared to be referring to what is known as a contingent election, in which the House of Representatives chooses the next president if no candidate wins an absolute majority of votes in the Electoral College. NYT

in 'Caliphate'

podcast charged

cusal will remain Barrett's.

vestment in Sudan.

But recognition of Israel is a

highly contentious issue that offi-

cials and analysts warn could

destabilise the country's fragile

transitional government. This past

week, Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-

Burhan. Sudan's de facto leader

flew to the UAE for unofficial talks

with US and Emirati officials about

an economic assistance package

for Sudan's stricken economy that

officials say could help to sell

recognition of Israel. But on

Saturday, Sudan PM Abdalla

Hamdok, reiterated his opposition

to US efforts to link recognition of

Israel to Sudan's removal from the

terrorism list. NYT

from the EU. REUTERS

USA California to house transgender inmates by their gender identity

GOVERNOR GAVIN Newsom signed a law on Saturday requiring California to house transgender inmates in prisons based on their gender identity – but only if the state does not have "management or security concerns". The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation houses men and women in separate facilities. Transgender inmates are often housed based on their sex assigned at birth. Advocates say this is dangerous, particularly for transgender women housed in facilities for men. AP

Pak: Provincial govt to buy ancestral houses of Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar

greats of Indian cinema were

born and raised in their early

days before the partition, said Dr

Abdus Samad Khan, the head of

known as Kapoor Haveli, is situ-

ated in the fabled Qissa Khwani

Bazar. It was built between 1918

and 1922 by the actor's grandfa-

ther Dewan Basheswarnath

Kapoor. Raj Kapoor and his un-

cle Trilok Kapoor were born in

the building. It has been declared

national heritage by the provin-

house, which is more than 100

years old, is also located in the

same area. The house is in sham-

bles and was declared as na-

Dilip Kumar's ancestral

cial government.

Raj Kapoor's ancestral home,

department of archaeology.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PESHAWAR, SEPTEMBER 27

THE PROVINCIAL government in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has decided to purchase the ancestral houses of legendary Bollywood actors Raj Kapoor and Dilip Kumar to conserve the historic buildings which are in dilapidated condition and facing demolition threat.

The Department of Archaeology in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province has decided to allocate sufficient funds for purchasing the two buildings, which have been declared as the national heritage and lie in the heart of Peshawar city, an official said. An official letter has been

to

the

Deputy

sent

tional heritage in 2014 by the Commissioner of Peshawar to then Nawaz Sharif government. determine the cost of both the historic buildings, where the two

Artur Sarkisian, deputy head

of the Nagorno-Karabakh army,

Khan said the owners of the two buildings made many attempts in the past to demolish them for constructing commercial plazas in view of their prime location but all such moves were stopped as the archaeology department wanted to preserve them keeping in view their historic importance.

In 2018, the Pakistan government decided to convert the Kapoor Haveli into a museum, heeding to a request by Rishi Kapoor who died this year in Mumbai. However, the announcement to this effect could not be materialised despite a lapse of around two years.

There are around 1,800 historic structures in Peshawar which are over 300 years old.

Sudan is latest focus of US efforts Man featured to improve Arab ties with Israel

RONEN BERGMAN & DECLAN WALSH SEPTEMBER 27

AMERICAN EFFORTS to persuade more Arab countries to normalise relations with Israel before the November election are focused on Sudan, where negotiations have stalled over the amount of a financial incentive promised to Sudan in exchange for recognising Israel, officials said Saturday.

But the campaign's most important target, Saudi Arabia, they said, was unlikely to recognise Israel this year.

US President Donald Trump has said that "at least five or six countries" were poised to follow the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in normalising relations with Israel, one of the biggest foreign policy achievements of his administration. He said that

Sudan Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok

one could be Saudi Arabia, a breakthrough that would carry great weight in the Arab world. But two Israeli officials said that while Saudi officials were involved

in negotiations to secure the recognition of Israel by the UAE and Bahrain, they had no plans to do so themselves in the near future.

Officials believe the most immediate prospect is Sudan, and the US has linked recognition of

with faking Israel to Sudan's removal from a list of states that sponsor terrorterrorist activity ism, a longstanding Sudanese demand. The designation hinders Sudan's ability to receive debt re-IAN AUSTEN lief and international financial aid, and is a major hurdle to foreign in-

OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 27 THE POLICE in Canada have arrested a Toronto-area man who asserted he was an ISIS execu-

tioner, accusing him of perpe-

trating a hoax that he was involved in terrorist activities. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said the man, Shehroze Chaudhry, 25, "claimed he traveled to Syria in 2016 to join the terrorist group ISIS and committed acts of terrorism."The interviews he gave to media outlets, the national police force said, raised "public safety concerns amongst Canadians."

Sgt. Lucie Lapointe, a spokeswoman for the Mounted Police, said Chaudry was the person featured extensively in 'Caliphate", a podcast by The New York Times, under the name Abu Huzayfah. In the podcast, he described in harrowing detail his role in executions. The Times declined to discuss its sourcing.

"The uncertainty about Abu Huzayfah's story is central to every episode of Caliphate that featured him," Danielle Rhoades Ha, a Times spokeswoman, said. She noted that one episode confirmed that Abu Huzayfah had misled the Times about the dates of his travel to Syria and the timeline of his radicalisation.

"The episode tells listeners what our journalists knew for sure and what was still unknown," she said.

Chaudry's description of his terrorist activities created a political storm in Canada, with the opposition asking why he wasn't arrested. Until the announcement of the arrest, however, the police had said little about their investigation, which involved several other agencies. NYT

LEADERS OF SLOWLY SINKING ISLAND NATIONS, PARCHED AFRICAN COUNTRIES SPEAK OUT AT UN If virus doesn't kill us, climate change will: Vulnerable nations seek action

CARA ANNA JOHANNESBURG, SEPT 27

IN A year of cataclysm, some world leaders at this week's annual United Nations meeting are

taking the long view, warning: If Covid-19 doesn't kill us, climate change will. With Siberia seeing its

warmest temperature on record this year and enormous chunks of ice caps in Greenland and Canada sliding into the sea, countries are acutely aware there's no vaccine for global warming.

'We are already seeing a version of environmental Armageddon," Fiji's Prime

Minister Frank Bainimarama said, citing wildfires in the western US and noting that the Greenland ice chunk was larger than a number of island nations.

This was meant to be the year 'we took back our planet," he said. Instead, the coronavirus has diverted resources and attention from what could have been the marquee issue at this UN gathering. Meanwhile, the UN global climate summit has been post-

poned to late 2021. That hasn't stopped countries, from slowly sinking island nations to parched African ones, from speaking out.

"In another 75 years, many ... members may no longer hold



Kausea Natano, PM of Tuvalu, speaks in a pre-recorded message at the United Nations General Assembly. AP

seats at the United Nations if the world continues on its present course," the Alliance of Small

Island States and the Least Developed Countries Group said. The main goal of the 2015 Paris

climate accord is to limit the rise in global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, but scientists say the world is on track to soar past that. A new study found that if the world warms another 0.9 degrees Celsius, the West Antarctic ice sheet will reach a point of irreversible melting. It has enough water to raise global sea levels by 5 metres.

The Pacific island nation of Palau hasn't had a single Covid-19 infection, but President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. warns it's the rising seas that will bring the country down.

The momentary drop in (carbon) emissions this year cannot be allowed to generate any complacency about global progress," he said, referring to the sparkling skies that followed lockdowns to slow the spread of the virus around the world. Pollution has crept back up as restrictions ease.

World powers cannot shirk their financial commitments to fighting climate change during the pandemic, Remengesau said, even as economies are battered.

But few pledges have emerged at the UN gathering, aside from China's announcement that it aims to have carbon dioxide emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

Amid concerns that the world is distracted, it was per-

haps no surprise that the student-led movement Fridays for Future returned to the streets this week for the first major demonstrations for climate action in months. Island nations have seized on

the unusual circumstances to show off what's at stake. The Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Kausea Natano, delivered his UN speech with a vista of turquoise waters and swaying fronds behind him that instantly fired the imaginations of viewers. "While Covid-19 is our immediate crisis, climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the Pacific and its peoples," the PM said. AP

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 13 LEXPLAINED

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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

C@VID-19 VACCINE TRACKER

Just half of Americans willing to take vaccine: new survey

NEARLY HALF the respondents in a new survey in the United States have said they would definitely, or probably, not take a coronavirus vaccine if it were to become available today. Pew

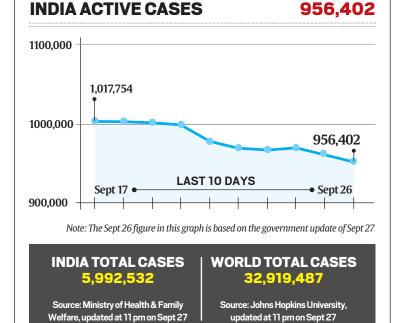
cause of the speed with

Research Centre, which carried out the survey among over 10,000 US adults between September 8 and 13, said the proportion of people who were willing to take the medicine had come down sharply from 72% in May, when it had last conducted a similar survey, to 51% now. Only 21% said they would definitely take the



coronavirus vaccine, if it were available now. Public confidence in the coronavirus vaccines being developed has been low be-

which the process is moving and apprehensions that it was being driven more by political considerations rather than by science. Almost 77% of the respondents in the Pew survey said they believed it was very, or somewhat, likely that a coronavirus vaccine would be approved in the United States before its safety or effectiveness was fully understood.



3D printed nasal swabs effective in Covid testing

AMID A potential shortage of nasal swabs to collect samples for coronavirus testing: researchers have come up with an alternative: 3D-printed nasal swabs. A clinical trial has provided evidence that 3Dprinted alternative nasal swabs work as well, and safely, as the standard commercial nasal swabs.

The results are published in the jour- 3D-printed nasal swab ranges from 26 nal Clinical Infectious Diseases.

(Florida), Northwell Health (NY), and Thomas Jefferson University PAPER Hospital (Philadelphia). Other sites joined later. The only adverse reaction was a few instances NEW RESEARCH

of slight nasal bleeding. The cost of materials per to 46 cents: commercial swabs cost

totype. The large-scale clinical trial began in late

March at three sites:

Tampa General Health

EXPLAINED DEFENCE IAF role in Eastern Ladakh

With a resolution to the standoff on the LAC still elusive, the Indian Army is preparing for extended deployment of troops in the region through the winter months. This leaves the IAF with a key role in providing support to the troops. What are the challenges to meet in the harsh winter and tough terrain?



AIR VICE MARSHAL (RETD) MANMOHAN BAHADUR

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

Can the IAF support the logistics of such a large force?

One part of the logistics for the Army requires land transportation, which would have been planned for before winter sets in and the passes close. The IAF will be doing very urgent missions, for which it is well prepared with a very good transport fleet consisting of C-17 Globemasters, Il-76s, and many An-32s. If it comes to the crunch, the C-130 Super Hercules can also be used for logistics support, although these are meant for special operations.

We also have Mi-17 helicopters and Cheetal light helicopters to cater to forward posts. In addition, the Chinook heavy-lift helicopters will be used for carrying bulky stores, either within the fuselage, or slung under it.

What are the topographical challenges of flying into Leh or other advanced landing grounds (ALGs) in Eastern Ladakh?

The biggest challenge is the altitude of the two airfields of Leh and Thoise, but since we have been flying there for decades, the air crew are well aware of the peculiarities of these fields

The landing grounds at high altitude have their own challenges, which result in reduction of load-bearing capacity of the planes/choppers. Additionally, the air crew have to call upon their skills to navigate the hills and land on the small, matchbox-like helipads - there is just no place on these hills to make bigger ones!

What additional hazards will winter bring?

Bad weather that accompanies the western disturbances that strike northern India in the winter months is a challenge, as it reduces visibility and results in a low cloud base. So the crew have to be on the ball to make sure they can find a way to circumvent bad weather. This is not always possible, and we have long periods when flying has to be curtailed.

And what effect does extreme cold have on weight-carrying aircraft?

The lower the temperature, the better the



(Top) A C-17 Globemaster of the Indian Air Force flies over the Ladakh region; (above) a heliopter lands on a matchbox-like helipad in the mountains.

land to complete a mission. That is where temperature and altitude plus weather become the final arbiters.

Navigation is not a problem, but take-offs and landings are tricky.

As for night flying, it has its own unique challenges because of the shadows cast by hills, as well as the state and position of the moon relative to the hills and the aircraft. A dark, moonless night poses its own challenges, and a full moon has its own. In the hills, air crew are specially cleared to carry out operations at night.

fields is not a problem. However, that has to be prioritised vis-à-vis personnel, casualties, and vital equipment such as avionics.

What kind of logistics support in terms of fuel, repair, etc does the IAF require for such an operation?

All the air fields have enough stock of fuel, oil, and lubricants (FOL) for which detailed planning is done around the clock. There is a well-oiled logistics chain that has been finetuned by the IAF in the last six-seven decades of operation. The Army Service Corps (ASC) also plays an important part in ground positioning of fuel in forward posts. It places aviation turbine fuel in barrels in advanced fields, while Leh and Thoise have got fuel bowsers.

THE EXPERT Air Vice Marshal (retired)

MANMOHAN BAHADUR is an IAF veteran and currently Additional Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi. Commissioned in the IAF in 1976, he commanded the 114 Helicopter Unit at Leh and Air Force flying bases in Jammu and Guwahati. He was the first pilot to land on the Siachen Glacier in September 1978, six years before Operation Meghdoot was launched. He has been Head of Training at Defence Services Staff College. He served as Assistant Chief of Air Staff in charge of transport and helicopter operations and moved to HQ Integrated Defence Staff before his retirement in May 2011.

to meet any threat from ground fire or shoulder-fired missiles. In this, the aids on board the helicopters also play an important role.

Are there any special challenges for fighter aircraft?

Fighters flying in those altitudes have special challenges of their own because of their high speeds, reduced air density, the closeness of the hill tops, and the fact that targets are very small comprising bunkers having

limited numbers of troops. Hitting those targets requires special

flying from place A to B. The aircraft has to

Researchers designed, tested and produced a 3D printed nasal swab proabout \$1 each, the authors said. Source: University of Southern Florida

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payload because the higher air density increases the lift-carrying capability of flying machines. So the loads that can be carried during winter are higher than during summer.

This is a big advantage. For instance, an Il-76, which in summer can carry hardly any load from Leh, can fly out around 20 tonnes in the winter. It is the same with helicopters, whose load-carrying ability to extremely high helipads at altitudes of 17,000 to 20,000 feet increases substantially in winter. And it reduces drastically in summer.

Do the high altitude and topography pose a challenge to navigation and night flying?

The modern navigation equipment available now overcome most of the challenges. But mission accomplishment is not merely

Do the airfields in Ladakh restrict operations to only certain aircraft or can all aircraft be used?

All air fields in the Ladakh area can be used by the transport aircraft we have, although weather requirements will vary from one aircraft to the other. It depends on the navigational aids on board the aircraft, and the competence of the crew. That is why air crews are detailed depending on the mission.

In a long haul, or in the eventuality of a kinetic war, the IAF will also have to transport back and forth mechanised weapons etc for repair, maintenance, etc. Can our aircraft profile cater to it?

Bringing back loads from the forward air

What is the threat to aircraft when the ground forces are eyeball to eyeball?

The airfields of Leh and Thoise that support fixed wing operations (helicopters are rotary wing aircraft) are relatively in the interiors, hence not vulnerable to any ground action. They can of course be attacked by the Air Force and other aerial assets of the adversary, but there are standard operating protocols in place to deal with such threats.

However, in ALGs such as Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), where choppers fly close to the LAC, the air crew are well adept at taking tactical action

weapons and air crew capability. Luckily, we have experienced this during Kargil, and I am sure the lessons would have been passed on to the present band of fighter pilots.

Where does Rafale fit in?

The Rafale comes with its unique flying characteristics and weapons delivery payload, but one must remember that presentday combat is between systems, and not generally between one aircraft and the other.

The Rafale would have been dovetailed into the air campaign plan made by the IAF to operate with other systems like Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS) and electronic warfare (EW) assets. In the present day, an individual weapon system is only as good as the overall war fighting architecture that the force designs.

How Vajpayee took on Nehru govt over 1962 Chinese aggression

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA CHANDIGARH. SEPTEMBER 27

IN THE days leading up to the full-blown Chinese aggression of 1962, Parliament witnessed major debates. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, then a young firebrand leader of the Jana Sangh, and decades away from becoming the Prime Minister, intensely questioned of the government. In Rajya Sabha, Vajpayee took on then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on several occasions.

From Rajya Sabha's debates archives, which are available online, excerpts from some selected instances when Vajpayee asked very pointed questions on the Chinese aggression, and the manner in which the government of the day had responded:

April 23, 1962 INDO-CHINESE CORRESPONDENCE **ON BORDER ISSUE**

Vajpayee: Is it not a fact that China has virtually closed the door for talks and negotiations as is evident from the... notes received from the Chinese, and, if so, may we have some idea of the steps that the government proposes to take in order to solve the problem peacefully?

Nehru: I am afraid it is difficult and it

will not be quite proper to state the possible steps that might be taken in the future. They depend on so many factors. All we could say is that every effort is made, every thought is given to this matter, and whenever an opportunity takes place, it is hoped that some possible steps might be taken. That may be a small one, whatever effect that might have.

May 3 FRESH CHINESE INCURSIONS ON THE BORDER

Vajpayee: If two or three Chinese persons can come, then what is there to prevent 200 or 300 coming into Indian territory?

Nehru: I presume that if 200 come can be more – the fact of their coming becomes much more obvious, and they are met. Just one or two persons, or three or four persons can easily come this way or that way. There is no check every yard of the frontier. If any force comes, as soon as it is known, it is checked.

Vajpayee: Sir, from time to time Chinese incursions are taking place. May I know whether at any time they have been engaged in military activity by our personnel? Nehru: I do not think there have been any

cases in recent months, possibly more, about a year ago, where there has been any conflict between Indian and Chinese soldiers.

June 20

FRESH CHINESE INCURSIONS ON THE NORTHERN BORDERS

Vajpayee: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there have been any fresh Chinese incursions on the northern borders and whether a statement giving the details of these incursions will be laid on the table of the house?

Lakshmi Menon (MoS, External Affairs): Yes sir. Subsequent to our protest note dated April 15, 1962 regarding the Chinese post established at a point 6 miles west of Sumdo, Chinese troops have set up another post on Indian territory approximately eight to ten miles southeast of Spanggur. This new post set up on Indian territory has been fortuitously admitted by the Chinese in their note dated the 11th May 1962.

June 25

VIOLATION OF AIRSPACE BY CHINESE AND PAKISTANI AIRCRAFT

Vajpayee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether some fresh incidents of violation of Indian airspace have taken place recently...?

K Raghuramaiah (Minister of State for **Defence):** Statement showing violations is



Atal Bihari Vajpayee as an Opposition leader in Parliament. Express Archive

laid on the table of the House.

Vajpayee: Sir it appears from the statement that foreign places violated our airpspace at their will and that they do not even hesitate to penetrate our airspace up to a distance of about 30 miles. May I know sir, apart from sending protest notes, what steps the government proposes to take to put an end to these air violation?

Raghuramaiah: As has been stated by both the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister on a number of occasions, we have been following, Sir, the practice open to civilised countries and we hope that they will have effect.

Aug 22

MOTION REGARDING BORDER SITUATION

Nehru: ... There is little that is new that I can place before the House... There have been certain charges and counter-charges of firing taking place. But apparently if this took place, it took place at some long distance and it hurt nobody. At the present moment the situation remains much as it was and I cannot say if it has definitely improved, it has certainly not grown any worse.

There are some indications – I do not know how far they are likely to be correct - that our post at Galwan may be reached by a column that we had sent by road. Meanwhile, they have been sent supplies by air regularly and there is no lack of supplies to any of our military posts.

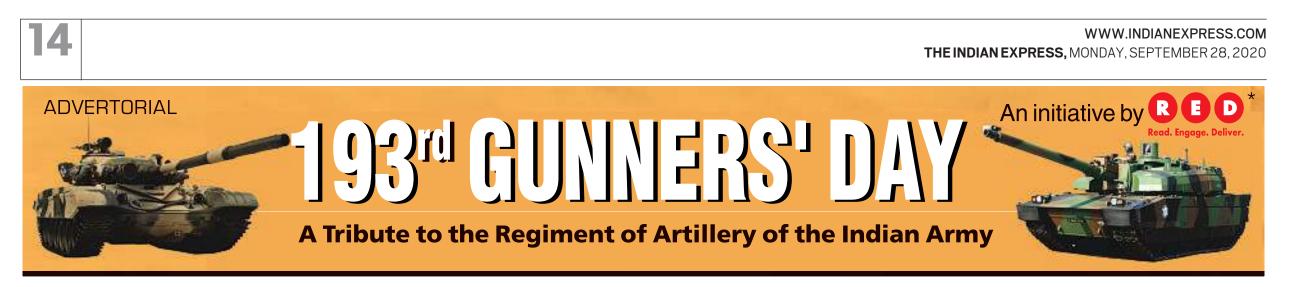
In spite of the fact that the situation has not grown worse, essentially the situation is a bad one, is a serious one by the mere fact that, according to us, a large part of our territory is under the Chinese occupation and so long as that continues the situation is bound to be exceedingly serious.

... The question arises, therefore, what should we do about it. As I have ventured to state, our approach is a dual one, one is to go on strengthening ourselves and holding as far as possible the Chinese and at the same time to explore such avenues as we can find to achieve a peaceful settlement to this difficult problem.

Vajpayee: Sir, I move that at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:

... this House is of the opinion that government's China policy has been a dismal failure inasmuch as full eight years after China committed its first blatant aggression on Indian soil by constructing the Aksai Chin highway across our territory, the government has not merely failed to redeem Chinese occupied territory, but has been unable to checkmate China's continuing forays and encroachments, and more deplorably still, continues to betray an utter confusion of mind and suicidal illusions in respect of Chinese objectives and intentions with the result that our attitudes very often seem humiliatingly incongruous with the situation, provide positive encouragement to the aggressor in its misdoings and undermine our prestige and credit in the eyes of world opinion and particularly of our neighbouring countries in Asia..."





Modernisation of Artillery Pivotal to India's Security Needs

A decisive factor in battles fought in tough terrain, a strong and modernised Artillery is the need of the hour, given the current geopolitical tensions with China and Pakistan

HE IMPORTANCE of artillery in the Armed Forces of a country needs no reiteration. It is very well known through well-documented video footages and archives what artillery managed to achieve in the last 2 world wars. At the home soil, it was those 100 Bofors guns that "broke the back of well-entrenched Pakistani forces on high mountain peaks" during the Kargil War in 1999. Though the Indian Artillery traces its origins to the past two centuries, it is no doubt that it needs constant modernisation in today's scenario to remain relevant and effective for our assaulting forces to do lethal damage to our enemies.

As per sources, "Other than the Bofors inducted in 1984, it (the Indian Army) possessed the 130 mm guns inducted in the 1960's and 70's and the 105 mm, home developed and manufactured field guns of the 1980's. The 130 lacked the ability to fire in mountains and the 105 lacked range. Both guns fired limited type of shells with lesser level of fragmentation." However, the Bofors scandal was the basic reason behind the modernisation of the artillery being restricted.

In November 2018, after a gap of 30 years, the Regiment of Artillery embarked on a path of modernisation, both in terms of equipment and support systems under the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India. The Indian Artillery finally inducted two guns. "The guns inducted were the K9 Vajra and the M777. Both are of 155 mm, with the Vajra being a tracked self-propelled gun and the M777, a light weight howitzer gun, which can be carried underslung by a helicopter. Both guns can fire up to a range of 30 kms. The quantity being inducted were 100 of the Vajra and 145 of the M777. The Vajra is 52 calibre, while the M777 is 39."

Under the 'Make in India' programme, the Indian Army had placed an order for 145 ultra-light weight Howitzer guns with BAE Systems. Out of these 145 Howitzer guns, 25 are to be imported in fly-away condition and the balance 120 are being manufactured by Mahindra Defence. By the end of 2019, the Indian Army inducted the first lot of Indian-assembled 155mm, 39 calibre M777A2 ultra-light howitzers (ULH). This also coincided with its first M777 regiment getting its full complement



K9 Vajra T-Gun

of 18 guns. These artillery guns are "meant to provide rapid response, 30-km range sustained firepower capability for mountain warfare." Under the 'Make in India' initiative, the foreign original equipment manufacturer, BAE Systems, has tied up with Mahindra Defence for the completion of the \$750-million deal. Similarly, Vajra, a variant of the South

Korean K9 Thunder, is being manufactured by L&T defence in collaboration with its Korean partner – Hanwha Techwin. Ten

IN NOVEMBER 2018, AFTER A GAP OF 30 YEARS, THE REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY EMBARKED ON A PATH OF MODERNISATION

guns were bought from South Korea and the balance are being manufactured at the company's plant near Pune. In January 2020, "The Indian Army had taken delivery of the 51st K9 Vajra 155 mm/52 calibre self-propelled tracked howitzer ahead of schedule."

Seeing the successful run of Bofors, it was also decided to run "trials for the 155 mm/ 45 calibre Dhanush artillery guns, the Indian version of the Bofors, based on the transfer of technology from the original manufacturer, AB Bofors." In April 2019, "the Indian Army had taken delivery of the first six of 114 indigenously designed and developed Dhanush 155-millimetre/45-calibre towed howitzers." The Dhanush howitzer is capable of firing eight rounds per minutes and needs a crew of six to eight artillerymen. According to the Indian MoD, 81% of the Dhanush's components are indigenously made, a number that is expected to rise to 90% in subsequent production tranches.

At DefExpo 2020, the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) handed over Sharang, the first 130mm M-46 artillery gun upgraded to 155mm, to the Indian Army. The contract, worth Rs200 crore, was signed in October 2018. With this upgrade, the gun's range has now gone up from 27 km to over 36 km. It also has more explosive capability and hence more damage potential. In all, "OFB will upgrade 300 130mm guns to 155mm and the contract will be completed in four years."

Overall, it can be said that after decades of languishing behind in firepower and capability, the Indian Artillery is finally witnessing a boom. It is expected that with time, this battle-winning arm of our Armed Forces will come of age and will be able to change the course of game on the battlefields, in case our neighbours attempt any misadventure.



THE TOS-1A heavy flamethrower system is unique to the world arms market, being the only deadly short-

range fire support weapon in the world. Such equipment is not produced anywhere in the world except Russia, and we are proud to show it to our partners. The system has repeatedly shown its impressive capabilities to destroy well-protected terrorist groups in real combat conditions in the Middle East. Owing to its unrivalled performance, the TOS-1A has held steady in the Top 5 weapons supplied by Rosoboronexport to customers' land forces," said Rosoboronexport's Director General **Alexander Mikheev**.



E ffectiveness and firepower of the TOS-1A have been long recognised all over the world. It is a unique R&D product in terms of the technical solutions applied and combat effectiveness.

The TOS-1A heavy flamethrower system is in service not only with the Russian Army, but also with the armed forces of several other countries. Unlike all existing multiple rocket launchers (MRL), only the BM-1 launch vehicle of the TOS-1A system, having MBT-level armour and a minimum firing range of 600 m (maximum range of 6 km), can perform the necessary combat missions on the forward edge of the battle area (FEBA) in a very short time frame, while remaining practically invulnerable. And its high reliability has been proven more than once.

Make in India programme is furthering Artillery upgrade



Nidhi Goyal, Aerospace and Defence Regulatory Advisor, India

NDIAN Army is trooping towards modernisation to fulfil its operational requirements for the battlefield. It is focused on developing long term capability with Make in India initiatives and by promoting indigenisation. This is highly likely to build a robust defence ecosystem in the country. The modernisation of any army is an ongoing process which involves structural and hardware changes. The Indian Army is undergoing such a transforma tion steadily. Leveraging technology is central to the plans for forces' modernisation and capability development. Besides modernisation through procurement of state-of-the-art weapon systems, the Army is also working on augmenting its inventory control through indigenous development of artillery and munitions, aimed at opening up multiple avenues for intake of modern equipment. Most of the equipment in the Army has been of foreign origin and design even though production to some extent has been done in India. Efforts have been progressively made to design and manufacture equipment locally in In-



FIELD ARTILLERY RATIONALISATION PLAN OF 2000 ENTAILED ACQUISITION OF 3,000-PLUS GUNS BY 2025 AT ESTIMATED COST OF \$8 BN focused on conversion of equipment to 155 mm calibre, enhancing surveillance capabilities and acquisition of long range vectors.

India is emerging as a new hub for defence production. With India's growing security needs, the defence manufacturing sector provides a great opportunity for investment. Defence products manufacturing — Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (IDDM) is the new method of capital procurement, introduced to encourage indigenous design, development and manufacturing of defence equipment.

Certain joint ventures have been launched, like Nexter of France with L&T for gun Trajan. Elbit of Israel has offered their gun ATHOS 2052 and had tied up with Kalyani group/Bharat Forge. Besides, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System is being developed by the DRDO in partnership with Tata Power SED and Bharat Forge Some of the systems of Artillery are Dhanush, 155mm/52 calibre towed Howitzer, Self-propelled Howitzers K9 Vajra-T, Truck Mounted guns, 155/52 Calibre Self-propelled Howitzer, 155 mm/52 Calibre Advance Towed Artillery Gun System, Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket Launching System, Brahmos Cruise Missile. Production of Artillery equipment requires Industrial Licences, whereas acquisition of technology does not require such licence. Besides the general need for the modernisation of Artillery Systems, there is a requirement to develop indigenous capability for design and development of systems/equipment.

Wishing You a Happy Gunners' Day

As we observe the 1936d Gunners Day, BME Systems is committed to accoring the Indian Army in its quest for modernized and bespoke solutions. As a founding partner of defence manufacturing in India, we take pride in supporting the Regiment of Artillery with the continued defense of the MITTP Utra-Leithweight 155mm Howkord.

baesystems.com/HUT



dia, in which OFB and DRDO are involved. With the Defence Procurement Procedure, indigenisation has been given due impetus.

The Regiment of Artillery is the second-largest arm of the Indian Army and with its guns, mortars, rocket launchers, unmanned aerial vehicles, surveillance systems, missiles and artillery firepower, it constitutes almost one-sixth of its total strength.

The Field Artillery Rationalisation Plan was formulated during 2000 in which 155 mm calibre was made the standard gun system for the Artillery and involved the acquisition of about 3,000 plus guns by 2025 at an estimated cost of \$8 billion, which included towed gun systems, mounted gun systems, self propelled howitzers, Lightweight Howitzers for mountains.

Artillery modernisation is a top priority for the Army and the force plans to order 300 more Dhanush guns; it has already been inducting 155 mm/52 calibre tracked self-propelled k9 VAJRA-T guns, being manufactured in India. New regiments are being equipped with M-777 Ultra-Light Howitzers for accurate artillery fire support in mountainous terrain.

Procurement of Artillery equipment is ve

INTERVIEW | Baba Kalyani, Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Forge Limited We have come very far in a short period of time

What is your take on the government's AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative?

As the Prime Minister very rightly remarked in a recent address, the 1.3 billion Indians have collectively embarked upon One Mission – to realise an AtmaNirbhar Bharat! It is a National Agenda to strengthen India's capabilities in strategic sectors with the help of private sector companies, in addition to the public sector.

Defence Production is at the very heart of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat mission and clearly the highest priority for the government today. I am confident that with the slew of bold reforms undertaken, we will see increased investments, value-creation and onground capacities coming up in this sector.

What is your view on the embargo on import of 101 items announced by the Raksha Mantri last month? Is there anything more that the government should do to attract investments in this sector?

The embargo on imports of 101

items including high-technology weapon systems and a bifurcated capital procurement budget signify the confidence that this Government has reposed on the capabilities of the Indian Defence Industry. This has been a long-standing demand of the Industry and these are indeed path-breaking and transformational measures towards achieving self-reliance in this strategic sector.

When we look at these announcements against the backdrop of two very important policy frameworks – Draft Acquisition Policy 2020 and Draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy – it gives us relief that the Ministry of Defence is making all efforts to synergise Procurement, Research & Development and Production of military systems.

Going forward, if we are also able to speed up procurement cycles and shorten the trial-periods, I am confident that we would be able to expeditiously realise our goal of modernising the Indian Armed Forces.

What have been your focus areas at the Kalyani Group? How

do you see yourself in the Artillery Gun segment?

Inspired by the Government's 'Make in India' initiative, the Kalyani Group and its flagship company, Bharat Forge Ltd., have invested considerable resources in building advanced defence manufacturing capabilities across Artillery Systems, Armoured & Protected Vehicle Systems, Air Defence Systems, Small Arms and Aerospace sub-systems. Leveraging the group's rich metallurgical capabilities, within a short span of 7-8 years, we at Bharat Forge Ltd. have been able to indigenously develop a series of different Artillery Gun platforms ranging from 105mm/37calibre to 155mm/ 52cal, 155mm/45cal and 155mm/39cal Guns. With the help of DRDO, Bharat Forge Ltd. has co-developed and manufactured the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), a 155mm/52cal. which is touted to be the most advanced weapon system globally in its category and has achieved a world record of over 48 km firing range. We have also developed Mountain

We have also developed Mountain Artillery Gun Systems (MARG) in High Strength Steel and Titanium that can be air-lifted for rapid deployment in hard terrains. In February 2020, during the Defence Expo in Lucknow, we also unveiled a Go-Anywhere-Gun Ultra-Light Howitzer mounted on a Truck which is highly adapted to suit the hard Indian needs. Some advanced versions of these Artillery systems are under development, and would be unveiled in the next few months.

ATAGS and other platforms have helped us gain the "Know-how and Know-why of Artillery Gun Systems" within the Kalyani Group umbrella and more importantly within India! We have all the knowledge about the metal, the metallurgy, the ballistics, the pressure curves in the barrels, the structural force, the recoil pressure on the gun and the system architecture. So we have both technology and technology understanding. That I feel is our biggest achievement.

To answer your question on where we see ourselves – I personally believe, India has the potential to export modern Artillery Systems and this is an area of supreme interest and focus for us at the Kalyani Group.

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ADVERTORIAL

-1931 GUNNERS DAY A Tribute to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army

The Indian Artillery Regiment boasts a glorious past

OVING towards becoming a 200-year legacy in 2027, Indian Artillery boasts a splendid saga of a glorious past. The rawest form of modern warfare, towed artillery guns and an Indian "Gunner" form a great bond that has delivered valiantly in the past, having participated in both the World Wars and in all the wars post Independence. Due to the longfestering border dispute on our western front, the Indian Artillery is trained to perfection, especially for conflict in mountainous and unfriendly terrain.

Estimated data that includes heavy mortar systems with a minimum 120mm calibre shows India at number 2 in the world, just behind Russia. With the motto of "Sarvatra Izzat-o-Iqbal" — Everywhere with Honour and Glory — our Gunners displayed exemplary skills in supporting their infantry comrades during the Kargil attack, firing from the slippery slopes and deceiving enemy sight.

The regiment was the biggest loser post the Bofors scandal and went without any new induction or modernisation for decades. But a fresh batch of modernisation programmes augur well for the future. Today, the Indian Army boasts having Field, Medium, Self-Propelled, Light and Medium Regiments ranging from 105mm, 122mm, 130mm and 155mm Bofors to 160mm Mortars. The Rocket Regiments are equipped with 122

"BAE Systems has a strong history of partnership with India and stands committed to supporting the country's vision of achieving greater self-reliance in defence. The Company is a founding partner of defence manufacturing in India, a commitment which can be seen throughout India's modern-day Armed Forces and across the country's defence industry, and was a first-mover among its peers to make a direct investment in increasing indigenous content through partnering, including recently in the UP defence corridor. These remain at the heart of BAE Systems' "Partnering India to Make in India" programme and strategy.

Among its many achievements, BAE Systems is proud of the partnership with Mahindra which saw the design and building of the first ever mine-protected vehicle by the private sector in India, as well as establishment of the Assembly, Integration & Test (AIT) facility for the 145 M777 ULH programme under the US-India agreement."



THE GUNNERS SHOWED EXEMPLARY SKILLS IN SUPPORTING THEIR INFANTRY COMRADES DURING KARGIL WAR

mm GRAD BM-21 rockets, 214mm Pinaka Rockets and 300 mm Smerch Rockets. Named after River Brahmaputra in India and the Moskva in Russia, the Missile Regiments are equipped with the Super Sonic Cruise Missile "BrahMos" which has a rangef 290 km. Continuous and painstaking efforts to indigenise the modernisation process of Artillery is starting to reflect in a new and emerging era of "Made in India" 155 mm (45 calibre) Dhanush , 155 mm M777 Ultra-Light Howitzers under FMS route from US, the 155 mm (52 Calibre) Self Propelled Gun which is termed as the K 9Vajra by L&T and South Korean Samsung consortium.

On this 193rd Day of the Indian Artillery, when tensions are flared up on the Indo-China borders, the Indian Artillery Forces are ready to guard our nation with grit. While the two forces remain on "standoff", both sides are gathering their artillery and combat vehicles at the disputed areas. Our battle-hardened gunners who have been involved in unending strings of low-intensity clashes at the western boundary, are capable of defending the country gloriously in the Ladakh region. Notwithstanding the fact that the Chinese, with over \$175 billion as their defence budget, have modern firepower and the advantage of having bases in Tibet, it is globally believed that the Indian Artillery's experience in such conditions will be highly effective in shaping the outcome of a confrontation should it happen.

With the renewed thrust that has recently been placed on Atma Nirbhar Bharat, with an enforced negative list of 101 items that bans imports of almost all artillery programmes, there is strong hope that the process of in-house "Make in India" modernisation will be a success. This has to be supported in real terms through budgetary allocation and smooth approval processes that can only be ensured by a political will. — Neelu Khatri, Managing Director and Sanjiv Sood, Managing Partner, BluOrange Synergies Pvt. Ltd.

Indigenous production gets priority

While the future looks bright for India's defence sector, what is needed is support for local manufacturing for technology upgrade

THE ENTIRE nation lauded the government's efforts when five Rafale fighter jets arrived at the Ambala Air Force Base in July this year. India's Defence sector and the Indian Army, in particular, has in recent years added more stealth to its armoury with an array of new fighter jets, latest guns and rifles, modern mechanised equipment and latest software. However, the arrival of these jets (after three years of a treaty with Dassault Aviation), reminded us that the country's Defence sector needs to be more 'Atmanirbhar' or self-reliant.

Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for 'Atmanirbharta' in defence manufacturing. The government has taken several measures so far under its 'Make in India' mega plan proposed in 2014. Under the mission, it was envisaged that the local industry would receive government support to meet the country's domestic needs. The defence sector has made several strides in this regard since then.

The increased focus

A number of sops have been announced since the year 2014 to support local manufacturing and procurement of defence materials and equipment. In August this year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced a phase-wise ban on import of 101 weapons systems and military platforms, including artillery guns, assault rifles and transport aircraft. The embargo on imports is planned to be progressively implemented between 2020 and 2024.

Separately, around Rs 52,000 crore has been allocated for domestic capital procurement in the current financial year. The industry has welcomed the decision, stating that the announcement of the negative list gives the agenda of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' further push.

IN AUGUST, THE GOVT ANNOUNCED ITS DRAFT DEFENCE PRODUCTION & EXPORT PROMOTION POLICY

In August itself, the government announced its draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020. It will act as the guiding document to provide a strategic and significant push to defence production capabilities in the country. It is worth mentioning that on similar lines, the government had brought out a Defence Production Policy in 2018 as well.

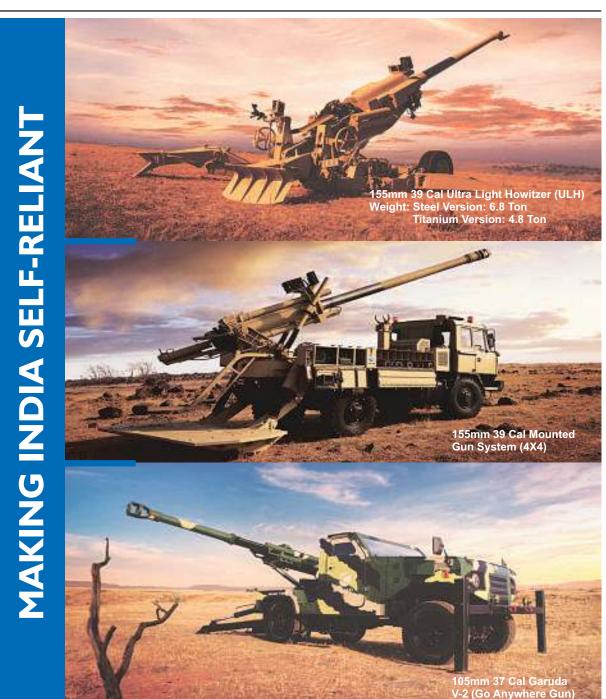
According to a Defence Ministry statement, the policy aims to achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 crore, including export of Rs 35,000 crore, in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2025. The country has already witnessed a staggering 700% growth in defence exports from Rs 1521 cr in 2016-17 to Rs 10,745 crore in 2018-19, according to the statement.

In recent years, the government has announced several strategic measures to make India a defence manufacturing hub. This according to experts will meet two clear objectives: One, it makes the country self-reliant on several defence requirements; second, the country will be able to produce equipment indigenously and export them to other developing and developed countries.

These items include the Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launch Systems, Akash Air Defence Systems, Tejas Fighter Aircraft, Helicopters (Dhruv and Rudra), ASW corvettes, Advanced OPVs Patrol boats, Interceptor boats, Torpedoes, Sonars, Buoys, Radars, Artillery guns, Anti-tank missiles and Mine Protected Vehicles.

What lies ahead?

That said, there is still a need to overhaul the entire internal manufacturing process with a stronger focus on the public sector and increased participation from the private sector. The ongoing confrontation with neighbours has only reiterated the point.





Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (centre) at the BAE Systems' stand at DefExpo 2020. The Union Defence Minister was hosted by

15

An initiative by 🕓 🕒

Nik Khanna, Managing Director India, Nik Khanna, Managing Director, India, BAE Systems (left) and Mark BAE Systems Goldsack, Director, Defence and Security Organisation (right)

Artillery has always lent the Indian Army an edge

With the ability to strike deep with great accuracy, the Artillery has time and again proven its importance in modern-day warfare

VERY YEAR on 28 September, Regiment of Artillery, the second-largest arm of the Indian Army, celebrates Gunners' Day to commemorate the raising of the first Indian Artillery Unit, namely, 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery on this day in 1827. On this auspicious day, wreaths are laid at Amar Jawan Jyoti to honour the sacrifices of our fallen heroes, an occasion when a large number of veteran officers are also present in attendance.

Not many people are aware that time and again, "artillery has proven to be the arm of decision, a battle-winning factor and will continue to be the pivotal arm in all future battles." The importance of artillery can be ascertained from the fact that throughout the history of warfare, "the ability to project firepower at a distance has always been one of the most important assets any commander could ask for, and over the ages, ar-



IN 2018, THE PRESENT GOVT BEGAN PROCESS OF RESTORING THE ARTILLERY'S HEALTH

tillery has proved its mettle."

The health of the Indian Artillery was finally restored when, in 2018, the current regime, under the leadership of PM Modi, changed the

status quo by bringing in long-pending developments. The government's emphasis on 'Make in India' initiative reflects its deep commitment to make India self-reliant. The recent import embargo on 101 defence equipment is a true measure of the government's commitment in this regard. The idea is to trust local defence manufacturing industries, forge partnerships for knowledge transfer and try to become self-reliant in the near future. Currently, all the artillery guns either under trials, procurement or development fall under the 'Make in India' or 'Made in India' category. Today gun manufacturing is emerging as

Today, gun manufacturing is emerging as an area of core competency in India, to meet domestic as well as global demand. Defence PSUs are all geared up to cater to such demands. This also indicates a huge potential for the MSMEs and start-ups to develop a manufacturing ecosystem around these weapon systems.

Nation's Pride: The Regiment of Artillery

NDIAN ARMY'S indigenisation mission has a new name – Dhanush. Last year, the Indian Army received its first batch of indigenously built Dhanush artillery guns. The Dhanush gun, which has a calibre of 155x45mm, is the first indigenous artillery gun of this calibre. It is also the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India, having a range of 38 km. Consid-

ered a medium artillery, the gun is equipped with a navigation-based sighting system, on board ballistic computation and an advanced day and night direct-firing system. The selfpropulsion unit allows the gun to deploy itself in mountainous terrains with ease.

The Regiment of Artillery, one of the largest Arms of the Indian Army, is now a fully modernised force and is equipped to counter



any foreign threat, thanks to the Army's indigenisation programme that started under the aegis of the government. Supporting the Government of India's 'Make in India' initiative, the Regiment continues to be an inspiration for all.

With its rich culture and war history, the Regiment has proved to be the best in the world. It has proved its mettle during the three Indo-Pak wars, Bangladesh Liberation War, Sino-Indian War of 1962 and played a pivotal role during the Kargil conflict in 1999. Its Bofors Guns played a crucial role in targeting Pakistani military positions during the 1999 Kargil War.

The Regiment has also given us many war legends and heroes, whose contributions to the nation remain priceless.

In recent times, just like its other counterparts across the globe, the Regiment is in a phase of complete transformation. With the planned acquisition of a plethora of modern equipment and technologies like K-9 Vajra & M-777 Ultra Light Howitzers, and Weapon Locating Radars, it will continue to be a solid support for the Army in its mission of securing India's frontiers. Bharat Forge is committed on building an Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence sector. We have indigenously developed a large portfolio of different types of artillery products and will continue to manufacture defence products in India to match the Defence forces requirements.



Artillery | Armoured Vehicles | Protected Vehicles | Missiles and Air Defence Ammunition | Defence Electronics | Aerospace | Helicopter | Small Arms

#atmanirbharbharat

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 16 ECONOMY

MARKET WATCH FPIS PULL OUT ₹476 CR SO FAR IN SEPT

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) have pulled out Rs 476 crore on net basis so far from Indian markets in September, reflecting a cautious stance by participants amid fears of resurgence of coronavirus cases in Europe and other countries. PTI

CASH WITHDRAWALS FROM ATMs AT 72,34,119 CR AS OF JULY, SHOWS RBI DATA **Currency with public touches fresh high of 726 lakh crore, but pace of growth slows**

SANDEEP SINGH & **GEORGE MATHEW** NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

CURRENCY WITH public hit a new high of Rs 26 lakh crore for the first time as resident Indians continued to increase their cash holding amidst the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, though the pace of increase has declined over the last couple of months.

According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in the fortnight ended September 11. the currency with public increased by Rs 17,891 crore to hit a new high of Rs 26 lakh crore. Since the fortnight ended February 28, 2020, when the currency in circulation was Rs 22.55 lakh crore, it has risen by Rs 3.45 lakh crore to hit Rs 26 lakh crore on September 11, 2020, as per the RBI data.

During demonetisation in 2016, the government said that it wanted to make India a 'less cash economy'. The cash with public has risen nearly 45 per cent from

CASH WITH PUBLIC STEADILY ON THE RISE Currency with Public ₹26,00,933 ₹25,62,967 ₹25,83,042 ₹24,74,031 ₹23,08,312 ₹21,79,500 ₹25,76,289 ₹23,91,299 Aug 28, ' Jul 31. May 8, ' Apr 10, ' Sept 11, Jar-On fortnightly basis

what it was before demonetisation. While currency with public stood at Rs 17.97 lakh crore as on November 4. 2016. soon after demonetisation, it had declined to Rs 7.8 lakh crore in January 2017. Funds routed through the dig-

ital payment system also increased from Rs 82.46 lakh crore in April to Rs 111.18 lakh crore till July 31, 2020. It is, however, important to note that the sudden rush for cash by the public that started

AASHISHARYAN

alongside the Covid-19 pandemic and in anticipation of lockdown announcement in March has slowed over the last couple of months as the lockdown restrictions eased and e-commerce has

become fully operational. While the currency with public increased by Rs 3.07 lakh crore between February 28 and June 19, 2020, it rose by only Rs 37,966 crore between June 19, 2020 and September 11, 2020.

agency overseeing the implemen-

Earlier this year in July, these

tation of the project elsewhere.

USOF, in addition to the funds that

were already allocated to it. The

and Telangana, other states such

as Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu

also fared poorly. While Mahara-

shtra has to lay 50,314 km of opti-

cal fibre to connect all of its 12,888

GPs, it has so far laid only 28,019

km and made 2,174 gram GPs

service ready. Meanwhile, Tamil

Nadu, which aims to connect

12,909 GPs and has to lay down

49,500 km of optical fibre, has not

even started working on the proj-

Apart from Andhra Pradesh

demand was however denied.

As per the RBI definition, currency with public is arrived at after deducting cash with banks from total currency in circulation. Currency in circulation refers to cash or currency within a country that is physically used to conduct transactions between consumers and businesses.

Economists say that the jump and slowdown in the pace of increase in currency with the public is in line with the economy turning into a cash economy during the lockdown phase and then as things gradually started to move towards normalcy, the cash with the public started to go down. There is an expectation that cash with the public will start reducing going forward. "The unabated rise in Covid infections across India has also prompted the public to keep cash with them. Payments through debit cards have also increased," said a senior banker.

"During lockdown, since people were relying on neighbourhood kirana stores and wanted to avoid exposure to virus, they withdrew big amounts of cash at

one go to meet their monthly needs and that led to a rise in currency with the public. With supply chain improving and e-commerce becoming operational, the reliance on cash has reduced and gradually currency with the public will come down further," said DK Pant, chief economist at India Ratings. Cash withdrawals from ATMs, which declined to Rs 1,27,660 crore in April increased to Rs 2,34,119 crore in July, accord-

ing to the latest RBI data. Pant added that transactions on NPCI's Unified Payments Interface have started going up and people are already moving away from cash following the opening up of e-commerce.

On the other hand, the RBI has pumped around Rs 10 lakh crore liquidity into the financial system in order to bail out the economy from the vagaries of Covid-19. This has pushed up the retail inflation to above 6 per cent level, which is higher than the RBI's target of 4 per cent, forcing the central bank to keep the reporate unchanged in the previous policy review.

'Fall in remittances will add to fiscal difficulty of states ... there'll be direct & indirect impact on tax revenues' WHILE THE Covid-19 pandemic

"There is a great

need for data on

disaggregated by

possible, there is

states in India"

DILIP RATHA

also a need for data

on migration within

and they are likely to experience

disruptions to their financial life-

lines, affecting their ability to con-

migration and

remittances

state, and if

INTERVIEW: WORLD BANK LEAD ECONOMIST ON MIGRATION & REMITTANCES

and the resultant global economic slide is projected to impact remittance flows to developing economies, resulting in hardships to poor households that have been reliant on remittances. India is expected to be badly hit. DILIP RATHA, head of KNOMAD and World Bank lead economist on migration and remittances explains in a interview to ANIL SASI. Edited excerpts:

Given the pandemic and the resultant slowdown, how do you see the impact of a crash in remittances on countries such as India?

We have seen that flows from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to neighboring countries have been resilient in the months of June and July. It is likely that we will see similar resilience in flows to India from the GCC countries. But overall, given the high level of unemployment of migrant workers in major host countries and weaker earnings of migrants, remittance flows are expected to decline significantly. Flows from Europe and the United States are likely to be weaker than those from GCC countries. We are projecting a fall of about 20 per cent in remittance flows to India.

That would cause a lot of hardships to poor households that have been reliant on remittances. It is likely that a large number of households will fall into poverty.

How bad would this be in terms of the impact to states such as Kerala or Punjab?

Since Kerala and Punjab are two of the largest remittance recipients among Indian states, a large number of households in these states rely on remittances

harder on internal migrants. There is also a huge need for improving data on inter-state mobility and migration within states in India

With respect to movement of migrants, Kerala has close to two million migrant workers in the West Asia region. While a few thousand have come back home, do you envisage more returnees once the travel restrictions are eased?

Indeed, the economic situation in the GCC countries is highly uncertain. This is because of disruption to economic activity due to Covid-19, and also because of the decline in oil prices. With the economy slowing down, unemployment levels are rising and we expect more Indian migrants to return from the GCC region back to their homes in India. including to Kerala... This is a phenomenon that requires more attention from policy makers because returning migrants not only need to be supported in terms of guarantine on arrival, but they will need to be supported through social programmes like cash transfers and jobs placement initiatives.

What is the kind of drop expected at the level of states and how badly would it impact state finances, given that the GST revenues are already strained?

The fall in remittances will add to the fiscal difficulty of the state in the sense that households will either not have the additional income through remittances or will receive lower amounts. Therefore. there will be both direct and indirect impact on tax revenues of the state as consumption will be curtailed as a result of lower house-

BRIEFLY — Copper tube, pipe imports: **Probe opened**

New Delhi: India is investigating imports of copper tubes and pipes from Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand, to determine whether producers in these countries were receiving unfair subsidies, the government said. The investigation by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies, the investigative arm of the Commerce Ministry, could result in these imports facing countervailing duties, said a government circular. The probe covers imports shipped between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020.

China industrial profitsup for 4th straight month

Shanghai: Profits at China's

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27 states had written to the Depart-THE LACK of workers coupled ment of Telecommunications with a shortage of funds has hit (DoT) and the Universal Service the brakes on the BharatNet work Obligation Fund (USOF) asking for more funds to start work on the in as many as eight states, including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, second phase of BharatNet. And-Telangana, Odisha and Tamil hra Pradesh, for example, had de-Nadu, according to the latest data manded Rs 2,000 crore from the

obtained by The Indian Express. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, one of the first states to opt to complete BharatNet work on its own, only 27 out of the 11,839 gram panchavats (GPs) have been made service ready till date, while in the neighboring state of Telangana, not even one of the total 11.374 GPs is service ready. according to the latest data. These eight states had in 2018 opted to complete the work on BharatNet themselves instead of outsourcing it to Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), the central

EXPLAINED No funds from DoT, USOF

HAVING OPTED to carry out the work on BharatNet themselves instead of outsourcing it to BBNL, the eight states are now in need of funds, having written to the DoT and the USOF for the same in July. However, the demand was denied and no progress has been made.

ect, according to the data.

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Most of these states have also expressed to the DoT the lack of workers to dig trenches and lay down optical fibre due to the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19 and the return of migrant workers to their hometowns due to lack of job, officials said. The BharatNet project, which initially began as the National Optical Fibre Network in October 2011, has been delayed for over 92

For BharatNet phase one, BBNL - a special purpose vehicle of the DoT - was the nodal 2012 and had started implementation of the plan after inordinate delays in the implementation and execution of BharatNet work by

has been extended beyond August 2021, the government said last week, without specifying what the new deadline would be.

sume, afford healthcare, and education. We do not have state-level data on remittance flows and it is difficult to be precise in the case of Puniab. In fact, other states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu also have large numbers of migrants abroad and probably receive large amounts of remittances. There is a great need

for data on migration and remittances disaggregated by state, and if possible, there is also a need for data on migration within states in India. The poverty-reduction impact of migration is much greater in the case of internal migration, and therefore disruptions to internal migration, in that sense, is going to be disproportionately hold finances.

Harley-Davidson exit may push auto tariff cut up in US priority list for limited trade deal

PRABHA RAGHAVAN NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

WITH THE iconic Harley-Davidson motorcycles joining a list of American vehicle firms that have driven out of India, Washington might give a stronger push to auto tariff reduction in its asks while finalising a limited trade package. Over the last three years, several US car and motorcycle firms, including General Motors, Ford Motor Co and Cleveland CycleWerks have either restructured operations to exist as joint ventures or exited the Indian market altogether. This was mainly due to low demand for their segment of vehicles, according to experts. "The Harley-Davidson exit happening at this juncture is a signal which is not really desirable for India at this point. The exit of other auto companies in the last few years also shows that the market here is not deep enough for them to grab share from other companies like Suzuki and Hyundai, which are firmly entrenched." said trade expert Biswaiit Dhar, professor at JNU's Centre for Economic Studies and Planning. "Foreign investors would get attracted to India for the size of the market and the purchasing power here. When our economy was growing at around 7 per cent, there was a possibility that this market was going to expand, but the moment there is a situation where India is the slowest growing economy among major economies, then this possibility comes into question," he said. The exits mean that whatever little demand does exist for these products will have to be serviced mostly through imports. Though Harley's exit is part of the firm's global strategy, its politicisation in US-India relations over the last few years by US President Donald

cause Harley-Davidson is iconic for Americans," said another trade expert on condition of anonymity.

Some experts, however, do feel that other priorities will still take precedence in how a trade package between India and the United States shapes up. The US

could begin to use Harley-

Davidson's exit as a political ma-

neuver to get India to reduce its

auto tariffs, but it is unlikely that

India will give in, according to

Indian Council for Research on

International Economic Relations

the list (of priorities for a limited

trade deal), but for India, auto is

not important and there's noth-

ing for us to gain. They (the US)

might try to push it," he said, add-

ing that, at this point, given India's

economic situation, the demand

that are important for India in the

US limited trade deal, auto tariffs

will also be there, but it won't be

top(priority). At the top are issues

like agriculture, data flows and lo-

calisation, competition policy,"

job creator in the US, and it is more

of a services rather than manufac-

turing industry. The ask from the US side would be more on the

services side and, when you look

beyond services, the other big ex-

port the US has on a global basis is

agriculture ... other items do not

matter so much in the trade envi-

'We have to look at what is the

Kathuria said.

"If you look at the list of issues

for any luxury product is low.

"Auto tariffs may go higher on

president Rajat Kathuria.

back home bring BharetNet work to a halt in 8 states

months now. agency. It was incorporated in

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. In phase two of the project, however, many states had expressed their desire to complete work on their own and had also floated request for proposal (RFP) for the same. However, the work on BharatNet phase two will be delayed further and the deadline

Slow connection: Dearth of funds, workers moving

industrial firms grew for the fourth straight month in August, buoyed in part by a rebound in commodities prices and equipment manufacturing, the statistics bureau said Sunday. China's recovery has gained momentum as pent-up demand, stimulus and surprisingly resilient exports propel a rebound. **REUTERS**

IKEAtoadopt omni-channel approach in India

New Delhi: IKEA is adjusting to the new reality while continuing to bet on India as one of its "very important markets". its India CEO Peter Betzel said, adding it plans to expand with an omni-channel approach. PTI

'Crude steel output falls over 4% to 8.48 MT in August'

India's crude steel production fell more than 4 per cent to 8.478 million tonnes (MT) in August 2020, according to the World Steel Association (worldsteel)



Why this is important: Due to difficulties presented by Covid-19. many of this month's figures are estimates that may be revised with next month's production update

| E STEEL PRODUCTION BY OTHER MAJOR | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ORLDSTEEL MEMBERS THIS AUGUST | |

| 2.830 MT | 0.722MT | 0.696MT | 6.5% | 22.9% | 9.7% | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|
| -13.4% | -31.2% | -32.5% | 2.7MT | 3.2 MT | 0.939MT | | |
| Germany | France | Spain | Brazil | Turkey | Italy | | |
| 869 MT: C India in Au | | | to 5.800 MT last month | | | | |
| inula in Au | yustiasty | cai | 20.6%: | Fall in Japa | an's output. | | |

from 8.120 MT in August 2019 8.4%: Growth in China's crude steel output, from 87.499 MT to 6.446 MT of crude steel in in August 2019 to 94.845 MT same period this year last month

1.8%: Decline in production of crude steel by South Korea, from 5.905 MT in August 2019

0.6%: Rise in global crude steel output for 64 nations reporting to worldsteel, from 155.374 MT in August 2019 to 156.244 MT this August

Shareholders vote MD-CEO, promoters of Lakshmi Vilas Bank out at AGM

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

IN A dramatic development, the shareholders of struggling Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) have voted against the appointment of seven directors to its board, including that of S Sundar as the managing director and chief executive officer, as well as promoters KR Pradeep and N Saiprasad.

Shareholders rejected the appointments of Saiprasad, Pradeep and Raghurai Guijar as non-executive and non-independent directors at the annual general meeting (AGM), the Chennai-based bank said in a regulatory filing.

They also voted against BK Manjunath, Gorinka Jaganmohan Rao and YN Lakshminarayana Murthy as non-executive and independent directors. These appointments were taken up for vot-

ing at the AGM on September 25. The promoter group holds

only 6.80 per cent stake in the private bank. The lender posted a net loss of Rs 112.28 crore in the June guarter of FY21 as against a loss of Rs 237.25 crore in the same period last year. Its EPS was -3.33 per cent. Almost one fourth of the bank's advances have turned bad assets.

The bank's gross non-performing assets stood at 25.40 per cent of advances as on June 2020 as against 17.30 per cent a year ago. Its total capital adequacy ratio, as per Basel III guidelines, was at 0.17 per cent as of June 2020 as against 1.12 per cent in March 2020. Gross advances as of June 2020 were to the tune of Rs 16,310 crore with net interest income at Rs 90.76 crore. Total deposits were

pegged at Rs 21,161 crore. LVB,

which was struggling for fund in-

fusion, was in talks with various

entities for a merger or capital.

arising due to COVID-19 situation, we have made significant progress with Clix group for the proposed amalgamation of Clix Capital Service Pvt Ltd and Clix Finance India Pvt Ltd into the bank. However, there may be slight delay in the mutual due diligence and preparation of documents for regulatory require-

ments due to Covid situation and travel restrictions. Hence, both the parties mutually agreed to extend the exclusivity period till September 15, 2020," the bank had said in a statement on July 30.

"Despite logistical challenges

Currently, Meenakshi Sundaram is LVB's president-COO. The Reserve Bank of India has two nominees on the bank's board -Rainish Kumar and Sundaram Shankar. The bank appointed S Sundar, its chief financial officer, as the interim managing director and CEO effective January 1, 2020.

TO WORK ON PLAN TO BOOST MANUFACTURING DPIIT shares list of 24 key sectors with ministries

New Delhi: The DPIIT has shared a list of 24 key sectors including food processing, toys, furniture, agro chemicals and textiles with respective ministries asking them to work on an action plan with a view to boost domestic manufacturing and make India a self-reliant country, an Commerce and Industry Ministry official said.

The other sectors include organic farming, iron, aluminium and copper, electronics, industrial machinery, furniture, leather and shoes, and auto parts. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

24.4%: Fall in crude steel

to 5.588 MT this August

produced by the United States,

from 7.396 MT in August 2019

Source:

worldsteel/PTI

(DPIIT) is working actively on promoting domestic manufacturing of toys and furniture. PTI



India had cut duties on the bike to 50% in 2018 from around 100% earlier. File

Trump increases the possibility of his administration pushing India to reduce duties on vehicles like large-engine motorcycles.

In the last few years, Trump has cited the Modi government's tariffs on the iconic motorcycles multiple times as an example of why India is a "tariff king". India did bring down duties on the bike to 50 per cent in 2018 from around 100 per cent previously, but the American president found the new tariff rate 'still unacceptable'.

"I think what could actually happen is the Harley-Davidson issue will become more important, because what Harley tried to do by setting up India operations was tariff jumping. This hasn't helped them succeed in getting more market share and now they're leaving. Other companies like GM. too, would like to bring in their cars from other production bases but they will face high tariffs on automobiles, which is already an outstanding issue," said Dhar.

"It is likely that the pitch from the US side to bring down these tariffs will become even stronger now and, with the government talking about a limited trade deal, many of these issues could now be put on the fast track," he added.

"The issue may very well be brought up by the Trump administration, especially given that the presidential elections in the US are coming up in November, and be-

ronment," said Dr Mukesh Aghi, President, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). "I think having these (firms) shut down does not impact the trade discussions between the two countries. I think the focus is still going to be on the services side issues such as e-commerce, data localisation ... that's where the US

economy seems to go," he added.

Qatar Airways says losses reach \$ 1.9 billion amid pandemic, boycott

ASSOCIATED PRESS DUBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

LONG-HAUL CARRIER Qatar Airways on Sunday reported revenue losses of \$1.9 billion for the past year, blaming the coronavirus pandemic, its liquidation of shares in Air Italy and the ongoing boycott of Doha by four Arab nations

for the drop.

The nation of Qatar itself needed to bail out the The energy-rich nation of Oatar itself needed to bail out the state-owned airline at the end of its fiscal year, state-owned airline at the end of with \$2 billion to keep the airline operating its financial year on March 31 with \$2 billion to keep the airline oper-

> our results would have been better than the year before," Qatar Airways CEO Akbar al-Baker said in a statement. The airline carried

ing Gulf long-haul carriers Emirates and Etihad, slashing thousands of jobs while trying to expand its network as travel restrictions lift worldwide.

That's as demand for flights remains low over fears about the virus, which has wreaked havoc on international travel. The airline listed having over 50,000 employees on its payroll in the report.

edged. The carrier also blamed new accounting rules for further adding to losses for the past fiscal. "If not for the exceptional cir-

ating, its annual report acknowl-



32.3 million passengers in the last cumstances of fiscal year 2020.

fiscal year, compared to 29.4 million the year prior. But Qatar Airways finds itself in the same position of compet-

SPORT

FRENCH OPEN

Mercury dips, tempers rise

Azarenka vents anger at being asked to wait in the cold before match is paused

REUTERS SEPTEMBER 27

FORMER WORLD No.1 Victoria Azarenka complained about the playing conditions at the French Open amid light drizzle and low temperatures during her 6-1, 6-2 first-round victory on Sunday. The US Open runner-up, who entered court Suzanne Lenglen wearing a thick pink puffer jacket, and her opponent Danka Kovinic walked off the court after play was suspended with Belarusian Azarenka leading 2-1.

"No, it's eight degrees, I live in Florida, I'm used to hot weather," a furious Azarenka told the supervisor who asked her to wait on court until a decision was made on whether the match should continue.

Speaking to her opponent from Montenegro, 10th seed Azarenka, who next faces either Venus Williams or Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, said: "Do you want to wait on court?"No," Kovinic replied."No, it's ridiculous, it's too cold. What's the point? Sitting here like ducks," said Azarenka, who wore a wind jacket on court and said she was worried about sliding on a court made heavier by the persistent drizzle.

The players returned after a delay of about 50 minutes and Azarenka immediately broke her opponent's serve before wrapping up victory in front of nine spectators.Azarenka said the interruption should have been better managed.

"I think it's very tricky at the moment to have these conditions. So definitely not going to sit here and complain, but sometimes I think there are smarter ways to handle situations. The unfortunate part sometimes with the French Open is that there is no communications with players or players council," she added

The French Open is usually played in May-June but this year's tournament was pushed back to late September due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The weather in Paris is therefore colder than normal for the Grand Slam event with the claycourt conditions much heavier and slower than the players are accustomed to.

Asked whether the tournament should have been cancelled altogether, like Wimbledon was. Azarenka said it was important for lower-ranked players."I wouldn't particularly say so because I do believe that I want to play," she said."We all want to compete and we want to play and for maybe not a player like me that maybe financially is more stable than other players are, it's very important to have this opportunity during the pandemic. I think that there should have been a little bit more consulting and heads



Victoria Azarenka tries to keep herself warm while officials decide whether to continue play after a light drizzle. Azarenka beat Danka Kovinic 6-1, 6-2. Reuters

The weather in Paris is colder than normal for the Grand Slam event with the claycourt conditions much heavier and slower than the players are accustomed to.

up and conversation. I think that's where we can improve, for sure.'

Sinner's day out

Italian teenager Jannik Sinner upset 11th seed David Goffin in a breezy 7-5, 6-0, 6-3 victory on his French Open debut on Sunday to confirm his status as one of the most exciting talents in men's tennis.

The 19-year-old, who won last year's NextGen ATP Finals title, had won his only previous meeting against Goffin in straight sets in the second round at Rotterdam this vear. But Goffin, who reached the quarter-finals at Roland Garros in 2016, would have fancied his chances against the 74th-ranked Sinner who before Sunday had only one Grand Slam win under his belt - at this year's Australian Open. Playing his first match on the main showcourt at Roland Garros and the opener in this year's tournament, Sinner showed he belonged on this stage.

"The first set was very tight, it was like the

key to manage to win the service games quite easily," Sinner told reporters."In the beginning, that was not easy. He was returning well. I was not serving that well. But the balls here are very heavy. The court was heavy. It was not easy. But at the end, when you win the first set and go up a break, it's a little bit easier to play.

The Italian traded a double break of serve with his Belgian opponent at the initial stages of the match before getting the crucial third break to take the opening set. It was all Sinner after that as his sizzling forehand started generating more power and Goffin struggled to stay in the rallies under the closed roof of court Philippe Chatrier as the Italian won 11 straight games to close in on victory. "You never expect that," Sinner said about winning 11 straight games.

"I don't think there was like one key. He maybe didn't feel that well on court. I felt well. I have just been trying to be focused."Sinner converted his second match point when his opponent sent a forehand wide and followed it with a subdued celebration, showing the same calm and composure he displayed during the two hours on court.Goffin hit one winner more that Sinner but the 16 additional unforced errors by the Belgian made the difference. Sinner will next meet French qualifier Benjamin Bonzi who defeated Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Why Nadal isn't happy with the new official ball at Roland Garros

GAURAV BHATT NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

AFTER A four-month delay, the French Open began on Sunday under dark clouds of Covid-19 and Parisian fall season. A developing storyline, however, has been the tournament favourites saying: "No new balls, please."

The organisers have replaced Babolat with Wilson as the official ball at Roland Garros. Dominic Thiem and Novak Djokovic have called the new balls "heavier" and "slower". But nobody has been more outspoken, and seemingly more affected, by the change than record twelve-time winner Rafael Nadal. Coupled with the weather conditions, the Wilson balls could theoretically pose problems to the perennial champion.

How are the balls different?

According to Nadal, the new Wilson balls are slow and "not good to play on clay" Freshly-crowned US Open champion and another clay-court specialist Dominic Thiem believes the ball will be a "bigger difference" than conditions. "I practised two days at home with the ball. Now, of course, here. I₹m a little bit sad because the Babolat were actually my favourite balls, they were nice and fast, perfect for my game, perfect for Nadal's game too," Thiem told reporters. "The new balls will be slower, more open. They get a little bit bigger after a while. That will certainly change the results a bit.'

The Wilson Type 2 balls at this year's Roland Garros sport extra felt, woven loosely to minimise wear and make them consistent. But it also makes them heavier.

EXPLAINE

And heavier the ball, the slower it goes through the air and off the court. The coarse courts and humid conditions mean the extra felt may fluff up more, causing the ball to drag. The thicker felt would also pick up dirt each time they hit the ground, making the balls heavier.

How do conditions affect the ball?

The humid, cold September-October weather is a far cry from the usual May-June summer. The scheduling – two weeks after US Open – was already a challenge, but the new balls have seemingly made it worse. If the ball or court is wet, it can impact both the flight of the ball as well as the bounce. The ball will only get heavier through the thick air. "I agree that the balls are heavy," Djokovic told reporters on Saturday. "But also it's probably because we are also almost in October, and it's very cold. The clay is also heavy and wet. Just overall conditions are also affecting the ball itself. It's very hard to say whether the ball is heavy in general or is it because we are playing under these kinds of slow and heavy conditions.

Nadal asserted that the Wilson balls are



Rafael Nadal is unhappy with the slow and 'not good to play on clay' Wilson balls, which have replaced Babolat at the French Open from this year. File

unsuitable regardless. "I practised with the balls in Mallorca with warm conditions, the ball was very slow, I think (it's) not a good ball to play on clay, honestly. That is my personal opinion," Nadal said. "Even with these conditions, it makes things tougher. If we add these conditions of cold and humidity, then it's super heavy."

How do the new balls affect playstyles?

Nadal's biggest weapon is the dizzying topspin he generates, and everything goes into it - his physicality, biomechanics, the strings and the motion.



The balls too had a role to play. On the slowest tennis-playing surface of clay, the lighter, livelier Babolat balls put a penetrative oomph on Nadal's serves and groundstrokes. The RPMs (revolutions per minute) may still go as high as 5,500, but slower traversal and lower bounce of the balls can allow op-

ponents to better counter the heavy topspin. The usual short forehands on the run by

the 34-year-old could be less effective this year. On the other hand, a flat hitter like Diokovic should get more time to line up their shots, hit them on the rise and generate speed and depth. Daniil Medvedev, 2019 US Open finalist, who has never advanced past the first round at Roland Garros, is already licking his chops.

"It's normal that when one player doesn't like something, the second one maybe is going to like it. So far I like it," said the 6'6, heavyhitting baseliner.

What are the injury concerns?

Nadal issued a warning shot to the organisers. "I really believe that the organisation need to take a look at that for the next couple of years, for the health of the players

too, because the ball is super heavy. (It) becomes dangerous for the elbow and for the shoulders.

Hitting heavy, wet (or both, in the case of this year's French Open) is of course linked to injuries such as tennis elbow.

When and why was the ball changed?

It's a straightforward commercial decision. By winning the partnership, Wilson is again the official ball at two Grand Slams (US and French Open) after being replaced by Dunlop at last year's Australian Open.

Also, both Nadal and Thiem are Babolat's poster athletes, and few would have expected them to come out and admit that the Wilson balls were better than their own company's.

Last year in November, the French Tennis Federation ended the long association with Babolat and signed a five-year deal with Chicago-based Wilson. Under the new deal, Wilson's stringers will also be on-site to provide services as well as a range of co-branded products will be launched.

Babolat had been the official ball at French Open since 2011 when the French manufacturers replaced Dunlop.

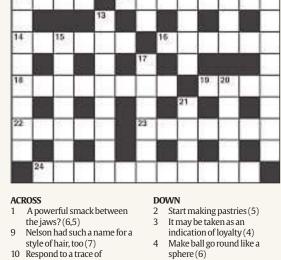
What happened the last time the balls were changed?

A lot of players complained.

When the French Open switched to Babolat from Dunlop in 2011, players claimed that the new balls bounced higher and played faster. Federer, who reached the French Open final for the last time that year, led the chorus. Stanislas Wawrinka said "The balls are pretty strange" while Djokovic bemoaned that "the balls are very, very fast, so it's really difficult to control. Maybe it's going to favour the servers and the big hitters. Nadal, who had already won five French

Open titles, went on to win seven more.





6

7

(4,2,5)

(2,3,6)

(6)

respect(8)

15 One stays with it (7)

Dealings in transport

Didn't miss any of the

athletics meeting, anyway

13 It's always torn out with great

Not a bird, it chirps and flies

A decisive manual exhibition

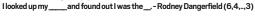
difference(5) A place of grazing 5 (8)

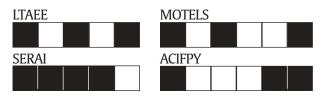
- 11 Clean backwater (4) 12 For Wagnerian hero, standard
- fails unexpectedly (8)
- 14 Fan set out for tie (6)
- 16 It's said to own a striking
- success(6)
- 18 Scholarly in theory (8)
- 19 He follows the account painfully(4)
- 22 Doctor, I have reduced energy
- 23 It's sticky enough to make a snake immobile
- 20 A rich mixture at the table 24 History teachers who are real
- 21 It was worn in the past, experts?(4,7) perhaps(4)

Solutions Crossword 4234: Across: 1 Indigo, 4 Addendum, 9 Snugly, 10 Stanhope, 12 Rage, 13 Botha, 14 Hera, 17 Narrowsqueak, 20 Deerstalkers, 23 Apse, 24 Actor, 25 Idea, 28 Climatic, 29 Caries, 30 Sweeping, 31 Lead on. Down: 1 Insuring, 2 Drudgery, 3 Golf, 5 Dutch auction, 6 Erne, 7 Drover, 8 Maenad. 11 Construction. 15 Roger, 16 Dally, 18 Headwind, 19 Assassin, 21 Dances, 22 Aspire, 26 Vamp, 27 Pate.

JUMBLED WORDS

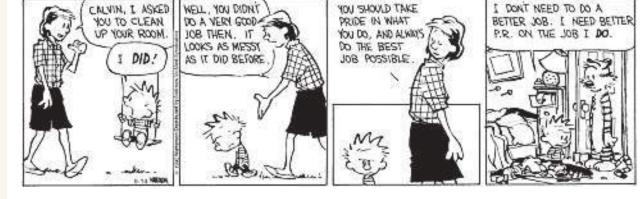
Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip





Answer: I looked up my family tree and found out I was the sap. - Rodney Dangerfield SOLUTION: ELATE, RAISE/ARISE, MOLEST, PACIFY





MARVIN by Tom Armstrong -ALSONIAS I JUST NEED TO GIVE THIS NEW PLACE MORE TIME. I ALL THE IT'S TIME FOR WHAT'S DON'T WANT TO ROCK THE ALL PTILD/ THIS ?? FOOD HERE BOAT IS VEGAN! 0 1.21 4

2

6

Difficulty Level 5s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the DOKI nine boxes. **Difficulty Level** ົດ 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius





| | 7/- | | |
|-----|--------|-----------------|---|
| 100 | \sim | 1 - Constanting | V |
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| | | | |



8 2 1 7 5 6 3 4 9

189624735

6 5 7 1 3 9 8 2 4

3 4 2 8 7 5 6 9 1

bear in mind that overseas connections are vital. News from afar will soon lift your emotions. TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Just what are other people up to?

partners' trivial foibles. Do

Somebody certainly seems to have a big claim on your time. Whether you should indulge their demands, though, is another question. On the whole, I don't think you have anything to lose, and you may have a great deal to gain.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You seem to have lost control over one important matter, probably something to do with day-today survival and responsibilities. Yet there's no problem that can't be solved by putting engagements off for a couple of days or weeks

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

or even months.

The day's stars certainly seem generally auspicious, but it is uncertain whether you really should be ambitious on your own account. You see, when passions are rising, life can go in any direction without warning. A good compromise may be to do your best by others.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

In many respects the current season is designed with you in mind. You were born with ample reserves of bonhomie and jolly generosity and it's fair enough for family, friends and partners to expect you to take the lead. Put any qualms to one side.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

those awkward decisions, but why worry? Social events should take care of themselves, while even family questions will be answered to your satisfaction. The past should provide the inspiration for the present - and tomorrow, the future actually becomes the present.

the other, you will find it much easier to talk to people around you. Luckily social prospects improve dramatically tomorrow, so keep your options open.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

It now looks increasingly likely that a partner may have something significant to say, especially if vou have inadvertently thrown your weight around. On the other hand, you may appreciate their apparent new-found interest in your affairs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22) You will be liberated

from a promised - or threatened expense, but perhaps not for another fortyeight hours. All you can do now, though, is cough up and hope for the best - then wait. Social, romantic and emotional

stars remain primed for passion at any price. CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Today's top planetary pictures are somewhat sensitive and therefore ideal for those about to be swept away on a wave of sentiment. A special word for any of you expecting good news: seize the high ground and take no nonsense from

anybody. AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

For you more than most people, the meaning of the current week is extremely important and, if you listen to the voices within, you may gain one or two mystical realisations. You'll not be a hermit, though, as the relationship between stars in your house of friends and house of partners remains

It's not easy to take

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) The Moon is at your gatherings later on

very special.





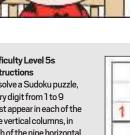












WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

18 Sport

Fall guy to match-winner

Tewatia turns Superman to script record win for Royals as ton-up Agarwal ends on losing side again

SYNOPSIS One man turns into a n unlikely hero, another a fallen hero.

SANDIP G SEPTEMBER 27

FOR YEARS to come, this match could remain a benchmark for not only high-quality T20 batsmanship but also a jaw-dropping marker of the game's blistering evolution, it's continuously expanding boundaries of imagination. Kings XI Punjab, powered by Mayank Agarwal's hundred, posted a total that had never been surpassed in this league, but Rajasthan Royals pulled off a nerve-splaying heist, adding a fresh tale to the Sharjah folklore.

Unlikely hero

From being the potential fall guy, Rahul Tewatia emerged an unlikely hero, scoring a 31ball 53. But for much of his knock, he seemed a nervous wreck frazzled by the enormity of the situation and the steepness of the unenviable task he was deputed with. Despatched as the surprise pinch-hitter at the fall of Steve Smith, the left-hander crawled to 17 off 23 balls, and in the process piled on pressure that probably resulted in the dismissal of Sanju Samson, who seemed the Royals only avenue to victory. Tewatia was swiping and swishing at thin air, his promotion seeming a strategic faux pas.

So inept was Tewatia that Samson turned down a single at one point. But when he got out, Rajasthan Royals required just two off seven balls.

One Sheldon Cottrell over changed it all, the script of the match, potentially the destiny of this edition and even the Tewatia's career. With Samson gone for a sumptuous 85 in the previous over, Rajasthan Royals required 63 off 23 balls, and when the Cottrell over began, they needed 51 off 18. The lens zoomed in on Robin Uthappa, engineer of several heists in the past. Tewatia would have been shirking from the lens.

Then, without the slightest warning, he broke free. The man who is in the team more for his leg-spin bowling creamed the first two deliveries — short balls but at pace — over midwicket with crisp swings of the blade. The third ball, an angry Cottrell overreached with a full ball; Tewatia smoked it over wide long-off. The



After grinding his way to 8 off 19 deliveries, Rahul Tewatia smashed 5 sixes off a Sheldon Cottrell over to win the game for Rajasthan Royals. *BCCI*

contest suddenly swung back to life, architected by the most unusual of suspects.

But Tewatia was not finished, he was not a flicker of hope, but an all-consuming fire. He wanted to settle the match, which he ensured with two more sixes in the same over. The 30run over whittled down the target to an achievable 21 off 12. He struck another six off Mohammed Shami in the next over before perishing, but not before firing Rajasthan to the brink of a famous heist that seemed improbable as soon as Samson perished.

At one stage, Tewatia was 14 off 23 balls, a crime in this format and by his own admission the worst 20 balls he had ever faced in his life, but his final exploit read 53 off 31 balls. That meant his last 39 runs came off eight balls.

Among the happiest in the Rajasthan dugout was Samson, whose knock of utter beauty was flirting with futility. In the heady climax, his knock should not be forgotten.

These days, there is unalloyed joy in Samson's batting. He exudes a sense of serenity that seems to stem from the knowledge that

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA

he's in the best form of his life, that he's near infallible, that his undisputed but once erratic talent is fully blossoming. It is about considering all the factors and calculations that allow a batsman to score quickly – the speed of the bowlers, the speed of the pitch, the amount of spin, the degree of seam movement, the precise slotting of all the fielders, the hittable gaps the dimensions of the ground, the wind and heat, the match situation, what constitutes a good score – from the second one arrives at the crease. Samson, right now, is doing this perhaps better than anyone has in this edition. It's like he walks in, assesses the situation and does exactly what is required. In the past, he shied away from burdens. But these days, he volunteers for them. It's this eagerness and willingness that's primarily behind his rejuvenation. But if Samson's effort was salvaged by Tewatia, Mayank Agarwal would be left cussing his wretched luck.

Fallen hero

Agarwal had, only a few days ago, seen his

then highest IPL score go waste in a Super Over. This time, he racked up his maiden IPL hundred, yet ended up on the losing side again.

Nonetheless, after the pain of the defeat sinks in, the innings should cheer him up. Agarwal flowed like a furious river, drowning everything in his sight and taking everything in his way down with him. The bulk of his runs came in a fat V between extra cover and cow corner. Brutal on anything marginally short his bat-speed is Bolt-like when he rocks back for the pull — he hammered anything that was remotely full or marginally hung in the air. Every stroke was fused with so much power that even mishits sped over the ropes.

Poor Shreyas Gopal, Agarwal's close pal and Karnataka team-mate. He bore the full brunt of his fury. Three times he was smeared over the rope. On two occasions, he seemed to have deceived the batsman in the air, but on both instances, Agarwal made late adjustments to ensure that he guided the ball where no fielder lurked. The compact, Chinnaswamy-like dimensions did benefit him, but some of his strikes, especially down the ground, were so ferocious that they would have cleared most boundary ropes.

Under Agarwal's breathless stroke-play, that began with a lofted-driven six off Ankit Rajpoot in the second over, KL Rahul's sedate 69 off 54 deliveries turned out to be an afterthought. Nonetheless, it was another fine exhibition of orthodox shot-making. The three successive boundaries he stroked in Jofra Archer's first over were glorious. The first was a proper cover drive off a slower ball; the second ball was faster, and he opened the bat face and drove squarer to the cover boundary. The third one was wider, which he bunted over point. Together, Rahul and Agarwal puton 183 runs, the eighth-highest partnership for any wicket in the league, leaving bowlers as exasperated as they were devastated.

Tewatia, the effervescent leggie, would offer further testament — Rajasthan's bowling hero of the previous match got just an over as Agarwal plundered 19 runs off it. Nobody would have imagined then that Tewatia would have the last laugh. T20 is a fickle little game, as Tewatia can youch.

BRIEF SCORES: Rajasthan Royals: 226/6 (Sanju Samson 85, Rahul Tewatia 53, Steve Smith 50; Md Shami 3/53) defeat Kings XI Punjab: 223/2 (Mayank Agarwal 106; KL Rahul 69; Ankit Rajpoot 1/39) by 4 wickets.



Pooran's leap of joy

IT HAS to be the best boundary-saving leap outside the boundary. In some ways, even better than those hop-out-hop-in stunning catches that have been normalized. Rarely has anyone contorted the leap over boundary into a boundary-saving acrobatic effort as Nicholas Pooran did.

In the 7th over, Sanju Samson lofted the leggie M Ashwin to long-on, where Pooran was waiting at the ropes, his body already turned to

Smith's laugh of disbelief

IAN BOTHAM would have been impressed with the long hop that Jimmy Neesham produced to Steve Smith in the 8th over of the chase. Botham has taken a few Test wickets, including Greg Chappell with his long-hops but this Neesham's donkey-drop must take the cake. It threatened two pairs of feet, his and Smith's. It was dug in that close to himself and as it looped up and across, Smith, who was one short of fifty, was startled.

Then, as the ball started to drop down on him ever so gently, a perplexed Smith swatted it behind square for just a single. He raised his bat for the 50 but shook his head for a while as he processed that ball. He then started to smile before it turned to head-shaking laughter. Neesham had the last laugh, though, slipping in a good wide yorker next ball he bowled at Smith, who

sliced it to deep point.

his left. That body-angle allowed him to leap back full stretch, with both hands stretched out as the ball sailed over him. By the time he caught it, he was fully outside the boundary and was falling. Somehow, incredibly, he let the left hand that held the ball, drop down and continued to swing it down in a fluid movement. And just before he hit the ground, he had released the ball back onto the field of play. It had his fielding coach Jonty Rhodes jump out of his dugout seat and bow down in respect.

Cottrell's payback salute

18 MONTHS after he had found himself at the receiving end of a meme, Sheldon Cottrell got his payback time with Jos Buttler. Last February during a series in the Caribbean, in a cheeky dig at Cottrell's celebratory salute, Buttler smashed a six, looked straight at the bowler, and saluted him. It created a torrent of memes and gifs. Cottrell had never dismissed Buttler for West Indies but got his chance now after he made his IPL debut this year.

He just needed three balls at Buttler but managed to induce a catch to midwicket and he of course, did that celebratory marching salute and arched back to let out a scream of joy. Buttler didn't look at him this time around, just put his head down and kept walking back. Alas, the evening would later become a forgettable one for Cottrell as Rahul Tewatia turned a night of embarrassment into the best night of his life when he looted five sixes off the pacer. **SRIRAM VEERA**



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