



The lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted supply chains. One crucial chain is delivery of information and insight — news and analysis that is fair and accurate and reliably reported from across a nation in quarantine.

A voice you can trust amid the clanging of alarm bells.

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INDIAN
EXPRESS
GROUP

**HATHRAS DALIT VICTIM DIES; PROTESTS IN DELHI, UP**

‘My daughter said she wanted to come home... She was conscious again, I thought she would survive’

JIGNASA SINHA

HATHRAS, SEPTEMBER 29

AROUND 7 am, the 28-year-old's phone rang. It was a call the family had been dreading for days. "It was my father, he said she was dead... Just like that, my sister is gone. We were up all night, praying for her recovery," he said, crying.

On Tuesday morning, the 19-year-old Dalit woman who had been assaulted and allegedly gang-raped by four upper-caste men in Hathras district, Uttar Pradesh,



Police take away the father and brother of the 19-year-old Hathras victim from Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi, after persuading them to end a dharna on Tuesday. *Tashi Tobgyal*

on September 14, died at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. Fighting for her life for the past 15 days, with her tongue cut by the assaulters and her spinal cord and neck severely injured, leaving her paralysed in all four limbs, she had been moved from an Aligarh hospital to Delhi the day before.

A senior doctor at Safdarjung Hospital said she had been brought in on Monday at 3.39 pm. At 5.30 am Tuesday, she suffered a cardiac arrest. "She was declared dead at 6.15 am."

The accused — Sandeep, 20, his uncle Ravi, 35, and their friends

Ramu, 26, and Luv Kush, 23 — have been booked on charges of murder, gangrape and under the SC/ST Act. ADG, Law and Order (UP Police), Prashant Kumar said that in 2015, a case of assault had been filed by the victim's family against Ravi, but due to "witness hostility", he had got bail.

An initial medical report of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

UP WORST IN CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN, SCs: NCRB **PAGE 8**



daCunha/AB/711

Just 6.6% exposed to Covid till Aug: New sero-survey

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29**EXPLAINED**
E Urban clusters vulnerable

AN ESTIMATED one in 15 individuals aged 10 years and above were exposed to the novel coronavirus infection by August, indicating that a large part of the population is still susceptible to the virus, according to the second nationwide sero-survey.

Releasing the findings on Tuesday, ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava said 6.6 per cent of the 29,082 people (aged 10 years and above) surveyed from August 17 to September 22 showed evidence of past exposure to Covid-19. The prevalence was higher for adults (aged 18 years and above) at 7.1 per cent.

This is a significant increase from the 0.73 per cent prevalence found in the first sero-sur-

WITH RESTRICTIONS being eased, the sero-survey shows states with densely populated urban clusters remain the most vulnerable. With winter arriving, precautionary behaviour remains the most essential tool to protect the 90 per cent susceptible population.

vey, conducted between May 11 and June 4, among adults in 70 districts. The second survey was conducted in the same districts, but children (above 10 years) **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

LAC CRISIS: HOPES OF EARLY RESOLUTION RECEDE

Hardening stance, China rejects Ladakh UT, raises 1959 claim line

Untenable, says India, Beijing not interested in clarifying LAC; China opposes border infra-construction by India

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

PUSHING ITS old claim line in Ladakh and hardening its position on the situation there, Beijing Tuesday said it does not recognise the Union Territory of Ladakh and is opposed to the construction of Indian infrastructure there.

New Delhi reacted sharply, saying it has "never accepted the so-called unilaterally defined



Work on a highway in Ladakh. *Reuters*

1959 Line of Actual Control", and that it is "untenable". This exchange between the

two sides comes a week after their military commanders met at the Moldo border point facing Chushul following the Moscow agreement between the Foreign Ministers to dial down tensions along the LAC.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, responding to a question on Indian road-building along the border, said China "does not recognize the so-called Union Territory of Ladakh" by **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Chinese investment pacts, pvt JVs invite Govt scrutiny

AASHISH ARYAN & SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

INA move that is likely to mount more pressure on Chinese trade and investment in India, the government is planning to scrutinise old and new private sector joint ventures and investment agreements to check for alleged violation of tax laws and other laws, multiple sources in

the know of the development told *The Indian Express*.

The priority, the sources said, will be vetting documents and agreements of companies in the information technology and finance sector. The scope of the probe will, however, be expanded in time to cover other strategic and non-strategic sectors.

"With the emphasis on Atmanirbhar Bharat, there is **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



ED freezes its accounts, Amnesty shuts its India offices

SHUBHAJIT ROY & JOHNSON T A
NEW DELHI, BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 29

NGO AMNESTY International on Tuesday announced that it was shutting its offices in India and letting go of its staff, nearly 150 members, in Bengaluru and Delhi following the freezing of its bank accounts by the Enforcement Directorate.

"The complete freezing of Amnesty International India's bank accounts by the Government of India which it came to know on 10 September 2020, brings all the work being done by the organization to a grinding halt," Amnesty International India said in a statement. The offices will shut by Wednesday.

Amnesty called the freezing of accounts "akin to freezing dissent" and said the action was "the latest in the incessant witch-hunt of human rights organizations", leaving them unable to carry on with campaign and research work in India. Executive Director of Amnesty International India Avinash Kumar said over email that they **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



N K SINGH
CHAIRMAN, 15TH FINANCE COMMISSION

PM targets Opp: 'not with farmers, youth or soldiers'

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 29

TARGETING THE Opposition for protesting against the new farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said "these people are neither with the farmer, nor with the youth, nor with the soldiers".

Saying that they were "opposing just for the sake of opposing", Modi said "people who oppose and protest are becoming increasingly irrelevant for the country and society".

Speaking at the inauguration of six projects related to the

THE IDEAS PAGE

OPPOSING FOR THE SAKE OF OPPOSING
BY BHUPENDER YADAV
PAGE 13

Namami Gange mission in Uttarakhand, via video conference, Modi said: "They are opposing the independence of the farmer. These people are now insulting farmers by setting on fire the goods and equipment that farmers worship." Youth Congress workers from Punjab set a tractor on fire near India Gate on Monday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PM at the inauguration of the Namami Gange projects. *ANI*

Babri order today, in the dock are Advani, Joshi, Bharti

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 29

ALMOST 28 years after the demolition of the Babri Masjid, a Special CBI Court will Wednesday pronounce its judgment in the conspiracy case. While the court has directed all the 32 accused, including BJP leaders L K Advani, Uma Bharti and Murlu Manohar Joshi, to be present in court, there was no clarity on Tuesday on how many will come.

While Advani, Joshi and co-accused Nriyta Gopal Das are above 80 years of age and may cite health conditions, Bharti and another accused, Satish Pardhan, are in hospital. Bharti is being treated for the coronavirus and Pradhan for a gangrene condition. Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh, who is among the accused, was discharged from hospital on Monday after undergoing treatment for Covid-19. The youngest accused, Pawan Kumar Pandey, is in his 50s, a lawyer said.

"We have no idea who will not attend court proceedings tomorrow. No defence lawyer has filed exemption applications for a client," defence lawyer K K Mishra said. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

299 vs 97 min per day: NSS confirms household, unpaid work falls on women

PAGE 1 ANCHOR**ZEESHAN SHAIKH**
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND 'Time Use Survey' conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has shown that only 38.2 per cent of the population participates in "employment and other

related activities", spending 429 minutes (7 hours and 9 minutes) on an average each day.

There is, however, a wide gender disparity, with only 18.4 per cent women participating in employment activities compared with 57.3 per cent men; also, while men spend on an average 459 minutes (7 hours and 39 minutes), women spend only 333 minutes (5 hours and 33 minutes).

The NSS report, 'Time Use in India 2019', whose findings were released Tuesday, has been con-

ducted for the first time in the country. The primary objective of the survey was to measure participation of men and women in paid and unpaid activities as well as measure the time dispositions on different activities.

The survey was conducted between January 2019 and December 2019. As many as 1.39 lakh households across the country comprising 4.47 lakh persons over the age of six were enumerated.

It shows women participation

in unpaid domestic services for household members — cooking, cleaning, household management — is as high as 81.2 per cent each day compared with 26.1 per cent for men. Women spend 299 minutes (almost 5 hours), thrice as much as men (97 minutes or 1 hour 37 minutes).

There is also a stark difference in the time spent by men and women in care-giving activities to a dependent child or an adult. While only 14 per cent of **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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Additional Secretary, MoD
on
30 Sep 2020 at FOJ, GRSE, Kolkata

"In Pursuit of Excellence and Quality in Shipbuilding"

3 THE CITY

48 DEATHS ON TUESDAY, HIGHEST SINCE JULY 8

Sero survey suggests 33% have antibodies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

CLOSE TO 33% of those tested in the city as part of the September sero survey had developed Covid-19 antibodies, *The Indian Express* has learnt. The findings of the third survey will be presented to the Delhi High Court Wednesday.

The presence of antibodies indicates the individual has been exposed to the virus in the past. In the last sero survey, this figure was 29.1%. "The results show that only about a third of the population has been exposed to the virus so far and that precautions such as social distancing and wearing masks must be observed keenly to limit the spread of infection," said a senior Delhi government official.

On Tuesday, meanwhile, 48 people succumbed to the disease. This is the highest toll since July 8. Over the past 10 days, the case fatality ratio has been 1.12% — up from 0.94% (10 day average) till a few days ago.

The sudden increase in deaths has health department officials worried, as for the past several weeks, they have been asked to focus on deaths instead of the overall Covid count. "After observing the behaviour of the virus for two months, we realised we cannot completely stop people from getting infected and we will have to learn to live with Covid. The focus then shifted to managing the number of deaths and we saw immediate results. Over the past week, however, as the num-



The findings will be presented to Delhi HC today. Archive

ber of reported cases has gone up due to increased tests, case fatality ratio has also increased. This is a matter of concern and we are holding meetings to see what we can do to decrease this rate," said a senior government official.

The city's overall fatality ratio is 1.93% at present, with 5,320 out of 2,76,325 people who have tested positive succumbing to the virus since March. On Tuesday, 3,227 people tested positive out of over 59,100 samples picked. As the number of tests conducted in Delhi has increased over the past month, the number of daily cases has also increased. Over the past week, positivity rate has been in the 6%-7% range. The overall positivity rate since March, meanwhile, stands at 9.15%.

38% of those admitted to hospital require oxygen: Data

As per data provided by the Delhi government, an average of

around 38% of those admitted to hospitals require administration of oxygen. An analysis done on September 22 shows that of 7,242 patients admitted to hospitals across the city, 2,793 (38.5%) were on oxygen support. The percentage of patients requiring ventilator support was 3.83%.

Officials said that at present, oxygen is available on most beds set aside for Covid patients. "As we continued to learn about the pandemic, we realised early oxygen support in people whose oxygen saturation levels are dipping is helpful. This also helped reduce the death rate," a senior government official said.

A majority of those who tested positive have recovered at home. Data between May 5 and September 23 shows that only 2% of those under home isolation had to be shifted to hospitals after their condition deteriorated. There are close to 18,000 active Covid patients under home isolation at present.

Court denies bail to journalist held in espionage case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

A DELHI court Tuesday dismissed the bail plea of journalist Rajeev Sharma, who has been accused of espionage under the Official Secrets Act in a case registered by Delhi Police's Special Cell. The court also dismissed his plea to allow him to make public the contents of the FIR.

"An independent press is stated to be the fourth pillar of democracy. A journalist is an important brick in the said pillar of democracy. The foundation of democracy cannot be shaken if all pillars of the democracy including the press work towards stability and growth. However, if a journalist...decides to act with the intention to destabilise and negatively impact the sustainability and survival of democracy, that would be a darkest day in the Free Press movement," said the court, while declining the bail plea.

In his order, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pawan Singh Rajawat said Sharma may attempt to hamper the investigation if he is released on bail at this stage. "I have perused the case file which includes not only the disclosure statement of the accused persons but also other material which were recovered at his instance coupled with the preliminary electronic evidence collected by the investigating agency, points towards involvement of accused in commission of offence under Sections 3/4 and 5 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923," the court said in the order.



Rajeev Sharma was arrested on Sep 14 under the Official Secrets Act

Sharma, represented by senior advocate Adish Aggarwala, had argued while seeking bail that he is a senior journalist, aged about 61 years, and is suffering from various ailments like acute sinus problems and is at high risk of contracting coronavirus. However, the court said the ailments are not such they would endanger to his life if denied bail. The court also noted that jail administration has made arrangements for keeping new entrants in isolation wards or cells to prevent spread of Covid-19. As per the case details, Sharma is accused of having links with foreign intelligence officers and getting funds from "foreign handlers" for allegedly conveying sensitive information pertaining to national security and foreign relations. He was arrested on September 14. A Chinese and a Nepalese national were arrested later.

The court also said the "likelihood of any attempt of tampering evidence or influencing witnesses cannot be ruled out" if Sharma is released on bail, adding, "...the involvement of foreign agencies at whose behest accused Sharma was passing out the sensitive information is yet to be investigated. If released, he may indulge in thwarting the course of investigation."

CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

ABHINAV RAJPUT

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

DOCTORS AT North MCD's Hindu Rao Hospital staged a pen-down strike for two-three hours on Tuesday morning against the salary delay, an issue that also rocked the civic body's House meeting later in the day.

They have also launched an online campaign, posting pictures with the text — 'Doctors on Covid duty, Unpaid Day 106, Hindu Rao Hospital Delhi' — on their social media since Monday, with the change in days being updated regularly. Dr Sagar Deep, general-secretary of the hospital's Resident Doctors' Association, said doctors will be holding two-hour protests every day till their salaries are paid. "Those risking their lives are not being paid despite regular protests. We were last paid in June," he said.



The doctors had launched an online campaign on Monday

Meanwhile, North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash said he "suspended" around 20 of the 30 AAP councillors for three house meetings for allegedly "misbehaving and creating ruckus" during its proceedings on Tuesday.

"The agenda was fixed for discussing salaries of employees, but they were creating commotion and demanding details of corruption allegations concerning a health officer, and details of money due to the North MCD by different agencies. They created a ruckus with the sole intention of not allowing any discussion," Prakash said. North MCD's opposition leader Vikas Goel said AAP leaders were not given time to speak and raise the issue of "corruption by a medical health officer". "We also asked them to specify the agencies that owe money to the MCD, which they did not answer. They are only interested in blaming the Delhi government for everything," he said.

Doctors and nurses in other North MCD-run hospitals have also been holding protests.

RECRUITMENT

The National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives Limited (FISHCOPFED), 7- Sarita Vihar Institutional Area, New Delhi-110076, invites applications for the post of Director in the pay scale of ₹ 15600 - ₹ 39100+ ₹ 7600-PB-3 (pre-revised) on Direct Recruitment/Deputation basis. Essential/desirable qualifications, experience and other important conditions are published on FISHCOPFED website www.fishcopfed.in. The last date for receipt of complete application is up to 15.10.2020 and be sent to the Asst. Director (admn) at the above address. **Sd/ President, FISHCOPFED**

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HRM Division, Corporate Office, Sec 10, Dwarka , New Delhi-110075
CORRIGENDUM
(In partial modification of our notification dated 07.09.2020 regarding Recruitment of 535 Technical Officers in Punjab National Bank)
1. The eligibility criterion for the posts of Manager (Risk) [Post Code 01] and Senior Manager (Risk) [Post Code 10] has been revised and the criteria of attaining minimum 60% aggregate in FRM /PRM /DTIRM /CA /ICWA /CFA is not applicable now.
2. Last date of registration for all the advertised posts has been extended to 06.10.2020.
DATE: 29.09.2020 **GENERAL MANAGER (HRMD)**

Woman who lured scientist into 'honey trap' heads gang of 5

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 29

A WOMAN, arrested for allegedly luring a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientist into what police are calling a 'honey trap' case, has targeted rich and influential individuals in the past too, officers in Noida said Tuesday. The woman, Sunita Gurjar (45), is the alleged mastermind of a gang involving four others, all men. The arrests were made on Monday after a scientist in Noida was lured and kidnapped, and Rs 10 lakh was demanded as ransom from his family to release him.

"Based on their questioning, the gang has been active for the past four-five months. The woman would identify and target individuals via a website. She would talk to the target and arrange a meeting. Once the person turned up, the accused would kidnap him and ask for ransom," said Ranvijay Singh, ADCP, Gautam Budh Nagar.

According to police, more than five people appear to have been targeted so far, but did not file a complaint owing to "embarrassment".

Sunita hailed from Agahpur in Noida, where she was also known as Babli. In photos uploaded online, she can be seen standing next to BJP leaders. In one poster, she is seen thanking the party for appointing her as the 'Mandal Adhyaksh' of the BJP's district women's wing.

"Sunita never held any post and was possibly a part of the women's wing. She has not been active for the last two-three years. We have a large registration base and anyone can join the party. The party was never aware of any of her other activities. She talked about social work mostly," said Dimple Anand, general secretary and former in-charge of the Noida Mahila Morcha. Dimple features in some photographs with Sunita.

Police said Sunita is also a distant relative of Manveer Gurjar, winner of the 2018 edition of *Bigg Boss*. This connection had helped her get pho-

The woman, Sunita Gurjar (45), is the alleged mastermind of a gang involving four others, all men. Police said she would identify and target individuals via a website. She would talk to the target and arrange a meeting, and once the person turned up, the accused would kidnap him and ask for ransom

tographs with some Bollywood celebrities, police said.

Sunita, along with co-accused Deepak and Rakesh, made a fake website offering massage services in Noida. She would contact the person who approached a number given on the website. In initial conversations, she would evaluate if the person is wealthy, police said, adding she had rented a property in Sector 41 as an Oyo Hotel where the men would be brought. Oyo did not respond to a query sent by *The Indian Express*.

The DRDO scientist left his residence on Saturday evening after telling his wife he needed to purchase some items. According to police, when he went to meet Sunita, he was assaulted and held hostage in a vehicle before being taken to the hotel room.

The first ransom call was made to his wife on Saturday. Over the next few hours, the family tried to arrange the money. When the family could not arrange the ransom, they informed police and a case of kidnapping was filed in Sector 49 police station.

Based on surveillance, the accused's vehicle was spotted close to the hotel. Police then intercepted the vehicle, a Honda City, and Deepak was arrested, while two others managed to escape. The hotel room was raided and the scientist was rescued, while Sunita and Rakesh were arrested.

Excerpts of the Speech of
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR CHAUDHARY
Chairman & Managing Director
in 44th Annual General Meeting

Dear Shareholders,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to the 44th Annual General Meeting of your Company.

I am proud to say that IRCON is on a steady Growth path, and continues to perform above the industry average in India. Since 1985, we have actively worked towards becoming a diversified infrastructure player, both in terms of sectoral and geographical coverage. We have progressively diversified into providing an entire gamut of construction activities and infrastructure services. We are a strong folded, that has achieved significant milestones in executing challenging projects across the world. So far, we have delivered over 128 projects in 25 countries across the globe and over 390 projects in India. As per the 2020 edition of the USA's Engineering New Record (ENR), IRCON is the only Indian PSU to make it to the list of top 250 international contractors.

OUR OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During FY2020, the Railway sector contributed 80.98% to our total revenue. Our primary focus and strengths have consistently remained deeply rooted in the railway sector. However, we are also concentrating on building our highways business, and this year its share in the total revenue has increased to approximately 18.32% as compared to 12.56% of the last year's share and share of electrical, building and other works in total revenue is approx. 0.70%.

IRCON's order book, as on March 31, 2020 stood at ₹ 30,713

Order book as on March 31, 2020
₹ 30,713 crore

the domestic market, we have completed several projects in areas of Railway tracking, Highways, Bridges and Flyovers, Electricals, Signalling and Telecom, tunnels, and lining and railway electrification amongst others. We continue to actively participate in new projects in foreign countries, including our ongoing project in Bangladesh, Algeria, Sri Lanka, Nepal & Myanmar. By continuing to diversify our business and geographical focus, we strive to secure a broader range of projects to maximise business volume and profit margins.

During FY2020, we have won an International Railway contract worth approximately ₹ 637.22 crore under LOC Scheme of EXIM Bank from Sri Lanka Railways under the Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation, Government of Sri Lanka. The contract is to upgrade the Northern Railway line of 128 Km and associated work from Maho-Omanthai in Sri Lanka. Our team is also making concerted efforts to secure project contracts in Thailand, Turkey, Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, UAE, Malaysia, Oman, and Guinea. In addition to this, we are gradually moving from individual projects to collaborated projects in partnership by forming joint ventures with local companies. We believe that this strategy will enable us to generate revenue and profits on a sustained basis.

I am glad to announce that recently, we have secured two works from the Ministry of Railways, Government of India on competitive bidding among PSUs. One, is the Railway Electrification Works of 2251 Route Kilo Meter (RKM) on various routes worth approx. Rs.1900 Crore; and the other is the works of 9 Road Over Bridges valuing more than ₹ 400 Crore.

OUR PERFORMANCE IN FY2020

During FY2020, we recorded a total income of ₹ 5,442 crore which

“Our goal is to diversify across sectors and geographies while enhancing our healthy profit margins and comfortable liquidity position, which will contribute to our operational performance.”

is the highest ever as against ₹ 4,680 crore in the previous financial year. Our turnover for the year stood at ₹ 5202 crore as against ₹ 4,415 crore in FY2019, marking an increase of 18%. Around 95.60% of our total income has been recorded from our operational activities. Out of the total income, 8.75% (₹ 476 crore) has been achieved through international projects.

On a consolidated basis, we have recorded total income of ₹ 5,540 crore during the FY2020 as against ₹ 4,990 crore in the previous financial year, and achieved a consolidated Net Profit of ₹ 485 crore for the said fiscal as against ₹ 450 crore in the previous financial year.

For FY2020, the Board has recommended a final dividend of ₹ 2.06/- per equity share on the face value of ₹ 2/- each amounting to ₹96.87 crore, out of the profit for the financial year. With this, the total dividend for FY2020 would be aggregated to ₹ 223.38 crore (approx.). (i.e.237.50% on the paid-up equity share capital of ₹94.05 crore), which includes Interim Dividend of ₹ 126.50 crore. The total dividend works out to 45.60% of the post-tax profits and 5.37% of net worth as on March 31, 2020.

Furthermore, I would like to mention that the Statutory Auditors have not given any qualification or remarks in the Auditors' Report (except for few suggestions), and the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) have also not issued any comments for the FY2020.

SUBSIDIARY AND JOINT VENTURE COMPANIES

As on March 31, 2020, IRCON has five wholly-owned subsidiary companies, out of which four are Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) created for execution of projects of NHAI. IRCON also has 50% shareholding in two joint venture (JV) companies and 26% shareholding in five JV companies incorporated mainly for coal connectivity projects in the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha. The details of all subsidiaries and joint venture companies are provided in the Directors' Report.

RECOGNITIONS

The rating of the Company under the Memorandum of Understanding for the year 2018-19 signed with the Ministry of Railways has been 'Excellent' as was in the year 2017-18. The Company expects to achieve 'Excellent' rating for the year 2019-20 also.

I am confident that with the sustained efforts of IRCONIANS we will achieve the enhanced performance targets. Apart from these recognitions, your Company's has been conferred various awards during the FY2020, which have been detailed in the Directors' Report.

RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE

FY2020 witnessed the onset of COVID-19, an unprecedented global pandemic that is posing severe challenge to the world's strongest economies. The human tragedy has costed many lives and has brought about massive headwinds for several businesses across the globe. As a response to the pandemic, we have taken necessary measures towards minimising the negative impact of the challenges on our business. Though the long-term directional priorities of our organisation remain firm, in light of COVID-19 and its expected impact on the operating environment, our key priorities include closely monitoring the supply chain, conserving cash and controlling fixed costs. However, we will continue to explore and invest in significant growth areas.

Furthermore, as a company that deeply considers its impact on society, we have taken various initiatives towards enabling financial, medical and community support in the fight against the pandemic. We have extended financial support of ₹ 20.50 crores towards the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in emergency Situation Fund (PM CARES Fund). Apart from this, we continue to make significant efforts towards the development and upliftment of the underprivileged sections of society. We do this through our CSR activities that are directed towards improving the quality of life of the underprivileged population of India.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Company is implementing the tenets of Corporate Governance in letter and spirit. Your company accords highest importance to transparency, accountability, and equity in all facets of its operations. Your Company is adhering to the provisions contained in the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations 2015, Companies Act 2013,



and DPE Corporate Governance Guidelines 2010 and other applicable regulatory requirements. A certificate on Compliance of conditions of Corporate Governance under the SEBI Regulation and DPE Guidelines on Corporate Governance forms part of the Directors' Report.

TOWARDS A PEOPLE-CENTRIC ORGANISATION

We recognise our employees as our most valued assets. Therefore, we take consistent strides towards their development and well-being. We are committed to creating and maintaining an ideal work culture for an engaged and capable workforce. We have strong values, pioneering practices, and collaborative work culture through joint consultation amongst the management. We believe in regularly expanding our workforce with new talented people who can drive innovation and development in our organisation. The total strength of our human resources as of March 31, 2020 stood at 1369. The total number of newly employed personnel is 64.

Additionally, we emphasise the development and career progression of our employees. Our people management team regularly organises training programs that are directed towards improvement and productivity. Through all these efforts, we aim to make IRCON an organisation that is people-centric and people-driven.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

With emphasis on transparency and as a step towards a paperless office, e-office system from National Informatics Centre (NIC), i.e. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India has been implemented for online movement and approvals of files and note sheets and has replaced the physical file system. In order to improve upon efficiency and bringing transparency in the procurement process in the organisation, the e-procurement platform has been moved to GePNIC, which is developed by NIC. The Company is currently in the process of implementation of SAP S/4 HANA covering end-to-end business processes of the organisation.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Going forward, we aim to continue and sustain our market leadership position by leveraging our strengths and opportunities. We are confident that with the support of our experienced management team and skilled workforce, we can successfully deliver high-quality projects across Indian and foreign markets. We endeavour to continue our strategy of diversifying across industry segments and increase orders from foreign countries. Our goal is to further enhance our healthy profit margins and comfortable liquidity position, which will also contribute to enhancing our operational performance. Furthermore, we intend to maintain a robust ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) culture and adopt global best practices in all our processes and systems. IRCON has entered into an MOU with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) to collaborate for equity participation in existing and future projects of IRCON. Also, an MOU has been signed with NIIFL and AYANA Renewable Power Private Limited (AYANA) to explore and collaborate on opportunities in the solar energy sector. The Company has also signed MOU with Larsen and Toubro Limited (L&T) to collaborate and jointly execute mutually beneficial business opportunities in sectors such as ports, harbours, bridges tunnels, metro rails in India and abroad. IRCON has also

CREATING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE, MARKING INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

collaborated with BEML Limited for undertaking railway projects including supplying and maintaining the rolling stock manufactured by BEML in countries where BEML and IRCON have business interest and presence.

The Ministry of Railways has decided to invite PSU companies for significant railway projects which offers further opportunities to embark on high-quality government projects. Further, the Company is exploring additional infrastructure development opportunities in sync with the priority projects of the Government such as Smart City Mission and Metro Rail. It is also pursuing opportunities in the highway projects in Indian states, connecting habitations with rural roads through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), re-development of railway stations. Additionally, the Company has been entering into various strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore new business opportunities.

On the International front, IRCON is aggressively pursuing infrastructure projects in countries such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The Company will also be participating in the African countries for railway and highway projects. IRCON has also signed an MoU with RZD International, which is a state-owned Russian Railways Company to explore opportunities for joint development of railways and other infrastructure projects in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In order to pursue potential opportunities in railway, highway and building projects in Malaysia, the MOU had been signed with M/s Apex Communication Berhad, Malaysia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Finally, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all Board Members, our stakeholders for their constant support and trust in IRCON. Also, I am humbled by the efforts of several frontline warriors such as doctors, healthcare workers, municipal officials, army, and police, amongst other people in the essential services. I am also thankful for the whole-hearted support received from the Government of India, other Ministries and Departments of Government of India, Financial Institutions, Banks, Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG), Statutory Auditors, Cost Auditors and Secretarial Auditors. I, also sincerely place my appreciation for the good work done by all the employees at all levels of the Company for their commitment and hard work that has helped in delivering another successful year for the Company.

Thank you !!

Date: 29.09.2020 **Sd/-**
Place: New Delhi **S. K. Chaudhary**
Chairman and Managing Director

(This does not purport to be a record of proceeding of 44th Annual General Meeting)

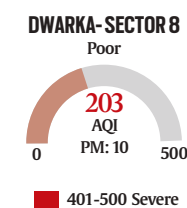
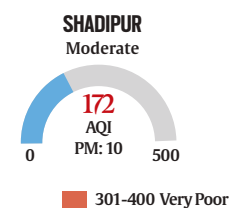
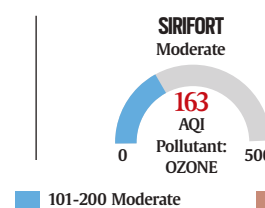
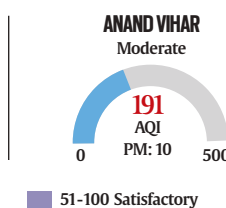


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(A Government of India Undertaking)

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0-50 Good



BRIEFLY

Sisodia tests negative, discharged

New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who was suffering from Covid-19 and dengue, was discharged from hospital on Tuesday. The 48-year-old was shifted to Max hospital in Saket on Thursday evening, considering his "falling" blood platelet count and low oxygen level. He was administered plasma therapy, hours after being admitted to the hospital. The AAP leader had tested positive for Covid-19 on September 14 and was in home isolation.

Family mulaqats to be resumed at prisons

New Delhi: Six months after the three Delhi prisons halted family mulaqats in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, the meetings are set to resume October 1 onwards with a slew of changes. As per an order issued by Mukesh Prasad, the newly-appointed Additional Inspector General of Delhi Prisons, "family mulaqat will be permitted between 7.30 am to 11.30 am all day except Saturdays, Sundays and gazetted holidays."

HC notice to DU on salary of teachers

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday issued a notice to the Delhi government, University of Delhi and four of its affiliated colleges on a petition filed by the teachers working there for release of their salaries, which has allegedly not been paid since May. The division bench of Justices Himu Kohli and Subramoniam Prasad asked the colleges to file a status report in the case within two weeks and listed the case for hearing on November 4.

MLA Raghav Chadha's laptop stolen

New Delhi: AAP MLA Raghav Chadha has written to the Delhi Police Commissioner after two men allegedly broke the rear window of his car and stole his laptop in Naraina Vihar. The incident took place on Monday night. Police said a case of theft has been registered. "The spot was examined. CCTV footage from nearby areas is being checked and sincere efforts are being made to trace the culprits and recover the laptop," said Deepak Purohit, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West). **ENS**

PANEL TO SUBMIT REPORT SOON

Revised coronavirus strategy places emphasis on capital's rural pockets

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

A REVISED Covid strategy for Delhi, prepared by an expert committee headed by NITI Aayog member Dr V K Paul, will focus on containing the virus in rural areas. According to sources, in a meeting with the Delhi government on Monday, experts discussed certain areas which need to be in focus as part of the revised containment plan.

"There is a small rural area belt in Delhi where the spread of the disease has been observed. The rural community also has to be protected to ensure there is no further spread. However, with a rise in cases, it was expected that the disease will spread to these areas as well," said a member of the



A health worker takes a swab sample for Covid-19 test on Tuesday. *Praveen Khanna*

committee, who did not wish to be named.

In the first week of June, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

had formed an expert committee to devise a strategy for containment of Covid-19 in the capital. The document was prepared

by a team of experts — AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria, NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul, ICMR chief Dr Balram Bhargava and Dr Sujeet Kumar Singh from NCDC — and it suggested capping testing charges and treatment cost for Covid patients.

This is the second time that the experts have stepped in to suggest preventive measures. The committee is likely to submit its report in a day or two.

"The pandemic, as a whole, is a dynamic process. As the situation changes, you need to refine the containment plan. There must be a periodic review, which was held on Monday with top officials. We reviewed all dimensions of pandemic control to see how people are behaving, hospital preparedness, and how containment strategies should move forward with the required changes," said

another official who was part of the review meeting.

According to senior district officials, an increase in cases in rural areas may be due to the focus on the special surveillance group which includes rickshaw/auto, taxi drivers, domestic helps, daily wage workers (plumbers, electricians, carpenters and mechanics) and daily suppliers of food, essential items, groceries, etc. The group was included in the revised SOPs issued by the Delhi government in the first week of July.

"We have been focusing on aggressive testing for the special surveillance group. Those who test positive are immediately isolated and family members are traced for containment. This has led to an increase in cases in rural areas," said an official from the state health department.

Bilkis: If govt willing to listen, won't protest again

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

EVEN BEFORE 82-year-old Bilkis took to the streets to protest against CAA/NRC last December, the spirit of resistance was alive within her — for as long as she can remember, she has advocated equality among the men and women of her family. "We have rights, and if we are not granted it, we must ask for it," she told *The Indian Express*.

On Tuesday, Bilkis, listed among the 100 most influential people of 2020 by Time magazine, was felicitated for her recognition by women's groups at the Press Club. "My only other wish is that the government listens to our demands regarding CAA and NRC. If they are willing to listen, we will not protest again, even after Covid," she said.

Bilkis was born and grew up in a small village in Uttar Pradesh, where she lived most of her life. It was only nine years ago, she said, that she shifted to Delhi. Grandmother of 11 girls and eight boys, she said, "I had never done something like this before. But when I saw children being beaten up in Jamia, I could not sit home and do nothing about it."

We are asking for our rights so that future generations do not suffer," she said.



Bilkis at Press Club on Tuesday. *Praveen Khanna*

DEADLY CONSEQUENCE

Delhi District Administration deploys staffers dressed as Yamraj and Chitragupt to encourage people to use masks, at India Gate on Tuesday. *Abhinav Saha*

Punjab Youth Cong chief held for setting tractor on fire at Rajpath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

A DAY after a group of men, including several members of the Youth Congress' Punjab unit, set a tractor on fire at Delhi's Rajpath in a bid to protest against the farm bills, Delhi Police has arrested the unit's president Brinder Singh Dhillon, along with three more members of the Punjab Youth Congress.

DCP (New Delhi) Dr Eish Singhal said, "On Monday, we arrested six men, and on Tuesday, we arrested four more — Dhillon, All India Youth Congress (AIYC) national general secretary Harish Panwar, AIYC's national general secretary Abraham Roy Mani and AIYC secretary Bunty Shelke. Interrogation is on." The FIR in the matter has filed at Tilak Marg police station.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the Punjab Youth Congress, however, posted on their Facebook



Six members of Youth Congress Punjab were arrested earlier for setting the tractor ablaze at India Gate on Monday. *Express*

page that the four men "surrendered at the Tilak Marg police station".

As per the police, around 7.15 am-7.30 am on Monday, 15-20 people gathered at Rajpath — which is a breach of security — and set a tractor on fire. Police claimed the men entered Delhi after PSOs (personal security of-

ficers) posted with Dhillon escorted them in a gypsy.

DCP Singhal said, "We have written a letter to Punjab Police seeking departmental action against these policemen." A response from the Punjab Police is awaited, said a Delhi Police officer.

A PCR call regarding the incident was made on Monday at

7.42 am and two fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The flames were doused and the tractor was removed from the site. Police had filed an FIR and arrested six members of the Youth Congress.

The incident was a security breach as Mansingh Road and the surrounding areas in New Delhi fall in the high security zone, where Section 144 is in place throughout the year.

On Monday, members of the Punjab unit of the Youth Congress took to social media to post photos and videos of the tractor being unloaded from a truck and being set afire.

The Indian Youth Congress had tweeted, "Our country thrives on the blood and sweat of our farmers. From fighting the British to feeding the entire nation, our farmers are the nation's backbone. On #BhagatSingh's birth anniversary Youth Congress set ablaze a tractor in protest against the govt's anti-farmer Bills."

AUD to continue with 100% fee waiver for all SC/ST students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

IN A U-turn from its earlier decision, Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) has now officially declared that it will continue its policy of giving 100% fee waiver to all SC/ST/PWD students seeking admissions to its courses for another year. However, apprehensions with regard to its reservation policy have been raised by AUD Students' Council.

The Indian Express had reported on September 6 that AUD decided to grant a 100% fee waiver only to those students whose gross family income was less than Rs 3 lakh per annum, citing state and central government rules.



The Indian Express report dated September 6

However, AUDSC said there are still many issues with the reservation policy, and held a held a day-long protest on campus Monday.

"Till last year, an SC/ST student was eligible for reservation in 85% NCT seat if they passed their last qualifying exam in Delhi or if they were Delhi residents. This year, the latter criterion has been removed. If an SC/ST student, despite being

from Delhi, had their qualifying exam outside, they would be considered in the 15% non-NCT reservation... They would need a caste certificate from outside Delhi, which they won't have as they are Delhi residents," said AUDSC treasurer Shubhojeet Dey.

AUD Public Relations Office did not respond to calls and texts by *The Indian Express*.

ABHINAV RAJPUR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE DELHI Development Authority (DDA) has introduced a new clause in its upcoming housing scheme, to be launched in December, under which one can choose the kind of flat they want in a society. However, applicants will have to pay extra money for it.

The proposal to introduced 'preferential location charges', which will be between 1.5% and 3% of the total cost of the flat, was passed in a meeting of the DDA's highest decision making authority Tuesday.

"If one wants green facing,

ground floor, corner location, facing green area or facing main road, one will have to pay between 1.5% and 3% of the total cost," said DDA commissioner (housing) Rajiv Gandhi. However, no preferential location charges for floor will be levied for allotment of ground floor to persons with disability, Gandhi said.

On offer in the scheme are 843 flats — 215 Higher Income Group (HIG) 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. A senior official said a percentage of flats which are in good locations such as

Jasola and Dwarka will also be brought under the ambit.

This time, the DDA has come out with only new flats, and in areas that have Metro connectivity and other amenities, in an attempt to reaffirm its image as the agency with better facilities than private ones, senior officials said.

In three-four months after December, the process of scrutiny of applicants, draw of lots, issuance of demand-cum-allotment letters and handing over the flats would be done. Successful candidates have the option to surrender their flats after the draw within a prescribed period, else allotment will be automatically cancelled.

Cop on shooting spree arrested, was considering suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

A DAY after he allegedly killed his father-in-law in Rohtak and shot at his friend in Outer Delhi's Alipur Sunday night, sub-inspector Sandeep Dahiya (36) was arrested from Rohini. Initial investigation revealed that he was caught when he came out from Prachin Mahakali Mandir in Rohini Sector 3 and was going to kill himself.

"Sandeep Dahiya was arrested from Sector 3, Rohini, around 11 am on Tuesday by joint teams of special staff, cyber cell and Lahori Gate police station," said DCP (North) Anto Alphonse.

According to police, Dahiya was in a relationship with the woman he allegedly shot at on Sunday evening. Police said the two were in his car and got into an argument, following which he allegedly shot at her and dumped her on the highway near Alipur.

On Monday morning, he killed his father-in-law in Haryana's Rohtak. "Around 7-7.30 am, Dahiya reached Bhainsi village and parked his car near his estranged wife's home. He found his father-in-law, Ranveer Singh (65), cleaning the area outside. The bullet hit Ranveer's forehead and he died on the spot. Dahiya sped away. An alert was flashed in Rohtak and adjoining districts to nab Dahiya," inspector Rajinder Bhoora, SHO of Lakhnamajra police station, had said.

Several teams from the North district were looking for him and found that he posted a message, with the subject, 'Dying declaration', in his batchmate group at 6.19 am.

"In his message, he explained the reason for shooting the woman, who he claimed was possessive and not letting him talk to his women colleagues. He also claimed that his father-in-law was responsible for his divorce. He asked his friends to take his body from the Singhu border," said a senior police officer.

Police said the teams then traced his location to Singhu border but didn't find him there. "At 9.18 am, it was found that his



SI Sandeep Dahiya had posted a message with the subject 'Dying declaration'

phone was on; his location pointed to M2K, Rohini's Sector 3. A team from Lahori Gate police station reached the spot and found his car in the parking area. They nabbed him when he came out of Prachin Mahakali Mandir and took him into custody," an officer said.

His service revolver, with four live cartridges, and his vehicle have been recovered.

During questioning, police said Dahiya revealed that after shooting at the woman, he went to Rohtak where he killed his father-in-law. He then drove to the backyard of an industrial area and stayed there in his car.

Dahiya, a native of Sisana village in Sonapat, is also facing dowry and mental harassment charges. A criminal case was registered against him in this regard, which is under trial in the civil court.

"His wife, Rajesh, and father-in-law had accused Dahiya of demanding dowry and mentally harassing Rajesh. The couple have two children, an eight-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son. He was facing these accusations for the last couple of years. They had been living separately since then... Dahiya had been pressuring Rajesh to give their son's custody to him, which she refused. Dahiya, on several occasions in the past, also got into heated arguments and altercations with his father-in-law on the same issue," inspector Bhoora told *The Indian Express*.

4 central agencies, MCDs owe Jal Board Rs 6,811 cr: Chadha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

DELHI JAL Board (DJB) vice-chairman Raghav Chadha Tuesday said four Central government agencies and the three MCDs in the city have pending dues worth Rs 6,811 crore that they owe to the DJB for water supply and sewerage services. The Central agencies include Indian Railways, which owes Rs 3,283 crore, the Central Public Works Department, owing Rs 189 crore, Delhi Development Authority Rs 128 crore and the Delhi Police Rs 614 crore, he said.

The North MCD owes Rs 2,466 crore, South MCD Rs 80 crore and East MCD Rs 49 crore.

Speaking at the Delhi Secretariat, Chadha said, "... the pandemic and all other factors have now put the DJB in a precarious situation. If the dues are not cleared within the stipulated time, the board shall be constrained and left with no other option but to initiate coercive action until full and final payment is recovered."

Chadha said bills of some agencies have been pending since 2013 and many opportunities have been given to them in the past for payment, with notices also being sent.

Earlier this month, the DJB issued "last opportunity" show cause notices to the seven agencies and departments.

A notice to a CPWD executive engineer, issued on September 5, said, "A last opportunity for clearance of outstanding dues is being provided through this show cause notice, within 30 days from the service of this notice, failing which warrant of distress under Section 87(1) of Delhi Water Board Act, 1998, and attachment of the moveable property and bank account will be issued for

the recovery."

Chadha added, "In the notices sent to these departments, some departments have written to us and sought clarification. We are confident that they will definitely fulfill their financial obligations."

North MCD standing committee chairman Chhail Bihari Goswami said the corporation does not owe any outstanding bills to the DJB. "They are lying because they want to hide their own faults. They haven't paid their liabilities to the corporation in the first place," he said.

South MCD mayor Anamika Mithilesh alleged Chadha has made a false statement: "The Delhi government has *rajaswa* (revenue dues) worth Rs 1,100 crore to the MCD that they haven't paid." East MCD mayor Nirmal Jain said, "There are no such bills pending from our side."

Northern Railways chief PRO Deepak Kumar said, "Railway is regularly paying monthly water bills to DJB for water supply. However, Railway has reservations with regard to significant number of water bills, as some connections do not exist on site, and large number of connections are unmetered. Railway has made references to DJB for the same."

He said, "However, water bills of each connection need to be reconciled jointly by DJB and Railway officials, along with site survey. The payment of the reconciled amount thus arrived will be made."

An official from CPWD additional director general, Delhi region, S C Bhardwaj's office said their financial department has recently cleared some outstanding dues. Bhardwaj could not be reached for a comment.

Spokespersons of the DDA and the Delhi Police did not respond to queries.

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Standing by people

The Uttarakhand state government has already put in place many measures that are benefitting people

IN THE Covid-19 pandemic when the health sector in the whole world is facing a challenge and youths are losing jobs as the industries are struggling for a revival from the crisis, Uttarakhand chief minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** in the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi took significant initiatives that kept the people in hill-state safe, averted community transmission of the virus and created job opportunities for the migrants who returned to the hills during the lockdown.

Health
Along with increase in testing of suspected Covid-19 cases, health department in Uttarakhand stressed upon the surveillance and contact tracing of the positive cases and preventing spread of the infection by notifying containment zones in all the districts. To ensure that people in the containment zones stay inside their homes, local administration supplied the basic amenities and food materials at their door steps both during and after the lockdown.

But the most effective tool in coping up with the epidemic was strengthening of health infrastructure across the state that had started in 2017, days after Rawat sworn as chief minister. After Covid outbreak earlier this year, dedicated Covid hospitals and covid care centres were set up and equipped with 30,500 isolation beds, 481 ICU beds, 1,846 oxygen support beds and 543 ventilators. ICUs are set up in all the districts at present. In March, when the Corona pandemic hit India, there was no facility for testing Covid-19 samples in Uttarakhand. But at present, five government and several private laboratories are testing thousands of samples every day. New medical colleges are being established in Rudrapur, Haridwar and Pithoragarh. The government increased the doctors to more than double in the hills in the past three years and this played a key role in ensuring availability of medical staff for treatment of both Covid and non-Covid patients.

Employment
While the Opposition parties are targeting



governments in the BJP ruled states on the issue of growing unemployment, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat gave a befitting reply to them by maintaining thrust on creating job opportunities in three years. The government claims that more than seven lakh youths were given jobs under various departments in the past three-and-a-half years. Maximum 5.8 lakh jobs were provided through self entrepreneurship, private investment and construction projects. Uttarakhand Subordinate Service Selection Commission in three years conducted 59 examinations and completed selections to 6,000 posts. Recruitment process to fill 7,200 posts is underway.

Transparency
CM Rawat enjoys the credit for bringing transparency in the functioning of the government departments — from field offices to Secretariat. People have started believing that that Rawat has removed “mafia-tantra” (nexus between the corrupt and criminal) from the Secretariat. Introduction of new initiatives such as e-filing, e-office, e-cabinet, CM dash board, CM helpline 1905, right to service, and a transparent system for transfers, has removed red-tapism in every government office.

Conservation of habitation in hills
Facing the blot of having ‘ghost villages’, Uttarakhand first time got an integrated approach towards reverse migration in the current regime to bring back the youth who left

the hills and moved to other states for livelihood in the past one decade. To retain “*Pahad ka paani aur pahad ki jawaani*” in the hills, Rawat government constituted a migration commission to suggest measures for rehabilitation in hilly areas and make people “atma nirbhar” (self-dependent).

Tourism
Closure of tourism during the lockdown has affected the economy and livelihood of local people. Impact on tourism due to restrictions on movement was obvious. But the state government earlier this month eased the restrictions to attract tourism and the people from adjoining states have started rushing to places across the state.

Protecting the interest of industries
Single window system has been set up so that industrialists conveniently get clearances to start operations and employ skilled youths. Industries manufacturing goods essential for protection from Covid-19 had been exempted from closure during lockdown.

Wildlife protection and safety of people
Gifted with natural forests and various species of wildlife, the state government is working on to mitigate man-animal conflict and save human life, their crops and population of wildlife species as well. The state government is also working to protect crops from wildlife.

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Trivendra Singh Rawat
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

UTTARAKHAND

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Email: helpdesk@investuttarakhand.com Website: <https://investuttarakhand.com/>

Helpline No.: 76185-44555

For any investment & incentive related query please contact
IPFC or General Manager (DIC) of the concerned District

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



WAIT AND WATCH

SEAT-SHARING in the NDA is yet to be finalised in Bihar, and BJP leaders are tight-lipped about the IJP, which has been demanding 30-plus seats. A section of BJP leaders feels that if IJP contests alone, the party should claim more seats in its arrangement with the JD(U). While the BJP wants to contest the same number of seats as JD(U), the latter wants the upper hand, even if by one seat. The JD(U), led by CM Nitish Kumar, fears that contesting an equal number of seats would embolden the BJP after elections. While the two parties struggle to reach an agreement, the IJP impatiently awaits a response to its demand.

TRAVEL PLANS

AS PROTESTS against the farm laws continue in Punjab and Haryana, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is planning to travel to the two states to sharpen the attack against the Central government. While a section of the Congress wants him to launch a padayatra, Covid protocol may come in the way of that. Top leaders from Haryana are meeting in Delhi Wednesday to chalk out the agitation plan. The Punjab Congress, too, is finalising its protest plan Wednesday. Once that is done, Rahul will travel to both states by road. Leaders said Rahul could travel to mandis and interact with farmers and join the party's protest at some places.

WARM WELCOME

DANISH PM Mette Frederiksen (42) got married in July, after her wedding was postponed and rescheduled due to a busy first year in office that included the pandemic. PM Narendra Modi, who held a virtual bilateral summit meeting on Monday, congratulated her at the beginning of the meeting on her marriage to filmmaker and photographer Bo Tengberg (55) and said that he looked forward to welcoming her with her family to India.

CASE COUNT

RAIL BHAWAN, which has recorded the maximum number of Covid-19 cases in its employees among all Central government offices, on Tuesday saw some more staffers testing positive at the premises. Officials are miffed that at this time, construction/maintenance activities are continuing in the building, with little regard to social distancing. More than 120 officials working in the building have tested positive so far.

EC announces bypolls to 56 Assembly seats, one LS constituency

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE ELECTION Commission (EC) on Tuesday declared bypolls to one Lok Sabha seat and 56 Assembly seats, even as it withheld the announcement for seven other Assembly seats on account of "difficulties" expressed by chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of Assam, Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

According to the EC, 54 Assembly seats — 28 in Madhya Pradesh, eight in Gujarat, seven in UP, two each in Odisha, Nagaland, Karnataka and Jharkhand, and one each in Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Haryana — will go to polls on November 3.

On November 7, polling will be held for two Assembly seats in Manipur and 1 Lok Sabha seat in Bihar will vote on November 7.

The largest chunk of seats going up for polls are from Madhya Pradesh where 28 seats fell vacant after rebel Congress MLAs

had switched over to the BJP in March. This had led to the fall of the Kamal Nath-led government in the state.

The votes for all the bypolls will be counted on November 10, alongside the counting of votes for the general Assembly elections in Bihar.

Before announcing the schedule, the poll panel issued a separate statement on Tuesday to say that it has decided not to hold "at this stage" Assembly bypolls in seven seats across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal.

The decision has been taken based on inputs received from the chief secretaries and poll officials in these states, the poll panel said in the release.

While there are two vacancies each in the Assemblies of Assam, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, one seat is vacant in the West Bengal Legislature.

The term of the Legislative Assemblies of the four states would end on different dates between May and June next year.

Tharoor continues as head of IT committee, Harsimrat member of external affairs panel

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE PARLIAMENTARY panel on Information Technology will continue to be headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, whose decisions to summon Facebook executives and take up the issue of internet restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir had drawn the ire of BJP members in the committee. Some ruling party MPs had also sought the removal of Tharoor as panel chairman.

On Tuesday, when Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla reconstituted the

department-related parliamentary panels, Tharoor was re-nominated as the head of the IT panel.

Former Union minister and SAD leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal — who exited the Union Cabinet and whose party quit the NDA over the new farm laws — was made a member of the external affairs committee.

Although there was speculation about major changes in the parliamentary panels, both Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Birla largely retained the composition of the committees. Newly elected Rajya Sabha MPs were also nominated to the



The fourth edition of the India-Japan Maritime bilateral exercise JIMEX, between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), completed three days of exercise, on Monday. Ships undertook anti-air and anti-submarine warfare exercises, tracking and tactical manoeuvres in the North Arabian Sea. ANI

Jaishankar to attend Quad FM meet in Japan on Oct 6

Opposed to formation of exclusive clique harming third party interests: China

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

AS EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar heads to Japan next week, he will participate in the foreign ministers' meeting of the Quadrilateral grouping on October 6 — the first such meeting amid the tension between India and China over the border stand-off.

Jaishankar will also hold separate bilateral meetings with US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne.

The Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday announced the visit of Jaishankar — this will be one of the few in-person meetings at a time when most meetings have been in virtual mode during the pandemic.

Jaishankar will be in Tokyo on October 6-7 for bilateral consultations with the Japanese foreign minister. "The two minis-



Separate bilateral meetings will be held with US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo, Japan Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne; Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin

ters are expected to discuss bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest," the MEA statement said.

"During the visit, the External Affairs Minister will also participate in the Second India-Australia-Japan-USA Ministerial Meeting on 6 October, 2020, in which the Foreign Ministers of the respective countries will participate," the statement added.

This is the second Quad foreign ministers' meeting — the first such meeting took place in New York in September last year on the margins of the UN General Assembly. Last week,

senior officials of the Quad grouping had met through virtual mode.

"The Foreign Ministers shall discuss the post-Covid-19 international order and the need for a coordinated response to the various challenges emerging from the pandemic. They will also discuss regional issues and collectively affirm the importance of maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific," the MEA statement said, with a clear signal to Beijing's aggressive stance in South China Sea.

Meanwhile, in Beijing, China on Tuesday criticised the forth-

coming meeting of the foreign ministers of India, Australia, Japan and the US — Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad — in Tokyo, saying it is opposed to the formation of "exclusive clique" harming third party's interests.

Asked for his reaction to the Quad meeting, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a media briefing that "peace, development and global cooperation is the overriding trend of today's world".

"Multilateral and plurilateral cooperation should all be open, inclusive and transparent. No one should seek an exclusive clique," he said. "Efforts should be made to enhance regional countries' mutual understanding and trust, instead of targeting a third party or harming third party's interests," he added.

"We hope the relevant country will proceed from the interests of regional countries and do more things conducive to regional peace, stability and development instead of the contrary," Wang said.



M Venkaiah Naidu

Vice-President tests positive, asymptomatic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

VICE-PRESIDENT M Venkaiah Naidu tested positive for Covid-19 in a routine test on Tuesday morning. He is asymptomatic and has been advised home quarantine. His wife Usha Naidu has tested negative and is in self-isolation, the official Twitter handle of the Vice-President stated.

"The Vice President of India who underwent a routine COVID-19 test today morning has been tested positive. He is however, asymptomatic and in good health. He has been advised home quarantine. His wife Smt. Usha Naidu has been tested negative and is in self-isolation," the official Twitter handle stated.

Several Union ministers have tested positive in the last few months.

The monsoon session of Parliament was cut short by eight days due to the increasing number of Covid cases. While it was scheduled to conclude on October 1, both the Houses were adjourned sine die on September 23.

The Vice-President is the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

As of Tuesday, India has 9.47 lakh active cases, while 51 lakh have been discharged. A total of 96,318 people have died due to coronavirus so far.

Kushwaha ties up with BSP, JPS; alliance to contest all seats

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 29

WITH ITS other options exhausted, the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) on Tuesday announced a tie-up with Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Janvadi Party Socialist (JPS). The new alliance said it would contest all 243 Assembly seats.

RLSP president and former Union minister Upendra Kushwaha is also hopeful of bringing in Vikasshil Insaan Party (VIP) of Mukesh Sahni, who has been making last-ditch efforts to remain in the Grand Alliance.

Kushwaha, who walked out of the Grand Alliance last week, had reportedly contacted both JD(U) and BJP but failed to strike a deal because the NDA is already cramped. Former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi's party, Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), had also returned to the NDA about a month ago.

At a joint press conference with BSP convenor Ramji Gautam, BSP's Bihar unit head Bharat Prasad Bind and JPS's Sanjay Singh Chouhan, Kushwaha said: "We will contest all 243 seats. Our common goal is to uproot the Nitish Kumar government. We have always been talking about a better education system in Bihar."

Attacking both the NDA and Grand Alliance, Kushwaha said the people of Bihar have been "betrayed" by both alliances over 30 years when it came to governance. "Nitish failed to build a single model hospital or school in Bihar. Lalu Prasad (RJD) and Nitish Kumar are two sides of the same coin... I tried to impress upon them that Grand Alliance should change its leader. Lalu could not ensure

EXPLAINED
E.

Crucial poll for Kushwaha

EVEN AS Upendra Kushwaha announced a new alliance, he would know that this is the toughest phase of his political career. He had won Ujjaypur Lok Sabha seat in 2014, but failed to impress in the 2015 Assembly polls as his party won only two seats. The RLSP had crossed over to the Grand Alliance before 2019 Lok Sabha polls and contested five Lok Sabha seats, but without success.

that his son (Tejashwi Yadav) could clear his Class 10 examinations," said Kushwaha.

One of the alliance partners, the BSP, has influence in Gopalganj, Rohtas and Kaimur districts, bordering UP. The party won six seats in the February 2005 Assembly polls and four seats in October 2005 polls. It fielded candidates in 228 seats in 2015 polls and got just over 2 per cent votes and no seats.

The JPS led by Sanjay Singh Chouhan — an OBC — has influence in Ghosi area of UP. The party was in alliance with the BJP in 2012 and 2017 Assembly polls and 2014 Lok Sabha polls, and its cadre has been active in Bagaha, Valmiki Nagar and Kaimur in Bihar.

Meanwhile, chances of a broader third front look bleak now, with Asaduddin Owasi's AIMIM and former MP Pappu Yadav's Jan Adhikar Party having separate alliances with smaller parties.



RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha with BSP convenor Ramji Gautam and JPS leader Sanjay Singh Chauhan in Patna. PTI

Chirag carries on hard bargain with BJP as cadres press for going it alone

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 29

WHILE MANY party leaders and cadres are pressing for the IJP to contest the Bihar Assembly elections on its own, the party is seen as engaging in a final round of bargaining over seats with the BJP. The party is now likely to take a decision on whether to stay with the BJP-led NDA, despite party chief Chirag Paswan's severe criticism of Chief Minister and chief of fellow NDA partner JD(U) Nitish Kumar, on Wednesday.

The saffron party has reportedly made a final offer of 27 seats to the IJP, and has also told its smaller partner that two MLC positions from the party will be considered at a later stage.

Several IJP leaders insist on contesting 143 Assembly seats alone. Party MP from Vaishali constituency, Veena Devi, said, "Although we will support any decision our party president (Chirag) takes, our workers want us to contest on 143 seats."

Party spokesperson Ashraf Ansari told *The Indian Express*, "We have our list of 143 candidates ready. We have left it to our national president, Chirag Paswan, to take a final call." He



Chirag Paswan

said senior IJP leaders did discuss BJP's offer, and "it is now time for a final call".

Chirag had met BJP national president J P Nadda on Tuesday.

The IJP is likely to delay its decision until Wednesday as party patriarch Ram Vilas Paswan is likely to undergo a surgical procedure. On Tuesday, Chirag had visited Prachin Hanuman temple in New Delhi to pray for his father's well-being.

Although the scene of action is Patna, most IJP leaders are camped in the national capital to wait for the party's final decision. Chirag had last week said he was unable to leave Delhi given his father's illness.

A source in the BJP said the party has offered the IJP a "respectable number of seats". A senior BJP leader said, "Chirag has perhaps gone too far in his criticism of the Chief Minister. We are still trying to keep the NDA intact. It is now up to Chirag to take a call."

8 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



Bhupendra Rama

The building was being renovated.

GUJARAT

Vadodara: Three dead in building collapse

Vadodara: Three people were killed and one was injured when a three-storey building in Vadodara collapsed in the early hours of Tuesday. According to local residents, the building was originally at least three decades old and undergoing a renovation. The three deceased were construction workers who were living in the building to execute renovation and restructuring work. Vadodara Chief Fire Officer Parth Brahmabhatt said, "The four persons were trapped under a slab and the operation (to rescue them) went on for almost three hours... All were shifted to hospital and only one survived. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA

Aspiring actor dies by suicide in Mumbai

Mumbai: A 26-year-old aspiring television actor allegedly died by suicide at his rented flat on Sunday. According to police, Akshat Utkarsh, from Muzaffarpur in Bihar, was stressed due to lack of work and had borrowed money from his friends and family. No suicide note was recovered, police said. Utkarsh, who had shifted to Mumbai two years ago, was staying as a paying guest in a flat with owner Sneha Chauhan. Police said Chauhan, in her statement, said the actor was stressed due to lack of work and was running out of money. **ENS**

TAMIL NADU

Woman kills husband, tries to claim accident

Coimbatore: A woman was arrested here on Tuesday on charges of killing her husband with a knife, police said. Franklin Britto was brought to hospital with injuries to the neck and abdomen and doctors declared him brought dead. On inquiry, Carolyn told police that her husband sustained the injuries accidentally when she suddenly turned while cutting vegetables. However, she cracked during sustained interrogation and confessed that she had stabbed her husband during an argument, police said. **PTI**



Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad protests outside Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi. *Tashi Tobgyal*

HATHRAS WOMAN'S DEATH

Just want justice, says father; Oppn targets UP govt

ANANYA TIWARI & ASAD REHMAN

NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 29

THE OPPOSITION on Tuesday targeted the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh over the death of the 19-year-old Dalit woman, who was allegedly gangraped by four upper-caste men in Hathras.

In Delhi, Bhim Army leader Chandrashekhar Azad and his supporters held a protest outside Safdarjung Hospital, where the woman died.

As protesters raised slogans against the Uttar Pradesh government, the woman's father told *The Indian Express*: "We just want justice, that is all."

The family, and protesters, demanded death penalty for the culprits, and an assurance from the state government that it would ensure justice. Although the post-mortem was over by afternoon, the family refused to leave. "No representative of the central or

state government has met us. We will not leave till one of them meets us and promises us justice. We want justice, we want death penalty for the culprits," said a relative. After hours of protests and negotiations with officials, the family finally left for Hathras in the evening.

While the family waited, several Dalit leaders joined the protest. "We demand death penalty for the culprits. The girl should have been taken to AIIMS, like we had demanded earlier. This government does not want the Dalit community to rise," said Azad. "We will not back down till our Dalit daughter gets justice and the culprits are hanged," said Raj Kumar Diwan from the Akhil Bharatiya Valmiki Sabha.

Several Congress and AAP leaders also reached the hospital. "The family should be given Rs 50 lakh compensation and a government job," said Congress leader P L Punia.

The Congress also held protests in UP. A candlelight march was

held outside the party office in Lucknow. "The girl who faced animal-like behaviour in Hathras succumbed. For two weeks, she fought with death in hospitals. The state has been shaken by rape incidents in Hathras, Shahjahanpur and Gorakhpur, one after the other... The law and order situation in the state is terrible... no sign of safety for women in the state. The killers must get the most severe punishment. Yogi Adityanath, you are answerable for the safety of women in the state," tweeted party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

"A brutal murder of a daughter after her rape. The body was taken away without informing the family members. It has become a hobby of this government to murder democracy," tweeted state Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu.

"This tenure of the BJP is difficult for the daughters and sisters of the state," Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said in a statement. He said some SP leaders were stopped by the police

when they went to meet the woman's family members.

"The news of the Dalit victim's death after gangrape is very tragic. The government should ensure all help to the family, and should also ensure that the case is heard in a fast-track court," tweeted BSP chief Mayawati.

At a press conference in Lucknow, AAP leader in charge of Uttar Pradesh and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh alleged: "The BJP government is standing with the accused instead of the girls of the state". He also targeted Mayawati. "I was seeing Mayawati ji's statement. It seemed like a BJP mouthpiece. You are a Dalit leader and a four-time CM and you can't raise your voice even after such an incident. This is sad," he said.

"The death of the Hathras victim is a matter of shame for society... It is very sad that so many women are being raped and we are unable to provide them security. The culprits should be hanged as soon as possible," tweeted Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

SC to J&K admn: Can Mehbooba's detention be extended beyond a year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday asked the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration if former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) can be extended beyond a year and, if so, "how long do you propose to extend it".

"How long has the detention been for and on what grounds? Can the detention be extended beyond one year?" Justice SK Kaul asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who appeared for J&K.

The two-judge Bench, which included Justice Hrishikesh Roy, was hearing a plea filed by Mehbooba's daughter, Iltija Mufti, challenging the detention.

The Bench asked the J&K administration to respond to Iltija's plea, and fixed the matter for hearing on October 15 to enable the Centre to file its affidavit and Iltija

to file a counter to an affidavit filed by the J&K administration on Monday. "We also want to know the proposal of the government, and how long do you propose to extend it (Mehbooba's detention)," the Bench told Mehta.

The SG said he would address the Bench on these aspects. Saying Mehbooba's detention was on the ground of maintaining public order, he sought to highlight some of her statements made at the time of abrogation of Article 370.

In an affidavit filed on Monday, the Srinagar DM said detailed consideration of the material on the basis of which Mehbooba was detained showed her "past conduct... in glorifying militants, brazenly inciting religion to divide people", "demoralising security forces" and "proximity to indulge in such behaviour in future which would be highly prejudicial to maintenance of public order..."

The "petitioner herself ad-



Mehbooba Mufti

mits that some of the speeches of the detenu glorified militants or were divisive in nature, thus the rational nexus with disturbance to public order is amply borne out by the petitioner's own admission," said the affidavit.

Referring to the charge that he did not apply his mind to whether such speech had caused breach of public peace in the past, the DM said this defeats the purpose of preventive legislation which is to "pre-empt any

prejudice to maintenance of public order".

"The grounds of detention and the dossier clearly indicate there exists a live and proximate link in the events that occurred in the past, the activities of the detenu and the possibility of such activities being prejudicial to maintenance of public order," said the affidavit.

"It is trite law that the past conduct or antecedent history of a person can appropriately be taken into account in making a detention order," it said. "It is usually from prior events showing tendencies or inclinations of a person (that) a decision can be taken by the detaining authority regarding the likelihood of the said person, in the future, acting in a manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order," it said.

The affidavit said Mehbooba's "acts... squarely fell within the realm of public order, as it was calculated to disturb

NCRB data: 7% rise in crimes against women

UP tops crimes against women, SCs

DIPANKAR GHOSE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

CRIMES AGAINST women increased 7.3 per cent from 2018 to 2019, and crimes against Scheduled Castes also went up 7.3 per cent in the same period, according to the annual National Crime Record Bureau's "Crime in India" 2019 report released on Tuesday.

In terms of absolute numbers, Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of cases in both these categories. But Assam reported the highest rate of crimes against women (per lakh population), while Rajasthan had the highest rate of crimes against Scheduled Castes.

"A total of 4,05,861 cases of crime against women were registered during 2019, showing an increase of 7.3% over 2018 (3,78,236 cases). Majority of cases under crime against women under IPC were registered under 'cruelty by husband or his relatives' (30.9%), followed by assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty' (21.8%), 'kidnapping & abduction of women' (17.9%) and 'rape' (7.9%). The crime rate registered per lakh women population is 62.4 in 2019 in comparison with 58.8 in 2018," says the NCRB report.

UP reported the highest number of crimes against women (59,853), accounting for 14.7 per cent of such cases across the country. It was followed by Rajasthan (41,550 cases; 10.2 per cent) and Maharashtra (37,144 cases; 9.2 per cent). Assam reported the highest rate of crime against women at 177.8 (per lakh population), followed by Rajasthan (110.4) and Haryana (108.5).

Rajasthan reported the highest number of rapes with 5,997 cases, followed by UP (3,065) and Madhya Pradesh (2,485). In terms of rate of rape cases, Rajasthan was the highest at 15.9 (per lakh

population), followed by Kerala (11.1) and Haryana (10.9).

UP also had the highest number of crimes against girl children under the POCSO Act with 7,444 cases, followed by Maharashtra (6,402) and MP (6,053). The highest rate of these crimes were in Sikkim (27.1 per lakh population), MP (15.1), and Haryana (14.6).

UP had the highest number of dowry cases (2,410), at a rate of 2.2 (per lakh population), followed by Bihar (1,120). According to the report, 150 acid attacks were reported in 2019, of which 42 took place in UP and 36 in West Bengal.

The report, which runs into three volumes and is over 1,500 pages, says a total of 45,935 cases were registered as crime against Scheduled Castes (SCs), "showing an increase of 7.3% over 2018 (42,793 cases)".

"Crime rate registered showed an increase from 21.2 (per lakh population) in 2018 to 22.8 in 2019. Crime head-wise cases revealed that simple hurt with 28.9% (13,273 cases) formed the largest chunk of cases of crimes/ atrocities against Scheduled Castes during 2019. It was followed by cases under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with 9.0% (4,129 cases), and cases under rape with 7.6% (3,486 cases)," says the report.

UP reported the most cases against Scheduled Castes – 11,829 cases, accounting for 25.8 per cent of the cases across the country. It was followed by Rajasthan (6,794 cases; 14.8 per cent) and Bihar (6,544; 14.2 per cent). However, the rate of such cases was highest in Rajasthan at 55.6 (per lakh population), followed by MP (46.7) and Bihar (39.5).

Rajasthan also had the highest number of rapes against Dalit women (554), followed by UP (537) and MP (510). The rate of rape against Dalit women was highest in Kerala at 4.6 (per lakh population), followed by MP (4.5) and Rajasthan (4.5).

Two questioned in Shopian encounter killing by Army sent to 7-day custody

NAVEED IQBAL

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29

TWO CIVILIANS who were being questioned for their role in the July 18 Amshipora encounter in Shopian have been remanded in seven-day police custody by Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shopian.

Of the two, whose names have not been officially released by J&K Police, one comes from Shopian district and the other from Pulwama.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the two had worked as "informers" for the Army and are suspects in the killing of three civilians in the Amshipora encounter. A third suspect, who had been detained for questioning, has not been arrested so far.

Three people had given their final deposition before the Army Court of Inquiry on Saturday. Sources said the three were "the last contacts of the three deceased" and are being questioned for their role in the incident.

On September 18, the Army had confirmed that identities of the three killed at Amshipora matched those of three missing labourers from Rajouri: Abrar Ahmed (25), Imtiyaz Ahmed (20), and Mohammed Ibrar (16).

On September 25, Inspector General (Kashmir Zone) Vijay Kumar had said that DNA samples of the three deceased labourers matched those of the families from Rajouri.

The police had earlier said that "militant links" of the three labourers are under investigation. However, sources said claims made by the "Army sources" will be verified when they are officially handed over to the police.

Families of the victims had contested the security force's version that the three killed in the Amshipora encounter were "terrorists" after seeing their pictures on social media.

Since the confirmation of DNA match, they have demanded that the bodies of the three cousins be returned to them.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

211 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN	CASES: 6,145,291	RECOVERED: 51,01,397
	TESTS: 73,110,041	DEATHS: 96,318
		DOUBLING RATE: 50.24**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING TIME**
■ Maharashtra	13,51,153	11,921	1.42%	50.80
■ Andhra	6,81,161	5,487	1.08%	66.57
■ Tamil Nadu	5,86,397	5,589	0.99%	72.76
■ Uttar Pradesh	3,90,875	3,790	1.23%	58.68
■ Delhi	2,73,098	1,984	1.31%	54.82

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

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.60 NOW: 1.57	7 DAYS EARLIER: 8.52 NOW: 8.41	DETECTED TODAY 70,589 RECOVERED TODAY: 84,877
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths	Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on September 28, 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

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur named FTII governing council chairman

ATIKH RASHID

PUNE, SEPTEMBER 29

FILMMAKER SHEKHAR Kapur has been appointed chairman of the governing council of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII).

"Ministry of Information and Broadcasting today announced Shekhar Kapur as the new President of FTII Society and Chairman of FTII Governing Council. His tenure will be till March 3, 2023," said a communique from Pune-based FTII.

Kapur, known for films like *Masoom* (1983), *Mr India* (1987), *Elizabeth* (1998) and *Bandit Queen* (1994), will replace television producer B P Singh. Singh's tenure had ended in March 2020 but he



Shekhar Kapur

was given an extension owing to the coronavirus situation.

Singh was appointed FTII chairman in December 2018 after his predecessor, actor Anupam Kher, abruptly resigned from the post citing international shooting assignments.

The FTII students' body said that Kapur's appointment comes at an important moment. "There has been a constant attack on public educational institutions in the country with continuous fees hikes and curbing of student voices of dissent and representation. We hope Shekhar Kapur, a noted filmmaker, will carry forward the vision of the institution and take it forward. We strongly urge him to take note of the ongoing fee hike issues and curbing of students' voices in the Academic Council," said Aadith V Sathvin, who heads the FTII students' body.

FTII Society has 24 members comprising 12 ex-officio members and 12 persons from the field of art and culture.

REAL ESTATE FRAUD CASE

Court rejects anticipatory bail plea of Vikram Gokhale

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PUNE, SEPTEMBER 29

A COURT in Pune has rejected the anticipatory bail application of veteran theatre and film actor Vikram Gokhale in connection with a case of alleged cheating and fraud over a 25-year-old land development project at Mulshi. The court, however, granted him protection from arrest till October 17 so that he can approach the Bombay High Court.

In March, a criminal offence was registered against Gokhale (79) and two others, Jayant Mhalgi and his wife Sujata. The case pertains to a Project Girivan by a company named Sujata Farms, floated by Mhalgi and Sujata. Gokhale was the chairman

of the company, but he has maintained that he resigned from the position in January.

Public Prosecutor Pushkar Sapre said that after the court rejected Gokhale's plea for an anticipatory bail, the defence lawyers sought time to approach the High Court against the order. On Monday, the court granted Gokhale protection from arrest till October 17 to approach the High Court. The copies of these orders could be accessed on Tuesday.

The complainants in the case have alleged that they were cheated because the land plots they were given actual possession of are different, and in many cases smaller, than the ones purchased by them via sale deeds.

Gokhale could not be reached for comment.

NGT concerned as 6 states want 6k sqkm to be taken off Western Ghats eco zone

SHIVNARAYAN RAJPUROHIT

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE NATIONAL Green Tribunal (NGT) has expressed concern after six states asked the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to whittle down the size of eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) under the ecologically fragile Western Ghats by 6,386.65 sq km.

"There is demand for more and more exclusion by those who claim the need for 'development' while need for 'environment protection' does not allow acceptance of such demands. This aspect needs to be finalised and has been pending consideration for the last about eight years," an NGT bench headed by

Tribunal chairman Adarsh Kumar Goel said in an order passed on Tuesday.

The Western Ghats cover six states — Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The K Kasturirangan Committee had in 2012 earmarked around 60,000 sq km as ESZ. In 2014, the then MoEF issued a draft notification declaring 56,825 sq km in the Western Ghats as ESZ.

Since then, it has issued three more draft notifications and has yet to take a final call on the classification.

Of the six states that have suggested reduction in ESZ, Maharashtra has sought the highest exemption at 2,570.88 sq km, followed by Kerala (1,337.24 sq km), Karnataka (1,571 sq km), Goa (754 sq km), Gujarat (129 sq

km) and Tamil Nadu (24.53 sq km). Maharashtra has also suggested a separate area spread over 1,740 sq km to be included in ESZ.

The notification has been hanging fire for more than a decade, as many states and the Centre believe that once areas under the Ghats are classified as ESZ, development activities will be off-limits.

"That there is a concern of the States about prohibition of certain activities having implications on medical care, health care and education," MoEFCC said in an affidavit to NGT.

The ministry said some states are concerned that two committee reports on delineation of the Western Ghats were based on the 2001 census.

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ADVERTORIAL

The untold story of the Indian Medtech boom

SKANRAY WAS founded in 2007 by 5 ex GE engineers in an incubation centre in Mysore and started commercial production in 2012. By then it had put compliance, safety, regulatory, quality systems, CE, UL, FDA certifications and audits in place making Skanray stand apart as a unique start up.

2013 onwards was the era of organic growth and acquisitions with L & T Medical systems, Pricol, CEI Italy, Skanray Europe, Cardia Netherlands, Skanray USA and starting activities at Brazil, Mexico and China for local manufacturing and sale of Skanray designed products. Today Skanray stands as a leader in the Indian Medtech space with 100,000 machines in installed base across 80 countries, 50+ products, 80 trademarks, IP and proprietary designs, 700+ professionals, 6 facilities worldwide and an Advanced Electronics test facility getting ready at Mysore in partnership with GOI, GOK and the private sector.

By 2020 there was significant core technology, supply chain, global regulatory, manufacturing capability established in-house by the company. Apart from Skanray there have been companies like Clarity Medicals, Phoenix, RMS technologies, Shalya, Alan, Nice Neotech, Divya labs and few others who had core technology with them. Skanray is leading the Indian R & D / Core technology driven Medtech sector.

India has larger med tech companies, but predominantly trading Chinese products, refurbished machines or selling products that are not compliant with international safety standards. India is still lacking in enforceable safety and performance regulations. The Large MNCs have brought in advanced technology and Compliance to India but rarely develop core technology or products from concept to end of life in India. There are another breed of "Make in India" Champions who import full modules and components from China and other countries and sell them directly or package them in Indian Sheet metal enclosures to show them as made in india. Many of these have mastered the art of managing Govt tenders and have a good portion of their revenues coming from Govt sales. Putting everything together, Indian Med tech manufacturing is less than 10% of the 4 Billion US Dollars medtech buy.

Here is the story of Covid ventilators: Skanray has been manufacturing and exporting Advanced ICU ventilators since 2014. The GOI and the state governments have been buying ventilators from China in large quantities while Skanray sold in the premium Private sector or exported to developed countries. The popular European and the US brands too sold to the Government but in much smaller quantities.

Come Covid and the only choice before the Govt was to scout for Domestic manufacturers and Skanray / Max ventilators of AB industries were the only ICU ventilator manufacturers with long domain experience. The rest of the ventilator story is there in overdose and variety in public domain. Many start-ups, JV, Cheap imports, second hand machines, scams, accolades, theories and metaphysics emerged during this period. Our Nethas congratulated each other for creating products for Covid in a short time. The truth was that we always existed and exported while the successive Governments slept over this critical health sector and imported for reasons best known to all of us dealing with the Govt.

On the 18th of March, 2020 we got a call from Niti-Ayog, Health and defence ministries requesting for 100,000 ventilators for the national calamity. The underlying story here is that the states and centre couldn't import from China or elsewhere during Covid since these countries had domestic shortages and compulsions of their own. China chose to cater to the European and American markets first since they could realise almost double the price that they could get in India. China had started dismantling Covid hospitals in April and had lots of sparingly used machines ready to export. Not many know that imports from China has grown significantly since march 2020 in medtech while we all have been screaming "Atma Nirbhar" and "Make in India" from our rooftops. Most indian manufacturers believe that cheap imports may replace the domestic buy once life is back to normal. This rush for Make in india may last just as long as the covid virus that came from China followed by their products that helped combat the virus.

For us it was a cruel comedy to watch all kinds of hype peddled in the name of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. Even in a national calamity, many state governments indulged in large scale chinese imports, corruption and scandals in covid treatment and the indian banks never lent anyone on time. It was the CDC that is owned by the



Vishwaprasad ALVA is the founder and Managing Director of Skanray Technologies which is in the forefront of Medtech in India that also took Indian Medtech Global. A Champion of Veganism, Telehealth, Primary education reforms, Agricultural sector reforms, Mr Alva is born and brought up in Mangalore in an Agrarian family. His father was in State Govt service and mother into Kannada literature. Mr Alva is an Alumni of St Aloysius, Mangalore, AC Tech Karaikudi, a PG degree from NIT K and trained at Kirloskar institute of Advanced Management studies and GE Healthcare. Mr Alva has exposure to Industry and society in about 20 countries around the world and has been in the forefront of anti-Corruption Campaign, Social harmony and Ahimsa apart from his association with Industry and education sectors.

UK Govt that came forward quickly with an offer for working capital, not the Indian banks nor the state or central Govts.

We have payments as old as 3 years from the Andhra, Telangana and Chhattisgarh Govts that never comes with any amount of follow up or legal notices. Funny part is that these same Govts are asking us to set up facilities in their state promising crores in Grants. Our Legal system will take decades to deliver justice. This is the story of hundreds of companies working with the Govts. Unless this is fixed, we will never have an Atma Nirbhar Bharath with self-respect and dignity.

The only silver lining was the speed at which the PMO, BEL, DRDO, the Ministry of External affairs, Commerce, health and defence worked round the clock to help us deliver the 30,000 units the GOI placed for the Skanray CV 200 advanced ICU ventilators on BEL. It was a clean GOI to GOI transaction with no scope for middlemen or graft.

It would be misguiding the public if we didn't bring out the positive changes we see with the GOI in the last few years.

The central govt and a significant chunk of the bureaucracy has changed for good. We find the GOI spending long hours on key policy matters and long term plans for the nation that may not bring rich electoral dividends. Compared to the past where we had very little talk on long term policies and lots of debates on sops, freebies, subsidies, minority, majority, backward, forward issues linked strongly to the electoral politics of the country.

Corruption in the central Government has reduced significantly while most state Govts cutting across party lines continued



to be as corrupt and bureaucratic as ever. The decisions and execution may not be always right, they may not have delivered the results expected, but at least there is a sincere effort towards transparency, towards transforming the nation. It's time to capitalise this leadership and good intentions of the Centre.

Here are some concrete steps to build a robust and self-reliant med-tech industry.

1 Atma Nirbhar in Med tech is local R&D and innovation with a min of 70% value add manufacturing in India. Assembly or labelling of Chinese/ imported kits is not Make in India.

2 A 10 year undisturbed R & D, Manufacturing, Global compliance plan is the foundation of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. We just can't have "make in India" products that can't be sold in US, Europe, Japan and the rest of the world. A Successful Atma Nirbhar should also get us significant exports.

3 Backward integration and quality supply chain is the core of creating a manufac-

turing eco system. We are far away from what the world expects from an alternative to Chinese capabilities as a global supplier. Our Democracy and English speaking population is nice for poetry, not enough for companies to move away from China and set base in India, but we can surely get there. There is an urgent need for predictability in Government policies. Political parties need to look at long term collaborative work so that the successive governments won't overturn earlier policy decisions. There is a need to relook at the political system and policies to reassure Global companies and investors that there is continuity of policy and time bound approvals. Its time to stop talking and start executing.

4 Law of reciprocity should be applied by the Indian Government to countries that impose high tariff on Indian goods and use the regulatory route to delay or block the entry of indian products. We have some countries that have 67% tariffs on Indian products while the Indian government buys large volumes from these same countries levying 5% import duties. There are free trade agreements that the GOI signed several years ago with countries that never let Indian goods in their shore. Blocking imports or levying high import duties will be detrimental to Indian manufacturing sector since cheap, unsafe, substandard products will be sold in the indian market in the name of Make in India and Atma Nirbhar. Its a balanced step that the MEA, Commerce ministry and Finance ministry has to take looking at all aspects of business, trade and neighborly relations.

5 Development of Indian industry is not just providing land. Most of what state Govts do is focus on acquiring fertile agricultural land and sell to the industry at subsidised rates. This has led to land hoarding by industrialists and real estate sharks largely controlled by politicians. Disallow change of use of industrial land pan India and bring in strong laws to reacquire industrial land not fully utilised in 3 years. Millions of sq kms of land will be freed in days. Its worthwhile to go back and check the story of the SEZ, ESDM, tech parks, clusters that came up since 2000 and see what happened to all these schemes. The truth will be out. For a Med Tech / core manufacturing sector, land is the last thing to worry. Skilled engineers, quick and reliable IMPEX policies and clearances, Friendly and consistence tax laws, matured, honest, researched IT, GST laws sans activism and harassment are more important than just land and sops.

6 Fab facility for semiconductors is something that India lacks to become truly Atma Nirbhar in Electronics and Med tech which has forex impact higher than that of petroleum imports. India had a semiconductor complex in Chandigarh that got destroyed in fire and we never have been able to get semiconductor Fab in India even after decades of meetings and discussions. It's time we look at this on top priority. BEL had a semiconductor transistor and IC manufacturing unit which is now decommissioned.

7 Vibrant Domestic market and health-care/ Medtech market is the basis for new investments and growth. The MNC's came to India at the same time they set

base in China. Indian Med tech market and healthcare penetration has been dismal while China grew a hundred times. Companies that brought in R & D / Manufacturing lost money and interest to invest due to poor domestic demand, corruption in tenders and high attrition in trained R & D staff. China provided a strong supplier base with the Government supporting them to gain domestic market and exports. Of course China used this to build its own local skills, its own Atma Nirbhar China and in-house technology disregarding international IP laws.

Currently the healthcare delivery penetration in India is less than 20% in its huge 1.4 Billion population. Increasing the healthcare delivery and insurance cover to 40% of the population will spurn a 500% growth in healthcare delivery, Medtech, pharma, consumables, health tourism, telemedicine, homecare and help India become a Global healthcare hub. The Govt should keep off in pricing matters of education, healthcare and farm sector unless it provides a sustainable market and stability. Growth and competition will regulate the price anyway more effectively than Govt in the long run. The govt has no role in pricing for a 100% privately funded sector that is alive inspite of the government and not because of the Govt or its policies.

It was European / Scandinavian technologies that China scaled in the mobile market to make cheap cell phones and services to the entire world. India has a unique opportunity to do the same in Healthcare. With its versatile and strong tech base, with its strong democracy, with its value systems, respect for IP, 80% lower cost in core research budgets, 70% cheaper in engineering, V & V, testing, SW development costs, 50% higher productivity in labour costs, Healthcare is above 500 Billion US\$ forex earner for India if the Govt and industry works with speed, oneness and seriousness.

Med tech in specific has nothing in common with pharma, healthcare delivery business, consumables and services even though they are all bracketed as healthcare and brought under the pharma regulators.

China which is usually compared with India has more than 16,000 Medtech companies and 300 of them sized above Rs. 1000 Cr, while India with a similar population, potential in technology and manufacturing capabilities, lower cost of R&D and manufacturing has very few companies in Med tech core technology. This is excluding the few multibillion dollar MNCs operating in India. Thanks to the hostile ecosystem, corruption, opaque tendering processes, weak quality vendor base and the pathetic indian banking sector.

8 Atma Nirbhar is not just "make in India". There is no country in the world that is self-reliant in technology, raw materials and market. So is India.

If China sheds its expansionist policies and foster a long term relationship based on equality and territorial integrity, India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and other neighbours can form a Asian union with a common currency, shared economy and an open border. We can together be self-reliant to a large extent and keep healthy balance of trade with US, Europe, Japan and rest of the world. It's just that we have to keep religion and beliefs private, stop expansionist attitude in territory or religion, stop cross border terrorism and shun violence in all forms. If Europe that fought bloody wars just few decades ago can dissolve the borders and become one large economy, why can't we create an Asian Union?? Commerce, Finance and Foreign affairs ministries need to be tied up closely for the long term good of the nation. Foreign affairs is the enabler of atma Nirbhar.

9 If this can't happen in reasonable time, India, Israel, Japan, US, UK, Italy, the Middle East and few others can create a larger economic alliance of barter and sharing to cooperate in Food, Healthcare and knowledge sectors that are core to well being. Covid has shown us that if the borders are shut permanently in this Global economy, the entire human race will be affected and destroyed eventually. We are at risk with Skewed Globalisation and blind nationalism.

10 There is this new thinking that needs research and public debate to develop consensus within the nation.

Can we do away with GDP and Consumerism based economy? Can we look at a sustainable minimalistic society to focus on just food self sufficiency, health and happiness and rural empowerment with a common spiritual awakening than religious fundamentalism? The time has come to reset and Restart. Else nature will reset us for sure.

"Views expressed are that of the writer, and publication does not constitute endorsement thereof"

HC allows ED, CBI pleas for early hearing on appeals in 2G scam cases

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday allowed applications filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI for expedited and early hearing in cases challenging acquittals of those accused in the 2G spectrum case.

The court ordered that the petitions seeking leave to appeal be listed for hearing on October 5 for a hearing on day-to-day basis.

Former Union Telecom minister A Raja, DMK MP Kanimozhi and others were acquitted in a case of money laundering and corruption in the 2G spectrum case 2017.

With courts closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the petitions against acquittals in the alleged 2G scam have not come up for hearing since March. The ED and CBI had recently approached the HC for an early hearing in the case, as Justice Brijesh Sethi, who has part-heard one of the appeals in the matter since October 2019, is set to retire on November 30.

Former Union Telecom minister A Raja, DMK MP Kanimozhi and others were acquitted in a case of money laundering and corruption in the 2G spectrum case 2017

Most people or parties who were previously accused in the case have opposed the prayer for expeditious hearing in the matter. In case the arguments remain inconclusive before the bench, the court was told, they would have to be heard afresh by another bench. The central agencies also argued that the cases have “great public importance involving issues of integrity amongst the government functioning, which has placed Union of India in a vulnerable position not only in India but globally”.

In Tuesday’s order, Justice Sethi said that he court is of the opinion that all attempts should be made to hear the matter as

early as possible. “Though this court has limited time, yet no one should carry an impression that he will not get a fair opportunity of hearing. This court assures that everyone will be given an effective hearing. However, it goes without saying that irrelevant and repetitive arguments need to be avoided,” the order stated.

Observing that interests of justice demand that part-heard matters, as far as possible, should not be left inconclusive, the court said the lawyers should assist in such matters to avoid the need for fresh hearing by a new bench, as that would cause “unnecessary loss to the public exchequer and wastage of the judicial time”.

Rejecting the argument against hearing of the cases through video-conferencing, the court said, “...this court has been conducting hearing through video conference since 24th April, 2020, and cases which are voluminous in nature have also been decided. This ground should not, therefore, be an excuse for this court or for the learned counsels for not proceeding with the arguments...”

ARMY’S OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION REPORT TO DEFENCE MINISTRY

Rs 960 cr lost since 2014 due to faulty OFB ammo: Army

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

AN OFFICIAL recommendation report of Indian Army, which has been under discussion with the Defence Ministry for over a year, has pointed out that losses to the exchequer due to poor quality production of defence equipment by ordnance factories since 2014 – estimated at approximately Rs 960 crore – could have been used to buy 100 155-mm medium artillery guns such as the Howitzer.

In latest its report, updated till July, the Army has recommended corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), which aligns with the government’s plan to corporatise the 41 ordnance factories, 13 development centres and nine institutes of learning under the Board.

The government has appointed an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM), headed by

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, to “oversee and guide the entire process, including transition support and redeployment plan of employees while safeguarding their wages and retirement benefits”. The EGoM, set up on September 11, will also decide whether OFB should be converted into a single or multiple government-owned corporate entities.

Several employees’ unions have opposed the move and have threatened a nationwide strike starting October 12.

Of Rs 960 crore mentioned by the Army report, it said Rs 658.58 crore worth of ammunition was disposed of within their shelf life between April 2014 and April 2019, and Rs 303.23 crore worth of mines were disposed of within their shelf life since May 2016.

The report stated: “Lack of accountability and poor quality of production results in frequent accidents. This results in injuries and death of soldiers. On average one

accident takes places per week.”

The report stated that 27 lives of soldiers and civilians have been lost and 159 people injured in “casualties due to OFB-manufactured ammunition and armament.” since 2014.

The report mentioned that 403 such accidents occurred between 2014 and 2019. The maximum number of mishaps – 267 – are related to the infantry. There have been 87 artillery-related accidents, 44 in the armoured corps, and 15 in air defence, the report stated.

This is not the first time the Army has raised questions on supplies under OFB. Earlier this year, an internal assessment had mentioned that as OFB factories are the “main source of supply of arms and ammunition” to the Army, “any drop in quality of OFB products has a major bearing on war waging potential of the country”.

Similar to the Army’s recent recommendation, the assessment

had found that since 2014 there has been, on average, an ammunition-related accident “every 5.5 [five-and-a-half] days or once a week”. It mentioned that accidents occur “primarily due to faulty ammunition, defective armament and faulty drills by the crew operating the equipment or due to deficiencies in storage conditions”.

Isolated accident take place in modern armies across the world, and Indian Army is “faced with a serious issue of regular accidents primarily due to defective ammunition”, the assessment stated.

It had identified some problem areas besides accidents. These include defects in ammunition and replacement of defective components; slow development and production of ammunition required by the Army; lack of follow-up action by OFB on surprise checks ordered by the Army; poor packaging; and a high rate of return for rectification.

Odisha proposes up to 30 pc fee waiver for pvt school students

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 29

WITH THE issue of private educational institutes levying fees amid the pandemic pending in court, Odisha’s Department of School and Mass Education has submitted a report to the High Court proposing fee waiver slabs up to 30 per cent.

“An MoU has been signed for the fee waiver by 14 members who have agreed for the waiver of fees at a flat rate. The waiver will only be applicable after the High Court’s decision,” a senior official from the department said.

A waiver of 7.5 per cent has been proposed for a fee slab of Rs 6,000-12,000, 12 per cent for Rs 12,001-24,000, 15 per cent for Rs 24,001-48,000, 20 per cent for Rs 48,001-72,000, 25 per cent for Rs 72,001-1,00,000 and 26 per cent for charges above Rs 1,00,000.

For residential schools, a 30 per cent waiver has been proposed on hostel fees.

Stubble burning: Centre to meet pollution control boards of 5 states

New Delhi: Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar on Tuesday said his ministry on October 1 will hold a virtual meeting with the environment ministers, secretaries and State Pollution Control Boards of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to review their preparedness to handle air pollution in the coming months – in view of stubble burning in the states.

“This is a very important meeting and we are taking all possible measures beforehand... We have held many meetings with these states already... In the meeting on October 1, we will review the work that has been done over the past few years to mitigate air pollution, including by CPCB and by states,” said Javadekar. **ENS**

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Urmila, W/o Sanjay Gupta, R/o H.No. 9/118, Dakshinpuri, New Delhi, Age: Approx 46 years, Height: 5'3", Complexn: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Fat, wearing Red colour Kurta and Cream colour Saree**, has been missing from the area of P.S. Ambekar Nagar. In this regard a **DD No. 113A, dated 08.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Ambekar Nagar, New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S. Ambekar Nagar,**
Fax: 011-24368639 **New Delhi**
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/136/SD/2020 Ph: 011-29051934, 29051917

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const./Northern Railway, 4th Floor, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001 invites e-tender under **Single Packet System** for the under noted work:-

1	Name of work and location:	"Design, supply, Erection, Testing, commissioning & Modification of 25 KV,50 Hz, single phase, AC, OHE for the Electrification work of: Phase plan of 3rd & 4th lines in connection with commissioning of Anand Vihar station Yard.
2	Completion period of the work	09 Months
3	Approx. Cost of work:	Rs 3,16,63,093.20
4	Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs 3,08,300,00
5	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs on date 28.10.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 28.10.2020 .
6	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document:	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 14.10.2020 to 28.10.2020 . All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 316-Dy CEE/C/NDLS/2019-20(R-1) Dated: 29.09.2020 2100/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 285/P-3/EMP-W 11731 dt. 24.09.20 & Tender ID: 2020_POWER_54032_1

Scope of Work: Breakdown/ preventive Mtc. & overhauling of BFPs/CEP's/CWP's/BCW's/Misc. Pumps and allied auxiliaries of 4x210 MW BHEH make units at GGSSTP, Roopnagar.

Time period: One year EMD: Rs. 2,35,000/- fixed.
Date & time upto which tender shall be received: 30.10.2020 & 11.00 AM.
Date & time of opening of Tender: 06.11.2020 & 11.30 AM

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> & no hard copy of the same will be issued by this office.
Note:
1) In case any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender the prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and/or M/s e-procurement system Government of Punjab. Contact No.+91-(172)-2970263/284. It is also requested to get their digital signature well in time so as to submit tenders through e-tendering only.
2. It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website eproc.punjab.gov.in.

RTP-39/2020 83453/Pb

SD/-
DY. SE/Monitoring,
GGSSTP, Rupnagar

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MANDSAUR (M.P.)
CONTACT - OFFICE- 405964 , FAX - 244246, (e-mail : cmomandsaur@mpurban.gov.in)

N.I.T. No. 3351/PW/2020 Mandsaur, Dated- 29/9/2020

Online percentage rate bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria:

Tender	Name of Work	District	Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. in Lacs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Lacs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rupees)	Category of Contractor Centralized registration in MPPWD	Period of Completion (in Months)
2020_UAD_109771_1	Construction of Shopping Complex and Development of Infrastructure on Old Karmohari Colony in Mandsaur M.P.	Mandsaur	524825343	2624127	50000.00	Suitable class A of Gomp or equivalent in any State/ Central/ Govt/ PSU	18 Months (Including Rainy Season)
2020_UAD_109756_1	wn 4 and 5 proposed for const. of hot bituminus road rcc drain and divider padmavati	Mandsaur	16701490	83507	12500	Suitable class A of Gomp or equivalent in any State/ Central/ Govt/ PSU	18 Months (Including Rainy Season)
2020_UAD_109761_1	wn 11 shamshan gath ke pass kanji house road alawda khedi nalla	Mandsaur	12532298	62661	12500	Suitable class A of Gomp or equivalent in any State/ Central/ Govt/ PSU	18 Months (Including Rainy Season)
2020_UAD_109759_1	wn 10 const of cc road all gall	Mandsaur	24274399	121372	15000	Suitable class A of Gomp or equivalent in any State/ Central/ Govt/ PSU	18 Months (Including Rainy Season)

1. All details relating to the Bid Document(s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost on the website <http://mpeproc.gov.in>
2. Bid Document can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/Debit/Cash Card/Internet banking.
3. The bid documents can be purchased online from 10:30 Hrs. of 29-09-2020 to 17:30 PM of 29-10-2020. (Date). Other key dates may be seen in Annexure-A and bid data sheet.
4. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

President
Municipal Council Mandsaur

Vice President
Municipal Council Mandsaur

Chairman (PWD)
Municipal Council Mandsaur

Chief Municipal Officer
Municipal Council Mandsaur

कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य, स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, फिरोजाबाद

संख्या-एफजेडडी/2020/2386 दिनांक-29 सितम्बर, 2020

अत्यकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय एवं चिकित्सालय, फिरोजाबाद में Oxygen Generator Plant की स्थापना हेतु ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा दिनांक: 01.10.2020 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे से दिनांक: 06.10.2020 अपराह्न: 03:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड की जा सकती है एवं दिनांक: 07.10.2020 को अपराह्न 03:00 बजे तक नीकी बिड खोली जायेगी। इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत विवरण संस्थान की वेबसाइट gmcfirozabad.in एवं ई-टेंडर की अधिकृत वेबसाइट पर प्रदर्शित किया जायेगा।

प्रधानाचार्य

ANDHRA PRADESH INTEGRATED IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (World Bank Aided Project)

Request for Bids (National Competitive Bidding)

Tender Notice No.01/APIATP/2020-21, Dated: 28.09.2020
Tender Notice No.02/2020-21, Dated: 28.09.2020

The Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Krishna District, Pin Code: 520002, Andhra Pradesh invites Bids from the intending Bidders for 14 Nos. of Works for an amount of Rs.843.00 Lakhs vide T.No.02/20-21 Dt.28.9.2020 and District Project Director, APIATP, Krishna & Executive Engineer, Special Division, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh invites Bid from the intending Bidders for the 1 No. of work for an amount of Rs.27.14 Lakhs vide T.No.01/APIATP/20-21 dt.28.9.2020 under “Andhra Pradesh Integrated Irrigation and Agriculture Transformation Project (APIATP) (World Bank Phase-III)” from Dt. 05.10.2020 @ 11.00 hrs. to 12.11.2020 upto 17.00 hrs. For complete details visit us at: www.apecurement.gov.in
Queries : For T.No.01/20-21 Dt.28.9.2020
District Project Director, APIATP, Krishna & Executive Engineer, Special Division, Vijayawada, 520002, Andhra Pradesh. Contact No: **7901093085.**
Queries for T.No.02/20-21 Dt.28.09.2020
O/o Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Vijayawada-520002, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, Contact No: **0866-2575276, 7901093033.**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Vijayawada
DIPR No.349P/CL/ADVT/11/2020-21, Dt. 29/09/2020

INDIAN RAILWAYS

"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25000 Volt 50 Hz. AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all the times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead lines.

Section	Date
Adani Logistics Limited PFT siding at Patli station of Northern Railway	05.10.2020

INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION

"WARNING TO ROAD USERS"

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25 KV AC electric traction on Adani Logistics Limited PFT siding at Patli station of Northern Railway, Height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear height between 4.76m and 4.78m above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire (contact wire), which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5m above the rail level at level crossings.

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.

The danger of a load of excessive height are as follows :-
i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway line.
ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.
iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Northern Railway, New Delhi
No. 230-Elect./TRD/14/1/4(EIG) Date: 29.09.2020 2096/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SBI

Networking & Communication Dept., State Bank Global IT Centre, Main Building, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer RFP for Request for Proposal for Engagement of Network Integrator (NI) and setting up of Next Gen Network Operations Centres (NOCS) dated 18.08.2020. **Corrigendum** and Bank's Response to Pre-bid Queries are uploaded and can be accessed under Procurement news at Bank's website <https://www.sbi.co.in> or <https://bank.sbi>

Last date and time for submission of bids: 15.10.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.
Sd/-
Place: Navi Mumbai **Deputy General Manager**
Date: 30/09/2020 **(Networking & Communication Dept.)**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT

MADURAI PROJECTS CIRCLE, MADURAI

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE NO.2/2020-21/S.D.O/Dated.28.09.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Item rate bids under two cover system through online only** will be received upto **03.11.2020 - 15.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H) Projects, Madurai Circle for **Railway Work Programme 2012-13** scheme work pertaining **Madurai (H) Projects Division.**

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **01.10.2020** onwards in the Government web site <https://ntenders.gov.in> If any changes / corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), PROJECTS, MADURAI CIRCLE.

DIPR/3657/TENDER/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PROHIBITION AND EXCISE

EZHILAGAM, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI-600 005

TENDER FOR PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF "POLYESTER BASED HOLOGRAM EXCISE LABELS"

1.	Under the Provisions of Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act 1998 and the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Rules, 2000, Sealed tenders under two bid (Technical and Price bid) system are invited from reputed manufacturers for the production and supply of Polyester based Hologram Excise Label on turkey Basis.
2.	Size of the Hologram Size of each Polyester based Hologram Excise Label should be 80 mm X 15 mm. The Excise Labels should be supplied in spoels suitable for automatic affixture on the neck and cap of the 45FL, Beer and Wine bottles.
3.	Quantity Approximately 30 crores of Polyester based Hologram Excise Labels in a month.
4.	Earnest Money Deposit Payable Rs.50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs)
5.	Last date for receipt of tenders 04.11.2020 up to 12.00 Noon
6.	Opening of Technical Bids 04.11.2020 at 12.30 P.M.
7.	Tender documents (non-transferable) can be had from 01.10.2020 and upto 05.30 P.M. on 03.11.2020 in the office of the Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise on any working day on payment of Rs.30,000/- (Rupees Thirty thousand only) (including GST) per set by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise, Ezhilagam, Chapauk, Chennai-600 005 and payable at Chennai. The tender document can also be downloaded free of cost from the Tamil Nadu Government Website www.tenders.tn.gov.in
8.	Tender received after the due date and stipulated time due to any reason whatsoever, including postal delay will not be considered.

Place: Chennai **Joint Commissioner-II,**
Date: 30.09.2020 **O/o. Commissioner of Prohibition and Excise**
049381/1/sep/2020 and Tender Inviting Authority

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA.

INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e - TENDERING

Bid Identification No- 19/EE/RWSS/ 2020-21 /Bpt Dated. 25.09.2020

01. Name of the work: As per ANNEXURE -A

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only.		Date of opening (Technical Bid)
		From	To	
1 Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	2 19/EE/RWSS/2020-21 /Bpt Dated- 25.09.2020	3 01.10.2020 10.00 AM	4 21.10.2020 05.30 PM	5 22.10.2020 10.00 AM onwards

Cost of tender paper & payment of EMD to be made online payment system.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>.

SD/- Executive Engineer,
Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna
OIPR-25005/11/0005/2021

Transgender rules issued: no medical exam needed to declare desired sex

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

TRANSGENDER PERSONS who want to declare their desired sex will no longer have to go through a medical examination in order to do so, according to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules 2020, issued by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on Monday.

The Rules, first released as a draft in July, inviting objections and suggestions, had been criticised by the LGBTQ community for “taking away” their dignity by mandating that a third person, such as a District Magistrate, would verify, and subsequently certify the gender of a person.

Notified on September 25, the Rules now state that the District Magistrate will “subject to the correctness of the applicant’s particulars, get the application processed based on the affidavit submitted declaring the gender identity of any person, without any medical or physical examination, and thereafter, issue an identification number to the applicant, which may be quoted as proof of application.”

The application to declare gender is to be made physically to the District magistrate, till the system goes online. Parents will also be able to make an application on behalf of their child.

Transgender persons who have officially recorded their change in gender, whether as male, female or transgender, prior to these Rules coming into force will not be required to submit an application for certificate of identity. In the new Rules, state governments have also been directed to constitute welfare boards for transgender persons to protect their rights and interests, and facilitate access to schemes and welfare measures framed by the Centre.

They also call for a review of all existing educational, social security, health schemes, welfare measures, vocational training and self-employment schemes to include transgender persons

State governments are also required to take steps to prohibit discrimination of transgender persons in any government or private organisation, or private and public educational institution under their purview, “and ensure equitable access to social and public spaces, including burial grounds”.

The Centre has further mandated that transgender-sensitive infrastructure such as separate wards in hospitals and washrooms be constructed within two years of the Rules being notified.

Every state government is required to also set up a Transgender Protection Cell under the charge of the state’s DGP and District Magistrates to monitor cases of offences against transgender persons and to ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution.

To Mosul and back, Kerala ISIS man’s extraordinary brush with terror

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPTEMBER 29

AWARDING LIFE imprisonment to the ISIS terrorist Subahani Haja Moideen on Monday, an NIA court in Kochi said: “How easily he deceived the Consul General in Turkey, his dexterity to keep the journey of no return (as he believed then) a secret from all his kin and his foresightedness to use a mobile phone of a particular brand presumably for all his vital communications demonstrate that normal methods of reformation will be ineffective for him.”

Moideen, 35, of Thodupuzha in Iduduki, was a member of ISIS’s Omar al-Hindi module, which wanted to carry out terrorist attacks in South India and establish an ISIS unit in Kerala. Six others in the module, which was busted in 2016, were convicted last year; many are absconding.

The court’s observation stemmed from the unusual jour-



Subahani Haja Moideen at the NIA court in Kochi Monday

ney of the young man from a Tamil trading family that came to Kerala decades ago, to a religious fanatic fascinated with ISIS who felt deeply attached to Iraq, and hoped to have relatives there by marriage.

According to the NIA, Moideen left from Chennai in April 2015 and reached Mosul, Iraq via Istanbul with the intention of joining the ISIS’s war in Syria and Iraq. He was given 25 days’ “reli-

gious training” and 21 days’ “weapon training”, which was mainly about dismantling and assembling automatic rifles. As part of physical training, Moideen was asked to do a kicking exercise, in which he was supposed to land on his left foot after completing a kick with his right foot. However, according to his confession, he failed to land properly, felt an “electric shock-like pain” in his left knee, and collapsed on the rough cement floor. His trainers subsequently judged him unfit for active warfare, and put him on guard duty.

One day, while he was on guard duty, a shell killed two fighters, for which Moideen blamed himself. He asked for permission to return home, which was denied — and Moideen was thrown into jail. He was finally left in a street, from where he crossed the border into Turkey. At the Consulate in Istanbul, he lied that he was a tourist who had lost his documents, and that he was with a Sufi group. In September 2015, he returned to India, slipping past security agencies.

Back in the country, Moideen contacted an ISIS sympathiser, whom he had met on social media. He also procured two fake SIM cards and, according to the NIA, “tried to collect 50 kg each of chlorate, phosphorus, sulphur and aluminium powder, (explosives) which could destruct an area up to 5 km radius”.

Before leaving for Istanbul,

Moideen had established contacts in the ISIS in Iraq. The NIA has found he chatted with one Saber Abdulla, with whom he discussed Daesh and Dawlatul Islam, alternative names for ISIS. In May 2014, he discussed the most advanced long-range sniper rifle and, in a chat with someone with the display name “Wa alikim alsalam”, sought advice on reaching Iraq. NIA has seized jackets and sweaters that he used in Iraq from his house in Thodupuzha.

At Thodupuzha, which Moideen left after higher secondary school and where he returned years later as an amateur software professional, a youth who knows his family, said: “We started noticing changes in Moideen around 2013-14. From denim, he started to wear a black turban and a long beard, and go on frequent pilgrimages.”

The NIA judge observed that “the act of the convict is a blot on the cultural conscience of this state” and “a blow to its pride as one of the most progressive societies in the nation”.

RANAUT PALI HILL OFFICE DEMOLITION

Show grace, you are a parliamentarian: HC to Raut

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE BOMBAY High Court Tuesday said that while it did not agree with actor Kangana Ranaut’s tweets against the state government and Mumbai Police, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut should have shown “grace” and restraint while responding to her.

The observations were made by a division bench of Justices SJ Kathawalla and R1 Chagla after it examined Thorat had said that as his client had not taken Ranaut’s name, it could not be construed that he verbally abused the actor.

The bench was hearing Ranaut’s plea against the demolition



Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut

of alleged unauthorised alterations at her Pali Hill office by the BMC earlier this month.

On Monday, when the court asked her to substantiate claims that Raut abused her verbally, her advocate Birendra Saraf played a clip of Raut speaking to a reporter.

In his affidavit Tuesday, Raut said Ranaut did not approach the court with clean hands and hence, was not entitled to any relief. He sought that the plea be dismissed.

“I deny that I have threatened the petitioner on September 5 news video in a derogatory and ab-



Kangana Ranaut

usive manner as alleged. I say that in the said interview I have only referred to the petitioner as ‘dishonest’ because the petitioner had made a statement saying Mumbai is like ‘Pak occupied Kashmir (PoK)’. I say that I had responded because the petitioner had insulted Mumbai and Maharashtra.”

When the court referred to the “kanoon kya hai?” remark made by Raut while speaking to the reporter, his counsel said that it was out of “provocation” and was made after the petitioner (Ranaut) said Maharashtra is not safe.

With Thorat not appearing for the hearing, his associate submitted, “He (Raut) is not concerned with this demolition matter. He should have been more responsible, but he had no intention to disrespect the law. There was no threatening message.”

To this, Justice Kathawalla said, “You (Raut) are a leader, a parliamentarian. You should have been cautious while making statements. Even we don’t agree with what the petitioner (Ranaut) has said. Is this the way to address it?”

“We are all Maharashtrians and we are all proud to be Maharashtrians. But that doesn’t mean we do and break her house. You have to show grace... Is this an example you set for others by asking ‘kanoon kya hai?’” the judge said.

Seeking written submissions from all parties in the case, the court posted the matter for next week.

RHEA BAIL PLEA

NCB raises drug crimes, says case should be lesson for others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE BOMBAY High Court reserved its orders Tuesday on bail pleas by actor Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and three others in a drug case lodged following the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput after Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) submitted that the case should be “a lesson” for others.

A single-judge bench of Justice Sarang V Kotwal conducted a day-long hearing on the bail pleas Tuesday. On September 11, a special court rejected bail pleas of Rhea, Sushant’s domestic help Samuel Miranda and cook Dipesh Sawant, Showik, and alleged drug peddler Abdel Basit Parihar, following which they moved HC.

During the hearing in HC, Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, appearing for NCB, told the court that it will have to keep in mind the backdrop under which the NDPS Act was formulated. “This is sort of a crime, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, which is worse than murder or culpable homicide. Murder affects one person or a family. However, this (drug cases) affects the entire society.”

ASG Singh said, “All persons arrested till now are connected with each other and it is a syndicate. This is not a case related to Sushant Singh Rajput death. He may have been one of the consumers but the entire transaction and deal is not restricted to him.”

“If role models in the society are doing this, others are going to follow. Then what is the future of this country?.. This should be a lesson for others also.”

PLEA BY RAKUL PREET

Can’t say won’t do anything because it is sensitive probe: Delhi HC to I&B

SOFIA AHSAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting cannot say it “will not do anything” on complaints against TV channels when an investigation is sensitive in nature.

The observation followed the Centre’s submission regarding an application by actor Rakul Preet Singh. The actor has sought the court’s intervention against “fake reporting” by the media about her role in the drugs case being investigated by the Narcotics Control Bureau against actor Rhea Chakraborty and others.

Justice Navin Chawla ordered the ministry and News Broadcasters Association to inform the court about the steps taken in pursuance of its earlier order to expeditiously take a decision on complaints filed by the actor against various news channels.

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma earlier submitted that any order in the matter will have a “cascading effect” on the investigation in the drugs case. The court was also told that Singh was issued a summons by the NCB but she is not an accused.

“...it is a sensitive matter. We have to take a balanced view of the entire thing. Today any order this way or that way is bound to have some cascading effect on ongoing investigation which is at crucial stage,” said Sharma.

However, the court said, “You have a power under Cable Television [Networks (Regulation)] Act. The petitioner has come to you saying that here are three reports, which are totally derogatory to women and they are totally false. Now right or wrong... may be the allegation is totally wrong as far as the petitioner is concerned but you will investigate into it. You cannot say I will not do anything because it is a sensitive information or sensitive investigation.”

Rakul Preet’s counsel, Aman Hingorani, submitted on the actor’s behalf, “I don’t do drugs ... My reputation is in tatters.”

Court rejects Kannada actors’ bail pleas, cites collective drug seizure

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 29

DESPITE OFFICIALS of the Central Crime Branch in Bengaluru not finding drugs in the possession of two Kannada actors accused of being part of a drug scandal in Karnataka, a special court for NDPS Act cases has cited the collective seizure of drugs from other accused to reject the bail pleas of the actors.

The bail pleas of Ragini Dwivedi (30) and Sanjanaa Galrani (30), actors who are accused with 14 others of being part of a racket involved in use of drugs at parties in Bengaluru, were rejected by the court, which cited collective seizures as well as alleged non-cooperation by the actors in providing data from their phones to the police.

Dwivedi’s advocate contended that no drugs were found

in her possession and that any alleged amount of drugs consumed was only a small quantity.

The NDPS court, however, ruled that “when all the accused persons have committed the offences under the above crime, the quantity seized from all the accused together is to be considered”. The court cited the seizure of 12 grams of cocaine, 55 grams of ganja, 11.5 grams of ecstasy tablets and 10 grams of MDMA from all the arrested.

Rejecting Dwivedi’s bail plea, the court also cited police findings of call records linking her to an alleged Senegalese national arrested for drug peddling in Bengaluru.

For Galrani too, the court cited the collective seizure of drugs from all the accused to reject the bail plea. Galrani has been accused of deleting a WhatsApp group where she was a participant with

a friend Rahul Thoshe (35) and others who allegedly attended parties where drugs were available.

The bail plea of Thoshe and anticipatory bail pleas of two other accused — film producers Vinay Kumar and Shivaprakash — were also rejected.

The CCB is investigating alleged drug use in parties in Bengaluru on the basis of information gleaned from a 2018 seizure of 1.5 kg of cocaine from three alleged drug peddlers including two Africans, and a recent NCB bust of a racket to supply psychedelic drugs for parties in Bengaluru allegedly involving two youths from Kerala and a 24-year-old woman.

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE L-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI

No.F.10(56)/96-97/IMFL/EX/PF/1522-1539 Dated: 16.9.2020

ORDER

In pursuance of the provisions of Rule 52 of Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, it is hereby ordered that following dates shall be observed as “Dry Day” in the National Capital Territory of Delhi by all L-1, L-1F, L-2, L-3, L-4, L-5, L-6, L-6FG, L-6FE, L-7, L-7FG, L7FE, L-8, L-9, L-10, L-11, L-12, L-12F, L-14, L-18, L-23, L-23F, L-25, L-26, L-31, L-32, L-33, L-34 and L-35 licensees and opium vends located in Delhi.

Sl. No	Occasion	Date	DAY
1	Mahatma Gandhi’s Birthday	02.10.2020	Friday
2	Dussehra	25.10.2020	Sunday
3	Milad-un-Nabi or Id-e Milad (Birthday of Prophet Mohammad)	30.10.2020	Friday
4	Maharishi Valmiki’s Birthday	31.10.2020	Saturday
5	Diwali (Deepavali)	14.11.2020	Saturday
6	Guru Teg Bahadur’s Martyrdom Day	24.11.2020	Tuesday
7	Guru Nanak’s Birthday	30.11.2020	Monday

In addition to above, all L-16, L-17, L-19, L-20, L-21, L-22, L-28, L-29, P-10 and P-13 licensees shall observe dry day on 02.10.2020 (Mahatma Gandhi’s Birthday).

The licensees shall not be entitled to any compensation on account of any changes effected in the above list.


The restriction of sale on liquor on dry days mentioned above shall not apply to the service of liquor to residents in case of hotels having L-15 license.

All the licensees shall exhibit this order at some conspicuous place of their licensed premises.

The business premises of a licensee shall be kept closed on dry day.

Sd/-
(RAVI DHAWAN)
COMMISSIONER (EXCISE)

DIP/Shabdarth/0326/20-21



ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACHERS SELECTION

The Army is running 137 CBSE affiliated Army Public Schools (APS) as **Private Unaided Schools** located all over India which are functioning under the **control of Local Military Authorities**. A number of vacancies are likely to occur in the next academic session. The exact number of vacancies will be published by respective schools/managements and selection carried out.

An online screening examination will be conducted as per details below to ensure a basic threshold of knowledge and competence so as to shortlist suitable candidates for the interviews and final selection.

Date : **21 -22 Nov 2020 (TENTATIVE)**
Categories : PGT/TGT/ PRT
Mode : On-Line
Exam Centers : Select Cities/towns across India

For details of qualifications, registration and conduct, please log on to website: www.awesindia.com



Careers

DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
(Established under Govt of A.P. Act No. 32 of 2008)
"NYAYAPRASTHA", Sabhapuram, Visakhapatnam-35, AP, India
Phone & Fax: 08824-248216, website: www.dsnlu.ac.in

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

DSNLU invites application(s) from eligible individuals for the following Non-Teaching Posts on 5 Year Contract Tenure Basis (Renewable): Deputy Registrar (2), Persons Secretary (1), Accounts Officer (1), Junior Accounts Officer (1). For application form, eligibility criteria, scale of pay, rule of reservation and other details, visit DSNLU website: www.dsnlu.ac.in. The filled-in application with registration fee of Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only), (Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) in case of SC/ST/BC(PH)), by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of "The Registrar, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, payable at Visakhapatnam should reach "The Registrar, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, "NYAYAPRASTHA", Sabhapuram, Visakhapatnam - 35, Andhra Pradesh" on or before **27.10.2020 by 5.00 P.M.** Visakhapatnam

05.10.2020 Sd/- REGISTRAR

MP: Video of him beating wife viral, IPS officer suspended for domestic violence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 29

SENIOR IPS officer Purushottam Sharma, who was serving as a Special DG in Madhya Pradesh, was suspended on Tuesday evening for moral turpitude and domestic violence. Issuing the order, the state home department stated that action has been taken as Sharma’s response to the explanation sought over some videos of him beating his wife was unsatisfactory.

The suspension comes a day after two videos of Sharma went

viral. In one, he was seen beating his wife following a heated argument. In another, Sharma’s wife is seen questioning him over his presence in a flat with a woman.

After the videos went viral, Sharma, who was holding the charge of Special DG (Prosecution), was relieved of his duties and attached to the home department. Later, the department sought an explanation from him.

Meanwhile, Sharma’s daughter Dewanshi Gautam has written to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, supporting her father and urging the state government

to stop “degrading his image”. In the letter, Dewanshi has stated that her mother has been suffering from a chronic psychiatric disorder. She has written that her mother is part of the “0.1 per cent” of women in the country who “use legal provisions to harass respectable men”.

Dewanshi has alleged that her mother has been constantly harassing her father while he tried his best to maintain the dignity of the family.

She has urged the DGP to take action to stop these videos from “degrading her father’s image”.

EOI : REGISTRATION OF VENDORS FOR SUPPLY OF DRUGS & NOTIFIED MEDICAL DEVICES AND CONSUMABLES TO MEDICAL STORES, INHS ASVINI AT MUMBAI

APPLICATIONS are invited from Original Manufacturers/Authorized Stockists/Dealers/Agents/Distributors for inclusion in Vendor Database as suppliers of Pharmaceutical Products/Medical Consumables/Medical Gases/Medical Devices. Application with supporting documents may be downloaded from www.defproc.gov.in. Performance of the existing vendors in the previous years will be taken into consideration for continuation of inclusion in the Vendor Database. Application Form along with ink-signed/attested hard copies of all supporting documents duly completed in all respects is to be dropped in Quotation Box labeled as **"VENDOR DATABASE"** placed in Office of the Medical Stores, INHS Asvini, Near RC Church, Colaba, Mumbai — 400 005. The scanned copies of all documents are to be forwarded via e-mail to oic-medicalstores@navy.gov.in. Last date of submission is within 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE SUMMARILY REJECTED WITHOUT ANY FURTHER COMMUNICATION TO THE CONCERNED. NO REPRESENTATION/ REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DATE WILL BE ENTERTAINED.

DETAILS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT www.defproc.gov.in. THE DETAILS OF CONTACT PERSON FOR ANY QUERY IS AS FOLLOWS:- OIC TENDER SECTION (MEDICAL STORES) ON TELEPHONE - 022-22143750

davp 10702/11/0046/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is notified for the information of passengers that the timings of the following Special Trains/Clone Special Trains will be revised as under:-

REVISED TIMINGS OF TRAIN NO. 06527/06528 KSR BENGALURU-NEW DELHI-KSR BENGALURU									
Train No. 06527				↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 06528				
Existing Timings		Revised Timings			Existing Timings		Revised Timings		
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	
14:50	14:55	14:45	14:50	Manmad Junction	15:40	15:45	15:20	15:25	
Existing Timings				Jalgaon	13:38	13:40	13:13	13:15	
Existing Timings				Bhusaval Junction	13:05	13:10	12:45	12:50	
19:32	19:35	19:27	19:30	Khandwa	11:15	11:18	11:00	11:03	
Revised Timings effective from : 06527 Ex. KSR Bengaluru from 28.09.2020 and 06528 Ex. New Delhi from 28.09.2020 till further advice.									

REVISED TIMINGS OF TRAIN NO. 07379/07380 VASCO DA GAMA- HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN-VASCO DA GAMA CLONE SPECIAL EXP. (WEEKLY)									
Train No. 07379				↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 07380				
Existing Timings		Revised Timings			Existing Timings		Revised Timings		
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	
----	12:30 (Fri)			Vasco-Da-Gama	04:45 (Tue)	--			
13:10	13:15			Madgaon	03:40	03:45			
16:35	16:45			Londa	00:05	00:15(Tue)			
17:45	17:50			Belgavi	22:45	22:50			
20:25	20:30			Miraj Junction	20:20	20:25			
01:55	02:10 (Sat)			Pune Junction	14:20	14:35			
08:15	08:20	07:55	08:00	Manmad Junction	07:45	07:50	07:25	07:30	
10:55	11:00	10:25	10:30	Bhusaval Junction	05:20	05:25	04:55	05:00	
15:30	15:35			Itarsi	01:05	01:10(Mon)			
17:20	17:30			Bhopal Junction	23:10	23:20			
22:15	22:25			Jhansi Junction	18:45	18:55			
--	--	01:00	01:05	Agra Cantt.	--	--	15:25	15:30	
04:20 (Sun)	--			Hazrat Nizamuddin	--	13:00(Sun)			
Note: This Special Train Service has been provided with an additional stoppage at Agra cantt.									
Revised Timings effective from : 07379 Ex. Vasco Da Gama from 02.10.2020 on every Friday and 07380 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin from 04.10.2020 on every Sunday till further advice.									

REVISED TIMINGS OF TRAIN NO. 06523/06524 YESVANTPUR- HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN-YESVANTPUR CLONE SPECIAL EXP. (BI-WEEKLY)									
Train No. 06523				↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 06524				
Existing Timings		Revised Timings			Existing Timings		Revised Timings		
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.	DEP.
---	13:55			Yesvantpur Junction	06:20	---			
16:15	16:20			Arsikere Junction	03:05	03:10			
21:40	21:50			Hubballi Junction	22:20	22:25			
00:30	00:32			Belagavi	18:48	18:50			
03:05	03:10			Miraj Junction	16:25	16:30			
08:25	08:40			Pune Junction	10:25	10:40			
15:10	15:15	14:25	14:30	Manmad Junction	03:40	03:45	03:00	03:05	
17:45	17:50	17:10	17:15	Bhusaval Junction	01:05	01:10	01:05	01:10	
01:00	01:10			Bhopal Junction	19:20	19:30			
06:00	06:10			Jhansi Junction	14:55	15:05			
12:50	---			Hazrat Nizamuddin	---	08:45			
Revised Timings effective from : 06523 Ex. Yesvantpur Jn. from 30.09.2020 and 06524 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin from 29.09.2020 till further advice.									

REVISED TIMINGS OF TRAIN NO. 02952 NEW DELHI- MUMBAI CENTRAL RAJDHANI SPECIAL TRAIN

↓ STATIONS	Train No. 02952			
	Existing Timings	Revised Timings		
	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
New Delhi	-	17.00	-	17.00
Kota Junction	21.40	21.50	21.50	22.00
Ratlam Junction	00.42	00.45	00.52	00.55
Vadodara Junction	03.48	03.56	03.58	04.06
Surat	05.28	05.33	05.35	05.40
Mumbai Central	08.40	-	08.40	-

Revised Timings effective from : 02952 Ex. New Delhi from 30.09.2020

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A COSTLY PAUSE

Delay in appointing external members to the monetary policy committee was avoidable, creates needless uncertainty

IN AN UNUSUAL move, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday postponed the bi-monthly meeting of the monetary policy committee (MPC), which was scheduled to be held from September 29 to October 1. While the central bank did not cite any specific reason for doing so, the postponement is presumably due to the fact the government is yet to announce the three external members of the six-member MPC. The four-year term of the last three external members — Chetan Ghate, Ravindra Dholakia and Pami Dua — had ended recently. Considering that the timeline for the departure of the external members was known well in advance, the delay in appointing the new members to the committee is inexplicable. The ensuing uncertainty was best avoided.

It has been argued that with headline retail inflation continuing to be elevated, the delay in appointing the new members to the MPC is unlikely to matter as the new members are likely to maintain status quo on rates. But that would be a myopic argument. Firstly, the new members will need time to not only arrive at an informed view on the stance of monetary policy at this critical juncture, but also to be familiarised with the procedures and working of the committee. Secondly, the MPC statement serves as an important document on two counts: One, for providing greater clarity over the state of the economy, and two, for providing forward guidance. Considering that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the central bank, while providing some directional guidance, has repeatedly refused to provide any firm estimate of either inflation or growth, this would have been an opportune moment for the RBI/MPC to present its own estimates, and lay out the trajectory going forward.

The RBI had previously sought an extension for the three external members until March due to the ongoing pandemic. This would have given the government ample time to select their successors. Inexplicably, again, this request was not accepted. While reportedly, the search committee for selecting the external members, headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, has recommended a list of candidates, the process of selection appears to have been held up by bureaucratic hurdles. This delay should have been anticipated and avoided. Possible issues of conflict of interest could also have been addressed in time. It is unfortunate that such delays in appointments to key positions are becoming increasingly common. In the past, for example, there have been delays in the appointment of deputy governors of the RBI. There are costs, such instances inject more uncertainty in an already insecure environment. More so, when arguments for modifying the inflation targeting regime are gaining ground.

OPEN THE DOOR

Scientific institutions have not re-designed systems to accommodate talented women. Policy must address this gap

A NEW GOVERNMENT policy that proposes to rank Indian institutes of science on the proportion of the women they employ must be heartily welcomed. Such an equity rating will measure the institutes on childcare facilities, but also the concrete opportunities they provide their women colleagues to become leaders. In doing so, the Department of Science and Technology signals a larger realisation that equality and gender parity cannot come without institutions actively seeking to create the conditions for it.

The odds have been stacked against the Indian woman scientist for a long while now. If she has managed to hold on to her interest in the face of endemic and widespread bias about girls in STEM and make it to college, her talent has inevitably run into more walls. In 2005, a government task force found that while the number of women entering university to study science has gone up by 30 per cent from the 1950s, they drop off just as they are about to enter teaching or pursue doctoral research. The reasons are not unknown — given the choice between nurturing a family and a career in research, women may end up choosing, or being compelled to choose, the “mommy track”. But it is also true that scientific institutions — like many other institutions — have not given much thought to re-designing their systems to accommodate talented women. The IITs, especially, are striking offenders, with a dismal record in employing women at the faculty level, though other institutions do not fare much better.

The pandemic has led to fears that the doubling of women's labour at home, due to lack of childcare and the prolonged shutdown of schools, will force them out of jobs or professions, resulting in a setback by close to a decade. Academia is not an exception to this rule. But it has also underlined what feminist scholarship has argued for long — that productivity and merit of (male) professionals is shored up by the devalued domestic labour performed by women. It is not inevitable that academic excellence has to go hand in hand with systemic lack of equity. One way out is to adopt a policy redesign that puts the needs of women at the centre of the institutional agenda, and work around it, rather than force them to square their lives around the institute's demands. Scientific institutions must recognise that not everyone flourishes on the “level-playing field” — and then find ways to correct this bias. The new policy is a right, and overdue, first step.

POOR TRUMP

Revelations about his tax returns hit US President where it hurts most — his braggadocio

IN 2016 AND 2017, the year self-proclaimed billionaire Donald Trump won the US presidential election and his first year in office, he filed \$750 in income tax returns. In 2017, he or his businesses paid \$145,400 in taxes in India. Under normal circumstances, or at least before 2016, the real worry for a US president would be about the repercussions of possible charges of being a tax evader. In the Trump era, though, it's all about image.

The New York Times report on Trump's taxes over two decades has suggested that he has, like many of the rich, used every loophole in the law to pay less than most working-class families do to the government. But, more importantly, it suggests that Trump is a terrible businessman and his much-touted Art of the Deal has all the honesty of a drunken boast in a bar full of strangers. For Trump, who has carefully cultivated and campaigned on a reputation of being a ruthless, successful businessman — arguing even that his personal wealth means that he is free from lobbyists' influence — the NYT revelations are more than just a political blow in an election year. They hit at the heart of Trumpism — his braggadocio. What if the man with golden furniture and his name on buildings is broke?

For some in India, there is some petty satisfaction to be had in all this, a small sense of schadenfreude. In his political speeches, Trump insisted that it was by great cunning and even trickery that India had set the terms of trade with the US. And that Trump was the president who would make sure that the money owed to the US did not flow overseas. Turns out, he's been paying us all along.



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

THE DECISION OF the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) to part company with its long-term ally need not be surprising except on the question of timing. Coalition theorists would describe the post-2014 NDA as a surplus majority coalition — the BJP has had the numbers in Lok Sabha on its own and all allies have been superfluous. It was sustained because the allies could get a share in power at the Centre and make the most of the alliance in their states. Most of the NDA allies have been unable to win majorities on their own in their states and that forced them to remain with the BJP. But by nature, smaller partners are redundant in surplus coalitions.

Over the years, particularly after 2014, the relatively stronger allies of the BJP have walked out of the NDA (occasionally walking back in too). The Shiv Sena was the first to try to walk out, though it quickly backtracked after the state elections. The JD(U)'s departure produced more drama since it led to a new power equation in Bihar. Both the Shiv Sena and JD(U) were unable at that time to settle for an alternative arrangement. But the indications were clear that the changed context would lead to a re-think by both sides.

Actions of parties are often viewed from the prism of cynicism because parties act in self-interest. It is easy therefore to berate the SAD for its sudden pro-farmer turn. The choices of the JD(U) and Shiv Sena lacked even that figleaf of policy differences. But instead of evaluating such decisions through a so-called moral compass, we could check two things: One, does the action make sense in the context of coalition politics? Two, does a self-serving decision indirectly produce anything beyond self-interest?

The first concerns the difference between national and state parties in their approach to coalition politics. The BJP always had a clear ambition to not only replace the Congress from power at the Centre but also as the central force in politics. Early in the 1990s, the BJP realised that it was far away from being an all-India party. It set about creating an all-India footprint by seeking to gain power at the national level. This strategy brought

Split and effect

SAD exit from NDA may not hurt BJP much — but it opens up competition, shakes up political game

about the NDA, where anti-Congress forces could be persuaded to pool resources. For the many state parties that had emerged by then, such non-Congress alliances offered an opportunity to extend their influence beyond the state.

Historically, the BJP has had limited presence in many states — Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal or even Bihar. The NDA served two purposes. It ensured an electoral front that could help the BJP become a critical player nationally and form the government in Delhi. Secondly, it allowed the BJP to obtain a foothold in states where it did not have a presence. If one looks at the growth of the BJP in Karnataka, Maharashtra or Bihar, between 1996 and 2004, this latter purpose was admirably served at the cost of state parties. Therefore, it was for the state parties to take a call on how long to go with the BJP. The fragmentation of the NDA was thus inevitable. The advent of Modi only hastened that process both because of the personalised authority that now marked the BJP and because of Modi's ability to situate the party so handsomely in the power grid.

Since 2013-14, the BJP began to lose interest in allies who now became an unnecessary burden. But it still continued to humour state parties through the NDA for a variety of reasons. This strategy could effectively block the Congress in some states at least. Besides, in states like Tamil Nadu the BJP continues to be a weak force and needs state-level parties to get an entry. Third, it needs allies in many states to form governments there — as in the case of Haryana, and Jharkhand. Similarly, in Bihar, Maharashtra or Punjab, the party can come to power only by sharing power with a state-level player. But its willingness to share national power in exchange has been sharply declining post-2014.

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the JD(U), no state party with a sizable presence would now remain with the BJP.

Once state parties quit the coalition, they begin to discover what is wrong with the BJP. One may blame them for realising it too late, but their discoveries are usually accurate. In this sense, the self-serving decisions of state parties to part ways with the BJP serve a larger purpose.

Just like the strident anti-BJP stance taken by the Shiv Sena after its fallout with that party, the SAD has now appealed to all non-BJP parties to join hands on the farmers' issue. This would put pressure on fence-sitters like the YSR Congress and TRS. Should that happen, the BJP would be slowly moving towards grand isolation.

Will that hurt the BJP or will it bask in the glory of that isolation? Modi's (and more so, Shah's and Adityanath's) BJP is probably waiting to enjoy that glorious isolation — because in that would also be a recognition that it is the only holder of real power. More than that, it would allow the BJP to more openly march towards where it has been itching to move in the past year or so — an ideological position that openly defies the Constitution and a political practice that rejects all democratic norms. The isolation would also enable others to identify clearly what the BJP stands for.

Except, perhaps, in Haryana, the current noise created by the SAD may not hurt the BJP much but it still opens up the field of competition. More than that, it brings in the fresh air of robust contestation in a political environment stuffed with the smoke of arrogance born out of electoral successes.

They may well fail in bringing about change, but in the last instance, in their cynical pursuit of self-interest, parties like the Shiv Sena or Akali Dal have, unbeknown to themselves, saved themselves from continuing the sin against the Constitution and democracy.

The writer, based at Pune, taught political science and is currently chief editor, Studies in Indian Politics



SHALINI CHAWLA

WITH THE Financial Action Task Force (FATF) meeting in sight, Pakistan is gearing up to gather support from China to avoid the black-listing. Reports suggest that Islamabad is likely to persuade the US to support it as it feels it can leverage its much-lauded role as a successful negotiator in the US-Taliban agreement signed on February 29. While Pakistan will have support from Turkey and Malaysia, Beijing is expected to push hard in Pakistan's favour at the meeting. Pakistan has been on the FATF grey list since June 2018 and even though Islamabad is getting its progress report ready, there is little evidence to suggest that its faith in the use of terrorism as a state policy against India will change.

Pakistan's growing alliance with China has been a major factor that has alleviated international pressure on it, altering its strategic calculus. Beijing's all-out support to Pakistan provided room to shrink Islamabad's reliance on the West (especially the US). Importantly, Pakistan's military build-up has continued with Chinese defence imports despite its economic slowdown and mounting debt.

China's assistance to Pakistan over the last six decades has expanded from a purely military relationship to economic and diplomatic levels. Beijing's weapon supply not only added to Pakistan's defence capability but also strengthened its will to carry out a proxy war through terrorism in India, without the fear of being defeated in retaliatory Indian aggression.

China's lavish military assistance to Pakistan has been on four critical fronts:

A DEEPENING NEXUS

As China-Pakistan ties become wider, India must prepare for implications

The intelligence-sharing cooperation between the two countries has deepened and reports suggest posting of Pakistan's ISI officers (from this March) to China's Central Military Commission's Joint Staff Department. The alliance expanded into an economic partnership with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which Pakistan sees as a game-changer. Beijing's diplomatic support to Pakistan has grown significantly after the revocation of Article 370 and China has repeatedly raised the Kashmir issue at the UN Security Council.

Export of Chinese conventional military equipment; support in Pakistan's nuclear build-up; assistance to Pakistan's indigenous defence industry and intelligence sharing. The supply of Chinese conventional weapons started in the 1960s and 1970s with F-7s and MiG-19 fighters. In the 1980s, the Pakistan Army inventory had significant Chinese equipment including the T-59 MBTs, T-60 and T-63 Light Tanks, and Type 531 APCs. By the early 1980s, China had provided Pakistan about 65 per cent of its aircraft and more than 70 per cent of its tanks.

Pakistan started its naval acquisitions from China in the 1980s with a long-term objective of striking a deal for technology transfer for indigenous production in the future. In the last two decades, the focus of Pakistan's defence procurement has been on the build-up of its air force and the maritime strike capabilities of its navy. In these, technology transfer from China has been a key feature. The Aircraft Manufacturing Factory (AMF), under the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) at Kamra, started production of the Karakoram-8 jet trainer in collaboration with the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC). JF-17 is co-developed by Pakistan and China and reports suggest the PAC has been producing 58 per cent of the JF-17's airframe, and China's Chengdu Aircraft Industry Corporation 42 per cent of it. In 2006, the Pakistan Navy ordered four F-22P-type frigates from China and it was agreed that the fourth F-22P will be manufactured in Pakistan at a Karachi

shipyard. PNS ASLAT is the first indigenously built frigate of the navy and the production was done in collaboration with the China Shipbuilding and Trading Company.

On the nuclear front, Pakistan received help with the reactor, weapon design as well as nuclear material (in the 1970s and 1980s). China continued missile technology assistance to Pakistan and the technology of the Chinese M-11 was used by Pakistan to develop missiles, including Hatf-3/Hatf-4 (based on M-11) and Hatf-6 (based on Chinese M-18).

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It looks like China wants its alliance with Pakistan to serve as an exemplar to smaller nations in South Asia and the Middle East to fulfil its boundless strategic and economic ambition. The Sino-Pak nexus is expected to grow further in the coming years and India needs to be strategically prepared to deal with the implications of the alliance.

The writer is distinguished fellow, Centre for Air Power Studies

SEPTEMBER 30, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

IRAN DOMINATES SEAS

IRAQ CLAIMED NEW territorial gains in southwestern Iran and Iran claimed a sweeping naval victory. Tehran Radio quoted Iran's navy as saying it was in complete control of the Straits of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf's outlet and adding that foreign commercial ships could proceed normally as long as they don't head for Iraq's ports. An Iranian military communique quoted by a Paris-based news agency spoke of a sea-borne raid by the Iranian coast guards on Iraqi oil storage facilities at Faw.

IRAQ READY TO TALK

Iraq dispatched its Foreign Minister Saadoun Hammadeh to the United Nations to attend

the UN General Assembly session and defend the Iraqi stand in the war with Iraq. It also informed the UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim that it accepted the Security Council's call last night for an end to fighting with Iran. Iraq has, however, not specified if its response was tide to conditions. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said he was prepared to hold direct negotiations with Tehran to settle the dispute.

PITCHING FOR DELHI

IRAN'S ROVING AMBASSADOR Shams Ardakhani, who is touring several countries to put forth Iran's point of view, flew into Delhi and met Prime Minister Indira

Gandhi. He said that as leader of the Non-Aligned Movement India has a role in protecting the territorial integrity of Iran, which, he alleged, has been violated by Iraq. He said Iran did not accept the offer of mediation by Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq because no ground rules were laid.

ON STRIKE

Central government employees are observing a “one-day pay strike” on September 30 to demand bonus for all such employees. Their other demands include parity of pay with public sector employees, a hike in DA and an increase in house rent and city compensatory allowances.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

Good students, bad students

Binary which equates ‘good’ with ‘apolitical’ is misconceived. Universities are training grounds for citizenship and leadership, where students learn to engage with concerns that go beyond the personal



SHYAM MENON

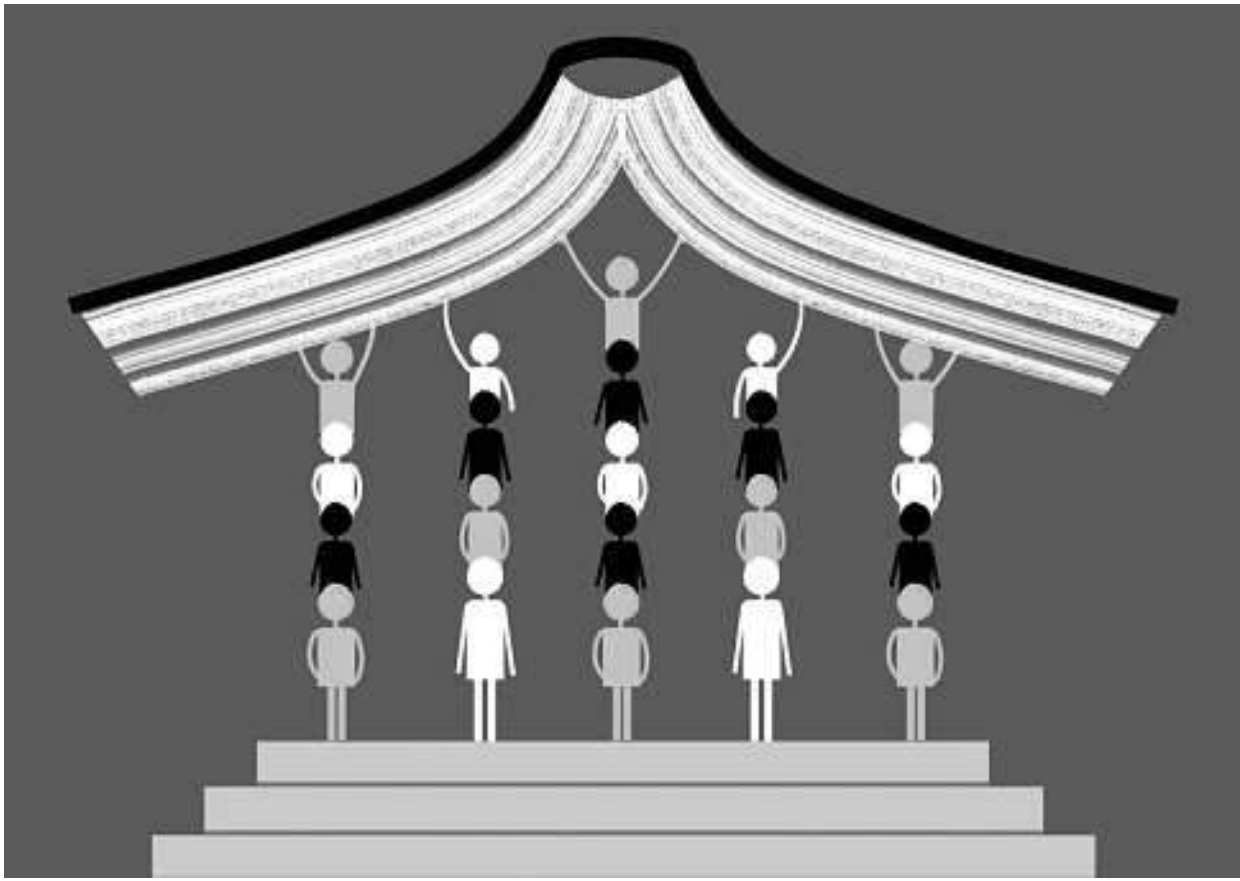
IT WAS DEEPLY distressing to read ('Universities discuss how to get students to behave', IE, September 9) the kind of expressions reportedly made during a recent webinar by some university administrators about students —“criminals, rowdy elements”... “new youth less exposed to scolding and beating”... “(must) ensure that they are marginalised, segregated and kept out of the campus at any cost”. It was appalling to find teachers who are charged with the responsibility of students' welfare reportedly talking about students in such deeply adversarial and disparaging terms. These are expressions one normally associates less with universities and more with penal institutions. They represent cluelessness about the idea of the university and a lack of imagination of how teachers must engage with student communities while serving as university administrators.

Most teachers who have had stints as university administrators will tell you how delicate and challenging the job of engaging with student communities is. Whatever the challenge, one cardinal rule that all good academic administrators keep in mind is that at the end of it their relation with students is determined by their primary role as teachers. I have served five years presiding over the team of proctors at the University of Delhi. There were several major student agitations at that time. We were even gheraoed by students a few times.

But, those challenging occasions also brought to the surface the deeper human dimensions of our relationship with students. Our team of proctors always tried to keep engaging with students in a dialogic process, some of which were difficult conversations, but every time we were able to reconnect with our basic bonding with students. We tried to go beyond the conventional disciplinary role attached to the office of proctor and established institutional structures for ongoing communication with students and for proactively addressing their concerns and problems.

When the Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) was being established with the imagination that it would be a self-governing collegial community of scholars, students were visualised as an integral part of that community. Students participated actively in some aspects of the administration. For instance, all public-dealing during the annual admission cycle as well as counselling prospective students was managed almost entirely by the students themselves. The Student Cell staffed by students themselves addressed their ongoing concerns. Prior to instituting the Student Council at AUD, the students elected a constituent assembly to draft their own constitution. They conduct their own elections.

Students at the university level are already adults and citizens with voting rights. They are major stakeholders in a university — theirs is the most critical investment in higher education since they invest some of their most



CR Sasikumar

formative years in that process. They have the highest stake in the performance of a university because their own future hinges on it. So, it is terribly incorrect to infantilise students and treat them as mere beneficiaries parasitising on the largesse of governments. They are, in fact, partners in the shaping and functioning of a university.

India is an incredibly unequal society. Higher education is a highly selective enterprise with restricted participation in the guise of meritocracy, thus perpetuating and exacerbating inequality. But university students often transcend self-absorption driven by personal aspirations, realising that their entitlements have come at the cost of someone else's deprivations and marginalisation. They become concerned about the larger social and political issues like poverty, social exclusion and injustice, and begin to try and give voice to the voiceless. This is something to be celebrated and not frowned upon.

Similarly, if the youth are keen to give expression to concerns about possible futures — scenarios like irreversible geo-climatic changes, technological disruptions, nuclear war and so on — in which theirs is the highest stake, that should reassure us, because we will then know that the future will see the emergence of a wiser and saner leadership in all sectors. There will be a new kind of politics focusing on issues of the future, where the leadership is going to be increasingly younger. The youth has a greater propensity to think creatively about long-term concerns that will need questioning the very assumptions of the prevalent order, since they do not have a vested interest in the perpetuation of the status quo.

If this means being political, then that is the politics that every concerned citizen should be into. The irony is that when students get too self-absorbed and focused on their own personal aspirations, it is usually

India is an incredibly unequal society. Higher education is a highly selective enterprise with restricted participation in the guise of meritocracy, thus perpetuating and exacerbating inequality. But, university students often transcend self-absorption driven by personal aspirations realising that their entitlements have come at the cost of someone else's deprivations and marginalisation. They become concerned about the larger social and political issues like poverty, social exclusion and injustice, and begin to try and give voice to the voiceless. This is something to be celebrated and not frowned upon.

considered a character of “good” students — the ones who are apolitical. But, being “good” this way also has an underlying politics — the politics of perpetuating the prevalent power structures and relations.

The university is a training ground for citizenship, teamwork and leadership. In a democratic polity, leadership is about taking people along and managing multiple views and perspectives, holding consultations, negotiating differences, resolving conflicts and exploring consensus. It includes learning to disagree without having to be disagreeable and to contest and argue without being uncivil.

Contestations within universities have an inherent element of role-play — there is some posturing involved in confrontations between students and university administrations. Such confrontations often manifest roles historically scripted within the paradigm of conflict theories with binary oppositional forces contesting to wrench control from each other. However, there is a need to go beyond this paradigm and creatively transcend these legacy scripts. New ways should be explored for partnering with students in planning, designing and administering universities, particularly academic structures, programmes and processes. The future may see the profile of students change considerably in terms of age and experience, given the possible flux in employment necessitating working people to return to university for periodic upskilling and reskilling. This will increasingly diffuse the distinction between teachers and students.

It is, therefore, time to discard some of our outdated conceptions about engagement with students. Otherwise, our universities are likely to get frozen in time and regress into mediocrity.

The writer is professor, Central Institute of Education, University of Delhi and former vice chancellor, Ambedkar University Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Inequality is a US national emergency. It ought to be addressed by increased taxes on the wealthy” — THE GUARDIAN

Opposing for the sake of opposing

BJP was open to a debate and division on farm bills, Opposition flouted rules. Giving it a clean chit sets bad precedent for parliamentary democracy



BHUPENDER YADAV

OF LATE, SOME have interpreted the freedom of expression guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution not as a freedom to speak and express but as a licence to hold parliamentary democracy hostage by tearing down the rulebook — literally so. They have found supporters in intellectual circles, who have blamed the government — by extension the BJP — and created a smoke-screen to conceal what really transpired on September 20 in Parliament to mislead farmers and other citizens of the country.

In his column, ‘Railroading the bill’ (IE, September 22) Pratap Bhanu Mehta raises three questions while referring to the passage of farm bills in the Rajya Sabha on September 20. Curiously, he doesn't mention who came to the well of the House, who sabotaged the Deputy Chairman's mike, who heckled him and who tore the rulebook.

I want to set the record straight because I was in the House that day. The first question raised by Mehta pertains to the Question Hour. He says it was “unnecessarily” suspended. The Question Hour was suspended because the Monsoon Session was curtailed due to the pandemic. However, the “right to question” wasn't suspended. Only oral questions were not allowed — the members were allowed to submit written questions. The government answered 1,567 unstarred questions in 10 sittings of the House. Besides, 92 Zero Hour submissions and 66 Special Mentions on matters of urgent public importance were made. State assemblies, including in Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal, have also suspended the Question Hour due to the pandemic. Mehta makes no mention of them.

Mehta's second point is about the Bills not being referred to committees. The Opposition often makes a hue and cry over the matter. But they keep opposing and obstructing Bills in the House even after the Select Committee has made recommendations. Even as the amendment to refer the Bill to the Select Committee was moved, Deputy Chairman Harivansh was surrounded by hostile members, who snatched papers from him.

Punjab, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu already have contract farming. A committee formed by the UPA government in 2010 had recommended that APMC and corporate licence monopolies in the agri sector should not be allowed. It's evident that the Opposition opposed the Bills for the sake of opposing.

The third point Mehta refers to is the “division” of votes. But for a division to be allowed, the House has to be in order. Mehta curiously missed this point. Was it the BJP legislators who disrupted order? No.

Parliament had a long peaceful debate that day. The BJP gave up its own time to accommodate others who wanted to speak on the Bills — 33 members from all parties spoke. The last to speak was

Congress MP Ahmed Patel. As soon as he finished speaking, members of his party and other opposition parties rushed into the Well and crippled the proceedings.

The Opposition did not have the numbers to block these legislation. This is what prompted it to execute a pre-planned strategy to stall the passage of the Bills by all means. The BJP was open to a debate and division for two reasons. One, the government had the numbers. Two, that is what the procedure lays down.

Rule 235 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, Rajya Sabha says that a member, among other things, “shall keep to his usual seat while addressing the Council”. It also says “a Member desiring to make any observation on any matter before the Council shall speak from his place, shall rise when he speaks and shall address the Chairman”. Division is not possible when the House is not in order so as to avoid confusion in taking the votes. That's also why Rule 235 (vii) and Rule 237 require members to be in their seats. Besides, Rule 259 requires the Chairman to preserve order in the Council and he has all the powers to do so.

Shamelessly, the Opposition shot videos of its own hooliganism and released it — again in violation of rules. The protesters put the safety of the Chair and other members at risk by flouting COVID-19 protocols. They even risked the safety of the marshals by refusing to come down from the chairs and tables they had climbed.

Neither the eight MPs identified as violators nor their parties, expressed regret, forcing their suspension from the House. The protesters then took the drama to the Parliament lawns. When the Deputy Chairman, in a spirit of statesmanship, brought tea and snacks for them the next morning, they refused to accept it. Instead, they brazenly justified their behaviour.

Some have given the situation a strange spin and are blaming the government for passing the Farm Bill, and subsequent pieces of legislation, in the Opposition's absence. Is it the government's job to bring Opposition MPs to the House? Did it ever deny a debate?

Parliamentary democracy requires a responsible government and an equally responsible Opposition. Will the Congress and its intellectual supporters tell the nation, how many Bills were passed during the UPA/Congress regime?

The Congress and their intellectual supporters, in a bid to justify the unruly behaviour of the Opposition, have been unsuccessfully trying to shift the blame on to the Chair. In fact, the productivity of the House was 100.47 per cent — 25 Bills were passed and six Bills introduced. The normal of high productivity witnessed during the last three sessions has continued. As a result, the overall productivity of the last four sessions is a praiseworthy 96.13 per cent — the best for four consecutive sessions during the last five years. In a sharp contrast to the 28 per cent time spent on Bills since 1952, 57 per cent of the functional time of the House was spent on Bills.

The clean chit handed to the Opposition by the likes of Mehta sets a bad precedent for democracy. If the parties and people behind the ruckus are not called out, we run the risk of seeing such ugly scenes again.

The writer is National General Secretary, BJP and Rajya Sabha member



P N RAI

AMONG ALL THE corona warriors, the most visible, yet most underappreciated, are the humble policemen. Despite limited resources and a risk to life, India's police agencies have risen to the challenge. Without them, achieving the primary objective of the lockdown — restricting the outbreak — would have been impossible.

As the lockdown began on the midnight of March 24, people confined themselves to their homes, commercial activities came to a halt and transport was grounded, traditional police functions were replaced by new ones. In place of the routine duties of law-and-order maintenance, crime control, and traffic management, the police had to make sure that the lockdown was effective. As the situation evolved, many new responsibilities were added. As the pandemic is expected to continue for a few more months, newer dimensions of policing will emerge.

The National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDMD) 2009 describes the police as the “first and key responders” in a disaster. A pandemic was not “a notified disaster” before COVID-19. When the lockdown — amongst the most stringent in the world — began, the police neither had any standard operating procedure (SOP) nor guidelines. That, however, did not deter policemen and police-women from risking their lives to ensure safety for the rest. They have manned barricade points day and night to prevent unauthorised movement, advised those violating movement restrictions, sometimes used force to stop them, and drawn “Lakshman rekhas” in

A people’s force

Policing during the pandemic has underscored need for soft skills

marketplaces. They have gone beyond the call of duty — supplying vegetables and groceries to people in containment zones and arranging food and transport for migrant labour on the move. They have protected healthcare workers and ensured the seamless movement of transport and logistics for essential commodities. Police stations and checkpoints have become sites for public health campaigns. Posters, banners, and street plays have been used to communicate the importance of social distancing and hand-washing — officers have even demonstrated proper hand-washing techniques at traffic stops. These duties will continue for a while and will become more challenging as the country opens up.

More importantly, the police force has been working under life-threatening conditions, since many of them do not have access to personal protection equipment (PPE). They risk catching the infection, taking it home and exposing their family. Hundreds of them have, in fact, been infected and many have died as well. When many of them had to be quarantined, the strength of the force was depleted, forcing the department to draw personnel from non-combat units or other sources. Manpower shortage became acute as the tasks expanded, especially in states like Bihar.

As days went by, the numbers of those arriving in states from outside, and then quarantined, rose to staggering heights, creating a nightmare for the administration. The police escorted migrant labourers from railway stations in cities to quarantine centres. The magnitude of the task can be gauged by the

numbers. In Bihar, for instance, there were 12,909 quarantine centres in which 22 lakh people had registered and over 6 lakh had taken shelter as of May 28.

On top of these challenges, the police faced attacks from angry people for acting against lockdown violations and taking suspected patients to testing centres. As the administration was severely strained, there was often no clarity on matters like movement passes, which led to conflicts with people.

These examples of social service are not meant to celebrate the police, but to bring to light a core aspect of its work. Juxtaposing the two functions — law-and-order maintenance and social service — broadens our understanding of police behaviour and performance, especially in exceptional situations. India's response to COVID-19 has highlighted the other police function, social service. This is in tune with the recommendation of the National Police Commission of 1980: “The police should duly recognise, and be trained and equipped to perform the service-oriented role in providing relief to people in distress situations”.

The pandemic has taught several valuable lessons. The police needs to better appreciate its role as the first responder in emergencies and consciously adopt disaster management — including disaster risk reduction activities — as one of its primary functions. Police reform committees too have spoken about this role. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and SDRFs in some states do have an essential role. But these agencies have their limitations. Therefore, building the ground-level capacity

of the police — and sister agencies like fire safety authorities — is critical to their functioning as the first responder.

Police training focuses disproportionately on public order with a heavy emphasis on “hard” skills — weapon use, crime control, combat skills and crowd-control drills. Policing during the pandemic has underscored the need for soft skills — for example, dealing with people through effective communication and coordination. Police training should include a component on medical emergencies. The police need to prepare SOPs for public health crises.

In villages, with the large-scale return of migrants, the police force got stretched to the maximum, and people took upon themselves the role of policing — and they did well as they saw themselves as part of the solution. This model should be promoted for normal times as well. Community policing practices are used in mitigating communal tensions, in dealing with left-wing extremism and urban policing. But these are often localised ad-hoc initiatives. It's time to integrate community policing into the police's organisational ethos. Training academies should devote more time to this subject.

Community policing will be much needed in the coming months, when conflicts at family or village level and petty crimes are likely to come up as social aftershocks of COVID-19. Involving an alert community in the task will help the force.

The writer is former DGP, Bihar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEPENDENT DEFENCE

This refers to the report, ‘Govt's new defence acquisition policy drops offsets in 3 types of contracts,’ (IE, September 29). The purpose of the offset clause in defence contracts with foreign entities is to ensure that India is not dependent on foreign countries for critical technology forever. The obvious reason for the failure to bring in critical technology in the past is the failure of the government to push for the sovereign commitment given by the foreign entity. Dropping the offset provision is tantamount to being dependent in the field of defence forever. The government must reconsider its decision.

Gangadhar Karalay, Nagpur

UNWANTED BREAK-UP

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘End of a pact’ (IE, September 29). Maybe the political compulsions of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) are more responsible than the BJP's arrogance for the end of the partnership between them. The peasantry is the lifeline of SAD's politics. It cannot afford to ditch it over issues as sensitive as agricultural ones. The BJP leadership should have exhausted all options before letting this pact go to the pan. Unlike the present BJP leadership, its predecessors seemed to be well aware of the inevitability of the necessity of having a cordial relationship with the SAD.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● A COMBATIVE FEDERALISM: AMRINDER SINGH

● FINDING GANDHI TODAY: JYOTHI S

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STAND TOGETHER

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Cong CMs look at bypassing farm laws, its MP goes to SC’ (IE, September 20). First, the Congress organised the farmers against the farm laws. Now, it asks its CMs to bypass them and its MP has gone to the apex court. It is not judicious to organise demonstrations when thousands of people have died because of COVID-19. Political parties should come together to fight against Corona and save people from unnatural deaths. Farmers' demonstrations are not justified in the current circumstances.

A L Agarwal, Delhi

PERSONAL

I, Sharma Virat Dubey, S/o Pradeep Dubey R/o. Plot-No:- 670A, Flat.No.C-3, Shakti Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad (UP), Pincode-201014, inform that my amended name will be Sharma Virat Dubey, for all purposes.

Bhoomika Singh W/o Mohd Nauman Khan R/o H.No 956, Gali No.8, RK Marg, Chauhan Banger, Delhi -53 have changed my name to Bhoomika Khan. I have also changed my religion from Hindu to Islam

0070715636-1
I, Ashi Jain Alias Shruti Jain D/o
Manoj Jain R/o 9, Bagh Farzana,
Agra, Civil Line, Agra, UP-
282002, have changed my name
to Shruti Jain. 0070715605-1

Sd/-
Deepak Kashyap
Advocate
Enrolment No.: D/3836/09

PUBLIC NOTICE
The public at large is hereby informed that my client **Sr. Ishu Singh S/o. Sh. Sadhana and Son**

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the Public at large that my client **Mrs. Bhagwandal Bisht** W/o Sh. **umend Singh Bisht**, P/o 1061-BG I-Block, Phase-6, Aya Nagar, South Delhi, New Delhi- 110047, hereby debar/dising/dising her son **DIGVIJAY ANAND SINGH BISHT**, daughter-in-law **ABHA BISHT** and their Daughters' **DIGVIJAY LAKSHMI & LAKSHMI RAWAT** from her all properties (movable and immovable) because they are not under control of my client. My client has also severed all her relations from them will be not responsible for any acts done by them.

Sd/- **Pradeep Sharma (Advocate)**
Ch. No. 260 Saket Courts
New Delhi-17

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD Extension Notification No. IFB No. 08-2/NLC - CWSS Pkg.1-2nd call/DO/CE/VLR/2020/Dated: 28.09.2020			
Name of work : Providing CWSS to Thittakudi, Pennamad, Mangalampettai, Vadalur, Kurinjipadi and Gaikankandam, Town Panchayats and 625 rural habitations in Mangalore, Nallur and Vrudachattam, Unions of Cuddalore District with NLC Mine Water as source. - Period of Completion - 18 Months, Trial run -6 Months and paid maintenance of the scheme - 60 Months. -Package - 1-2 nd call.			
Ref: This office Invitation of Bid No. 08/NLC - CWSS Pkg.1-2 nd call / DO/CE /VLR/ 2020/ Dated: 28.08.2020.			
The tender called for the above works in the reference cited is hereby extended as follows :			
Sl. No.	Description	Already given	Extended upto
1	The last date for sale of Tender and downloading from website	Upto 5.45 PM on 28.09.2020	Upto 5.45 PM on 12.10.2020
2	The last date for receipt and opening of tender	Upto 3.00 PM and 3.30 PM on 30.09.2020	Upto 3.00 PM and 3.30 PM on 14.10.2020
The other terms and conditions specified in the tender documents for above works remain unaltered. Please Visit our Website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and " www.twadboard.tn.gov.in " for further details.			
DIPR/ 3675 /TENDER/2020		SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS	
		Chief Engineer (CI), TWAD Board, Vellore - 6,	

CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENTION		
Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001239/20-21 Procurement of Tape Library	05.09.2020	03.10.2020 at 1600 Hrs/ 03.10.2020 at 1630 Hrs
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001240/20-21 PO for Supply of Tower Wagon with complete set	07.09.2020	06.10.2020 at 1700 Hrs/ 06.10.2020 at 1730 Hrs
Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-ddl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents		
Contracts - 011-66112222		

1. Important Dates for Tenders		
Sl. No.	Details	Timelines/other Particulars
a.	Bidding Document Fee (Non-Refundable)	Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) in the form of crossed demand draft issued by any Nationalize Bank in favour of Principal, MEDINI RAI Medical College, PALAMU payable at PALAMU . It will be Non- Refundable. The Bidders who are registered with NSIC or MSEs will be given preference and as per Govt. Rules will be exempted from submitting Tender Fee. But they have to submit a valid NSIC or MSEs certificate (Verified by Competent Authority) from Industry Officer/Concerned Authority regarding current working certificate in the NSIC or MSEs forms. NOTE:-Issue date of demand draft must be after the tender publication day.

e.	Last date of Submission of Tender Fee, EMD and Hard copy of Technical Bid (HARD COPY)	Up to 27/10/2020 till 05:00 PM in the office of Principal, MEDINI RAI Medical College, Palamu, (By Registered post/Speed post/ Hand)
f.	Opening of Technical Bid-PART A	29/10/2020 at 11:00 A.M. in the office of the Tender Inviting Authority

Note : 1. For details of tender terms, conditions & specification please visit website : www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 30/09/2020.

2. Before participating the pre bid the bidders may physically visit MEDINI RAI Medical College premises for assessment of the scope and area of work and they may discuss with " Principal, MEDINI RAI Medical College, Palamu. authority regarding their queries.

3. In case on any of the above last date, if announced government holiday, the tender process will continue on the very next working day on the same time and venue.

Principal
MEDINI RAI Medical College
Palamu

PR 233437 District (20-21)_D



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TOTAL RECALL

Ayodhya conspiracy: waiting for verdict

A Lucknow court will pronounce its judgment on the Babri Masjid demolition case on Wednesday. A look at how the trial has progressed over the years

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 29

A SPECIAL CBI court in Lucknow has fixed Wednesday, September 30 for pronouncement of its judgment in the Babri Masjid demolition case.

While the Supreme Court has delivered the final judgment in the Ayodhya title suit, Wednesday's judgment will be the first in the nearly 28-year-old demolition case. Once pronounced, it can be challenged in higher courts.

Of the 49 accused, 32 are alive today.

The cases filed

After the demolition of the Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992, two separate cases were filed at Ram Janmabhoomi police station in Faizabad.

The first was filed at 5.15 pm by the then SHO, Priyamvada Nath Shukla, against unknown *kar sevaks*. This was under IPC sections 395 (dacoity), 397 (robbery or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from duty), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class), 297 (trespassing on burial places, etc) and 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony). Police also invoked Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

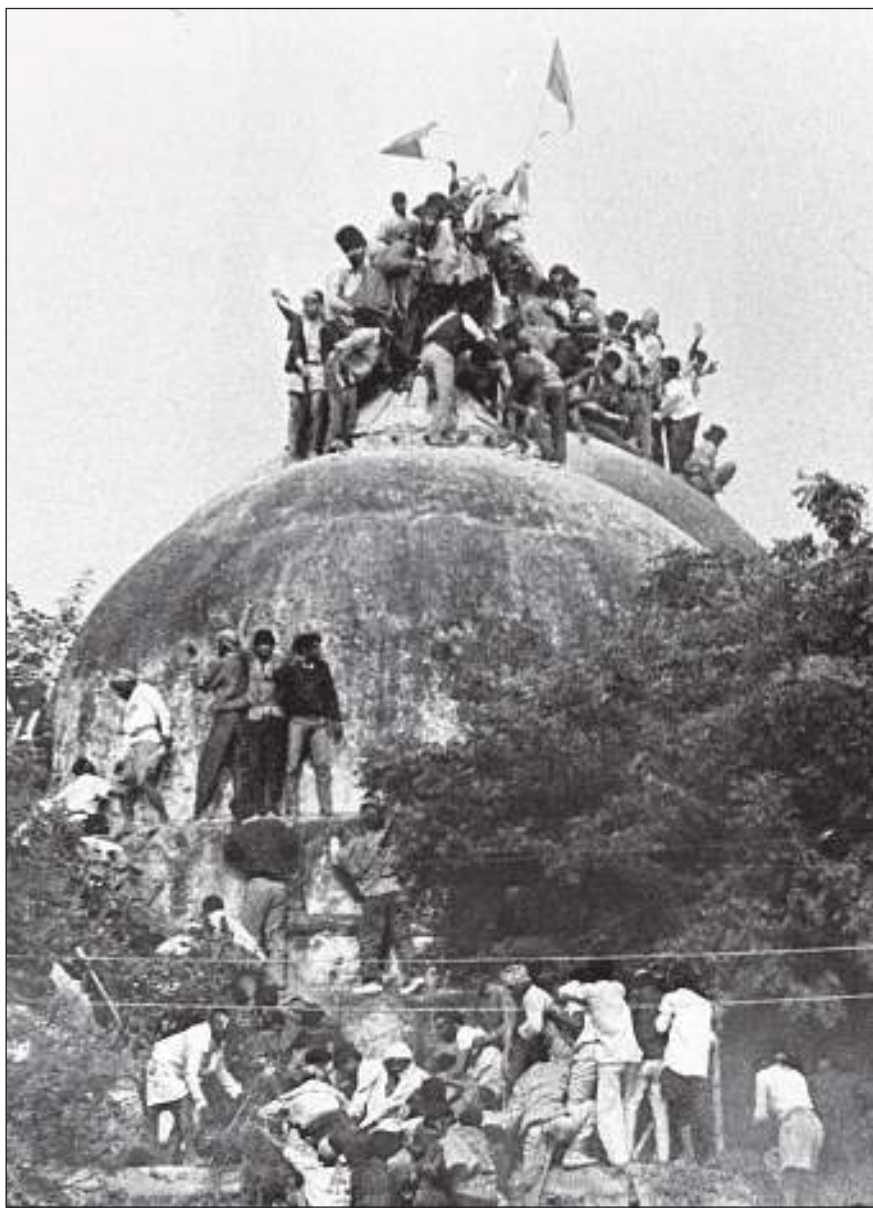
The second FIR was filed 10 minutes later by sub-inspector Ganga Prasad Tiwari, in-charge of Ramjanmabhoomi police outpost, against eight persons including senior BJP leaders — L K Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Ashok Singhal (now deceased), Giriraj Kishore (deceased), Vishnu Hari Dalmia (deceased), Vinay Katiyar, Uma Bharti and Sadhvi Ritambhara. This was under IPC sections 153-A, 153-B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief). Between December 6 and 21, police registered 47 more FIRs, mostly relating to assault on and looting of media persons during the demolition.

The CBI probe

The state government initially assigned the case against unidentified *kar sevaks* to the Crime Branch's Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID). On December 12, 1992, the state sent a recommendation to the Centre for transfer of the investigation to the CBI, which lodged an FIR and began its investigation the following day.

The other case, in which Advani and others were named, was investigated by local police and thereafter the CB-CID. On December 16, the state government in consultation with the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court issued a notification setting up a special court of a judicial magistrate in Lalitpur for this case. After getting sanction, the CB-CID filed a chargesheet against Advani and the seven others in this court on February 27, 1993.

On July 8, 1993, the state government in consultation with the High Court issued another no-



Kar sevaks atop the dome of Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992. Express Archive

tification, transferring the place of sitting of the court from Lalitpur to Rae Bareilly.

In August 1993, the state government sent a recommendation for a CBI probe into the other 48 FIRs. The CBI was handed over all these cases.

In September, the state government, in consultation with the High Court, issued another notification constituting a special court in Lucknow for the cases relating to demolition.

Meanwhile, the CBI moved an application in the Rae Bareilly court, seeking — and getting — CBI permission for further investigation in the case against Advani and others.

The CBI case in court

On October 5, 1993, the CBI filed a chargesheet against 40 persons in the Lucknow court. On October 8, the state government issued a notification that the case against Advani and others would also be heard in Lucknow.

In January, 1994, the Rae Bareilly court transferred records on the demolition case to the Lucknow court. In 1996, the CBI filed a supplementary chargesheet against nine more persons.

In September 1997, the Lucknow court took cognisance of the CBI chargesheet and ordered charges be framed against accused. Summonses were issued. In its chargesheet, the CBI claimed it had evidence that the demolition was the fall-out of a larger conspiracy. Charges under section 120-B IPC were added.

In February 2001, 33 of the accused filed a pe-

tition in the High Court challenging the summonses issued by the Lucknow court. They also challenged the trial of the case against Advani and others in the Lucknow court. Their ground was that the state government had issued the notification on the transfer of the case without consulting the High Court. The CBI requested the government to issue a fresh notification after consultation with the High Court; the government did not.

On February 12, 2001, the High Court passed an order finding no illegality in a joint single chargesheet for all the FIRs on the ground that all the offences were committed in the course of the same transaction to accomplish the conspiracy, and that the evidence for all offences is almost the same. The court upheld the framing of charges in all 48 cases, except the one against Advani and others. "The High Court observed that the notification dated October 8, 1993, by which the trial of the case in which Advani and others were accused was transferred to Lucknow, was legally not sound," said defence counsel Abhishek Ranjan.

The High Court said the mistake in issuing the notification on October 8, 1993 was curable and this could be done through another notification.

The case against Advani

On May 4, 2001, based on the High Court order, the Lucknow trial court dropped proceedings on the case against Advani and others. It also dropped proceedings against 13 other accused including Mahant Avaidya Nath, Ram Vilas Vedanti, Mahant

THE ACCUSED

49 TOTAL

32 LIVING

PROMINENT FACES

L K ADVANI, 92

Took out Rath Yatra, was at demolition site; unlikely to appear on health grounds

MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI, 86

BJP veteran was at demolition site; unlikely to attend on health grounds

KALYAN SINGH, 88

Was UP CM in 1992; has recovered from Covid-19, is likely to appear

VINAY KATIYAR, 65

Former BJP MP is accused of provocative speech at site. Expected to appear

BAL THACKERAY, DECEASED

In Rath Yatra for some time, promised Shiv Sena would take part in *kar seva*

GIRIRAJ KISHORE, DECEASED

Senior VHP leader was present on site of demolition along with other leaders

ASHOK SINGHAL, DECEASED

VHP leader was at site, accused of making provocative speeches

UMA BHARTI, 61

Accused of provocative speeches; tested Covid positive, not likely to appear

SADHVI RITAMBHARA, 56

VHP leader accused of provocative speeches at site, likely to appear

MAHANT NRITYA GOPAL DAS, 82

Head of Trust for temple. Tested Covid positive, then negative, not likely to appear

SITTING MPS

SAKSHI MAHARAJ
(UNNAO)

LALLU SINGH
(FAIZABAD)

BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH
(KAISERGANJ)

ALL 3 LIKELY TO APPEAR

AGE PROFILE

52 Pawan Kumar Pandey is youngest, all the other accused are over 60.

80+ Besides Advani, Joshi, Nriya Gopal and Kalyan Singh, others over 80 are Satish Pradhan, Dharmendra Singh Gujjar and R N Srivastava

EVIDENCE CHECKLIST

351 prosecution witnesses
314 pieces of material evidence, including newspapers and cassettes and 270 exhibits that included FIRs and notifications issued by the government

Nriya Gopal Das, Kalyan Singh, Balasaheb Thackeray and Champat Rai until rectification of the government notification. The court held that these 21 accused were covered in the case in which Advani and others were accused.

In the Lucknow court, the trial was on against 28 persons now. In June 2001, the CBI moved the High Court against the Lucknow court order dropping proceedings against 21 persons.

In 2003, the CBI moved the Rae Bareilly court requesting that it start proceedings of the case against Advani and others. It requested that documents of this case be summoned from Lucknow, and also moved an application in Lucknow court requesting that it send these documents to Rae Bareilly. The Lucknow court ordered these be sent.

On September 19, 2003, the Rae Bareilly court discharged Advani and summoned the other seven accused. These seven then moved the High Court against the summonses. The CBI too moved a petition over Advani being discharged.

In July 2005, the High Court set aside the Rae Bareilly court order and directed all the accused to appear. On July 28, it framed charges against Advani and the seven others.

In August 2010, the Lucknow court framed charges against the remaining accused.

In 2011, the CBI moved a Special Leave Petition after the High Court had upheld the May 4, 2001 trial order dropping proceedings against 21. On April 19, 2017, the Supreme Court ordered adding of criminal conspiracy charges

against the accused then facing trial in Rae Bareilly.

The court also ordered restoration of charges that had been dropped against 13 accused, and clubbing of the trial against Advani and others (two of them had passed away by then) with the case being tried in Lucknow. The court directed that there shall be no transfer of the judge conducting the trial until the entire trial concludes, and the trial be conducted day to day.

In May 2017, the Lucknow court ordered framing of charges against Advani, Joshi, Katiyar and Bharti. Fresh charges were made out against the 13 against whom proceedings were dropped.

This year, so far

The recording of prosecution witness statements was completed in March this year. The court then began recording statements of the accused under Section 313 CrPc.

The statements of Satish Pradhan, Advani, Joshi and Ram Chandra Khatri were recorded through videoconference as they could not appear in court because of various reasons. The recording of statements was completed in July this year.

The defence did not produce any witnesses. The prosecution submitted written arguments on August 21, and the defence did so on August 31. On September 16, the court said the judgment would be pronounced on September 30. An earlier deadline for judgment expired on August 31 before the Supreme Court extended it.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

What delay in RBI panel meet means

GEORGE MATHEW & SUNNY VERMA
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

ON OCTOBER 1, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was supposed to announce the country's key interest rates and the monetary policy for the next two months. This will have to wait as the government is yet to appoint three new members at a time when the pandemic is raging, GDP growth is floundering and borrowers are bracing for a mega loan restructuring process.

Why did the RBI postpone the MPC meeting?

The bi-monthly meeting was scheduled for September 29 to October 1. The RBI postponed it as it failed to nominate its three members to the six-member panel. The tenure of the three members appointed by the government in 2016 expired after the previous policy on August 6. MPC is the statutory committee that fixes the key policy interest rate and monetary policy stance of the country as well as the inflation target.

How are MPC members selected?

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das is the head of the MPC, while the Deputy Governor in charge of the Monetary Policy Department (Michael Patra) and the Executive Director looking after the monetary policy are mem-

bers from the RBI side. The three government nominees are selected by a committee formed by the government for a four-year term. The three members whose tenure ended in August are: Dr Chetan Ghate, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute; Dr Pami Dua, Director, Delhi School of Economics; and Dr Ravindra H Dholakia, former Professor, IIM Ahmedabad.

As per the RBI Act, the quorum for an MPC meeting is four, and in effect the committee cannot meet until at least one external member is present, in addition to the three RBI representatives. If there's a tie on any proposal, the RBI Governor holds the casting vote.

What did the MPC do in the last four years?

The bi-monthly MPC meeting discusses the domestic and international scenario before finalising the repo and reverse repo rates. If there is no consensus on the rate or policy, there will be voting process. MPC members differed on a couple of occasions on the quantum of repo rate changes but eventually went by the majority decision. Although the MPC slashed the key policy rate — repo rate — by 250 basis points to four per cent, the rate cut transmission has been rather slow with banks taking their time to pass on the benefits.

What does the delay in announcing the new monetary policy mean?

Interest rates play a crucial role in the economy. Any delay in changing the rates will impact the economy as MPC sets the repo rate (the rate at which RBI lends funds to banks) and reverse repo rate (the rate at which the RBI borrows funds from banks). The pandemic is still evolving and credit off-take has been sluggish. "The economy is facing a serious challenge and the RBI has been leading from the front with quick responses through rate cuts, injecting liquidity through open market operations and long-term repo operations and a variety of innovative tools to manage and ensure financial stability. In this hour of economic emergency, the MPC has to be in place to formulate policy. This delay could have been avoided," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Why was MPC created?

Prior to October 2016, the RBI Governor used to decide on policy rate. Even though he was assisted by a team of officials from the central bank, the ultimate decision rested with the Governor. India joined a growing band of countries that, beginning in 1990, adopted flexible inflation targeting as their framework for monetary policy.


In 2016, the government had provided statutory backing to the MPC by notifying amendments to the RBI Act, 1934. The inflation target and tolerance band around it, and accountability with respect to failure to

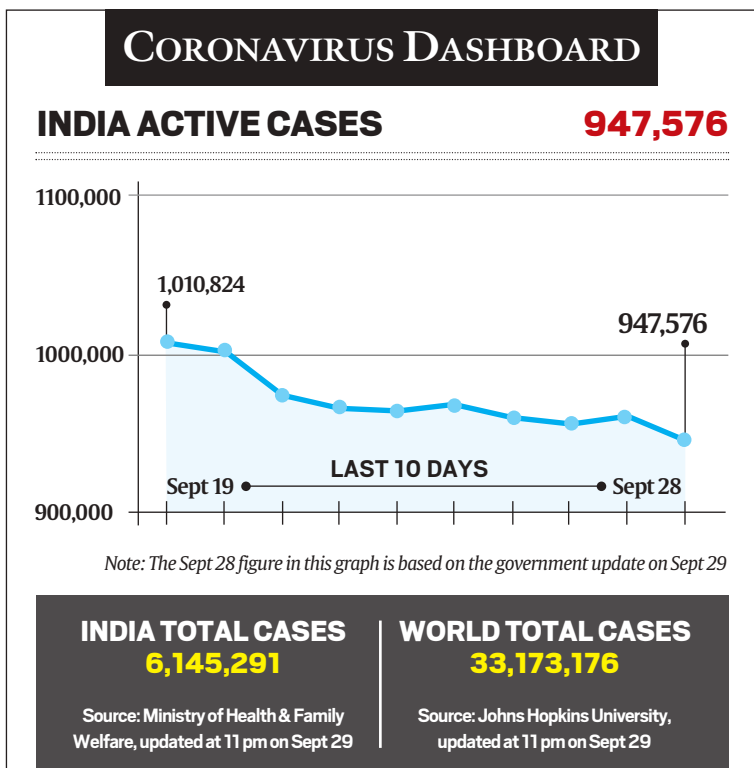
achieve the target, were notified by the government during May-August 2016. It was for the first time that an explicit inflation target was given to the RBI, along with failure level.

Rate-setting decisions were now made through voting in the MPC rather than the Governor alone taking a call on these matters. The RBI now releases both MPC resolutions and minutes of the minutes (with a lag) — providing a detailed review of the analysis and individual assessment of the members that went into framing of the policy.

Has it been effective in framing the monetary policy?

The first MPC meeting was held on October 4, 2016 when Urjit Patel was the RBI Governor. The MPC has since then slashed the repo rate by 250 basis points to 4% in the last four years with 115 bps reduction in the last nine months. With retail inflation picking up in recent months, the MPC in its last policy review in August kept the repo rate unchanged at 4% while deciding to continue with the accommodative stance. The current inflation target is 4% — within a band of 2-6% — which the RBI is expected to maintain. The retail inflation level is now above the target of 6% with the August reading at 6.69%, and it has been above the medium-term target of 4% for nearly a year now. The amended RBI Act defines failure as average inflation breaching the tolerance band for three consecutive quarters, not instantly.


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TOPOF THE
WORLD

Meesha Shafi

PAKISTAN

Singer Meesha Shafi booked for 'smear campaign' against Ali Zafar

A PAKISTANI law enforcement agency has booked singer Meesha Shafi and eight others for allegedly staging a smear campaign against fellow singer-actor Ali Zafar, who has worked in Indian films, with a sexual harassment complaint. The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA), cyber-crime division, Lahore, registered an FIR against Shafi and others under sections of the penal code dealing with public transmission of false information to harm the reputation or privacy of a person. In April 2018, Shafi accused Zafar of sexual harassment. In Nov 2018, Zafar filed a complaint with FIA, alleging many social media accounts were posting defamatory material against him. **PTI**

SRI LANKA

Cattle slaughter banned in Lanka

THE SRI Lankan government has approved a proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the island nation. However, it decided to import beef for the benefit of those who consume it. The Cabinet on Monday approved the proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the country, a Cabinet spokesman said Tuesday, adding that legalising the decision would be done in due course. "As a country with an economy based on agriculture, the contribution of the cattle resource to develop the livelihood of the rural people of Sri Lanka is immense," the Cabinet noted, approving the proposal. **PTI**

THE GULF

UAE to launch spacecraft to moon in 2024

THE UNITED Arab Emirates plans to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2024, a top Emirati official said Tuesday, the latest gamble in the stars by the oil-rich nation that could see it become only the fourth nation on Earth to accomplish that goal. The announcement by Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also serves as the vice president and PM of the hereditarily ruled UAE, shows the rapid expansion of the space programme that bears his name. **AP**

World crosses 'agonising milestone' of one million coronavirus deaths

Death rate has increased in recent weeks as Covid-19 infections surge in several countries

JANE WARDELL
SEPTEMBER 29

THE GLOBAL coronavirus death toll rose past a million on Tuesday, according to a Reuters tally, a grim statistic in a pandemic that has devastated the global economy, overloaded health systems and changed the way people live.

The number of deaths from the novel coronavirus this year is now double the number of people who die annually from malaria — and the death rate has increased in recent weeks as infections surge in several countries.

"Our world has reached an agonising milestone," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement.

"It's a mind-numbing figure. Yet we must never lose sight of each and every individual life. They were fathers and mothers, wives and husbands, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues."

It took just three months for Covid-19 deaths to double from half a million, an accelerating rate of fatalities since the first death was recorded in China in early January.

More than 5,400 people are dying around the world every 24 hours, according to Reuters calculations based on September averages, overwhelming funeral businesses and cemeteries.

That equates to about 226 people an hour, or one person every 16 seconds. In the time it takes to



Workers prepare new graves at a burial area provided by the government for victims of Covid-19, at Pondok Ronggon cemetery complex in Jakarta, Indonesia. *Reuters*

It's a mind-numbing figure. Yet we must never lose sight of each and every individual life. They were fathers and mothers, wives and husbands, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues."

ANTONIO GUTERRES
U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL

watch a 90-minute soccer match, 340 people die on average.

"So many people have lost so many people and haven't had the chance to say goodbye. Many people who died alone... It's a terribly difficult and lonely death," World Health Organisation

spokeswoman Margaret Harris told a UN briefing in Geneva.

Experts remain concerned that the official figures for deaths and cases globally significantly under-represent the real tally because of inadequate testing and recording and the possibility of concealment by some countries.

The response to the pandemic has pitted proponents of health measures like lockdowns against those intent on sustaining politically sensitive economic growth, with approaches differing from country to country.

The US, Brazil and India, which together account for nearly 45% of all Covid-19 deaths globally, have all lifted social distancing measures in recently. **REUTERS**

9 in 10 recovered patients have side-effects: study

Seoul: Nine in ten coronavirus patients reported experiencing side-effects such as fatigue, psychological after-effects and loss of smell and taste after they recovered from the disease, according to a preliminary study by South Korea.

In an online survey of 965 recovered Covid-19 patients, 879 people or 91.1% responded they were suffering at least one side-effect from the disease, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) official Kwon Jun-wook told a briefing.

Fatigue was the most common

side-effect with 26.2% reading, followed by difficulty in concentration which had 24.6%, Kwon said.

Other after-effects included psychological or mental side-effects and loss of taste or smell.

Kim Shin-woo, professor at Kyungpook National University School of Medicine in Daegu, sought comments from 5,762 recovered patients in South Korea and 16.7% of them participated in the survey. While the research was done online for now, Kim will soon publish the study with detailed analysis, he said. **REUTERS**

Fauci: New adviser giving Trump bad advice on virus

Washington: Two senior US public health experts have raised concerns that White House adviser Scott Atlas is providing misleading or incorrect information on the coronavirus pandemic to President Donald Trump, according to media reports on Monday.

The top US infectious diseases expert, Anthony Fauci, told CNN Monday he was concerned that information given by Atlas — a late addition to the White House coronavirus task force — was "really taken either out of

context or actually incorrect".

The comments from Fauci came hours after a news report quoted Robert Redfield, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sharing similar concerns. "Everything he says is false," Redfield was quoted as saying by NBC.

Atlas, a neuroradiologist with no background in infectious diseases, has downplayed the importance of masks and also advocated a strategy based on "herd immunity". **REUTERS**



Kuwait Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah dies at 91

REUTERS
KUWAIT, SEPTEMBER 29

KUWAIT'S RULING Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has died, his office announced on Tuesday, plunging his country into mourning for a leader regarded by many Gulf Arabs as a savvy diplomatic operator and a humanitarian champion.

Sheikh Sabah, 91, had ruled the wealthy oil producer and US ally since 2006 and steered its foreign policy for more than 50 years. His designated successor is his brother, Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

"With the utmost sadness and grief for the Kuwaiti people, the Islamic and Arab world and people of friendly nations, the Emiri Diwan mourns the death of Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, the emir of Kuwait," his office said. The emir was in hospital in the US since July after surgery for an unspecified condition.

Sheikh Sabah had sought to balance relations with Kuwait's bigger neighbours — forging close ties with Saudi Arabia, rebuilding links with former occupier Iraq and holding dialogue with Iran.

UK govt warns museums not to remove statues over protests

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 29

THE BRITISH government has warned a number of cultural institutions that their public funding could be called into question should they remove statues or other objects that have become the focus of protests or complaints.

The issue of how Britain should deal with the legacies of its past, especially its role in slavery and colonialism, has been the subject of passionate debate since the statue of a slave trader was toppled by protesters in Bristol in June.

Since then, officials have removed the statue of another slave trader in London, a concert hall in Bristol has renamed itself, and venerable institutions like Oxford University have grappled publicly with what to do about contested heritage.

In a letter sent to the British Museum, the National Gallery, the Tate Gallery and other prominent cultural institutions, culture minister Oliver Dowden said the government was against the removal of statues and similar objects.

"Some represent figures who have said or done things which we may find deeply offensive and would not defend today," Dowden said in the letter, which was sent on Sept 22 but published on Monday. "But though we may now disagree with those who created them or who they represent, they play an important role in teaching us about our past, with all its faults."



An ethnic Armenian soldier fires an artillery piece during fighting with Azerbaijan's forces in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh on Tuesday. *Reuters*

Karabakh conflict zone widens as Turkey denies downing plane

NAILIA BAGIROVA &
NVARD HOVHANNISYAN
BAKU, YEREVAN, SEPT 29

ARMENIA AND Azerbaijan accused one another on Tuesday of firing directly into each other's territory as the worst regional fighting since the 1990s raged for a third day and civilian deaths mounted.

Both reported firing from the other side across their shared border, well to the west of the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region over which fierce fighting broke out between Azeri and ethnic

Armenian forces on Sunday.

The incidents signalled a further escalation of the conflict despite urgent appeals from Russia, the US and others to stop fighting.

Also fuelling tensions, Armenia said an F-16 fighter jet belonging to Azerbaijan's close ally Turkey had shot down one of its warplanes over Armenian airspace, killing the pilot.

It provided no evidence of the incident. Turkey and Azerbaijan called the claim "absolutely untrue".

Dozens have been reported killed and hundreds wounded since clashes between Azerbaijan

and its ethnic Armenian mountain enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh broke out on Sunday.

Nagorno-Karabakh is a breakaway region that is inside Azerbaijan but is run by ethnic Armenians and is supported by Armenia. It broke away from Azerbaijan in a war in the 1990s, but is not recognised by any country as an independent republic.

A descent into all-out war could drag in regional powers Russia and Turkey. Moscow has a defence alliance with Armenia, which is the enclave's lifeline to the outside world, while Ankara backs its own ethnic Turkic kin in Azerbaijan. **REUTERS**



The stage is set for 2020's first presidential debate, on the campus of the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. *Reuters*

Hours before debate with Trump, Biden releases tax returns

JOHN WHITESIDES
SEPTEMBER 29

HOURS BEFORE his first debate with US President Donald Trump, Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden on Tuesday released his 2019 tax returns and his campaign called on Trump, who has come under fire for not releasing his returns, to do the same.

Biden, due to share the stage with Trump on Tuesday evening in Cleveland, took the step two days after the *New York Times* reported that Trump had paid just \$750 in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017 — and none in 10 of the previous 15 years. Trump had long sought to keep his personal financial records secret.

Biden's taxes showed that he and his wife Jill paid more than \$346,000 in federal taxes and other payments for 2019 on an income of nearly \$985,000 before seeking a refund of nearly \$47,000 they said they had overpaid the government.

The 2019 tax returns for Biden's running mate, Senator Kamala Harris, also were released.

"This is a historic level of transparency meant to give the American people faith once again that their leaders will look out for them and not their own bottom lines," Biden's deputy campaign manager, Kate Bedingfield, said on a call with reporters. "Mr President, release your tax returns or shut up," Bedingfield added.

Pak Opp leader Shahbaz Sharif remanded in NAB custody for 14 days

M ZULQERNAIN
LAHORE, SEPTEMBER 29

PAKISTAN'S LEADER of the Opposition and PML-N chief Shahbaz Sharif was on Tuesday sent on a 14-day physical remand by an accountability court in assets beyond means and money laundering case, a day after he was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) here.

Shahbaz, the younger brother of three-time former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was taken into custody from the Lahore High Court's premises on Monday after the court rejected his bail application in the Rs 700 crores (\$41.9 million) money laundering case.

The 69-year-old former chief minister of Punjab province was produced before the accountability court Judge Jawad-ul-Hasan on Tuesday.

Shahbaz requested the court to allow him to present arguments in his defence instead of his lawyer. The court allowed him.

EXPLAINED
Fewer minds to change

THE POLARISING nature of the Trump presidency has meant there are only about 9% of voters who don't currently favour one candidate over the other, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling. This is less than half the number of non-committed voters in 2016. While the debate is unlikely to change the minds of people who either strongly support or oppose Trump, it is still expected to be crucial for those undecided on whether Biden deserves their vote.

With over a million Americans already casting early ballots and time running out to change minds or influence undecided voters, the stakes are enormous as the two White House candidates take the stage five weeks before the election. **REUTERS**



Shahbaz Sharif

He denied any wrongdoing and said Prime Minister Imran Khan's nexus with the NAB has made mockery of accountability in the country and they are targeting the opposition leaders only.

"Money laundering charges against me are baseless. I do not do business. My parents had worked hard to establish business in the country and transferred the same to my children," he said.

After the arguments, the judge accepted NAB's request for 14-day physical remand of Shahbaz and ordered that he be brought to court again on Oct 13. **PTI**

LIFE AFTER COVID LOCKDOWN

Lost year: New York parents wrestle with uncertainty as schools open

MARIA CASPANI
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 29

JODI COOK will drop off her son to his Brooklyn school on Tuesday for the first time in months, but even though her six-year-old will get at least some time interacting face to face with teachers and staff, she fears it will not be enough.

Going back to the classroom was the only viable option for Roberto, Cook said. He has some learning challenges and did not do well with remote learning when schools shut last spring. But even with a return to the classroom, Cook fears he might not get access to all the services he needs.

"I'm going to kind of go into it thinking of this year as a wash," Cook, a 48-year-old who works in real estate, told Reuters. "He needs additional support that he's not going to be able to get."

Hundreds of thousands of students who have chosen in-person learning will head back to the classroom in New York City this week after a months-long hiatus spurred by Covid-19.

Children in elementary schools are due to start in-person instruction on Tuesday as part of the city's blended learning plan, which calls for students to spend some of the week in schools and the remainder learning at home online.

Efforts to bring students back



Thousands of students head back to schools in New York City this week after a months-long hiatus. *Reuters*

to the classroom in the country's largest public school district serving more than 1 million students

did not go off without a hitch.

Mayor Bill de Blasio delayed in-person learning at public schools

White House pressured CDC over school risks, federal officials say

WHILE FAMILIES across the US were on edge about the coming school year, top White House officials were pressuring the CDC to play down the risk of sending children back to school, according to documents and interviews with government officials. The effort included an attempt to find alternate data

showing Covid-19 was weakening and posed little danger to children. A member of Vice President Mike Pence's staff said she was urged by Marc Short, the vice president's chief of staff, to get the CDC to produce more reports and charts showing a decline in coronavirus cases among young people. **NYT**

twice due to staffing shortages and other difficulties arising from the pandemic. Recently, positive test

rates for the coronavirus have been rising in some neighbourhoods. Should the city cross its 3% thresh-

old, schools will have to close in-person learning.

Most other major school districts in the US have scrapped plans to resume in-person education for now. In Los Angeles, the second largest school district in the nation, and Chicago, students are staying home and using laptops to attend classes.

Despite the challenges posed by this most unusual school year, Cook said the teachers and staff at their Brooklyn school had been "great" in the run-up to the start of in-person education.

They called for check-ins and followed up when the family had to delay the start of Roberto's virtual learning earlier this month,

and they scrambled to make sure he gets access to the in-person special care he needs, although they could not guarantee it due to limited resources.

Classrooms in the city's schools look very different from what pupils are accustomed. Educators had to implement numerous changes in order to meet new health and safety guidelines, including revamping old ventilation systems.

Face coverings, fewer desks placed six feet apart, lunch in the classroom, outdoor classes for some, and nurses on the premises are some of the novelties awaiting students and staff this academic year. **REUTERS**

17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 37,973.22 ▼ 8.4 NIFTY: 11,222.40 ▼ 5.15 NIKKEI: 23,539.10 ▲ 27.48 HANG SENG: 23,275.53 ▼ 200.52 FTSE: 5,905.18 ▼ 22.75 DAX: 12,820.57 ▼ 50.30

International market data till 1900 IST

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹51,367	₹73.86	\$40.83	₹61,919

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 0000 IST

PART OF GAVI COVAX FACILITY

SII to double Covid vaccine supply to 200 mn doses

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

SERUM INSTITUTE of India (SII) said on Tuesday it had received additional funds that would allow it to double its supply of Covid-19 vaccines to India and other poorer countries as part of the Gavi COVAX facility. The Pune-headquartered vaccine maker will now be using these funds from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as well as Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, to supply 200 million vaccines to these countries as early as the first half of 2021.

SII currently has agreements to manufacture Covid-19 vaccines developed by American vaccine



A medic collects a sample from a police constable via Rapid Antigen kit for Covid test, in Mumbai. PTI file

maker Novavax, as well as Oxford University in collaboration with Swedish-British drugmaker

EXPLAINED
Challenges remain

THE GOVERNMENT still needs to finalise how many Covid vaccines it will require and how it plans to fund their distribution, so that it can plan ahead and account for any shortages in the current proposed supply.

AstraZeneca. "This brings the total number of vaccine doses to be covered by the partnership be-

tween SII, Gavi, and the Gates Foundation to an aggregate of up to 200 million doses, following the initial agreement for up to 100 million doses announced in August. The arrangement again provides an option to secure additional doses if the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator sees a need for it," stated SII in a release.

"The funding will help accelerate the manufacturing by SII for candidate vaccines licensed from AstraZeneca and Novavax, which will be available for procurement if they are successful in attaining full licensure and WHO Prequalification," it stated, adding that the vaccines under this agreement will have a ceiling price of \$3

per dose. This is additional to a deal between AstraZeneca and Gavi announced in June, which will commit an extra 300 million doses of the Oxford University-AstraZeneca candidate to the wider COVAX Facility.

Under the COVAX umbrella, Gavi is coordinating the COVAX Facility, which provides governments with the opportunity to benefit from a large portfolio of COVID-19 candidate vaccines using a range of technology platforms, produced by more manufacturers across the world, with a bigger market to provide security of demand. India is a Gavi beneficiary and will, therefore, receive a certain proportion of the vaccines from the COVAX facility.

INTERVIEW WITH FIFTEENTH FINANCE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Need to revisit Centre-state relations; standalone laws on education, food & jobs have made it murky: NK Singh

FIFTEENTH FINANCE Commission Chairman NK SINGH said Constitutional framework defining the federal structure needs to be revisited in light of the changes that have taken place over the years. In an interview to SUNNY VERMA and P VAIDYANATHAN IYER, he said the Commission, in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy, is debating whether there is a need for a different approach in determining the targets for fiscal deficit and debt consolidation. Edited excerpts:



Over the last several years, one is seeing more and more politicisation of the federal structure of Indian polity? How do you explain this? What is the way forward?

We need to revisit in a more fundamental way the 7th Schedule of the Constitution. The 7th Schedule of the Constitution divides broadly the subject into Union subjects and state subjects and those which are on the concurrent list. Over a period of time what happened is that this got increasingly eroded ever since that executive order was passed constituting the Planning Commission in 1951. Now there is a need to fundamentally revisit the 7th Schedule and have a holistic view. Second, the misuse of Article 282 of the Constitution, read with the 7th Schedule, which says that the Central government or the states may make any grant for any scheme or project in public interest. All Centrally Sponsored Schemes which came up then, quite a few of them strictly happened to be in the domain of states (as per reading of the 7th Schedule) but through the mutual consent mechanism exercised under Article 282. Then the third dimension to it is the standalone entitlement driven legislation of the Parliament—the Right to Education Act, then standalone legislation of food and employment. It already makes it very murky. I have argued that these kinds of very cosmetic classification have outlived their utility and we need to revisit the drawing board...After the abolition of the Planning Commission, I certainly believe that both the current list, 7th Schedule and Article 282 requires an in depth holistic review. Federalism as a philosophy, which is highly, highly desirable for a complex country like India must go beyond partnership which is not embedded wholly in fiduciary obligations.

rule is with the consent of the people. So this ultimately is the issue: what do the people of India want...People wish to express their aspiration in one form or the other, the kind and nature of governance that they have. Second point is that globally we pride ourselves in that we follow Westminster's model of democracy...I find that there has been a great erosion in the mother of the Westminster model, which is the United Kingdom. National elections are won or lost on the basis of who is projected as the leader of the intended party. So what has happened is that over a period of time in India also, is that in order to impart political stability to the governance, people have opted for who is the leader and particularly for national elections on whom you wish to repose trust.

You have been engaging with states across the board. After the pandemic, what is their feedback regarding the damage to their economies?

The pandemic has certainly highlighted the distress of the Union and the states. Certainly both the Union and states have been stressed at a time when their revenue targets are not likely to be met. How should the Finance Commission go about addressing it, one of the chapters (in our report) is Pandemic Times, Analysis for the Future which is about to be finalised. This chapter is really designed in some ways for the consciousness of the Finance Commission and what needs to be specifically done to address the issues arising out of the pandemic. Clearly, the health infrastructure in the country has been systematically neglected. Our public outlay on health, unlike in comparison to other peer group countries and those with similar per capita income, is less than 1 per cent of GDP out of which about 0.65 per cent comes from the states and about approximately 0.3 per cent comes from the Centre. One of the things the Finance Commission is seriously considering is how within the fiscal framework, how can the health issue be addressed by three things. One, reprioritise the expenditure, two, seek the state and the Centre to increase public outlay, and direct sectoral interventions in the sector. Finally, shall we at times of such stress not look at a somewhat different framework in determining the ballparks for bor-

rowings, namely the targets for fiscal deficit and targets for debt consolidation.

How will you factor in extreme uncertainties in your assessment, could there be year-wise devolution target?

It would be extraordinary if devolution percentages were to vary for each year of our award. This has never been done. It will lend a measurable uncertainty and volatility. The advantage of having a five year award is the predictability and stability it brings. Therefore before we begin to vary the devolution itself over this period we have to tread with very great caution. We do not want to inject more uncertainties than the pandemic itself and the current economic situation may have done for the states. Second, the issue is how we calibrate the path. Now it's clear that most Finance Commissions had the advantage, the opportunity and the luxury of making constant projections of both growth and tax buoyancy for the entire period. We do not unfortunately have that luxury due to the current pandemic. We therefore had to look to recalibrate growth rates in each period and to look at the consequential revenue buoyancy...we have to agree on a figure on the next year's rebound, and then we have to factor in return of normalcy in following years.

States are worried they may have to fund defence expenditure?

It was a deep recognition that the defence of India needed a very serious attention even before the current issues with our neighbours. All I can say is that at this stage we are seriously engaged in addressing this issue, in recognising that defence of India is indivisible responsibility of the responsible Indian citizen.

Many states have sought 50 per cent tax devolution, are you sympathetic to that view?

There is an old saying that you think where you sit. We as a Finance Commission do not want to leave behind a legacy which in any way contradicts the image and the symbol on the cover of the Finance Commission — (which depicts) the states and the Centre on the two ends of the scale i.e., 50:50.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

SECTOR WATCH
AVIATION

Lufthansa cancels all India flights from Sept 30 to Oct 20, citing 'rejection' of schedule by authorities

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

IN A fallout between authorities in India and its air-bubble partner Germany, the European country's national carrier Lufthansa said Tuesday it will have to cancel all planned flights between India and Germany between September 30 and October 20 because of an "unexpected rejection" of its flight schedule by Indian authorities. The Indian side said that Lufthansa was offered a curtailed schedule to mitigate the disadvantage being faced by Indian carriers due to inequitable distribution of traffic in favour of Lufthansa.

The German carrier said in a statement that it had applied for continuation of special flights it was allowed to operate until end of September, but will now have to cancel the flights. International passenger flights have been suspended in India since March 23 due to the coronavirus lockdown. However, special flights have been permitted under air-bubble arrangements, which India has entered into with 14 countries, including Germany.

"Lufthansa sincerely urges the Indian authorities to work together with the German government in order to establish a temporary travel agreement between both countries. Such an agreement is necessary to address the urgent need of tens of thousands of Indians and foreign nationals for travel to and from India and would also help balance the interests of both countries' airlines," a Lufthansa spokesperson said.

"This appeal follows the unexpected rejection of Lufthansa's planned flight schedule for October by Indian authorities. Lufthansa had applied for the continuation of special flights it was granted to

operate until the end of September. This application process is necessary since India has so far not accepted the invitation by the German government to discuss details regarding a temporary travel agreement between both countries," the airline said.

A senior government official said one of the main reasons behind the action was European carriers operating sixth-freedom flights by carrying passengers from India to North American destinations and not allowing Air India to do the same. The sixth freedom of flying—which lets an airline to fly passengers from one country to a hub in its home country and from there to a third country—is not allowed under air bubble arrangements. Earlier this month, the Centre formally asked European airlines to stop sixth-freedom flights.

India's aviation watchdog Directorate General of Civil Aviation said the country had formalised an air-bubble with Germany in July this year. "However, there are restrictions in place for Indian nationals desiring to travel to Germany which was putting Indian carriers at a significant disadvantage resulting in inequitable distribution of traffic in favour of Lufthansa," the DGCA stated. "As against Indian carriers operating 3-4 flights a week, Lufthansa operated 20 flights a week. In spite of this disparity we offered to clear 7 flights a week for Lufthansa which was not accepted by them. Negotiations continue," the DGCA said.

Lufthansa said it had scheduled flights for October to continue connecting Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru with Europe and other regions in its worldwide network. "The October schedule would also have seen the addition of flights to and from Chennai," the airline said.

CBDT issues guidelines for TDS/TCS on e-commerce transactions from Oct 1

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE CENTRAL Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Tuesday issued guidelines for applicability of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS) for e-commerce transactions effective October 1. The levies will be applicable on sales of goods exceeding Rs 50 lakh, with exemption to an individual and HUF who receives less than Rs 5 lakh and furnishes PAN/Aadhaar. The TDS is proposed to be levied on e-commerce transactions at 1 per cent in PAN/Aadhaar cases.

The proposed TDS/TCS will not be applicable for transactions in securities and commodities which are traded through recognised stock exchanges or cleared and settled by the recognised clearing corporation, including recognised stock exchanges or recognised clearing corporations located in the International Financial Service Centre as well as transactions in electricity, renewable energy certificates and en-

TDS is proposed to be levied on e-commerce transactions at 1% in PAN/Aadhaar cases

ergy saving certificates traded via power exchanges, the CBDT said.

A payment gateway will not be required to deduct tax on a transaction, if the tax has been deducted by the e-commerce operator. For an insurance agent or insurance aggregator, the CBDT said if the insurance agent or insurance aggregator has no involvement in transactions between insurance company and the buyer of insurance policy after the first year of policy, he would not be liable to deduct tax for subsequent years but the insurance company will be required to deduct tax on commission payment, if any, made to the insurance agent or insurance aggregator for those subsequent years. TCS will be applicable on sale of motor vehicles from October 1 for value less than Rs 10 lakh for sales to consumers.

Sebi board meet: Stronger code of conduct for MFs

Listed companies need to disclose forensic audit to stock exchanges

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), at a meeting of its board Tuesday, approved a stronger code of conduct for the mutual fund industry, which will have to be followed by asset management companies (AMCs), as well as their fund managers, chief investment officers and dealers.

Sebi also asked listed companies to disclose the initiation of any forensic audit to stock exchanges. For the code of conduct, Sebi said the CEO of an AMC will be responsible to ensure that it is followed by executives to strengthen their accountability. Current mutual fund regulations mandate only AMCs and mutual fund Trustees to follow a code of conduct.

On the forensic audit by listed companies, the regulator said "the fact of initiation of forensic audit (by whatever name called) along

with name of entity initiating the forensic audit and reasons for the same, if available," should be disclosed to the bourses.

Sebi also asked companies to also make public the final forensic audit report, along with management comments, if any, unless the forensic audit has been initiated by a regulatory or enforcement agency.

The Sebi board also tweaked inside trading regulations. It has given informants—a kind of whistle blower who reports alleged violations of insider trading laws to the regulator—up to three years to report violations under the insider trading laws.

Further, such informants must now include specific information, such as details of securities, trades by suspects etc. when reporting such violations of insider trading laws.

Moreover, the capital markets watchdog has strengthened the role of debenture trustees.

COMMERCIAL COAL AUCTIONS

Govt receives offline bids for 23 mines out of 38 offered

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

THE UNION Coal Ministry has received offline bids for only 23 coal mines, out of the 38 blocks offered for commercial coal auctions. As many as 46 companies have placed their bids physically for commercial coal mining, the government said.

Sources in coal ministry said that the online bids will be opened on Wednesday.

The government on June 18 had launched the maiden auction for coal blocks, where private players can participate without any end-use restrictions. This would also be the first set of coal assets to be auctioned off through the new market-determined revenue share model that replaced the fixed fee/tonne regime that turned off private investors. **FE**

‘In 2019, 38.2% persons engaged in employment, related activities’

As much as 38.2 per cent of persons, of the age of six years or above, were engaged in employment and related activities in the country in 2019, the Time Use Survey of the National Statistical Office (NSO) stated

First TUS report: The NSO's first Time Use Survey (TUS), for January–December 2019, measured the participation rate and time spent on paid activities, care activities, unpaid activities, etc

1,38,799: Households covered in the survey from where information on time use was collected, with, **■ 82,897 rural ■ 55,902 urban**

Source: NSO/PTI

Why this is important: The primary objective of the NSO's first TUS is to measure participation of men and women in paid and unpaid activities, across both urban and rural parts of the country

Details of people engaged in gainful employment and related activities:

Across country	
57.3% males	18.4% females
In rural areas	
56.1% males	19.2% females
In cities	
59.8% males	16.7% females

Pradhan invites cos to build 6.5 MT crude storage capacity across country

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

UNION MINISTER of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday invited companies to develop 6.5 million tonnes (MT) of crude storage capacities across the country, as the Centre eyes to increase crude and petroleum products storage capacity from existing 74 days to 90 days.

India's existing strategic petroleum reserve facilities are located in Visakhapatnam (1.3 MT), Mangaluru (1.5 MT) and Padur (2.5 MT). As per the consumption pattern of FY20, the storages can provide for about 9.5 days of crude oil requirement. State-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) can stock for another 64.5 days.

The government has already given 'in-principle' approval for building two additional storage fa-

cilities with total capacity of 6.5 MT under the public-private partnership model at Chandikhol, Odisha (4 MT) and Padur, Karnataka (2.5 MT). According to sources, the government is looking for prospective partners like financial investors, foreign oil companies, and large construction firms to build the proposed oil reserves.

There is also a possibility to enter into a concessionary agreement with these partners for the construction, filling and operation of these facilities. "We are also exploring overseas crude storage facilities in the US and other commercially viable locations", Pradhan said, speaking at a conference on energy security organised by Global Counter Terrorism Council.

To reduce imports, the Centre is planning to develop alternative fuels such as ethanol, second generation ethanol, compressed bio gas (CBG) and biodiesel. **FE**

India among worst performing economies; stimulus inadequate, says Abhijit Banerjee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

NOBEL LAUREATE Abhijit Banerjee on Tuesday said India is among the worst performing economies in the world and the government's economic stimulus was inadequate to tackle the problem.

He, however, said that the country will see a revival in growth in the July–September quarter of the current fiscal.

Speaking at a virtual event, Banerjee said the country's economic growth was slowing down even before the Covid-19 pandemic hit as real GDP growth had moderated from 7 per cent in 2017–18 to 6.1 per cent in 2018–19 and 4.2 per cent in 2019–20.

"Indian economy is among the worst performing in the world. The country's economy will see revival in the current quarter (July–September)," he said, adding that



Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee. File

economic growth in 2021 is going to be better than this year.

The country's economy contracted by a record 23.9 per cent in the first quarter of the current fiscal. Goldman Sachs has sharply cut its 2020–21 GDP forecast to a contraction of 14.8 per cent. Fitch Ratings has also revised its forecast to 10.5 per cent contraction.

Banerjee, currently a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), said he does

not think that India's economic stimulus was adequate.

"India's economic stimulus was limited. It was a bank bailout. I think we could have done more," he said.

The stimulus measures "did not increase consumption spending of lower income people as the government was not willing to put money in the hands of the low income population", he explained.

In May, the government had announced a Rs 20.97 lakh crore economic package, which also includes liquidity support from the RBI.

Talking about inflation, Banerjee said India's growth strategy was a closed economy with the government creating lots of demand, which resulted in high growth and inflation.

Replying to a query on monetisation of deficit by the RBI, the eminent economist said "deficit financing is a good idea".

BRIEFLY

State borrowing: RBI gives time

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Tuesday extended by six months the additional flexibility provided to states to raise funds via market borrowing and overdraft.

Google Play billing issues

New Delhi: Many Indian startups are concerned over Google's Play billing system, saying it can't force app developers to sell services by using only its billing system.

Amazon India unit gets funds

New Delhi: Amazon has infused Rs 1,125 crore into one of its India units, Amazon Seller Services. **PTI**

निविदा के साथ अग्रधन (Earnest money) की राशि 55,000/- (पचवन हजार रुपये) का "वन संरक्षक एवं राज्य वन-वृक्ष विज्ञानी, झारखण्ड, राँची" के पक्ष में भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, कोरछण्ड शाखा, राँची पर भुगतये बैंक ड्राफ्ट संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। निर्धारित समय के बाद प्राप्त निविदा अमान्य समझा जायेगी। कोई भी क्रेता इस निविदा की नियम एवं शर्तों की ओर जानकारी हेतु किसी भी कार्य दिवस में कार्य अवधि (10 बजे से 5 बजे तक) में कार्यालय आकर या Tel:-0651-2480735, 9470514318 पर भी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। निविदा की नियम एवं शर्तों की एक प्रतिलिपि सूचना पट पर भी लगी रहेगी, साथ ही विभागीय वेबसाइट (<http://forest.jharkhand.gov.in/>) पर भी उपलब्ध होगी। निविदा क्रेता अथवा उनके द्वारा प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष खोली जायेगी।

निविदा प्रस्तुत करने मात्र से उत्पाद की खरीद पर दावे के लिए कोई भी अधिकार नहीं मिलेगा। वन संरक्षक एवं राज्य वन-वृक्ष विज्ञानी, झारखण्ड, राँची अपने विधिकारिकार से निविदा को स्वीकार/अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार रखते हैं या किसी भी स्तर पर स्वीकृति की प्रक्रिया को रोक सकते हैं या निविदा रद्द कर सकते हैं और/या बिना कोई कारण बताए नए सिररे से निविदा संशोधन के साथ या इसके बिना आमांत्रित कर सकते हैं, और ऐसे निर्णय के परिणाम स्वरूप वन संरक्षक एवं राज्य वन-वृक्ष विज्ञानी, झारखण्ड, राँची कोई भी दायित्व वहन नहीं करेंगे। इस निविदा की नियम एवं शर्त निविदा फार्म में अंकित हैं।

ह०/०
मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं
राज्य वन-वृक्ष विज्ञानी,
झारखण्ड, राँची

PR 233510 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes)20-21'D

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. Application/tender must be submitted along with 2(two) passport size photos, attested copy of EPIC or any other documents to support his/her identity.
2. The intending bidder must have to deposit earnest money of 10% of reserve price by Bank Draft in favour of the Deputy Commissioner, South Garo Hills, Baghmara.
3. The interest persons/parties may inspect the seized coal from the site anytime during office hours before bidding and the undersigned will not be responsible for over assessment/under assessment of seized coal at the site.
4. The non-tribal applicants will have to enclose a License for Trading by Non Tribals issued by the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council for the last 3 (three) years.
5. The applicant will also have to enclose a "No Objection Certificate" issued by the A'king Nokma of the area of the LOT for which he/she is bidding along with the application,
6. On the date of auction, intending bidder shall submit proof of payment of Earnest Money, Identity Proof and GSTIN.
7. Award will be given to highest bidder and in case the bidder is absent or the successful bidder is unable to deposit the amount in time, the award will be given to the next highest bidder.
8. In case all the top bidders fail to deposit the bid amount within the given time or surrenders, the Auction Notice will be cancelled and fresh Auction will be called and security deposit shall be forfeited to the Government.
9. The undersigned will not be responsible for any loss or damage of coal caused due to stealing or natural calamities.
10. In case of any dispute the decision of the undersigned will be final.
11. The successful bidder should deposit 50% of bid amount after adjusting the earnest money deposit within 24 hours and the balance amount should be paid before the lifting of the auctioned coal.
12. The transportation of the auction coal will be allowed only after producing the valid transport challan issued by the Competent Authority after production of lifting order and verification of payments of Royalty, Cess and GST.

Sd/-
Deputy Commissioner
South Garo Hills, Baghmara

MIPR No.0942 Dated 29.09.2020



UJVN Ltd.

H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun - 248006
 Telephone: 0135-2763008, Fax 0135-2763500
 CIN No. U41017UP19SC025866 Website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 586

Tender Notice

Dated: 29.09.2020

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

- (1) Tender No: 05/EE(Civil)/MB-II/ Chinyalisaur /2020-21**
Name of work: Annual Operation and Maintenance of 15 KLD STP Plant at Dharasu Power House, Dharasu, Uttarkashi
- (2) Tender No: 06/EE(Civil)/MB-II/ Chinyalisaur / 2020-21**
Name of work: Annual Maintenance of Water Supply System for residential and non residential buildings of Shaktipuram colony, Chinyalisaur, Uttarkashi

Estimated Cost: (1) Rs. 5,75,315.00 (excluding GST)
 (2) Rs. 12,85,643.00 (excluding GST)

Date of availability of bid document on website 01.10.2020 from 5:00PM

Last date for submission of tender. 23.10.2020 upto 11:00AM

For fuller & further detail, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be download from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

Executive Engineer (Civil)

ANC/52824/FIRMS/REGN/2020

HEADQUARTERS ANDAMAN & NICOBAR COMMAND, PORT BLAIR

REGISTRATION NOTICE

1. Commander-in-Chief, Headquarters Andaman & Nicobar Command invites application from reputed and reliable firms for registration as approved contractors for supplies/services at Headquarters Andaman & Nicobar Command, Port Blair and all Defence Units/ Establishments/ Formations in Andaman & Nicobar Islands from prospective suppliers/ firms/ fabricators, manufacturers, authorized dealers and Agents willing to supply goods/ provide services/ undertake works for Andaman & Nicobar Command on competitive basis. The category of item/ services likely to be contracted/ purchased/ hired/ repaired are as follows:-

- Perishables Foods Items:-** Supply of Bread, Vegetables, Fruits, Onion, Potato, Mutton (Fresh/ Blast Frozen), Chicken (Live/ Dressed/ Blast Frozen), Fish, Eggs, Frozen Foods, etc.
- Non - Perishables Foods Items:-** Supply of Cereals/Sugar/ Salt/ Refined Oil, Atta (Wheat Flour), Maida (Flour Superior) Bakery items, Pulses/ Besan, Chocolate, Tinned and Packed food items, Charcoal/ Wood, Condiments etc.
- General/ Outsourcing/ maintenance Contracts:-** Material Handling & Transportation, Fabrication of Clothing items/ Stitching of Uniforms, Hiring of Boats/ Transport/ Packers & Movers/ Technical Works, Out Sourcing of Various Services (Office Works/ Housekeeping/ Vegetation clearance/ Garbage clearance etc.), Annual Maintenance of Photocopier Machines/ IT Equipments/Water Purifiers etc.
- Local Purchase:-** General use Stores, Medical Stores/Medical Equipments/ Medicines, Stationery items, Rubber Stamps, Machinery/Spares Parts (authorized dealers/traders), Automobile Spare Parts, Tyres & Tubes, Paints & Hardware stores, Electrical Spare Parts/Electronic items/Computer and Spares, Engineering Spare Parts, Batteries, Plastic Goods, Furniture's, Marine Equipments etc.
- Repair and Services:-** Motor Transport Vehicles and Two Wheelers, Tyres (Retreading), Typewriter/Duplicator photocopier, Computers, Air Conditioners etc.
- Printing works, Interior designer/ decorator, Furnishing**

2. **The application should include the following information:-**

- Sale Tax/ Central Service Tax/ Central Sale Tax registration certificate in respect of their business item wise (a copy may be enclosed).
- In case of SSI the registration number to be produced.
- Details of items/ services/work intended to be supplied/ provided/ undertaken with dealership/ agency testimonial if any. Preference will be given to firms dealing in particular category of items.
- Details of ability for after sales services.
- Name and full address on bankers proof of bank details.
- Latest Income Tax Clearance Certificate, copy of PAN Card and last three years IT returns.
- Details showing supplies/ service made to any Govt/ Public sector Organisation. If for any reason such contract terminated, give details.
- Details of business including financial details of the firm (Balance Sheet).
- For hiring of services, the firm should be in possession of EPF, Labour Registration Certificate and services Tax Registration certificate (ST-1/ST-2).

3. Firms are mandated to register themselves with CPPP (Central Public Procurement Portal i.e. www.eprocure.gov.in) and obtain individual DSC (Digital Signature Certificate) for participation in all future tendering process by HQANC on e-procurement platform.

4. The Representatives of this Command will physically visit and verify the firm premises for:-

- Ownership/Lease deed documents duly attested by notary public.
- Management.
- Infrastructure.
- Manpower.
- Test Lab.
- Book Keeping, CST etc.
- Range of products.
- Address of Office/Shop /Ability.

5. The form for registration can be downloaded from website <http://andaman.gov.in> under news & announcement. Filled application under a letter head with relevant documents (photocopies only) should reach to this Headquarters to SSO (Contract). Incomplete application will be rejected without assigning any reasons. The envelope be marked as "Registration of Firms" and the same be forwarded through post at the under mentioned address:-

The Commander-in-Chief
Headquarters Andaman & Nicobar Command
[for SSO (Contract & Victualling)]
Delanipur, Haddo P.O.
Port Blair - 744102

6. Details can be obtained from Senior Staff Officer (Contract) HQANC between 1030 to 1230 hrs on any working day. Telephone No. - 03192-248608.

Sd/-
(Raahul Mahajan)
Capt (IN)
Command Logistics Officer
for Commander-in-Chief

davp 10132/11/0001/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 40/45 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'5", **Build:** Thin, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Black T-shirt only and bare footed, was found dead, Under Pass, Near Ghat No. 2, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmir Gate, Delhi on 26.09.2020.

In this regard a DD 51A dated 26.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.





SHO
P.S. Kashmir Gate, Delhi

DP/601/N/2020(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Signal & Telecom Branch
E-Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T),
West Central Railway, Bhopal acting for and on behalf of President of India invites "e-Tenders" for the following work. Manual efforts are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tender document have been up loaded on website <http://www.irops.gov.in> Tender Notice No. and Date: BPLNWS/2020-21/04/04 Dated 28.09.2020, Name of work with its location: Provision of Telecom Passenger amenities work at Nishatpura Station in connection with the work "Facilities required at MSZ in connection with construction of Ranganj Mandi-Bhopal new line" (chargeable to RMA-BPL new line Project). Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 9,98,31,372. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 20,00,000. Co-od of Tender form (non refundable): Nil. Completion period of the work: 06 Months from the date of LOA. Due date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Opening Date 19.10.2020 submission time up to 15.00 hrs. Opening time 15.30 hrs. Note: The tender/bidders must have class-III digital signature certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderers/bidders can participate on e-tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. Online payment through payment Gateway has been enabled. Payment towards tender document cost, EMD etc. can be made online through multiple Net banking, debit & credit cards.

DRM (S&T)
West Central Railway, Bhopal

वेस्ट सेंट्रल रेलवे सिग्नल व टेलीकॉम ब्रांच
 ई-टेंडर नोटिस
 डिवीजनल रेलवे मैनेजर (एस&टी),
 वेस्ट सेंट्रल रेलवे, भोपाल
 भारत के राष्ट्रपति के形象 और उसकी ओर से
 निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए "ई-टेंडर" आमंत्रित
 कर रहा है। इस कार्य के लिए हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता
 नहीं है। इस कार्य के लिए कोई भी हस्तक्षेप
 प्राप्त होने पर इसे नज़रअंदाज़ किया जाएगा।
 टेंडर दस्तावेज़ वेबसाइट <http://www.irops.gov.in> पर
 अपलोड किया गया है। टेंडर नोटिस नंबर और
 तिथि: BPLNWS/2020-21/04/04 दिनांक 28.09.2020,
 कार्य का नाम और स्थान: निशातपुरा स्टेशन पर
 टेलीकॉम यात्री सुविधाओं का कार्य जो "रंगान्ज
 मंदी-भोपाल नई लाइन" (RMA-BPL नई लाइन
 परियोजना) के अंतर्गत है। कार्य का अनुमानित
 लागत: ₹ 9,98,31,372। गारंटी पैसे: ₹ 20,00,000।
 टेंडर फॉर्म (नॉन-रिफंडेबल): निल। कार्य के
 पूरा होने की अवधि: कार्य आदेश दिनांक से 6
 महीने। ऑफर दाखल करने की तिथि और
 टेंडर खोलने की तिथि: खोलने की तिथि 19.10.2020
 ऑफर दाखल करने की समय सीमा 15.00 बजे तक।
 खोलने की समय सीमा 15.30 बजे। नोट: टेंडर/बिड-
 डरर्स को क्लास-III डिजिटल सिग्नेचर सर्टिफिकेट
 होना चाहिए और वे IREPS पोर्टल पर पंजीकृत
 होना चाहिए। केवल पंजीकृत टेंडर/बिड-डरर्स
 ई-टेंडरिंग में भाग ले सकते हैं। सभी प्रासंगिक
 दस्तावेज़ों को भाग लेने के समय अपलोड
 करना होगा। ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से भुगतान
 गेटवे सक्रिय है। टेंडर दस्तावेज़ की लागत, EMD
 आदि का भुगतान ऑनलाइन मल्टीपल नेट बैंकिंग,
 डेबिट और क्रेडिट कार्ड के माध्यम से किया
 जा सकता है।

SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN UDAIPUR CITY AND HARIDWAR								
For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run a Special Train between Udaipur City and Haridwar w.e.f. from 01.10.2020 as per schedule given below :-								
09609/09610 Udaipur City - Haridwar Jn. - Udaipur City Special Train (Tri - Weekly)								
Train No. 09609		STATIONS		Train No. 09610				
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.			
--	13:05	Udaipur City		16:55	--			
13:12	13:14	Ranapratnagar		16:35	16:37			
13:45	13:47	Mavli Jn.		15:50	15:53			
13:56	13:58	Fatehnagar		15:36	15:38			
14:10	14:11	Bhupalsagar		15:25	15:26			
14:21	14:23	Kapasan		15:15	15:16			
--	15:30	Berach Jn.		--	14:55			
15:40	16:05	Chittaurgarh Jn.		14:00	14:25			
--	16:30	Chanderiya		--	13:40			
17:10	17:12	Bhilwara		12:10	12:15			
17:22	17:23	Mandal		11:49	11:50			
18:11	18:13	Bijainagar		11:03	11:05			
18:46	18:48	Nasirabad		10:17	10:19			
19:25	19:45	Ajmer Jn.		9:45	9:55			
--	20:02	Madar Jn.		--	9:29			
20:13	20:15	Kishangarh		8:39	8:41			
20:58	21:00	Phulera Jn.		8:00	8:02			
21:50	22:00	Jaipur Jn.		7:00	7:15			
22:10	22:13	Gandhinagar Jaipur		6:12	6:15			
22:49	22:51	Dausa		5:24	5:26			
23:15	23:17	Bandikui Jn.		5:03	5:05			
23:33	23:35	Rajgarh		4:40	4:42			
0:10	0:13	Alwar Jn.		4:12	4:15			
1:43	1:45	Rewari Jn.		3:17	3:20			
2:34	2:36	Delhi Cantt		2:08	2:10			
3:30	3:45	Delhi		1:25	1:40			
3:59	4:01	Delhi Shahdara		00:54	00:56			
5:10	5:12	Baraut		23:45	23:47			
--	5:56	Kandhla		23:17	23:19			
6:22	6:27	Shamli		22:55	23:05			
7:18	7:20	Rampur Maniharan		21:34	21:36			
8:13	8:15	Tapri Jn.		21:10	21:12			
9:24	9:26	Roorkee		20:23	20:28			
10:30	--	Haridwar Jn.		--	19:40			
Days of Run : 09609 Ex. Udaipur City on Every Monday, Thursday & Saturday from 01.10.2020 & 09610 Ex. Haridwar on Every Tuesday, Friday & Sunday from 02.10.2020.								
Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.								
● This special train shall run fully reserved.								
The passengers shall adhere to the COVID-19 related safety norms & guidelines issued by Government of India from time to time.								
Beware of Touts		Always buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/Authorized Railway Travel Agents only						
Note : For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in								
20/05/20	Security Helpline No. 182		Please join us on   					
	Integrated Helpline No. 139							
		NORTHERN RAILWAY						
		Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE								

CROSSWORD 4237

ACROSS

1

Most important architectural monument to see? (9)

8

Sailor a short distance nearer the stern (5)

9

Futuristic ball (7)

10

Bad cold that is yielding (6)

11

Braved could be, but isn't (6)

12

Excited editors going after a space traveller (8)

15

Incorrect kit means trouble (8)

18

Go and hunt for nothing (6)

20

Spot a cello that's been put out (7)

21

Painstaking preparation (7)

22

Untie tricky knot (5)

23

Such a pencil serves no useful purpose (9)

DOWN

2

Bill gets free of bitterness (5)

3

Accommodating place provides a change for those over fifty (6)

4

Flinch because of a handicap (8)

5

Lehar composition about love set in Pakistan (6)

6

State building of topical style (7)

7

Turn up with a six-footer escort (9)

11

Girl upset with a troubled soul - how irregular (9)

13

New sonnet about New York poet (8)

14

Possibly spy on fashionable medium (7)

16

Napping, the general is swallowed by a snake (6)

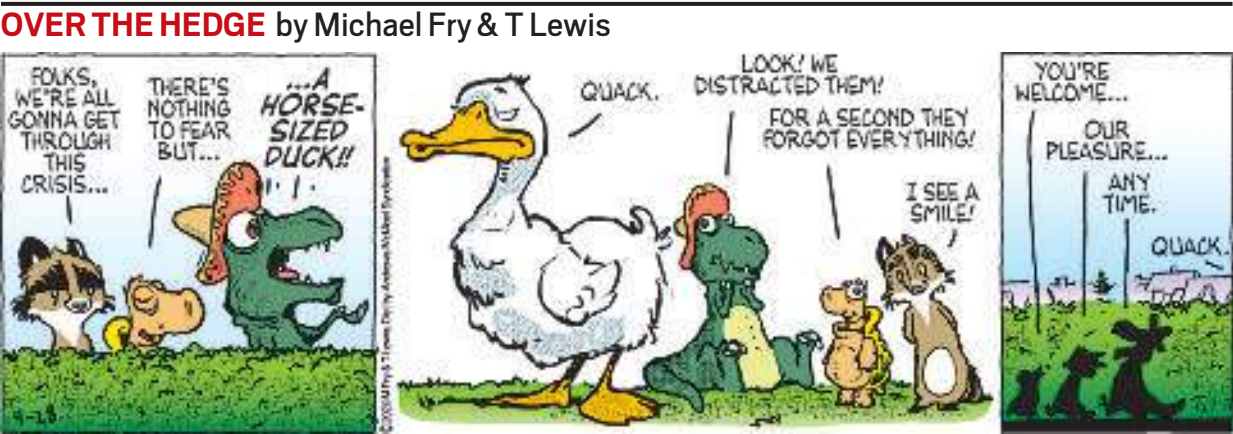
17

A grave commitment (6)

19

Capital growth (5)

Solutions Crossword 4236: Across: 1 Wrinkle, 4 Brace, 7 Gape, 8 Minuting, 10 Second mate, 12 Siesta, 13 Botany, 15 Pained look, 18 Porridge, 19 Race, 20 Doyen, 21 Relayed, Down: 1 Wages, 2 In pocket, 3 Enigma, 4 Blunt words, 5 Adit, 6 Eagerly, 9 Initiation, 11 Mahogany, 12 Stamped, 14 Onager, 16 Knead, 17 Fray.



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 clue.

We don't see things as ___, we see things as ___, are - Anais Nin (4,...,2)

ALVEE

EMORTH

HLOTY

EELSW

Answer: We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are - Anais Nin

SUDOKU 4247

Difficulty Level 1s Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4246

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

I suspect that you'll have little patience with people who want to sit around and indulge themselves. It's far more likely that you'll want to be off to a flying start, especially now that adventurous personal possibilities are set to return. Let's face it; there are options and choices you've not even considered yet.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Today's events are likely to have an air of mystery about them. A spot of confusion is likely, but time spent alone or in relative seclusion can prove to be genuinely enjoyable. Let nobody call you stuffy, for you are about to surprise us all - and how.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It may take time to get going - you seem to have slipped a gear or two. However, I think the best thing you can do is turn your attention back to interests and questions which you once found so fascinating, but which have since been put on the shelf.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Variety is the spice of life. At least it ought to be, for you are again about to be presented with an opportunity to come out of your shell and become the darling of your social circle. Please don't hold back and, once you have made up your mind, there is no point in counting the cost.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

It is often said that this is a time of year for children, to which I see some adults holding their heads in their hands. Yet there are many lessons you can learn from small people when it comes to spontaneous pleasure. That's why you should pay attention for once!

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

The stars have shifted decisively into those regions of your solar chart with significance for your home and family. Ironically the result may be a bout of indecision over the coming week, possibly because your options will expand and the alternatives grow.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You're ready to be cheered up. One piece of good news is that an excursion or meeting which was cancelled or postponed should soon be back on the agenda. The accent is on personal and joint money matters, but it seems that you may sit on the fence for a little while longer.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Be secretive, firm and realistic. In other words, you may be yourself. Other people might no longer agree with you, but it seems that you control the purse strings. You can therefore present partners with a financial fait accompli, and they will have to smile and accept your decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

You have shown a tendency to fritter your money away in the past, but you'll soon have a chance to think again, and maybe to change your mind. Please remember that there is absolutely no room at all for complacency, mainly because although you think that a personal matter is now settled, there is still more information to come.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

If you feel you have to hide away to get enjoyment now, it may be because you are uncertain how others will react once they know how you really feel. This is fine, and I don't think anyone should criticise you for hanging on to a long-standing secret.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Compromise is not a big feature of your chart over the next few months, and I think you're unlikely to bend now. Only on minor and possibly irrelevant details will you be happy to let partners get their way. On the other hand, if you want to keep loved ones sweet you should probably throw them some crumbs of comfort.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You are so easily swept along by events, and if you feel that all going on around you is larger than life, you're probably right. A social opportunity is about to present you with more than you bargained for: a friend is soon to show hidden talents.

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION

Tender Advertisement

SMM(DL) SBI on behalf of the President of the India invites following electronic open tenders for supply of materials

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description of material	Qty.	Date & time of E-tender box closing
1	72-20-5254	Bolt hex head 3/8"	5000 Nos.	16/10/2020, 11.00 hrs

Regarding detailed tender notice containing purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

SBI

Platform Engineering-I Department, State Bank Global IT Centre, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

State Bank of India invites 'Request For Proposal' (RFP) for procurement, implementation and maintenance of Enterprise Bulk Email Solution. The detailed RFP document is available on the Bank's website <https://bank.sbi> under 'Procurement News'.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Platform Engineering-I)

Place: Navi Mumbai Date: 30.09.2020

SBI

CRM Department, State Bank Global IT Centre, Sector 10, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

(RFP No.SBI/GITC/CRM/2020/2021/715, Dated 15/09/2020)

State Bank of India invites proposal from eligible bidders for "Procurement of Services for Round the Clock Monitoring and troubleshooting of Contact Centre Applications". For details refer RFP document which may be downloaded from Bank's Website www.sbi.co.in or <https://bank.sbi> under Procurement News. Bidders are required to upload their documents on <https://e-tender.sbi/SBI/>. Interested respondents may submit their bids on or before 22.10.2020 till 11:30 AM. Amendment/modification in RFP, if any, will be uploaded only on website.

Place: Navi Mumbai Date: 30.09.2020

Sd/- Dy. General Manager (CRM)

Government of India

Department of Atomic Energy

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

Civil Engineering Section

Post Bag No. 1, Yelwal, Mysore 571 130

Telephone : 0821-6724/6418/Fax : 0821-240 3064

Date: 25/09/2020

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Chief Engineer, BHABHA Atomic Research Centre, Mysore invites for & on behalf of the President of India, Sealed item rate tenders in two parts from eligible contractors for those having adequate experience and capabilities to execute similar works of such magnitude as detailed in this tender.

Tender Reference No.	BARC/MYS/BLDG31/CES/12/2020-21
Name of work	Site area grading for upcoming Building No. 31 at BARC plant site, Mysuru.
Estimated Cost	Rs 4.25 Crore (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Five Lakhs only)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 8.50 Lakhs (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifty Thousand only)
Period of Completion	06 Months
Tender Sale Period	From 01.10.2020 (1100 hrs) To 16.10.2020 (1800 hrs)

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from web site www.tenderwizard.com/dae and www.barc.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Engineer

For & on behalf of President of India

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Martyr of CISF on 30th September

CISF proudly remembers the supremesacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life while saving the lives of employees of Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant during massive fire at Coal Chemical Plant. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noblest deed.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. HSCC/AIIMS-Nagpur/Wooden wardrobe/Fur/2020 Dated: 28.09.2020

Online item rate bids are invited by HSCC (India) Limited on behalf of AIIMS, Nagpur for the works: "Wooden Wardrobe and Modular Kitchen furniture for Residential Block at AIIMS, Nagpur (Maharashtra)" Estimated project cost: Rs. 3.08 Cr and Completion period: 02 Months. Tender available online from 01.10.2020 and Last Date of submission of Bids is 14.10.2020. The detailed NIT will be available on e-tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC, HSCC website www.hscctd.co.in and CPP portal. Corrigendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on said websites and not be published.

Sr. Mgr.(Civil)

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Chief Engineer, Konkarn Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Single Packet System through E-Tendering on IREPS Portal from eligible contractors for the following work. **Tender Notice No. : KR/W/158/2020/11. Name of Work : Ultrasonic Testing of Rails Over Konkarn Railway between Km 000/800 to Km 739/760 using Contractors Rail cum Road Ultrasonic Testing Vehicle as per Indian Railway Standard Specification for Ultrasonic Testing of Rails/Welds using Vehicular System- Revised 2020 (RDSO T-52), Operator and Quality Assurance Plan (QAP), as per Indian Railway Standard Specification for Ultrasonic Testing of Rail/Welds (Provisional), Revised 2012 (with latest amendment) and Manual for Ultrasonic Testing of Rail and Welds, Revised 2012 (with latest correction slip) issued by RDSO. Advertisment Cost of the Work : ₹ 37.50 Lakhs (exclusive of 18% GST). Closing Date/Time : 21/10/2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. for submission of online offers/bids. Completion Period : Six (06) months including monsoon from the date of issue of acceptance letter. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit www.ireps.gov.in website for details/participation. Corrigendum/addendum will be hosted in this website only.**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER/METERING

C-3, SHAKTI VIHAR, PSPCL, PATIALA, PUNJAB 147001

Tel. No. 0175-2218871, Fax No. 0175-2200284,

e-mail: se-hq-metering@pspcl.in

CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in

Registration Number: 33813,

e-tendering portal: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Specification No.	MQP-163/2020-21/PO(M)
Short Description	Procurement of 'ISI' Marked LT AC, 1- Phase 2-wire, Whole Current Static Intelligent Keypad Pre-Payment AMR compliant Energy Meters with 'Optical Port' of rating 10-60 Amps. 50Hz, 240 V of Accuracy Class-1 along with Consumer interface Unit and web based vending system.
Quantity	10,000 meters.
Tender Documents	Tender documents can only be downloaded from website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Bid submission start date	22.09.2020 at 11.00 Hrs.
Pereribid meeting	29.09.2020 at 11.00 Hrs. in the chamber of Chief Engineer/Metering
Last date of downloading of documents	21.10.2020 upto 11.00 Hrs.
Last date of Bid submission	22.10.2020 upto 11.00 Hrs
Bid opening (Part-I & II)	29.10.2020 at 11.30 Hrs.
Contact Person Name	Er. Charanjit Singh Hazuria SE/HMC, PSPCL, Patiala.

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Tender ID is: 2020_POWER_53803_1

Note: Corrigendum, if any, after the publication of this tender enquiry shall only be uploaded on website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and will not be published in newspapers.

C-310/2020 83372/Pb

Sd/- SE/HMC PSPCL, Patiala

DIRECTORATE OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES

DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

DRDO BHAWAN, RAJA JI MARG, NEW DELHI-110 011

ONLINE-NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT)

1. The Director, Management Services, DRDO Headquarters, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi-110011 on behalf of the president of India, desires to procure the following service:

SI No.	Tender Reference No.	Nomenclature	Quantity	EMD
1.	DRDO/ DMS/ 02/ Proc (HQ)/ 7134/ DQR&S- 3rd Party Stfwr/20-21/M/01 and Defence e-Procurement Portal tender ID No. 2020_DRDO_371945_3	Centralised Contract for Hiring of Third Party Software IV & V Services.	As per tender	Rs. 23 Lakh

Clarification end date and time 30 Sep 2020 at 1700 Hrs

Bid submission end date and time 07 Oct 2020 at 1400 Hrs

Bid opening date and time 08 Oct 2020 at 1500 Hrs

Telephone No. of Contact Person for queries Sh. Rajeev Ranjan, Dy. Dir. & Sh. SK Patra, SO 011-23007039/7932

2. Online bid are invited for supply of items/ services listed in Part V of this RFP as per Two Bid System. The online bid (both Techno- commercial and price bid) should be uploaded by the bidder before the due date and time.

3. The documents may be downloaded from Defence e-Procurement Portal site <https://defproc.gov.in>.

4. This RFP is being issued with no financial commitment and Buyer Reserves the right to change or vary any part thereof or foreclose procurement case at any stage. The Buyer also reserves the right to disqualify any vendor, should it be necessary, at any stage on grounds of national Security.

5. You may contact Director, Management Services, DRDO Headquarters, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi-110011 related to bidding condition, bidding process, rejection of bids, specifications, terms and conditions or any other grievances related to purchase in writing.

Sd/- (Rajeev Ranjan) Dy. Dir. MS

davp 10301/11/0076/2021

Govt of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICER (PURCHASE-I)

SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

SOURA, SRINAGAR-190011 Tele/FAX NO.: 0194-2403929

Email ID: ammopurchase1@skims.ac.in

E-NIT No.: SIMS 325 (P 1st) Cylinders Tender 05 of 2020

DATED: 28.09.2020

Sub: Notice inviting e-tenders for Purchase of Medical Gas Cylinders.

E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir, through Director, Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar, from Manufacturers/Registered dealers having valid License for supply of Medical Gas Cylinder compatible to Oxygen Gas, Nitrous Oxide Gas, Carbon Dioxide Gas and Nitrogen Gas, as per the specifications detailed in the annexures annexed to this notice to SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, to be submitted under Two Bid Cover System- Cover I "Technical Bid" & Cover II "Price Bid." The tender documents/ detailed specification are available at www.jktenders.gov.in/www.skims.ac.in

Sr. No.	Description	Tender Fee	Earnest Money
1.	Supply of Medical Gas Cylinders compatible to Medical Gases such as Oxygen Gas, Nitrous Oxide Gas, Carbon Dioxide Gas and Nitrogen Gas.	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 1,50,000/-

Sr. No.	Nomenclature	Schedule
1.	Date of publish	28.09.2020
2.	Tender Download Start Date	28.09.2020
3.	Clarification Start Date	28.09.2020
4.	Last date of clarification if any	05.10.2020 (upto 2 pm)
5.	Bid Submission Start Date	07.10.2020 (at 9 am)
6.	Bid Submission End Date	27.10.2020 (upto 2 pm)
7.	Technical Bid Open Date	31.10.2020 (at 12.00 pm)
8.	Financial Bid Open Date	To be notified later

The tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed e-NIT.

Sd/- Materials Management Officer, Purchase-I, SKIMS.

No.: SIMS-325 (P 1st) Cylinder Tender 05 of 2020-8154-63

Dated: 28.09.2020

SIMS-5376

MSTC

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Tender Notice No. WCR/CRW/S/ BPL/EL/1/2020/04 Date 24.09.2020

e-Tenders are invited by Chief Workshop Manager, Coach Rehabilitation Workshop, West Central Railway, Nishapur, Bhopal for and on behalf of President of India for the under mentioned work from Reputed, experienced contractors having Electrical contractor license. Name of work: 'Running Contract for Repairing of Submersible Pump and lifting of Submersible Pump from tube wells & lowering down another Submersible Pump in Workshop & Colony area of CRWS, Bhopal for Three years'. Cost of work: ₹ 3,84,509.40. Earnest money: ₹ 7,700/-. Cost of tender form: ₹ 1,600/-. Completion Period of work: 36 Months. Date of submission: 27.10.2020 at 15.00 Hrs. Date of opening: 27.10.2020 after 15.15 Hrs. Note: Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at Govt. of India Website www.ireps.gov.in. Tender notice is available at notice board of the office of Chief Workshop Manager, (Electrical branch) Coach Rehabilitation Workshop, Nishapur, Bhopal. Chief Workshop Manager, Coach Rehabilitation Workshop, WCR, Nishapur, Bhopal

तल घास के बीमन निकालन हेतु 118 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर चयन करें।

"IMPORTANT"

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BRIEFLY



Real Madrid don't need any more players: Zidane

Madrid: Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane has no interest in bringing in any more players before the transfer window closes next week, he said on Tuesday. Madrid still looked like a work in progress in Saturday's scrappy 3-2 win over Real Betis after drawing their first game of the season 0-0 at Real Sociedad, but the Frenchman does not believe adding to his squad is the answer. "We already have a lot of players, why would we want to add any more," Zidane told a news conference ahead of Wednesday's home game against Real Valladolid. "It is already very difficult to pick a team, because all the players are very good, so why add more. The market is open until Oct. 5 but I'm very happy with what I have. This squad is mine and for me they are the best."

Suarez brings leadership, Costa character: Simeone

London: Atletico Madrid's Diego Costa and new signing Luis Suarez can form a deadly partnership this season says coach Diego Simeone. Costa scored Atletico's first goal in the 6-1 thrashing of Granada on Sunday before making way for Suarez, who marked his debut since switching from Barcelona with an incredible return of two goals and an assist in the space of 20 minutes. "Of course they can play together. The important thing is that they play to the best of their abilities, Diego with his character, Suarez with his leadership," Simeone told a news conference ahead of Atletico's game at Huesca on Wednesday. "They are different players. Diego likes to play down the wings and run into space, while Suarez is better at short sprints, making diagonal runs into the area, playing with his back to goal and being a dangerous presence in the area."

Bayern's Sane to miss Super Cup

Madrid: Bayern Munich winger Leroy Sane will miss Wednesday's domestic Super Cup against Borussia Dortmund with a knee injury while defender David Alaba is doubtful, coach Hansi Flick said on Tuesday. Bayern, who won four titles this year, lost Sunday's league game at Hoffenheim 4-1 to suffer their first defeat of 2020. "Leroy is out. He will most likely be out until and will return after the break for international matches (between Oct. 7-13)," Flick told reporters. Defender Alaba is doubtful with a muscle problem, with a final decision to be taken on matchday.

REUTERS

SYNOPSIS

Rashid weaves magic. Warner gives a masterclass in captaincy.

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
SEPTEMBER 29

RASHID KHAN mesmerised with his spin while David Warner's captaincy was superb. A slow Abu Dhabi pitch notwithstanding, Sunrisers Hyderabad were defending just about a par-tal. They had little margin for error, especially after two losses in their first two games. The Rashid-Warner combo helped Sunrisers secure their first win in this IPL. Their victory margin, 15 runs, though, doesn't tell the whole story. Sunrisers' efforts were even more laudable for the fact that they bowled second and had to counter the dew. From the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar to young Abhishek Sharma, everybody stood up to be counted. But Rashid was the x-factor, while his captain was the mastermind.

Rashid weaves magic

Rashid came into the attack in the eighth over. Capitals had a slow start all right, but with Shikhar Dhawan and Shreyas Iyer at the crease and big hitters to follow, a steep asking rate was still not a factor. Sunrisers needed wickets. The leg-spinner accounted for Iyer with a tossed-up delivery that he held back a little. The Capitals skipper went for a lofted drive over cover but was beaten in the air. Also, the bat turned in his hand. Sunrisers had the wicket they were looking for. Dhawan was relying on the sweep shot to counter the spinners. Rashid removed him with a wrong 'un in his third over, as the batsman was declared out on referral. After three overs, Rashid's figures read: 3-0-10-2.

The leggie returned to bowl his final over at the death. Rishabh Pant and Marcus Stoinis were batting and the equation - 49 runs off 24 balls - was still pretty gettable. Pant went for a premeditated sweep, but Rashid had bowled the delivery a tad slower. The left-hander was caught at deep-square by Priyam Garg. Rashid had just one wicket in the first two matches. On Tuesday, he returned with 3/14 in four overs. Still early days in this IPL, but Sunrisers needed to get their campaign underway.

And his brilliance was not restricted to just picking game-turning wickets. Rashid was the reason why Warner could continue with left-



Rashid Khan finished with figures of 3/14. *BCCI*

arm spinner Sharma against Capitals' left-handed batsmen. With wickets falling at one end, Capitals batsmen didn't have the leeway to target the youngster.

Warner's masterclass

Warner is the heart of this Sunrisers team. He is yet to get a big score in this tournament but his 33-ball 45 ensured that his team had a good start after being sent in. When Sunrisers fielded, Warner's plan choked the opponents. The way he held back Rashid's final over was excellent. He had a clear plan for his bowlers - try to take sixes out of the equation, bowl full and force the batsmen to hit towards the long boundary.

He directed his bowlers to target the block hole. Left-arm seamer T Natarajan was the best among the Sunrisers bowlers with regards to executing yorkers. Kumar gave the early breakthrough by dismissing Prithvi Shaw in the first over and then returned to take the wicket of Shimron Hetmyer. Sunrisers bowlers were bowling to a clear plan, laid out by their skipper. The team's batting, too, was professional. Jonny Bairstow scored a half-century. Kane Williamson played a lovely hand, coming in from the cold and a quadriceps injury. Sunrisers had laboured to 38 for no loss at the end of the

Powerplay. Only two fours and a six had been hit in the first six overs, both by Warner.

The skipper got out after getting a start and the Sunrisers batting wasn't finding the required tempo. Bairstow, too, wasn't timing the ball well. He fell prey to a mistimed pull off Kagiso Rabada. But Sunrisers didn't panic.

Even Abdul Samad, who made his IPL debut, swung fearlessly at the death. He connected one pretty well for a six but missed a few as well. But the young man from Jammu & Kashmir didn't look under pressure. Once again, credit to Warner for allowing a debutant to be fearless. As for Capitals, they are an evolving team. They came into this game after back-to-back wins. But on Tuesday, Sunrisers outplayed them in all three departments. Iyer elected to field because of the dew factor in the second half. He probably misread the pitch. The decision to give Axar Patel only two overs didn't augur well either. Iyer's captaincy is still a work in progress. Warner's captaincy masterclass must have given him plenty to learn.

BRIEF SCORES: Sunrisers Hyderabad 162/4 in 20 overs (J. Bairstow 53, David Warner 45; K Rabada 2/21) beat Delhi Capitals 147/7 in 20 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 34, Rashid Khan 3/14) by 15 runs.

Sun rises, eventually

Capital gains for Hyderabad at the expense of till-now unbeaten Delhi

Why Washington Sundar's spell is being called the 'best in IPL so far'

SANDIPG
SEPTEMBER 29

AT THE end of the Royal Challengers Bangalore-Mumbai Indians IPL game that was decided in the Super Over, all the talk was about Ishan Kishan's missed hundred and the genius of AB de Villiers. However, one outstanding bowling effort escaped the attention of fans and pundits. In a match that saw 402 runs, 23 fours and 26 sixes, RCB all-rounder Washington Sundar's effort of 4-0-12-1 was a masterclass in effective spin bowling inside the Powerplay.

The off-spinner didn't concede any boundaries, bowled 13 dot balls, and created unbearable pressure. India coach Ravi Shastri tweeted: "The best performance in the IPL so far."

Background

Historically, spinners have troubled Rohit Sharma in the Powerplay. In the past three editions of the IPL, they have got him out six times. Maybe this was what prompted Virat Kohli to bring on Washington in the second over.

1ST OVER (2ND OF INNINGS): ROHIT MISCUES PULL

Washington knew that Rohit likes flight and width from a spinner. Washington gave him neither. Rohit likes to sashay down the track, but Washington's brisk pace, touching the high 90s, kept the MI captain glued to the crease. And he also knew that nothing frustrates Rohit more than being tied down by a spinner. The first ball spun back into him and Rohit stared suspiciously at the pitch. Then Washington began mixing up the lengths.

The next ball landed on a spinner's good length area. But because the first ball had spun, Rohit waited for it and played it on the back foot. The third was short of good length, to which he came forward and drove confidently.

Rohit sensed the next ball would be shorter in length. The pull is his percentage stroke. The ball indeed was shorter in length, only that it was not short enough to be pulled, came quicker than expected, and landed on off and middle, denying him the width that allows a free swing of the bat.

Rohit failed to time the ball and was caught at deep mid-wicket.
■ Washington's figures: 1-0-2-1

2ND OVER (4TH OF INNINGS): THE STRANGLE JOB

To Ishan Kishan, Washington went flat and kept the ball on the stumps. The leg-side was sufficiently manned inside the ring, which meant even singles were hard to get. It was not until the fourth ball, when the mid-on fielder was pushed back, that Kishan managed a single.

His play was different against Quinton de Kock, in that he shed his defensiveness and went on the attack. Knowing the South African's penchant for cutting, he pulled his length back a trifle, tempting him to go deep into the crease and cut late. He was nearly sucked into the trap - edging twice when trying to force the cut.

■ Bowling figures: 2-0-3-1

3RD OVER (6TH OF INNINGS): SIMPLY UNHITTABLE

The last over of the Powerplay is when batsmen, especially when chasing a steep target, go berserk. But they ran out of ideas against Washington. When they tried to manufacture a shot, Washington routinely out-thought them. On the second ball of the over, de Kock tried to go inside-out, but Washington darted it so fast into middle stump that the shot had to be aborted at the last moment.

■ Bowling figures: 3-0-7-1

4TH OVER: (10TH OF INNINGS): PANDYA LOCKED UP

Hardik Pandya relishes hitting off-spinners over cow corner. He goes deep into the crease, gets under the ball and heaves it over mid-wicket. But just like he induced doubts in Rohit's mind with one that spun back sharply, Washington made the second ball grip the surface and bounce. Straightaway Pandya turned cautious and was happy rotating strike. It was Washington's most expensive over of the day - five runs!

■ Bowling figures: 4-0-12-1.

We know what Sanju Samson did this summer

VISHAL MENON
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

DURING THE lockdown, when there was no clarity about when he would get to play his next match, Sanju Samson got the opportunity to reassess his game and the time to fine-tune his skills. In April, he began preparations with his mentor and former Kerala team-mate, Raiphi Gomez, in Thiruvananthapuram.

The two would spend time together, discussing cricket. During one of those chats, Sanju told Gomez that it was lack of consistency that was preventing his development into a prolific run-scorer. "He had hardly scored anything substantial in the last IPL after one century. It's something that has been hurting him for a while now. He was worried that he was not able to take the game to the next level," Gomez told *The Indian Express*. Sanju called up Amal Manohar, his college mate at Thiruvanthapuram's Mar Ivanios College. Manohar - a former national-level athlete before a knee injury ended his career - is now a certified fitness trainer. He has been working closely with other top sportspersons like badminton player HS Prannoy.

Manohar tested Sanju on four parameters - speed, strength, endurance, and agility. The results provided clues to his glaring inconsis-

tency levels in the IPL. "We met in April and after conducting a basic test on Sanju, I realised that he was hardly getting time to recover between matches in the IPL. Simply put, he was carrying the fatigue from one match to the other, which was acting as an impediment," Manohar explained. He devised a series of exercises that helped Sanju build muscle mass, become stronger, improve his agility, all of which would aid in quicker recovery between matches.

Sanju worked diligently on these aspects and within four weeks, began to notice drastic improvements.

Food for thought

There was another aspect that needed a close watch: his diet. It's not that Sanju was careless about what he ate. He wanted someone experienced to closely monitor his meals. Gomez was instrumental in hiring Arun, an executive chef at Zam Zam Bun Cafe. "A friend had recommended his name. So, I sent him a menu and asked him to prepare meals for Sanju, and he immediately came on board," Gomez elaborated. While chalking out the menu, Gomez gave Arun three specific instructions: include carbohydrates in moderation, maximise proteins and eliminate fats.

"It's a challenge to prepare a menu tailor-made to the needs of sportspersons. I have



Sanju Samson's blistering start to IPL is the result of hard work and preparation during the lockdown. *BCCI*

taken care to ensure Sanju's fitness is not compromised, while at the same time, there's a method to improvise so that he doesn't get bored of eating the same stuff," Arun offered.

Even during the lockdown, Sanju would spend at least five hours in training. Arun would constantly keep in touch with his high-profile client on Whatsapp to apprise him of the menu. Typically, lunch would consist of wheat dalia with mushroom, egg whites, chicken breast, along with watermelon seed salad and mixed

fruit. Dinner usually included a portion of kiwi marinated chicken with scrambled egg white, cucumber and jalapeno corn kernel salad.

"Sometimes, I would substitute dalia with rice and also include fish on a regular basis since Sanju prefers seafood over lean meat. I would also include at least three types of fruits and snacks like muffins and cookies made from whole wheat flour and not maida," Arun said.

All that the hard work and preparation is paying dividends. There's almost a sense of infallibility in Sanju's batting in this IPL. Following the two power-packed performances - a 32-ball 74 against Chennai Super Kings and a 42-ball 85 versus Kings XI Punjab - the Kerala wicket-keeper gave a peek into his mindset. "I am more aware of my game now. That apart, I have been working hard on my fitness, diet, training and my strength because my game relies a lot on power-hitting," he said. That Sanju possesses all the attributes of a power-hitter is well documented. But he looks fresher and more at ease with himself than ever before.

Training with tennis balls

Gomez believes that after the blazing start to Sanju's IPL season, he can only get better. Gomez knows how demanding this tournament is, given his stints with the Rajasthan Royals, Kochi Tuskers Kerala and Pune Warriors

India from 2008 to 2010.

"When I participated in the IPL, it was an eye-opener for me. It gave me an insight into how some of the world-class players train and operate. I realised that your cricketing skills alone will not guarantee you success. It will happen when your diet, fitness and mind are in sync. I am happy that Sanju has used this time during the lockdown to his advantage," Gomez opined.

During the five months when competitive cricketing activity was suspended, Sanju trained regularly with tennis balls on Gomez's terrace. Despite the space constraints, the senior pro would replicate different match situations and urge the 25-year-old to demonstrate his power-hitting by keeping a still base. This was done with such devotion that over time, it became part of Sanju's muscle memory.

"Rahul Dravid had said that if you want to master one shot, you need to play at least 10,000 balls. Apart from training and diet, this is what Sanju has been doing during the extended break. Such an elaborate preparation is essential because only then can you score back-to-back 100s in IPL and still remain fresh because your body needs that energy to fuel you," the 35-year-old explained. "He has worked hard in these five months and is off to a good start now... I hope he can make it count," he concluded.

I may not always get it right, says Hamilton

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 29

FORMULA ONE champion Lewis Hamilton, who accused stewards of seeking to stop him winning at last weekend's Russian Grand Prix, said on Tuesday that he was "only human" and would continue to learn. In what read like a veiled apology, but did not refer directly to the race in Sochi or the stewards, the Mercedes driver posted a message on Instagram thanking his fans for their support.

"I may not always get it right in the face of adversity," wrote the Briton, who is one win from equalling Michael Schumacher's all-time record 91. "I may not always react the way you want me to when tensions are high, but I am only human after all and I am passionate about what I do.

"I'm learning and growing every day, and I'll take my lessons and keep fighting

on to the next one. Thank you to those who continue to support and are right there fighting with me."

Hamilton, a six times world champion, finished third in Sochi after starting on pole position. He collected two penalties, totalling 10 seconds, for practising starts in the wrong place before the race had started.

Asked if the punishment seemed excessive, he told Sky Sports: "Of course it is. But it's to be expected. They're trying to stop me, aren't they?" Race director Michael Masi rejected the accusations after the race.

"If Lewis wants to raise something, as I have said to him before... the door is always open," he said. "We have the stewards as an independent judiciary to adjudicate... there was an infringement and it doesn't matter if it was Lewis Hamilton or any other one of the 19 drivers." Formula One's managing director for motorsport Ross Brawn said on Monday that Hamilton should lick his wounds and learn from his mistakes.

