



Buoyed by Govt package, Vi eyes fund infusion of Rs 20,000 crore

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

DEBT-LADEN Vi (Vodafone Idea) may get a fund infusion of up to Rs 20,000 crore over the next fortnight, of which Rs 7,000-Rs 8,000 crore is likely to come from promoters and the rest in part from bank guarantees returned to the telco as part of the recent Government package, The Indian Express has learnt.

The company may opt for a fresh round of fund infusion from investors only after a marginal improvement in its average revenue per user (ARPU), sources said.

The telecom service provider's ARPU in the April-June quarter stood at Rs 104 per user. Telecom companies in the country have been pushing for a floor price on tariffs to ensure their ARPU reaches at least Rs

EXPLAINED Funds key for Vi

VI'S DEBTS exceed Rs 2 lakh crore at present. And the company's survival, and indeed that of a three-player telecom market, hinges on the funds it will be able to raise over the next 18 months.

200 which, they say, is an optimum figure.

Vi has been trying to raise up to Rs 25,000 crore or bring in a strategic partner to steer the company out of the woods. Industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla, who recently stepped

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



TRAIL OF DEVASTATION

A portion of a hill was swept away in a landslide at Koottikkal in Kottayam on Sunday, killing a family of six. The toll so far from heavy rains in Kerala stands at 20. PTI REPORT P9

9 CIVILIANS KILLED IN 2 WEEKS

Killing spree continues in J&K: Two labourers from Bihar shot dead, 1 injured

Police note wants 'all non-local' workers brought to security camps; IGP calls it 'fake'

BASHAARAT MASOOD & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
SRINAGAR, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE STRING of attacks against migrant workers and local residents in the Kashmir Valley continued Sunday with suspected militants gunning down two labourers from Bihar, and injuring a third from the state, in South Kashmir. The latest attack comes a day after unidentified gunmen shot a street vendor from Bihar in Srinagar and a carpenter from UP in Pulwama.

In a tweet on Sunday's attack, J&K police said: "Terrorists fired indiscriminately upon non local labourers at Wanpoh area of Kulgam. In this terror incident, two non-locals were killed and one (was) injured. Police and security forces (have) cordoned off the area."

The attack took place at Ganjipora village, and police sources identified the victims as Raja Reshi and Joginder Reshi, and the injured labourer as Chun Reshi — all of them from Bihar. The injured labourer, who was hit on his arm and back, was rushed to the Government

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the encounter site in Mendhar, Poonch, Sunday. PTI

Encounter in Poonch enters Day 7; three locals held for questioning

ARUN SHARMA & NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
JAMMU, MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

JAMMU AND KASHMIR Police detained three locals including a 45-year-old woman and her son at Bhatta Durian on Sunday, as the security forces operation against militants in the dense forests between Mendhar-Dehra Ki Gali-Thanamandi and Bhimber Gali in the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri entered the seventh day.

The three individuals detained for questioning are suspected to have provided logistics support to the militants who are thought to have come from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) two and a half months ago, sources said.

The woman has been identified as Zarina Akhter, and her son as Shafait, 19.

Militants do not usually get support from the local population in these districts, which are predominantly inhabited by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

China tested n-capable hypersonic missile in August: report

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

CHINA TESTED a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile in August, demonstrating an advanced space capability that caught US intelligence by surprise, the *Financial Times* has reported.

According to the *FT* report, the missile, whose launch was kept a secret by China, circled the globe before cruising towards its target, though missing its mark by around 24 miles.

"Five people familiar with the test said the Chinese military launched a rocket that carried a hypersonic glide vehicle which flew through low-orbit space before cruising down towards its target," the *FT* report said, adding that the test showed that China had made astounding progress on hypersonic weapons and was far more advanced than US officials believed.

Several countries, including US, Russia and China, are developing hypersonic missiles which travel at a speed five times that of sound. Though slower than ballistic missiles, they are harder to intercept and can be manoeuvred.

Though there was no official reaction from the US or Indian government to the report, strategic experts in India say more information is needed before India can be "too worried".

"Missile development is an ongoing process — from subsonic to supersonic to hypersonic. China has developed one, but so many other countries have it. Even India has hypersonic missiles. First you have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



In Rhea, Aryan arrests, NCB relies only on chats

MOHAMED THAYER & SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

THERE ARE clear similarities in the two alleged drug busts by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Mumbai over the past year, involving actor Rhea Chakraborty

and Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan.

In neither case was the central agency able to show any drug seizures on Aryan or Rhea, nor did it carry out blood tests on either of them to determine whether they had consumed drugs.

In both cases, the NCB detained the two suspects, got access to their mobile phones, and

used material stored in the devices, including deleted WhatsApp chats, to arrest them.

The NCB arrested Chakraborty last year only on the basis of WhatsApp chats found on her phone.

This material was given to the NCB by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which was in-

vestigating Chakraborty along with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) following the death by suicide of her boyfriend, actor Sushant Singh Rajput, in June 2020.

The NCB said some chats in Chakraborty's phone were related to procuring narcotics

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Brigadier booked for woman officer's suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, OCTOBER 17

A BRIGADIER-RANK officer has been booked on charges of abetting the suicide of a woman Lieutenant Colonel who was found dead at her official accommodation in the Military Intelligence Training School and Depot (MINTSD) in Pune on October 13.

The 43-year-old woman officer, who had been undergoing training at MINTSD over the last few months, was found hanging from a ceiling fan with a dupatta around her neck. Officials from Wanawadi police station launched a probe after the incident was reported to them by the Army authorities.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-5) Namrata Patil said, "Based on a complaint filed by the husband of the deceased Army officer at Wanawadi police station,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD



BANGLADESH VIOLENCE CONTINUES; TEMPLE VANDALISED
PAGE 13

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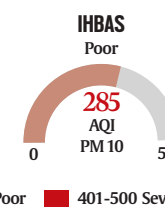
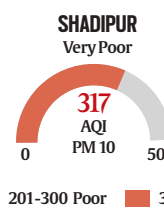
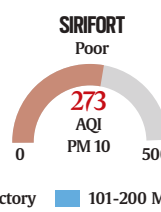
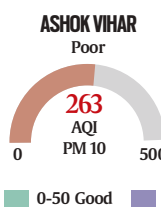
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FORECAST: Oct 18
Generally cloudy sky.
Light to moderate
rain/thundershowers.

MAX: 30
2.4°C below normal

MIN: 21
2.9°C above normal

‘Warding off lizards’, twin brothers fall to death from flat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

TWIN BROTHERS, aged 14, died after allegedly falling from the balcony of their 25th floor flat in Ghaziabad. The incident took place around 1 am on Sunday.

According to police, the victims lived with their family in Prateek Grand Society. “We received information that two boys had fallen from the balcony of a high-rise building in Siddharth Vihar. They were rushed to a hospital but died en route. Prima facie, it appears to be an unfortunate accident... there is no proof of foul play. No complaint has been filed in connection with the incident,” said Yogendra Malik, SHO, Vijay Nagar police station. The bodies will be handed over to the family following a post-mortem, police said.

The family had shifted to the flat a few months ago and were one of the first few residents of the housing society. The two children studied in the same private school and attended tuition together.

On the night of the incident, their father, who works in the

administration department of a private firm, was on a business trip while their mother and 16-year-old sister were home.

Police said around 11.30 pm, the mother went to their room and asked them to sleep, and the children said they would go to bed in a while. Around 1 am, she called out to the brothers and received no response. Minutes later, she heard shouts and screams followed by a commotion. She rushed downstairs with her daughter and found her sons lying in a pool of blood.

In the balcony from where the children fell, a small stool was perched atop a chair. “Parents have told us that they were probably trying to ward off lizards which possibly led to the fall. The matter is under investigation,” said Mahipal Singh, CO First.

Eyewitnesses recalled a large thud followed by screams which alerted security staff. “A few guards on duty suddenly heard a loud thud and saw one of the boys lying in a pool of blood. Merely 3-4 seconds later, the second boy fell. An ambulance was called....,” said one of the guards.



According to police, the victims lived with their family in Siddharth Vihar. *Abhinav Saha*

Gurgaon: Two men fall to death from flyover after their bike crashes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, OCTOBER 17

A COLLEGE student and his friend, both suspected to be in their early 20s, died as they fell from the elevated road of IFFCO Chowk U-turn flyover after their motorcycle lost balance and crashed into the flyover re-wall on Sunday morning.

Police said the victims were tossed in the air upon impact and fell on the surface road beneath from a height of at least 20 feet.

Police said the deceased have been identified as Saiyad ur Rehman, a college student from Leh, and his friend, Mohammad Zaid, who hailed from Mandikhera in Mewat. While Rehman was declared dead on arrival, Zaid died during treatment at a private hospital in Sector 38 on Sunday night, said police.

According to police, the incident took place around 11.30 am, when the victims were about to take a U-turn on the IFFCO Chowk flyover towards the Sukhrli side. Police said they were coming from the Delhi side on a Royal Enfield motorcycle.

A police officer said, “It is suspected that while navigating the U-turn, the motorcycle lost balance and rammed straight into the 2-2.5 feet re-wall. The motorcycle, being heavy, fell near the re-wall, while the occupants were flung from the flyover upon collision.”

A team from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) reached the spot and in-

According to police, the incident took place around 11.30 am, when the victims were about to take a U-turn on the flyover towards Sukhrli

spected the site of the crash.

An NHAI official, requesting anonymity, said, “One of the victims fell on a car and the other fell straight on the road. Both suffered serious injuries on their head, back and several parts of the body. Several commuters and traffic police rushed them to a private hospital nearby.”

Police said they had informed the families of the deceased and they are on their way to Gurgaon. The incident led to traffic congestion for over ten minutes at IFFCO Chowk beneath the flyover. Following the incident, a team from Sector 29 police station rushed to the spot.

“The statement of the families of the victims is yet to be recorded. No case has been registered as of now. The sequence of events is not certain and it is unclear what caused the accident. We will check CCTVs in the area during the probe,” said a police officer, requesting anonymity.

The bodies have been kept in the mortuary for a post-mortem. In 2019, the NHAI had installed grilles on the elevated U-turn in a bid to reduce the number of accidents.



A western disturbance over southern Afghanistan and easterly winds over northwest India have contributed to the prevailing weather conditions over the capital, according to the IMD. *Praveen Khanna*

LIGHT RAINFALL ON FORECAST TODAY

Rain lashes parts of capital, air quality ‘poor’ for 2nd day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

PARTS OF Delhi witnessed rainfall and thundershowers on Sunday, with light rainfall on the forecast for Monday as well. A western disturbance over southern Afghanistan and easterly winds over northwest India have contributed to the prevailing weather conditions over the capital, according to the IMD.

Between 11.30 am and 2.30 pm on Sunday, the IMD’s Safdarjung observatory recorded 15.4 mm of rainfall, while the observatory at the Ridge recorded the highest amount of 19.4 mm within the same time frame. The maximum temperature dipped to 30.4 degrees, 4 notches below normal, while the minimum temperature 23.5 degrees Celsius, 4

notches above normal.

Despite the rain, the city’s air quality index (AQI) remained in the ‘poor’ category for the second consecutive day on Sunday. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) bulletin released at 4 pm said Delhi’s AQI, as a 24-hour average, was 298 — higher than Saturday’s 284. The main pollutant contributing to the air quality on Sunday was PM 2.5. The CPCB categorises AQI between 200 and 300 as ‘poor’.

Pollution levels dipped by Sunday evening, however, falling to figures well within the prescribed standards at most stations, real time air quality data shows. At 7 pm at the Anand Vihar monitoring station for instance, PM 10 levels dropped to 48 µg/m3 down from a high of 346 µg/m3 at 4 am. At Mandir Marg, PM 10 levels fell to 23 µg/m3 at 7 pm from 472 µg/m3

at 4 am. PM2.5 levels at Mandir Marg were nearly zero at 7 pm, as opposed to a figure of 349 µg/m3 at 4 am.

At Anand Vihar, the wind speed also began to pick up after 2 pm, which could have dispersed pollutants. At the Wazirpur station as well, the wind speed peaked at around 2 pm, while PM2.5 levels simultaneously fell from 90 µg/m3 at noon to 16 µg/m3 at 3 pm.

A forecast on Sunday from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) said the AQI is likely to “improve significantly and touch the moderate category” on Monday, mostly due to wind direction being from the eastern side and moderate rainfall. Thereafter, the AQI is likely to degrade to the ‘poor’ category for the following two days, according to the update. Low wind

speed has been inhibiting dispersion of pollutants.

Owing to rainfall and change in wind direction, the contribution of stubble burning to Delhi’s air quality was only 2% on Sunday, compared to 14% on Saturday, the SAFAR forecast said. The ‘effective’ fire count was 815 on Sunday, down from 1,572 active fire counts mentioned in Saturday’s update.

“For the past one month, I have been tweeting data of air quality in Delhi. Pollution has increased in the last 3-4 days, and it is due to stubble burning in neighbouring states. Farmers in neighbouring states are compelled to burn stubble as their governments are doing nothing for them (towards stopping stubble burning),” Kejriwal said in an event organised to lay the foundation stone of a new government hospital in Shalimar Bagh.

At Singhu border, faultlines deepen but Nihangs say will stay put

AMIL BHATNAGAR & PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

FAULTLINES HAVE deepened at the Singhu protest site in the aftermath of a 35-year-old man being brutally lynched, allegedly by a group of Nihang Sikhs, on Thursday night. Even though the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), which has been spearheading the protest ever since farmers first showed up at the border site last November, has sought to distance itself from the Nihangs, with some farm leaders suggesting they should leave, those from the Sikh warriors group say they will stay where they are.

On Saturday, a group of farmers from Haryana sat huddled on chairs and charpais near their tent, set up a few metres from the barricade where the victim’s body was strung up.

“We have nothing to do with the Nihangs. We are here for the farmer movement and that will continue. Our paths have not crossed with them. Technically they are not farmers... but everyone has been welcome here because at the end of the day...,” said Satyawar Singh, who came to Singhu last year on farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni’s call.

Many protesters said the murder has cast a shadow on the

movement, given that farm leaders have always sought to project it as not bound by a single religion.

The SKM was quick to point out that it has no association with the Nihangs or the victim, and said: “We demand that the culprits be punished according to law...”

But the Nihangs seem to be in no mood to back down. On Saturday, they had gathered in front of the makeshift gurdwara for the evening Ardas — not far from the place where the victim was killed.

Their horses and tents are still located right next to security establishments on the Delhi border.

“We respect the Samyukt Kisan Morcha even if they say they have nothing to do with us. We are all fighting in the same battle against the government. This is a bigger fight, and we will protect the interests of farmers at all costs,” said Balvinder Singh, a Nihang leader.

The crowd at the protest had thinned over the last few weeks, but the area appeared considerably more deserted in the last 48 hours.

Many attributed this to the farming season in Punjab and Haryana, and said they expect a stream of protesters to return in the coming month.



The crowd at the protest had thinned over the last few weeks. *Amit Mehra*

Three teens drown while bathing in Yamuna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, OCTOBER 17

THREE TEENAGERS allegedly drowned in the Yamuna in Chhainsa village in Ballabgarh on Friday. Police said the body of one of the teenagers was recovered from a bridge near Mohna village on Saturday, while state disaster response force (SDRF) and police teams continued efforts to find the two remaining bodies.

Police said the incident was reported on Friday when Karan Singh, a resident of Mahipalpur, Delhi, had gone to the Chhainsa village, where the Yamuna passes from, for idol immersion. His two sons, Sumit (17), and Piyush (16), and several family members had accompanied him.

Kuldeep, station house officer (SHO), Chhainsa police station, Faridabad, said, “After the idol immersion, the two teenagers were having a bath in

the river when one of them was swept away by the strong flow. He stepped into a ditch in the river and could not turn back as the current was strong. As he started to drown, his brother tried pulling him back, but he was also swept away. It all happened within a minute.”

Police said a cousin of the teenagers, identified as Anuj, 17, was also having a bath in the river. He noticed his brothers were drowning and jumped in

to save his cousins, but he also drowned.

A police officer, requesting anonymity, said, “For several hours on Friday, police continued to look for their bodies but could not locate them. Professional divers and SDRF teams were called and they were able to recover Sumit’s body on Saturday. At least 4 teams combed an area close to 40 km of the location Sunday to find the two remaining bodies.”

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DETAILED PUBLIC STATEMENT IN TERMS OF REGULATIONS 13(4), 14(3) AND 15(2) OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
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This detailed public statement ("DPS") is being issued by Edelweiss Financial Services Limited, the manager to the Open Offer ("Manager to the Offer" or "Manager"), for and on behalf of the Acquirer and the PACs, to the Public Shareholders (as defined below) pursuant to and in compliance with Regulations 13(4), 14(3) and 15(2) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 and subsequent amendments thereto ("SEBI (SAST) Regulations"), and pursuant to the public announcement dated October 10, 2021 ("PA") filed with the BSE Limited ("BSE"), National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") (collectively, the "Stock Exchanges"), Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"), and the Target Company, in terms of Regulations 3(1) and 4 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.

For the purposes of this DPS, the following terms would have the meaning assigned to them herein below:

"Emerging Voting Capital" shall mean the total voting equity share capital of the Target Company expected as of the 10th (Tenth) working day from the closure of the tendering period for the Offer. This includes 2,93,33,333 Equity Shares to be allotted by the Target Company to the Acquirer in terms of the SSA (as defined below), subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Target Company and other statutory/regulatory approvals.

"Public Shareholders" shall mean all the public shareholders of the Target Company who are eligible to tender their Equity Shares in the Offer, except the Acquirer, the PACs, existing members of the promoter and promoter group of the Target Company and the parties to the underlying SSA (as defined below) and SPA (as defined below) including persons deemed to be acting in concert with such parties to the SSA and SPA, pursuant to and in compliance with the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.

"SEBI Act" shall mean Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and subsequent amendments thereto.

"Seller 1" shall mean Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Private Limited, promoter of the Target Company.

"Seller 2" shall mean Mr. Khurshed Daruvala, promoter of the Target Company.

"Sellers" shall collectively mean Seller 1 and Seller 2, promoters of the Target Company.

"Working Day" has the same meaning as ascribed to it in the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.

I. ACQUIRER, TARGET COMPANY AND OPEN OFFER

1. Details of Reliance New Energy Solar Limited ("Acquirer")

- The Acquirer is an unlisted public company limited by shares. It was incorporated as a public limited company in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013 on June 07, 2021 under its present name. There has been no change in the name of the Acquirer since its incorporation. The CIN of the Acquirer is U36999MH2021PLC361699.
- The registered office of the Acquirer is located at 9th Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021. Tel No.: +91 22 3555 5000.
- The Acquirer is primarily incorporated to engage in the business of constructing, erecting, operating, maintaining and / or assisting in the designing, development, manufacture, commissioning and maintenance of solar photovoltaic equipments, facilities and ancillaries including polysilicon, ingot, wafers, cells and modules in renewables energy with cutting edge technology for supply in India or abroad and developing integrated energy park for manufacturing of power electronic products and other ancillaries used in renewable energy and project implementation.
- The Acquirer belongs to the Reliance Group. It is controlled by and is a wholly owned subsidiary of PAC 1. PAC 2 is also a wholly owned subsidiary of PAC 1.
- Other than the PACs, no person is acting in concert with the Acquirer for the purposes of this Open Offer. While persons may be deemed to be acting in concert with the Acquirer in terms of Regulation 2(1)(q)(2) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations ("Deemed PACs"), however, such Deemed PACs are not acting in concert with the Acquirer for the purposes of this Open Offer, within the meaning of Regulation 2(1)(q)(1) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- The shares of the Acquirer are not listed on any stock exchange in India or abroad.
- As on the date of this DPS, there are no directors representing the Acquirer on the board of the Target Company.
- The Acquirer does not hold any Equity Shares or voting rights in the Target Company as on the date of this DPS. Further, neither the Acquirer nor its directors or key managerial personnel have any relationship with or interest in the Target Company, except for the underlying transactions, as detailed in Part II (Background to the Offer) of this DPS which has triggered the Open Offer.
- The Acquirer is not prohibited by SEBI from dealing in securities pursuant to any directions issued under Section 11B of the SEBI Act or under any other regulations made under the SEBI Act.
- As the Acquirer has been incorporated on June 07, 2021, annual audited financial statements have not been prepared for it as on the date of this DPS. The key financial information of the Acquirer as per the audited financial statements for the period from June 07, 2021 to August 06, 2021 is as set out below:

In Rs. crore, except per share data	
Particulars	For the period from June 07, 2021 to August 06, 2021
Total Revenue	-
Net Income	(3.00)
Basic Earnings per share (Rs.)	(0.07)
Diluted Earnings per share (Rs.)	(0.07)
Net worth	397.01

2. Details of Reliance Industries Limited ("PAC 1")

- PAC 1 is a company limited by shares, and was originally incorporated on May 08, 1973 under the name Mynylon Limited in the State of Karnataka under the Companies Act, 1956. The name was subsequently changed to Reliance Textile Industries Limited on March 1, 1977 and eventually to its present name on June 27, 1985. The CIN of PAC 1 is L17110MH1973PLC019786.
- The registered office of PAC 1 is situated at 3rd Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021. Tel: +91 22 3555 5000.
- PAC 1, the flagship company of the Reliance group is the largest private sector company in terms of market capitalization as on the date of this DPS. PAC 1 has activities span across hydrocarbon exploration and production, petroleum refining and marketing, petrochemicals, retail and telecommunication services.
- The equity shares of PAC 1 (ISIN: INE002A01018) are listed on the BSE and NSE and the global depository receipts ("GDR") are listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and traded on the International Order Book (IOB) of London Stock Exchange.
- The names of the (A) promoter and promoter group, (B) other significant shareholders (public shareholders holding more than 1% of the equity share capital), and (C) other significant shareholders (non-public non-promoter shareholders holding more than 1% of the equity share capital) of PAC 1 as disclosed by it to the stock exchanges under Regulation 31 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as of June 30, 2021 are as follows:

A. Promoter and Promoter Group

Individuals: Mr. Mukesh D Ambani, Ms. Nita M Ambani, Ms. Isha M Ambani, Mr. Akash M Ambani, Mr. Anant M Ambani and Ms. K D Ambani

Body Corporates and Others: Srichakra Commercial LLP, Devarshi Commercial LLP, Karuna Commercial LLP, Tattvam Enterprises LLP, Samarjit Enterprises LLP, Abhayapada Enterprises LLP, Adishesh Enterprises LLP, Ajitesh Enterprises LLP, Badri Commercial LLP, Bhuvanesh Enterprises LLP, Chakradhar Commercial LLP, Chakresh Enterprises LLP, Chhatrabhuj Enterprises LLP, Harinarayan Enterprises LLP, Kankhal Trading LLP, Pavana Enterprises LLP, Pitambar Enterprises LLP, Rishikesh Enterprises LLP, Shripal Enterprises LLP, Taran Enterprises LLP, Triokesh Commercial LLP, Vishatan Enterprises LLP, Reliance Industries Holding Private Ltd, Synergy Synthetics Private Limited, Exotic Officeinfra Private Limited, Carat Holdings and Trading Co Pvt Ltd, Neutron Enterprises Private Limited, Futura Commercial Private Limited, Chakradev Enterprises LLP, Janardan Commercial LLP, Elaskhi Commercial Private Limited, Pinakin Commercial Private Limited, Svar Enterprises LLP, Vasuprada Enterprises LLP, Kamalakr Enterprises LLP, Narahari Enterprises LLP, Shreeji Contrade LLP, Shrikrishna Tradecom LLP, Reliance Industrial Infrastructure Limited, Reliance Welfare Association, Petroleum Trust through Trustees for sole beneficiary Ms Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Ltd, Reliance Services and Holdings Limited a company controlled by Petroleum Trust sole beneficiary of which is Ms Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Limited, Reliance Life Sciences Private Limited, Sikka Ports & Terminals Limited, Jamnagar Utilities and Power Private Limited and EWPL Holdings Private Limited.

(Please note that Reliance Industrial Infrastructure Limited has been reclassified from category of 'Promoter Group' of RIL to 'Public' with effect from October 8, 2021.)

B. Other significant shareholders (public shareholders holding more than 1% of the equity share capital)

SBI Mutual Fund, Europacific Growth Fund, Government of Singapore, Life Insurance Corporation of India

C. Other significant shareholders (non-public non-promoter shareholders holding more than 1% of the equity share capital)

The Bank of New York Mellon (for GDRs)

- As on the date of this DPS, there are no directors representing PAC 1 on the board of the Target Company.
- PAC 1 does not hold any Equity Shares or voting rights in the Target Company as on the date of this DPS. Further, neither PAC 1 nor its directors or key managerial personnel have any relationship with or interest in the Target Company, except for the underlying transactions, as detailed in Part II (Background to the Offer) of this DPS which have triggered the Open Offer.
- PAC 1 is not prohibited by SEBI from dealing in securities pursuant to any directions issued under Section 11B of the SEBI Act or under any other regulations made under the SEBI Act.
- Consolidated unaudited limited review financial information as at and for the three month period ended June 30, 2021 and consolidated audited financial information for each of the three financial years ended March 31, 2021, March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019 of PAC 1 extracted from the relevant financial statements, are as follows:

In Rs. crore, except per share data				
Particulars	For the three-month period ended June 30, 2021 ⁽¹⁾	Financial year ended March 31, 2021 ⁽²⁾	Financial year ended March 31, 2020 ⁽³⁾	Financial year ended March 31, 2019 ⁽³⁾
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
Total Revenues from operations	1,44,372	4,86,326	6,12,437	5,83,094
Profit for the period	13,806	53,739	39,880	39,837
Basic EPS (in Rs.) – After Exceptional Items	18.96	76.37	63.07	66.82
Basic EPS (in Rs.) – Before Exceptional Items	18.96	67.60	70.19	66.82
Diluted EPS (in Rs.) – After Exceptional Items	18.63	75.21	63.06	66.80
Diluted EPS (in Rs.) – Before Exceptional Items	18.63	66.57	70.18	66.80
Net worth	Not available	5,87,999	3,71,570	3,24,646

Notes:
(1) The financial information for the three-month period ended June 30, 2021 has been extracted from

review report of the quarterly unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2021 submitted to stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

(2) The financial information for the financial years ended (a) March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2020 have been extracted from PAC 1's annual report for financial year 2020-2021, and (b) March 31, 2019 have been extracted from PAC 1's annual report for financial year 2019-2020.

3. Details of Reliance Ventures Limited ("PAC 2")

- PAC 2 is an unlisted public company limited by shares. It was incorporated as a private limited company in accordance with the Companies Act, 1956 on July 27, 1999 under the name of Reliance Fertilisers Private Limited. Its name was changed to Reliance Ventures Private Limited and thereafter to its present name, Reliance Ventures Limited, with effect from November 1, 1999. The CIN of PAC 2 is U24120MH1999PLC121009.
- The registered office of PAC 2 is located at 9th Floor, Maker Chambers IV, 222, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021. Tel No.: +91 22 3555 5000.
- PAC 2 is a systemically important non-deposit taking non-banking financial company ("NBFC") registered with the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI").
- PAC 2 belongs to the Reliance Group. It is controlled by and is a wholly owned subsidiary of PAC 1.
- The shares of PAC 2 are not listed on any stock exchange in India or abroad.
- As on the date of this DPS, there are no directors representing PAC 2 on the board of the Target Company.
- PAC 2 does not hold any Equity Shares or voting rights in the Target Company as on the date of this DPS. Further, neither PAC 2 nor its directors or key managerial personnel have any relationship with or interest in the Target Company, except for the underlying transactions, as detailed in Part II (Background to the Offer) of this DPS which have triggered the Open Offer.
- Further PAC 2, as a NBFC, in its ordinary course of business, by way of a separate arrangement, has agreed, pursuant to two facility agreements both dated October 10, 2021 to extend secured loans aggregating Rs. 750 crore (Rs. 410 crore and Rs. 340 crore) to Sterling and Wilson Private Limited, an affiliate of the Sellers. The facilities shall have a tenure of 2 years and will be secured by (i) first ranking pledge over certain Equity Shares of the Target Company held by Ms. Kainaz Daruvala; and (ii) mortgage over certain immovable properties held by Seller 1 and Sterling and Wilson Private Limited. The disbursement of the loans under the aforesaid two facility agreements is subject to completion of acquisition of the Subscription Shares and the Tranche 1 Sale Shares.
- PAC 2 is not prohibited by SEBI from dealing in securities pursuant to any directions issued under Section 11B of the SEBI Act or under any other regulations made under the SEBI Act.
- Standalone unaudited limited review financial information as at and for the three month period ended June 30, 2021 and standalone audited financial information for each of the three financial years ended March 31, 2021, March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019 of PAC 2 extracted from the relevant financial statements, are as follows:

In Rs. crore, except per share data				
Particulars	For the three-month period ended June 30, 2021 ⁽¹⁾	Financial year ended March 31, 2021 ⁽²⁾	Financial year ended March 31, 2020 ⁽³⁾	Financial year ended March 31, 2019 ⁽³⁾
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
Revenue from operations	153	401	232	224
Profit for the year	110	289	152	78
Basic Earnings per share (Rs.)	410.57	1,073.93	566.04	289.45
Diluted Earnings per share (Rs.)	410.57	1,073.93	566.04	289.45
Net worth	Not available	4,217	3,928	3,776

Notes:

(1) The financial information for the three-month period ended June 30, 2021 has been extracted from review report of the quarterly unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2021.

(2) The financial information for the financial years ended (a) March 31, 2021 have been extracted from PAC 2's annual report for financial year 2020-2021, (b) March 31, 2020 have been extracted from PAC 2's annual report for financial year 2019-2020, and (c) March 31, 2019 have been extracted from PAC 2's annual report for financial year 2018-2019.

4. Details of Sellers

- The details of the Sellers are set out below:

Name	Nature of Entity/ Individual	Changes in the names in the past	Registered Office/ Residential Address	Part of promoter/ promoter group of the Target Company	Name of the Group	Name of the stock exchanges where its shares are listed	Shares or voting rights held in the Target Company before entering into the transaction documents ⁽¹⁾
Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Private Limited	Private limited company	Please see Note (2) below	70, Nagindas Master Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 023	Yes	Shapoorji Pallonji Group	NA	8,11,10,790 (50.58%)
Mr. Khurshed Daruvala	Individual	NA	613 / Dinshaw Building, Jume Jamshed Road, Parsi Colony, Dadar (East), Mumbai - 400 014	Yes	NA	NA	1,56,71,390 (3.77%)

Notes:

(1) Pre-transaction shareholding percentage calculated after considering the total number of Equity Shares as on September 30, 2021.

(2) The company was incorporated on January 23, 1943 as Shapoorji Pallonji And Company Private Limited. The name of the company was changed to Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Limited with effect from September 06, 2001. Thereafter, the name of the company was changed back to Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Private Limited with effect from September 03, 2014.

- The Sellers are not prohibited by SEBI from dealing in securities pursuant to any directions issued under Section 11B of the SEBI Act or under any other regulations made under the SEBI Act.

5. Details of Sterling and Wilson Solar Limited ("Target Company")

- The Target Company is a public limited company. It was incorporated as a private limited company in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013 on March 09, 2017 under the name of Rashmika Energy Private Limited. The name of the Target Company was changed to Sterling and Wilson Solar Private Limited on April 24, 2018. Thereafter, the status of the Target Company was changed to a public limited company and its name was subsequently changed to its present name on January 25, 2019. Further, the shareholders of the Target Company at the annual general meeting held on September 30, 2021 have approved change in name of the Target Company from its present name to Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Limited. The Target Company is in the process of making the requisite filings for effecting the name change. The CIN of the Target Company is L74999MH2017PLC292281.
- The registered office of the Target Company is located at 9th Floor, Universal Majestic, P.L. Lokhande Marg, Chembur (West), Mumbai - 400 043. Tel No.: +91 22 2548 5300; E-mail: info@sterlingwilson.com.
- The Target Company is an end-to-end solar engineering, procurement, construction solutions provider, and provides services primarily for utility-scale solar power projects. The Target Company also provides operations and maintenance services, including for projects constructed by third parties. The Target Company has operations in India, Southeast Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Australia. The Target Company has recently also expanded its renewable energy offerings to include hybrid energy power plants, energy storage solutions and waste to energy.
- The Equity Shares are listed on BSE (Security ID: SWSOLAR, Security Code: 542760) and NSE (Symbol: SWSOLAR). The ISIN of Equity Shares is INE00M201021.
- The Equity Shares are frequently traded on BSE and NSE for the purposes of Regulation 2(1)(j) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations (Further details provided in Part IV below (Offer Price)).
- As on date of this DPS, the total authorized share capital of the Target Company is Rs. 60,00,00,000 comprising of: (a) 50,00,00,000 Equity Shares each having face value of Re. 1/-; and (b) 10,00,00,000 preference shares each having a face value of Rs. 100/-. The total issued, subscribed and paid-up capital of the Target Company is Rs. 16,03,60,000 comprising of 16,03,60,000 Equity Shares each having face value of Re. 1/-. The Target Company does not have any partly paid-up shares.
- The key financial information of the Target Company as extracted from its respective audited consolidated financial statements as of and for the financial years ended on March 31, 2021, March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019, and for the three month period ended June 30, 2021 is as set out below:

In Rs. crore, except per share data				
Particulars	For the three-month period ended June 30, 2021 ⁽¹⁾	Financial year ended March 31, 2021 ⁽²⁾	Financial year ended March 31, 2020 ⁽³⁾	Financial year ended March 31, 2019 ⁽³⁾
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
Total Revenue from operations	1,194.63	5,080.80	5,575.29	8,240.41
Profit for the period	(76.02)	(290.04)	304.27	638.23
Basic Earnings per share (Rs.)	(4.75)	(17.80)	19.33	39.85
Diluted Earnings per share (Rs.)	(4.75)	(17.80)	19.33	39.85
Net worth / Shareholders funds	Not available	661.88	1,080.96	841.01

Notes:

(1) The financial information for the three-month period ended June 30, 2021 has been extracted from review report of the quarterly unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2021 submitted to stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

(2) The financial information for the financial years ended (a) March 31, 2021 have been extracted from Target Company's annual report for financial year 2020-2021, and (b) March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019 have been extracted from Target Company's annual report for financial year 2019-2020.

6. Details of the Open Offer

- The board of directors of the Target Company, at its meeting held on October 10, 2021, subject to *inter alia* receipt of approval from the shareholders of the Target Company, fulfillment of certain conditions precedent and receipt of other statutory/regulatory approval, as may be required, approved the issuance and allotment of 2,93,33,333 Equity Shares ("Subscription Shares"), representing 15.46% of the Emerging Voting Capital by way of a preferential issue on a private placement basis, to the Acquirer at a price of Rs. 375.00 per Subscription Share aggregating to Rs. 10,99,99,99,875 ("Subscription Amount"), to be paid in cash ("Preferential Issue") in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules framed thereunder and Chapter V of the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018 ("SEBI(ICDR) Regulations") and any other applicable law for the time being in force. In relation to said Preferential Issue, on October 10, 2021, the Acquirer, the Target Company and the Sellers, entered into a share subscription agreement ("SSA"), under which the Target Company will, subject to *inter alia* receipt of shareholders' approval and receipt of other statutory/regulatory approval, as may be required, and fulfillment of certain other conditions precedent (unless waived by the Acquirer) issue and allot the Subscription Shares to the Acquirer.

- A share purchase agreement dated October 10, 2021 was entered into between the Acquirer and the Sellers ("SPA") whereby the Acquirer has agreed to acquire from the Sellers, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions precedent (unless waived by the Acquirer) and receipt of other statutory/regulatory approvals, as may be required, 1,84,00,000 Equity Shares ("Tranche 1 Sale Shares") and additionally such number of Equity Shares ("Remaining Sale Shares"), to ensure that the Acquirer holds 40.00% shareholding in the Emerging Voting Capital of the Target

Company after considering the Subscription Shares, the Tranche 1 Sale Shares and the Equity Shares acquired in the Open Offer, at a price of Rs. 375.00 per Sale Share, subject to and in accordance with the terms of the SPA. The Tranche 1 Sale Shares and the Remaining Sale Shares are together referred to as "Sale Shares". Assuming no Equity Shares are tendered in the Open Offer, the Acquirer may acquire a maximum of 4,65,44,001 Sale Shares representing 24.54% of the Emerging Voting Capital.

- The Acquirer shall be classified as a promoter of the Target Company along with the existing promoter and promoter group of the Target Company, on the consummation of the SSA and in accordance with SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- The Open Offer is being made to the Public Shareholders in accordance with Regulations 3(1) and 4 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations pursuant to the execution of the SSA and SPA. Please refer to Part II (Background to the Open Offer) for further information on SSA and SPA. The PA announcing the Open Offer, under Regulations 3(1) and 4 read with Regulations 13(1) and 14(1) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, was sent to the Stock Exchanges on October 10, 2021.
- The Acquirer and the PACs are making this Open Offer to acquire up to 4,91,37,420 Equity Shares ("Offer Shares"), representing the entire public shareholding constituting 25.90% of the Emerging Voting Capital ("Offer Size") at an offer price of Rs. 375.00 per Offer Share (the "Offer Price"), aggregating to a total consideration of Rs. 18,42,65,32,500 (assuming full acceptance) ("Offer Consideration").
- This Open Offer is not a competing offer in terms of Regulation 20 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- This Open Offer is not conditional upon any minimum level of acceptance in terms of Regulation 19(1) of SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- As of the date of this DPS, the Emerging Voting Capital is as follows:

Particulars	Number of shares	% of Emerging Voting Capital
Fully paid up Equity Shares as on date	16,03,60,000	84.54%
Partly paid up Equity Shares as of (date of undertaking)	Nil	Nil
Equity shares proposed to be allotted pursuant to the preferential issue approved by the board of the Target Company on October 10, 2021 (subject to receipt of requisite statutory/regulatory approvals and shareholder approval)	2,93,33,333	15.46%
Employee stock options ("ESOPs") vested or which shall vest prior to January 31, 2022	Nil	Nil
Warrants/ convertible instruments convertible into equity share(s)	Nil	Nil
Emerging Voting Capital	18,96,93,333	100.00%

- As on the date of this DPS, there are no: (a) partly paid Equity Shares; and (b) outstanding instruments in the nature of warrants or fully convertible debentures or partly convertible debentures/ preference shares issued by the Target Company, apart from ESOPs.
- The Offer Price will be paid in cash, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 9(1)(a) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- To the best of the knowledge of the Acquirer and the PACs, there are no statutory or other approvals required to complete the underlying transactions contemplated under the SSA and SPA or to complete this Open Offer, other than as indicated in Part VI (Statutory and Other Approvals) below.
- Where any statutory or other approval extends to some but not all of the Public Shareholders, the Acquirer and the PACs shall have the option to make payment to such Public Shareholders in respect of whom no statutory or other approvals are required in order to complete this Open Offer.
- In terms of Regulation 23 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, in the event that, for reasons outside the reasonable control of the Acquirer and the PACs, the approvals specified in this DPS as set out in Part VI (Statutory and Other Approvals) below or those which become applicable prior to completion of the Open Offer are not received, then the Acquirer and the PACs shall have the right to withdraw the Open Offer. In the event of such a withdrawal of the Open Offer, the Acquirer and the PACs (through the Manager) shall, within 2 Working Days of such withdrawal, make an announcement of such withdrawal stating the grounds for the withdrawal in accordance with Regulation 23(2) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.

- The Offer Shares will be acquired by the Acquirer fully paid-up, free from all liens, charges and encumbrances and together with all the rights attached thereto, and the tendering Public Shareholders shall have obtained all necessary consents required by them to sell the Equity Shares on the foregoing basis.
- All the Equity Shares validly tendered by the Public Shareholders in this Open Offer will be acquired by the Acquirer in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this DPS, and those which will be set out in the letter of offer to be sent to all Public Shareholders in relation to this Offer ("Letter of Offer").
- Subsequent to the completion of the Open Offer, the Acquirer reserves the right, in consultation with the board of directors of the Target Company, to streamline/ restructure the operations, assets, liabilities and/ or businesses of the Target Company and/ or any of its subsidiaries through arrangement/ reconstruction, restructuring, merger, demerger and/ or sale of assets or undertakings, at a later date. Further, in terms of Regulation 25(2) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, the Acquirer, in consultation with the board of directors of the Target Company, and based on the requirements of the business of the Target Company and/ or its subsidiary(ies), and in accordance with applicable laws, may consider disposal of or creating encumbrance over any assets or investments of the Target Company and/ or any of its subsidiaries, through sale, lease, reconstruction, restructuring and/ or re-negotiation or termination of existing contractual/ operating arrangements, for restructuring and/ or rationalising the assets, investments or liabilities of the Target Company and/ or any of its subsidiaries, to improve operational efficiencies and for other commercial reasons.

- As per Regulation 38A of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations, 2015, as amended ("SEBI (LODR) Regulations") read with Rules 19(2) and 19A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("SCRR"), the Target Company is required to maintain at least 25.00% public shareholding as determined in accordance with SCRR, on a continuous basis for listing. However, pursuant to completion of this Open Offer and the underlying transactions contemplated in the SSA and SPA, the public shareholding in the Target Company may fall below the minimum public shareholding ("MPS") requirement as per Rule 19A of SCRR read with SEBI (LODR) Regulations. In such an event, in terms of the SPA, (a) the Acquirer would undertake a sale of such number of Equity Shares of the Target Company to ensure compliance with the MPS requirement subject to the shareholding of the Acquirer in the Target Company post such sale of Equity Shares not falling below 40.00% of the Emerging Voting Capital, and (b) if further sell down is required for meeting the MPS requirements, the Sellers and their affiliates shall ensure to effect a sale of the balance number of Equity Shares to ensure that the Target Company meets the MPS requirements, within the timeframe specified for such compliance.

- The Manager does not hold any Equity Shares in the Target Company as on the date of this DPS. The Manager to the Open Offer further declares and undertakes not to deal on its account in the Equity Shares during the Open Offer period.

II. BACKGROUND TO THE OPEN OFFER

- The Acquirer, the Target Company and the Sellers, have entered into the SSA pursuant to which the Target Company will, subject to *inter alia* receipt of shareholders' approval and receipt of other statutory/regulatory approval, as may be required, and fulfillment of certain other conditions precedent (unless waived by the Acquirer) issue and allot 2,93,33,333 Equity Shares (i.e. Subscription Shares) (representing 15.46% of the Emerging Voting Capital) to the Acquirer at a price of Rs. 375.00 per Subscription Share. Further, the Acquirer and the Sellers have entered into the SPA pursuant to which the Acquirer has agreed to acquire from the Sellers, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions precedent (unless waived by the Acquirer), 1,84,00,000 Equity Shares (i.e. Tranche 1 Sale Shares) and additionally such number of Equity Shares (i.e. Remaining Sale Shares), as may be required, to ensure that the Acquirer holds 40.00% shareholding in the Emerging Voting Capital of the Target Company after considering the Subscription Shares, the Tranche 1 Sale Shares and the Equity Shares acquired in the Open Offer, at a price of Rs. 375.00 per Sale Share.
 - As a consequence of the execution of SSA and the SPA, this Open Offer is a mandatory offer being made by the Acquirer and the PACs in compliance with Regulations 3(1) and 4 of SEBI (SAST) Regulations. The Offer Price will be payable in cash by the Acquirer in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 9(1)(a) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
 - Salient features of the SSA and the SPA are set out below:
- Salient Features of the SSA**
 - The obligation of the Acquirer to subscribe to the Subscription Shares is conditional upon Target Company and the Sellers fulfilling each of the conditions precedent as set out in the SSA to the satisfaction of the Acquirer (unless waived or deferred by the Acquirer) prior to the Completion Date (as defined in the SSA), which include among others, the following key conditions:
 - receipt

Shalimar Bagh to get 1,430-bed govt hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE FOUNDATION stone of a 1,430-bed Delhi government hospital was laid at Shalimar Bagh by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday. The hospital is being constructed at a cost of Rs 275 crore and is likely to be ready in six months, according to a communication from the government. Seven such hospitals, with a total capacity of 6,800 beds, are being constructed by the government. The government is targeting com-



CM Arvind Kejriwal laid the foundation stone

pletion of all seven in six months. All beds at the Shalimar Bagh hospital can be used as ICU beds. The hospital will have two operation theatre complexes. Kejriwal said the govern-

ment is taking necessary steps in view of a possible third Covid wave: "In April, when the second wave came, hospitals had shortage of oxygen and ICU beds... I think it will probably be a world record that within six months, seven hospitals will be ready." He added: "We are going to implement the Health Information Management System. Within the next year and a half, every citizen of Delhi will have a health card... People will stop seeing long lines at hospitals. Whoever has a health card, his entire treatment will be free."

AIIMS students' body apologises after Ramayana skit on campus stirs row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE AIIMS Students' Association issued an apology on Sunday afternoon after video clips circulated on social media showing a Ramleela skit, which was performed by MBBS students from the institute, was criticised for "mocking" the Ramayana. On the occasion of Dussehra,

a group of MBBS students had performed the skit at the AIIMS hostel premises. The video clips show that the students were performing scenes from the Ramayana in the form of a slapstick comedy. Subsequently, video clips from the performance have been circulating on social media with several people – and also the Twitter handle of RSS publication Organiser – alleging that the performance "mocks"

and "insults" the Ramayana. "A video clip of a Ramleela skit done by some students of AIIMS has been circulating on social media. On behalf of the students, we apologise for the conduct of the skit which was not meant to hurt anyone's sentiments. We will ensure that no such activity takes place in the future," said the AIIMS Students' Association in a statement. A first-year student, who said

that he was part of the skit, has also put out a video in which he stated, "We had done it out of childishness but when we saw the video, we ourselves felt very ashamed. I and all of us want to apologise and promise that something like this will never happen again." He went on to add, "AIIMS is not Hindu phobic. We celebrate all Hindu festivals here... Most of us here are Hindus."

...continued from previous page

- f. Transactions entered into by the Target Group Entities (as defined in the SSA) with their respective Related Parties (as defined in the SSA) or the Related Parties of the Sellers, shall be conducted in the Ordinary Course of Business (as defined in the SSA). Post Completion (as defined in the SSA), the Acquirer shall have the right, at its sole and absolute discretion, to require the Target Group Entities to terminate or re-negotiate the aforesaid transactions.
- g. The Acquirer and the Target Company have agreed that the Acquirer shall, subject to mutually acceptable terms and conditions, give preference to the Target Company for appointment as the engineering, procurement and construction contractor / service provider in relation to the Acquirer's captive renewable energy projects.
- h. The Sellers have agreed and undertaken to ensure that till such time that the Target Group Entities (as defined in the SSA) require, the Target Group Entities shall be entitled to a licence to use all the logos and brands owned by Sterling and Wilson Private Limited, for the purposes of the Target Group Entities' respective businesses, without payment of any consideration, in accordance with the terms of the framework agreement dated October 11, 2018 between Sterling and Wilson Private Limited and the Target Company.
- i. The SSA may be terminated by the Acquirer on occurrence of certain events which *inter alia* include:
 - (i) if any of the Company Conditions Precedent specified in the SSA (including those mentioned in paragraph 3.1 (a) above), have not been fulfilled on or prior to the time prescribed under the SEBI (ICDR) Regulations for completing the Preferential Issue, or if in the opinion of the Acquirer, a Material Adverse Effect (as defined under the SSA) has occurred which has not been cured (if curable) within 15 business days of the occurrence of the Material Adverse Effect;
 - (ii) if Completion (as defined in the SSA) has not occurred on or prior to the time prescribed under the SEBI (ICDR) Regulations for completing the Preferential Issue; and
 - (iii) if the SPA is terminated prior to Completion (as defined in the SSA) in accordance with its terms.

3.2. Salient Features of the SPA

- a. The obligation of the Acquirer to purchase the Tranche 1 Sale Shares is conditional upon the Sellers fulfilling each of the conditions precedent as set out in the SPA to the satisfaction of the Acquirer (unless waived or deferred by the Acquirer) prior to the Tranche 1 Completion Date (as defined in the SPA), which include among others, the following key conditions:
 - (i) receipt of Consents (as defined in the SPA) and Approvals (as defined in the SPA) required to be obtained by the Target Company and Sellers;
 - (ii) the Seller Fundamental Warranties (as defined in the SPA) being true and correct in all material respects on the Agreement Date (as defined in the SPA) and continuing to be true and correct in all material respects and not misleading in any respect, as on the Tranche 1 Completion Date (as defined in the SPA);
 - (iii) no Material Adverse Effect (as defined in the SPA) having occurred;
 - (iv) each Seller having obtained and delivered to the Acquirer a no-objection certificate from the relevant Tax Authority (as defined in the SPA) under Section 281 of the (Indian) Income Tax Act, 1961 in respect of the transfer of the Sale Shares;
 - (v) satisfaction (or modification and satisfaction) or waiver of all the conditions precedent for completion under the SSA.
- b. The obligation of the parties to proceed to Tranche 1 Completion (as defined in the SPA), and to complete the sale of the Tranche 1 Sale Shares, is conditional upon, and subject to the Acquirer having made an application for, and having received, the CCI Approval without imposing any conditions (a) which may adversely impact the transactions contemplated under the SPA and/or the non-compete obligations on the parties to the SPA, or (b) which adversely affect the Acquirer or the Sellers in relation to the manner in which they conduct their respective businesses.
- c. Until the Tranche 1 Completion Date (as defined in the SPA), the Sellers are subject to customary standstill covenants. The SPA contains *inter alia* provisions in relation to certain representations, warranties and indemnities provided by the Sellers to the Acquirer.
- d. In terms of the SPA, the Acquirer will acquire the Tranche 1 Sale Shares from Seller 1, simultaneously with the completion under the SSA but in no event later than 5 business days of completion of the transactions contemplated under the SSA. Additionally, within 5 business days of the expiry of the Offer Period, or in any case on or prior to the Tranche 2 Long Stop Date (as defined in the SPA), the Acquirer will acquire such number of the Remaining Sale Shares from the Sellers (in a proportion which would be intimated by the Sellers to the Acquirer at least 5 business days prior to the Tranche 2 Completion Date (as defined in the SPA)), as may be required to ensure that the Acquirer holds 40.00% shareholding in the Emerging Voting Capital of the Target Company after acquiring the Subscription Shares, the Tranche 1 Sale Shares and the Equity Shares acquired in the Open Offer. The Sale Shares to be acquired by the Acquirer shall be free and clear from any and all encumbrances (except continuation of any lock-in obligations pursuant to SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018).
- e. The Sellers have agreed to certain non-compete and non-solicit obligations set out in the SPA. It is clarified that no separate consideration is payable for undertaking such obligations by the Sellers.
- f. The SPA may be terminated by the Acquirer on occurrence of certain events which *inter alia* include:
 - (i) if any of the conditions precedent specified in the SPA (including those mentioned in paragraph 3.2 (a) above) have not been fulfilled to the sole and absolute satisfaction of the Acquirer, acting reasonably and good faith, on or prior to the Tranche 1 Long Stop Date (as defined in the SPA);
 - (ii) if the sale of Tranche 1 Sale Shares has not occurred by the Tranche 1 Long Stop Date (as defined in the SPA); and
 - (iii) if the SSA is terminated in accordance with its terms.
- 4. The prime objective of the Acquirer for the acquisition of Equity Shares is to have substantial holding of Equity Shares and voting rights of the Target Company. Following the completion of the underlying transactions as detailed in Part II (*Background to the Offer*) of this DPS and the Open Offer, the Acquirer intends to support the management of the Target Company in their efforts towards the sustained growth of the Target Company and expand the Target Company's existing engineering, procurement, construction solutions provider (EPC) and operations and maintenance (O&M) businesses, both in India and globally.

III. SHAREHOLDING AND ACQUISITION DETAILS

- 1. The current and proposed shareholding of the Acquirer and PACs in the Target Company and the details of the acquisition are as follows:

Particulars	Acquirer		PAC 1		PAC 2	
	No. of Equity Shares	Percentage (%) ⁽¹⁾	No. of Equity Shares	Percentage (%) ⁽¹⁾	No. of Equity Shares	Percentage (%) ⁽¹⁾
Shareholding as on the PA date	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Equity Shares acquired between the date of the PA and the date of this DPS	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Post offer shareholding (assuming nil acceptance of the Open Offer)	7,58,77,334 ⁽²⁾	40.00% ⁽²⁾	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Post offer shareholding (assuming full acceptance of the Open Offer)	9,68,70,753 ⁽³⁾	51.07% ⁽³⁾	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Notes:

- (1) As a percentage of the Emerging Voting Capital.
 - (2) Computed assuming nil acceptance in the Open Offer from Public Shareholders and, accordingly, considers the acquisition of the Subscription Shares and the entire Sale Shares. In terms of the SPA, the Acquirer will acquire the Tranche 1 Sale Shares and additionally acquire such number of the Remaining Sale Shares as may be required to ensure that the Acquirer holds 40.00% shareholding in the Emerging Voting Capital of the Target Company after considering the Subscription Shares, the Tranche 1 Sale Shares and the Equity Shares acquired in the Open Offer.
 - (3) Computed assuming full acceptance in the Open Offer and, accordingly, considers the acquisition of only the Subscription Shares and the Tranche 1 Sale Shares. Further in terms of the SPA, in the event pursuant to the Open Offer, the public shareholding in the Target Company falls below the MPS requirement, then the Acquirer would undertake a sale of such number of Equity Shares of the Target Company to ensure compliance with the MPS requirement subject to the shareholding of the Acquirer in the Target Company post such sale of Equity Shares not falling below 40.00% of the Emerging Voting Capital. If further sell down is required for meeting the MPS requirements, the Sellers and their affiliates shall ensure to effect a sale of the balance number of Equity Shares to ensure that the Target Company meets the MPS requirements, within the timeframe specified for such compliance.
- 2. As on the date of this DPS, neither the Acquirer, the PACs, nor their directors or key managerial personnel hold any Equity Shares of the Target Company.

IV. OFFER PRICE

- 1. The Equity Shares are listed on BSE (Security ID: SWSOLAR, Security Code: 542760) and NSE (Symbol: SWSOLAR). The ISIN of Equity Shares is INE00M201021.
- 2. The trading turnover of the Equity Shares, on the Stock Exchanges during the 12 calendar months preceding the calendar month in which the public announcement was required to be made, i.e., from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 ("Twelve Months Period"), is as set out below:

Stock Exchange	Traded turnover of equity shares of the Target Company during the Twelve Months Period ("A")	Weighted average number of Equity Share during the Twelve Months Period	Traded turnover % (A/B)
BSE	4,75,28,712	16,03,60,000	29.6%
NSE	37,28,56,638	16,03,60,000	232.5%

(Source: Certificate dated October 10, 2021 issued by Chaturvedi & Shah, LLP, Chartered Accountants (FRN: 101720W/100355) (Sandesh Latha, Partner, membership no.: 047841))

- 3. Based on the above, the Equity Shares of the Target Company are frequently traded on BSE and NSE in accordance with Regulation 2(1)(g) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- 4. The Offer Price of Rs. 375.00 per Equity Share has been determined in terms of Regulations 8(1) and 8(2) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, being the highest of the following:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Rs. per Equity Share
A	The highest negotiated price per share of the Target Company for any acquisition under the agreement attracting the obligation to make a public announcement of an open offer a) Price under SPA: 375.00 b) Price under SSA: 375.00	375.00
B	The volume-weighted average price paid or payable for acquisitions, whether by the Acquirer or by any person acting in concert with him, during the fifty-two weeks immediately preceding the date of the PA	NA
C	The highest price paid or payable for any acquisition, whether by the Acquirer or by any person acting in concert with him, during the twenty-six weeks immediately preceding the date of the PA	NA
D	The volume-weighted average market price of such shares for a period of sixty trading days immediately preceding the date of the public announcement as traded on NSE, being the stock exchange where the maximum volume of trading in the shares of the Target Company are recorded during such period, provided such shares are frequently traded	346.69
E	Where the shares are not frequently traded, the price determined by the Acquirer and the Manager to the Open Offer taking into account valuation parameters including, book value, comparable trading multiples, and such other parameters as are customary for valuation of shares of such companies	NA ⁽¹⁾
F	The per share value computed under sub-regulation (5), if applicable	NA ⁽²⁾

(Source: Certificate dated October 10, 2021 issued by Chaturvedi & Shah, LLP, Chartered Accountants (FRN: 101720W/100355) (Sandesh Latha, Partner, membership no.: 047841))

Notes:

- (1) Not applicable as the Equity Shares are frequently traded.
- (2) Not applicable since the acquisition is not an indirect acquisition.
- 5. In view of the parameters considered and presented in the aforesaid table, the minimum offer price per Equity Share under Regulation 8(2) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations is the highest of item numbers A to F above i.e., Rs. 375.00 per Equity Share. Accordingly, the Offer Price is justified in terms of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- 6. The Offer Price may be adjusted in the event of any corporate actions like bonus, rights issue, stock split, consolidation, dividend, demergers, and reduction etc. where the record date for effecting such corporate actions falls between the date of this DPS up to 3 Working Days prior to the commencement of the tendering period of the Offer, in accordance with Regulation 8(9) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- 7. In the event of any acquisition of Equity Shares by the Acquirer or the PACs during the Offer period, at a price higher than the Offer Price, then the Offer Price will be revised upwards to be equal to the highest price paid for such acquisition in terms of Regulation 8(8) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. However, the Acquirer and/ or the PACs shall not acquire any Equity Shares after the 3rd Working Day prior to the commencement of the tendering period of this Offer and until the expiry of the tendering period of this Offer.
- 8. As on the date of this DPS, there is no revision in the Offer Price or Offer Size. An upward revision to the Offer Price or to the Offer Size, if any, on account of competing offers or otherwise, may also be done at any time prior to the commencement of the last 1 Working Day before the commencement of the tendering period of this Offer in accordance with Regulation 18(4) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. Such revision would be done in compliance with other formalities prescribed under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. In the event of such revision, the Acquirer and the PACs shall: (i) make corresponding increase to the escrow amount; (ii) make an announcement in the same newspapers in which this DPS has been published; and (iii) simultaneously notify the Stock Exchanges, the SEBI and the Target Company at its registered office of such revision.
- 9. If the Acquirer and/ or the PACs acquires Equity Shares during the period of 26 weeks after the tendering period at a price higher than the Offer Price, then the Acquirer shall pay the difference between the highest acquisition price and the Offer Price, to all shareholders whose shares have been accepted in the Open Offer within 60 days from the date of such acquisition. However, no such difference shall be paid in the event that such acquisition is made under another open offer under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, or pursuant to the SEBI (Delisting of Equity Shares) Regulations, 2021, or open market purchases made in the ordinary course on the stock exchanges, not being negotiated acquisition of shares of the Target Company in any form.

VI. STATUTORY AND OTHER APPROVALS

- 1. To the best of the knowledge of the Acquirer and the PACs, there are no statutory or other approvals required to complete the Open Offer as on the date of this DPS, except for the approval from the Competition Commission of India (or such approval being deemed to have been granted) in accordance with the Indian Competition Act, 2002 ("Statutory Approval"). If, however, any statutory or other approval becomes applicable prior to completion of such acquisitions, the Open Offer would also be subject to such other statutory or other approval(s) being obtained.
- 2. In terms of Regulation 23 of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, in the event that the approvals specified in this DPS as set out in Part VI (*Statutory and Other Approvals*) above or those which become applicable prior to completion of the Open Offer are not received, for reasons outside the reasonable control of the Acquirer and the PACs, then the Acquirer and the PACs shall have the right to withdraw the Open Offer. In the event of such a withdrawal of the Open Offer, the Acquirer and the PACs (through the Manager) shall, within 2 Working Days of such withdrawal, make an announcement of such withdrawal stating the grounds for the withdrawal in accordance with Regulation 23(2) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.
- 3. Non-resident Indians ("NRIs"), erstwhile overseas corporate bodies ("OCBs") and other non-resident holders of the Equity Shares, if any, must obtain all requisite approvals/exemptions required (including without limitation, the approval from the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI")), if any, to tender the Equity Shares held by them in this Offer and submit such approvals/exemptions along with the documents required to accept this Offer. Further, if the Public Shareholders who are not persons resident in India (including NRIs, OCBs, foreign institutional investors ("FIIs") and foreign portfolio investors ("FPIs")) had required any approvals (including from the RBI or any other regulatory authority/ body) at the time of the original investment in respect of the Equity Shares held by them currently, they will be required to submit copies of such previous approvals that they would have obtained for acquiring/holding the Equity Shares, along with the other documents required to be tendered to accept this Offer. If the aforementioned documents are not submitted, the Acquirer reserves the right to reject such Equity Shares tendered in this Offer.
- 4. Public Shareholders classified as OCBs, if any, may tender the Equity Shares held by them in the Open Offer pursuant to receipt of approval from the RBI under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 and the regulations made thereunder. Such OCBs shall approach the RBI independently to seek approval to tender the Equity Shares held by them in the Open Offer.
- 5. Subject to the receipt of the statutory and other approvals, if any, the Acquirer shall complete payment of consideration within 10 Working Days from the closure of the tendering period to those Public Shareholders whose documents are found valid and in order and are approved for acquisition by the Acquirer.
- 6. Where any statutory or other approval extends to some but not all of the Public Shareholders, the Acquirer shall have the option to make payment to such Public Shareholders in respect of whom no statutory or other approvals are required in order to complete this Open Offer.
- 7. In case of delay/ non-receipt of any statutory and other approvals referred to in this Part VI, as per Regulation 18(11) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations, SEBI may, if satisfied, that the non-receipt of the requisite statutory approval(s) was not attributable to any willful default, failure or neglect on the part of the Acquirer and the PACs to diligently pursue such approval(s), grant an extension of time for the purpose of completion of this Open Offer, subject to such terms and conditions as may be specified by SEBI, including payment of interest by the Acquirer to the Public Shareholders at such rate, as may be prescribed by SEBI from time to time, in accordance with Regulations 18(11) and 18(11A) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.

VII. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

No.	Activity	Schedule of activities (Day and Date)*
1.	Date of PA	Sunday, October 10, 2021
2.	Date of publication of this DPS	Monday, October 18, 2021
3.	Last date for filing of the draft letter of offer with SEBI	Tuesday, October 26, 2021
4.	Last date for public announcement for competing offer(s)	Thursday, November 11, 2021
5.	Last date for receipt of SEBI observations on the draft letter of offer (in the event SEBI has not sought clarifications or additional information from the Manager)	Thursday, November 18, 2021
6.	Identified Date#	Tuesday, November 23, 2021
7.	Last date by which the Letter of Offer is to be dispatched to the Public Shareholders whose names appear on the register of members on the Identified Date	Tuesday, November 30, 2021
8.	Last date for upward revision of the Offer Price and/or Offer Size	Monday, December 06, 2021
9.	Last date by which the committee of the independent directors of the Target Company is required to give its recommendation to the Public Shareholders for this Open Offer	Friday, December 03, 2021
10.	Date of publication of opening of Open Offer public announcement in the newspapers in which this DPS has been published	Monday, December 06, 2021
11.	Date of commencement of the tendering period ("Offer Opening Date")	Tuesday, December 07, 2021
12.	Date of closure of the tendering period ("Offer Closing Date")	Tuesday, December 21, 2021
13.	Last date of communicating the rejection/ acceptance and completion of payment of consideration or refund of Equity Shares to the Public Shareholders	Tuesday, January 4, 2022
14.	Last date for publication of post-Open Offer public announcement in the newspapers in which this DPS has been published	Tuesday, January 11, 2022

*The above timelines are indicative (prepared on the basis of timelines provided under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations) and are subject to receipt of statutory/ regulatory approvals and may have to be revised accordingly. To clarify, the actions set out above may be completed prior to their corresponding dates subject to compliance with the SEBI (SAST) Regulations.

Identified Date is only for the purpose of determining the names of the Public Shareholders to whom the LOF would be sent. It is clarified that all the Public Shareholders (even if they acquire Equity Shares and become shareholders of the Target Company after the Identified Date) are eligible to participate in the Open Offer.

VIII. PROCEDURE FOR TENDERING THE EQUITY SHARES IN CASE OF NON-RECEIPT OF LETTER OF OFFER

- 1. All the Public Shareholders, holding Equity Shares are eligible to participate in this Open Offer at any time during the period from Offer Opening Date and Offer Closing Date ("Tendering Period") for this Open Offer.
- 2. Persons who have acquired Equity Shares but whose names do not appear in the register of members of the Target Company on the Identified Date i.e., the date falling on the 10th (tenth) Working Day prior to the commencement of Tendering Period, or unregistered owners or those who have acquired Equity Shares after the Identified Date, or those who have not received the Letter of Offer, may also participate in this Open Offer. Accidental omission to send the Letter of Offer to any person to whom the Offer is made or the non-receipt or delayed receipt of the Letter of Offer by any such person will not invalidate the Offer in any way.
- 3. The Public Shareholders may also download the Letter of Offer from the SEBI's website (www.sebi.gov.in) or obtain a copy of the same from the Registrar to the Offer (detailed at Part IX (*Other Information*)) of this DPS) on providing suitable documentary evidence of holding of the Equity Shares and their folio number, DP identity-client identity, current address and contact details.
- 4. The Open Offer will be implemented by the Acquirer through stock exchange mechanism made available by BSE in the form of separate window ("Acquisition Window") as provided under the SEBI (SAST) Regulations and SEBI circular CIR/CFD/POLICYCELL/1/2015 dated April 13, 2015, SEBI circular CFD/DCR2/CIR/P/2016/131 dated December 09, 2016 and SEBI circular SEBI/HO/CFD/DCR-III/CIR/P/2021/615 dated August 13, 2021.
- 5. BSE shall be the designated stock exchange for the purpose of tendering Equity Shares in the Open Offer.
- 6. The Acquirer has appointed Edelweiss Securities Limited ("Buying Broker") as its broker for the Open Offer through whom the purchases and settlement of the Offer Shares tendered in the Open Offer shall be made. The contact details of the Buying Broker are as mentioned below:

Edelweiss Securities Limited
Address: Edelweiss House, 12th Floor, off C.S.T. Road, Kalina, Mumbai - 400 098;
Tel No.: +91 22 6623 3325; Fax no.: +91 22 22864411;
Contact Person: Atul Benke; Email: instops@edelweissfin.com
SEBI registration no.: INZ0000166136

- 7. Public Shareholders who desire to tender their Equity Shares under the Open Offer would have to intimate their respective stock brokers ("Selling Broker") within the normal trading hours of the secondary market, during the Tendering Period.
- 8. A separate Acquisition Window will be provided by BSE to facilitate the placing of orders. Before placing the bid, the concerned Public Shareholder/Selling Broker would be required to transfer the tendered Equity Shares to the special account of Indian Clearing Corporation Limited ("Clearing Corporation"), by using the settlement number and the procedure prescribed by the Clearing Corporation.
- 9. The cumulative quantity tendered shall be displayed on BSE's website (www.bseindia.com) throughout the trading session at specific intervals by BSE during the Tendering Period.
- 10. As per the provisions of Regulation 40(1) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended and SEBI's press release dated December 03, 2018, bearing reference no. PR 49/2018, requests for transfer of securities shall not be processed unless the securities are held in dematerialised form with a depository with effect from April 01, 2019. However, in accordance with the circular issued by SEBI bearing reference number SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/144 dated July 31, 2020, shareholders holding securities in physical form are allowed to tender shares in an open offer. Such tendering shall be as per the provisions of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. Accordingly, Public Shareholders holding Equity Shares in physical form as well are eligible to tender their Equity Shares in this Open Offer as per the provisions of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. However, as on date, there are no Equity Shares held in physical form.

11. The detailed procedure for tendering the Offer Shares in this Open Offer will be available in the Letter of Offer, which shall also be made available on the website of SEBI (www.sebi.gov.in).

12. Equity Shares should not be submitted/ tendered to the Manager, the Acquirer, the PACs or the Target Company.

IX. OTHER INFORMATION

- 1. The Acquirer, the PACs and their directors in their capacity as directors accept full responsibility for the information contained in the PA and this DPS (other than as specified in paragraph 2 below) and also for the obligations of the Acquirer and the PACs laid down in the SEBI (SAST) Regulations in respect of the Open Offer.
- 2. All the information pertaining to the Target Company contained in the PA or DPS or Letter of Offer or any other advertisement/publications made in connection with the Open Offer has been obtained from publicly available sources or provided by the Target Company. All the information pertaining to the Sellers contained in the PA or DPS or Letter of Offer or any other advertisement/ publications made in connection with the Open Offer has been obtained from the Sellers. The Acquirer and the PACs do not accept any responsibility with respect to any information provided in the PA or this DPS or the Letter of Offer pertaining to the Target Company and the Sellers.
- 3. In this DPS, all references to "Rs" or "Rupees" or "Indian Rupees" are references to Indian National Rupee(s).
- 4. In this DPS, any discrepancy in figures as a result of multiplication or totalling is due to rounding off.
- 5. This DPS and the PA shall also be available on SEBI's website (www.sebi.gov.in).

Issued on behalf of the Acquirer and the PACs by the Manager to the Offer

Edelweiss
Ideas create, values protect

Edelweiss Financial Services Limited
Edelweiss House, 6th Floor,
Off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai - 400 098
Tel. No.: + 91 22 4009 4400
Fax No.: +91 22 4086 3610
E-mail: sws.openoffer@edelweissfin.com
Contact Person: Lokesh Shah
SEBI Registration No.: INM0000010650

Registrar to the Offer

Link Intime India Private Limited
C-101, 1st Floor, 247 Park, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg,
Vikhroli (West), Mumbai 400083
Tel: +91 22 4918 6200
Fax: +91 22 4918 6195
E-mail: sws.openoffer@linkintime.co.in
Contact Person: Mr. Sumet Deshpande
SEBI Registration Number: INR0000040058

On behalf of the Acquirer and the PACs
Reliance New Energy Solar Limited
Reliance Industries Limited
Reliance Ventures Limited

Place : Mumbai
Date : October 16, 2021

6 THE CITY



CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
1,12,424



		Total		Vacant	
		HOSPITAL BEDS	17,231	16,998	
		ICU BEDS	3,854	3,786	
		Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Oct 16	21	22	0	48,870	
Oct 17	32	38	0	44,867	
Total	320*	14,13,981	25,089	2,86,53,028	

*Total active cases

BRIEFLY

Man arrested, juvenile apprehended for conning people

New Delhi: A man was arrested while a juvenile was apprehended for allegedly luring people on the pretext of providing very high returns in a short time using social media platforms. DCP (Cyber Cell) K P S Malhotra, "The main accused was held along with others on Friday after the cyber cell unit of Delhi Police busted an investment fund module — Profit_Mania — a page which was being actively promoted on Instagram. Over Rs 12 lakh has been credited to the fraudsters account in the last few months."

Minor sexually assaulted, man arrested

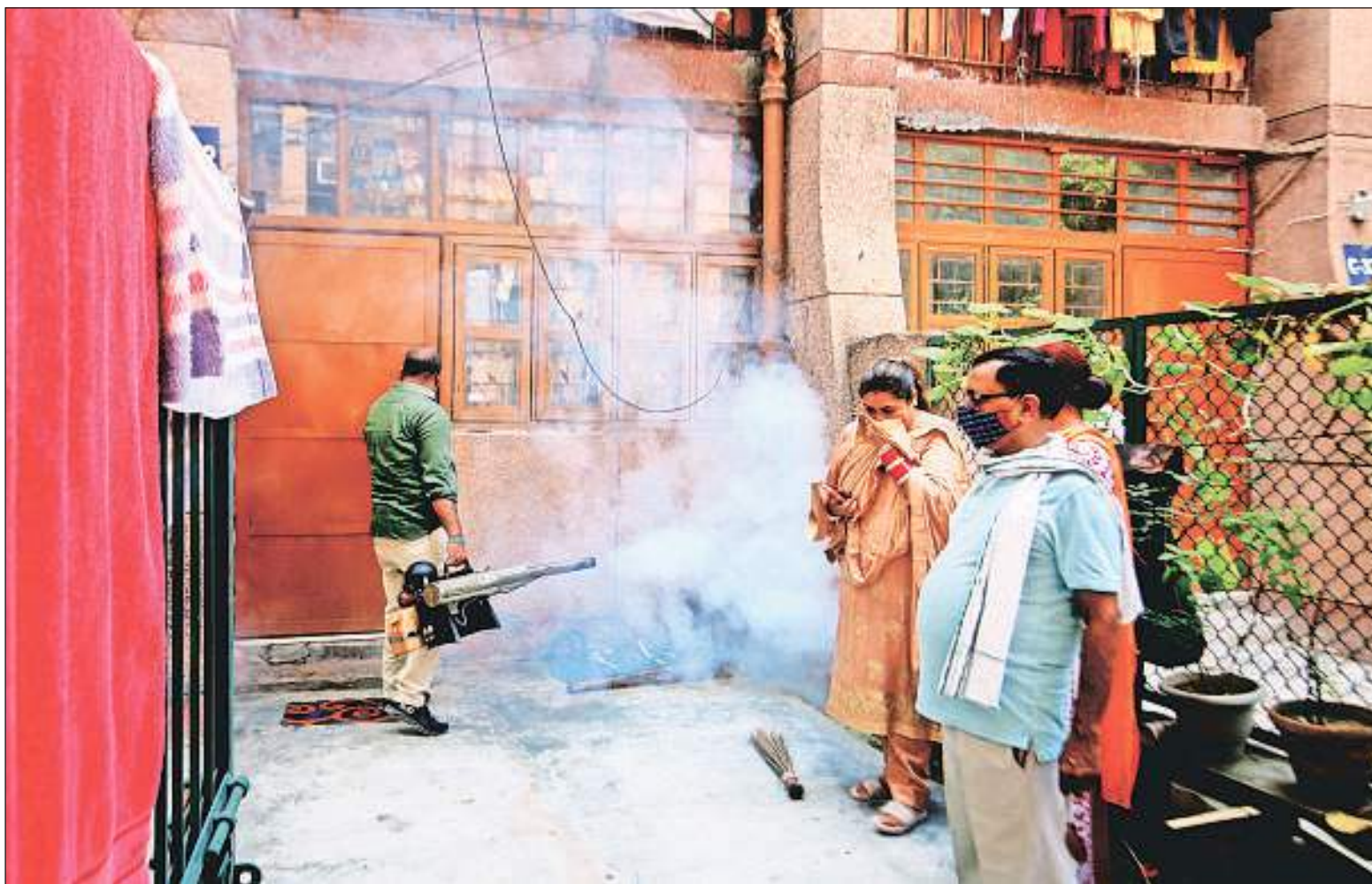
New Delhi: A 65-year-old man was arrested from Central Delhi for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl inside a toilet. DCP (Central district) Shweta Chauhan confirmed the incident. Police said the victim was playing when she was approached by the accused and he lured her on the pretext of buying a chocolate. "The incident came to light when she started screaming and passersby gathered. They rescued her and informed the police about the incident," a senior police officer said.

Minor girl rescued

New Delhi: A Delhi girl who was allegedly kidnapped by two people and sold off to a third party for Rs 60,000 was safely rescued from Rajasthan by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Crime Branch. JCP (crime) Alok Kumar said local enquiry revealed that the victim was in regular contact with a couple. The duo took the minor to the house of their third associate, a woman, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, who helped them allegedly sell the girl, said police.

DU teachers protest assistant prof posts being opened to OCIs

New Delhi: A provision allowing Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) to apply for assistant professor vacancies at Delhi University has come under criticism by a section of teachers, while university authorities state that this is not the first time this provision has been made applicable. **ENS**



Fumigation underway in the capital. Praveen Khanna

HARDLOOK: 480 CASES AND COUNTING

Dengue uptick stings capital

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND & ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

RECORD RAINFALL and lax measures to check mosquito breeding appear to be spelling trouble for the capital, which has seen 480 dengue cases so far this year, including 140 over the past week. This is the highest number of dengue cases reported till mid-October in the past three years.

The number of cases reported for the January 1-October 9 period in the previous three years were 316 (2020), 467 (2019) and 830 (2018), as per the MCD report.

Mukherjee Nagar has seen the highest number of cases so far — 25 out of 114 — in the jurisdiction of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation.

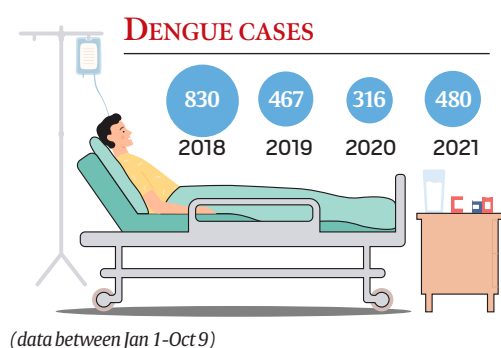
A resident of Mukherjee Nagar's Munshi Ram Colony, Gulshan Ahiwar, saw his cousin and his neighbour test positive for dengue fever over the past few days. He said the spread is because efforts to control mosquito population and breeding were both insufficient and ineffective.

"Mosquitoes are a menace all day and night. But there has been no fogging or spraying of medicines recently. We haven't seen anyone so far," he said.

Doctors across hospitals, seeing fewer and fewer admissions for Covid each day, are now reporting an increase in the number of patients with dengue symptoms.

"There's a rise in cases from Delhi and surrounding areas this year; the emergency section has seen an uptick. Last year, we only saw Covid cases, barring a few dengue cases here and there. But every couple of years, there is a surge in dengue cases. We have seen about 5 to 10% of cases progressing to serious illness and complications in the form of multi-organ involvement, fluid in the lungs or abdomen, liver swelling or low platelets," said Dr

WHAT DATA SHOWS



Atul Gogia, Senior Consultant at the Department of Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

According to data shared by the MCDs, the highest number of cases so far — 141 — have been reported from the South civic body, followed by North and East.

Senior officials in the civic body said the corporation had intensified house visits for checking mosquito-borne diseases. This is reflected in the increase in the number of houses being sprayed to control mosquito breeding from 9 lakh last year to 18 lakh this year. Similarly, 2.1 crore visits by domestic breeding checkers have been made to households so far, in comparison to 1.7 crore last year.

Despite this, the number of cases has seen a sharp rise in comparison to the past two years.

The efforts, residents, complained, are not evident on the ground. A few kilometres from Mukherjee Nagar's Munshi Ram Colony, residents of Timarpur's Sanjay Basti said they are like forgotten citizens. "Officials come to spray medicines at homes and shops on the main road. They seem to forget the inside lanes," said Preeti, who goes by only a first name. She has been living in a cluster of small houses that lie cheek-by-jowl along narrow by-lanes inside the basti for 17 years.

She pointed to a few drains that carry waste water: some drains are uncovered and clogged with waste and few are covered; some sport broken slabs of stone that were placed over them.

The number of dengue cases usually peaks around the time the monsoon ends, and before the winter begins. The Aedes aegypti mosquito is known to bite during the day time and can feed on multiple people, leading to clusters of infections. Since monsoons receded later than usual this time, officials think the last week of October and November are crucial.

"Usually, we see a cyclical trend with dengue. This could be a viral factor. Or it could be that when we see an upsurge in one year, we try and take adequate precautions the next year to control the vector. Last year, we didn't see an upsurge in cases," said Dr Neeraj Nischal, Additional Professor, Department of Medicine, AIIMS.

"Cases of Covid currently have dropped to an extent where we hardly see any Covid-related admissions. But admissions due to acute febrile illness — dengue, malaria, typhoid — are on the rise," he added.

Both Dr Gogia and Dr Nischal said that while co-infections of Covid and dengue were recorded

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Houses visited	2.8cr	2.8cr	1.7cr	2.1cr
Houses sprayed	17L	12L	9L	18L

HOUSES FOUND POSITIVE FOR BREEDING

2018	2.01L
2019	1.50L
2020	89K
2021	1.44L

last year; they have not been seen this year. "There are different strains of dengue and getting infected with one strain doesn't ensure protection against the others. Usually, one type of strain dominates every year, but this cannot be detected just from the symptoms. From a clinical point of view, the management remains the same, irrespective of the type," Dr Nischal said.

Behind the spike

According to senior officials at the South civic body, while more efforts have been put into controlling the disease this year as compared to the last, external factors such as record rainfall this monsoon, old junked vehicles becoming breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and several people not supporting anti-mosquito drives are also behind the increase.

Old, junked vehicles are receptacles of rain water, which can enter through broken windows and can collect in tyres, officials said. These become ideal breeding grounds.

There are about 4 million "overage" vehicles, both diesel and petrol, deemed deregistered but yet to be taken off the roads in the national capital, as per the Delhi government's 2019 figures. The MCDs last week gave a fresh push to clear such vehicles, but it is at

the initial stage and only around 100 have been taken off roads.

Another grouse is that residents of gated colonies do not allow domestic breeding checkers (DBC)s to enter and issue challans if they find stagnant water in homes or common areas.

"Most gated colonies restrict entry... We should be given the power to challans as well as issue notices to those that do not allow us to enter. Otherwise, we cannot enforce our operations properly," said a DBC worker in North MCD.

"In Singapore, inspection teams have the power to break into a house, if locked or inaccessible, during peak season to check breeding. In several Western countries, if an outbreak happens, the corporation works on a war footing by zeroing-in on the worst-affected areas," said a senior civic body official.

Delhi saw its worst dengue outbreak in two decades in 2015, when 15,867 cases were reported and 60 people died. This was followed by 9,271 cases and 10 deaths in 2017. Last year, only 1,269 cases were reported. No one died.

Common symptoms of dengue are high fever, pain behind the eyes, rashes and headaches. "A majority of patients have unrelenting high fever for four-five days, along with chills and body aches, which frightens people and makes them get admitted," Dr Gogia said.

Some cases, however, are more complicated.

"A disease like dengue has a strong immunological component. The immune system tries to control the infection. In some patients, the immune system, even after controlling the infection, goes haywire. It keeps on attacking the organs. This immunological phenomenon causes major complications which manifest after the fever starts subsiding. Like any other viral fever, there is no specific treatment, but keeping the patient hydrated is important," Dr Nischal said.

SHOWS DATA TILL OCT 7

45% of total robbery cases from 5 districts

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

FIVE DISTRICTS — Northeast, South, East, Outer and Outer North — have reported the maximum number of robbery incidents till October 7 this year. In total, 1,662 robbery incidents have been reported across 15 districts this year as compared to 1,446 in last year.

In a recent crime review meeting at the Delhi Police HQ, Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana met all DCPs, including the six who were newly appointed, and discussed the current graph of robbery incidents along with a prevention strategy.

As per data provided by police, 174 incidents took place in Northeast district between January 1 and October 7 this year as compared to 167 incidents in the same period last year. "This year, 156 robbery incidents were reported from South district as compared to 138 last year; 147 from East district as compared to 156 last year; 144 in Outer Delhi as compared to last year's 107; and 139 in Outer North Delhi as compared to 93 incidents last year," a senior police officer said.

During the meeting, Asthana asked the DCPs to explain their strategies to prevent such incidents. One of the DCPs said they have deployed personnel in crime-prone spots and they were briefed on physical descriptions of serial offenders. "He claimed his spotter team had picked up around 800 people matching the description, and found 73 are involved in previous incidents," the officer said.

"In total, 1,662 incidents of robbery took place and 3,140 persons have been arrested this year. The police chief has directed all DCPs to start free registration of FIRs," an officer said. During the same period in 2020, 1,446 incidents were reported.

Asthana, in the meeting, also reviewed the reaction time of the PCR unit, now working with district police. "Among top 10 low-performing stations, Bindapur police station is first on the list with a response time of 12.11 minutes; Samaypur Badli station personnel reached the spot in 11.37 minutes; Janakpuri had a response time of 11.11 minutes; while Okhla station responded in 9.56 minutes," the officer said.

BJP tries to woo slum dwellers with board game targeting AAP

ABHINAV RAJPUT

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

TAKING A dig at the Aam Aadmi Party before the MCD polls next year, the Delhi BJP Sunday distributed the snakes and ladders board game to children living in slums — with snakes being replaced by the faces of Delhi's ministers, including the CM and Deputy CM. The AAP hit back, saying the BJP has run out of issues to raise.

The BJP said the games have been distributed to people living in Kusum Pahadi, Jai Hind and JJ Bandhu camps near Vasant Vihar by Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta during his ongoing 'jhuggi samman yatra' — a bid by BJP leaders to woo slum dwellers.

Boxes near the 'snakes' also have 'DTC scam', 'education scam', 'ration scam' and 'Delhi Jal Board scam' written on them. The 'ladders', on the other hand, have central government schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, Mudra Loan Scheme, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swachh Bharat etc.

Gupta said, "People of all age groups play the game... Since it is popular, people should also know how central government schemes are benefiting children." When asked about children being involved in politics, he said, "Even adults play ludo and chil-

dren also have the right to know about what's happening."

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said 1 lakh such charts have been published and the party will distribute these in jhuggis. "The idea is to show central government schemes as stairs of development while AAP schemes have been compared with snakes as it is only biting the poor... The idea is that the chart will make deceptions of the Kejriwal government a topic of discussion among the slum dwellers."

Hitting out at the BJP, the AAP in a statement said: "BJP in Delhi is in a pitiable condition and doesn't have any issues left to raise. People should take the board game and play. There are 6 million houses in Delhi and they should distribute it to everyone." Civic polls are likely to be held in April next year.

Delhi has roughly 30 lakh people living in 675 slum clusters. A large chunk of slum dwellers had traditionally voted for the Congress but switched to AAP in the 2013 and 2015 Assembly polls. Since then, the free electricity and water schemes of AAP had led to this section voting largely for AAP during the Vidhan Sabha polls. The BJP, with the yatra, wants to make a dent in this vote bank.

THIRD LINE TO GET THIS FACILITY

Now, free WiFi at all stations on Metro's Yellow Line

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE DELHI Metro has introduced free high-speed WiFi on all 37 metro stations of its yellow line, which runs from HUDA City Centre to Samaypur Badli, from Sunday. The yellow line is the third to get the WiFi facility. The aim is to introduce WiFi across stations, in a phased manner over the next year.

A spokesperson of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said, "This service, coinciding with the start of festival season, is launched on this line which

comprises 37 metro stations and runs mostly underground through one of the most congested parts of Delhi covering Outer Delhi, North Delhi through central Delhi and South Delhi and finally Gurugram. More than 330 access points have been installed at these 37 stations to provide uninterpreted internet access to commuters. This high-speed free WiFi Service will prove to be a special boon to students travelling to and from the North Delhi Campus of Delhi University."

Passengers can access WiFi by selecting "OUI DMRC FREE WIFI" on their phone, and enter their number and email ID to re-



Passengers can access WiFi by selecting "OUI DMRC FREE WIFI" on their phone, enter their number and email ID to receive an OTP on their phones.

ceive an OTP on their phones.

High-speed WiFi connection is already available on the blue line, which runs from Dwarka Sector 21 to Noida Electronic City/Vaishali and has 40 stations, and on the Airport Express Line which runs from New Delhi Railway Station to Dwarka Sector 21, linking Indira Gandhi International Airport and comprises metro six stations.

WiFi was first inaugurated on the Airport Line in 2016. It was then inaugurated on the Blue Line on August 25, 2017. It will be set up on all stations in a phased manner over the next year, said officials. In total, 94 stations have

WiFi, which is being provided by a consortium led by M/S Techno Sat Comm.

The spokesperson said, "Apart from free WiFi at Metro stations, DMRC in association with Techno Sat Comm is striving to introduce this facility inside Metro trains in a year's time. Upgrading and installing desired access points is quite a challenging task in already operational trains. DMRC, on trial basis, had introduced free WiFi in the trains on the Airport Line, which were suspended due to Covid-induced constraints in 2020; it is in the process of being restored within the next 10-15 days."

7 GOVT & POLITICS

Punia: Priyanka will be face of Cong's poll campaign in UP

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

PRIYANKA GANDHI Vadra will be the face of the Congress's election campaign in Uttar Pradesh, party's newly-appointed campaign committee chief P L Punia said on Sunday, asserting that the AICC general secretary is the most popular political figure in the state at present.

Punia, who on Friday was named as the head of the key 20-member election campaign committee of the Congress for the UP polls next year, noted that very rarely has the Congress announced a chief ministerial face and said that not having declared one till now will not hamper the party's chances as it already has a personality like Priyanka to lead the charge against the BJP.

It is a direct contest between the Congress and the BJP in the UP polls as both the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party have "fallen behind" and were "not in the fight anymore", Punia told PTI. Punia said Priyanka has fought for truth on all issues. When the Lakhimpur Kheri incident happened, she immediately left to meet the family of the vic-



P L Punia, Priyanka Gandhi

tims, and was detained in Sitapur, but remained determined. Punia said earlier also — be it Sonbhadra, Unnao or Hathras incidents — Priyanka had fought for justice. "So, the people are impressed by her and currently in the entire state, no politician is more popular than Priyanka Gandhi. As far as around whom the campaign will be centred, we are fortunate that Priyanka Gandhi is available for (campaigning) all the time," he said.

There are always demands from other states for Priyanka to campaign and hold one or two meetings, but in UP she is available 24x7, Punia said.

"Priyanka Gandhi ji hi humara ek chehra hongii jinke ird-gird poora election campaign chalega (the election campaign will revolve around Priyanka Gandhi)," he said.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TAKING STOCK

IN THE past few months, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has made a few surprise visits to central government-run hospitals to check their functioning. On Sunday, he planned another visit to RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Hospital. This time, the hospitals were not only informed in advance about Mandaviya's visit but they were also told the reason for the visit. Besides interacting with doctors and staff at the hospitals, Mandaviya also stock of the functioning of Sunday OPDs which were rolled out last week on a trial basis.

THE VACANCY

WITH THE Uttar Pradesh assembly all set to elect a Deputy Speaker barely five months before its term ends, the power corridors are abuzz with speculation on whether the Lok Sabha would also have a Deputy Speaker. Although opposition parties have raised the issue several times, the ruling BJP has not yet expressed its readiness to go for an election to the vacant post. As the 17th Lok Sabha, constituted after the 2019 elections, does not have a Deputy Speaker, a petition was filed recently in Delhi High Court, saying the post being vacant is a violation of Article 93 of the Constitution. However, there appears to be no movement in this direction, sources said. BJP sources said no decision has been taken yet on it yet and the developments in UP assembly could trigger some action at the Centre as well.

THE INTERVENTION

AFTER THE exit of senior leader Luizinho Faleiro, who joined Trinamool Congress, there was a buzz in the Goa Congress that another leader, Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, could leave the party as well. Congress has now stepped in to prevent his exit. Lourenco, the MLA from Curtorim, was on Sunday appointed Working President of Goa Congress. Lourenco was said to planning to join the AAP. As many as six leaders of the AAP had joined the Congress last week and this may have also prompted Lourenco to change his plans.

FROM HIS BOOK

A YEAR after taking office in 2018, Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Deb had authored a book on Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Debbarman. The book traces the journey of Debbarman, who ruled Tripura between 1923 and 1947 before it joined the Indian union. It is learnt that the BJP-led state government is exploring the possibility of including a chapter from the book in the Class V curriculum of the state board from the next academic year. A think-tank close to the ruling party recently raised a demand in this regard, saying it will "inspire young minds".

Telangana Assembly bypoll: Cash, gold meant for voters seized

Karimnagar (Telangana): Cash totalling Rs 1.57 crore, 30 gm of gold, 66 sarees and 50 shirts meant to allegedly bribe voters during the bypoll to the Huzurabad Assembly have been seized, said district Collector R V Karnan on Sunday quoting the police.

In a press release, the Collector

said checkpoints were set up at various places in the run-up to the bypoll to be held on October 30. The release said marijuana weighing 3.5 kg was also seized. The bypoll was necessitated after sitting legislator Etala Rajender was sacked in connection with land-grabbing offences. **PTI**

Ex-MP, Muzaffarnagar riots accused back in SP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 17

FORMER BAHUJAN Samaj Party (BSP) MP Kadir Rana, an accused in the Muzaffarnagar riots of 2013, and former state party president RS Kushwaha on Sunday joined the Samajwadi Party (SP) in the presence of its national president Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow.

Rana had been named in a hate speech case and chargesheet was filed against him. He was elected MP from Muzaffarnagar in 2009 on a BSP ticket.

Rana, who was formerly with the SP, left the party in 2007 to join the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). In the 2007 Assembly polls, he was elected MLA from the Morna constituency as an RLD candidate. However, he switched to BSP in 2009 to contest the Lok Sabha elections and won. BSP fielded him again in 2014 but he lost.

Speaking on Rana's return to the SP fold, on Sunday, Yadav called him a senior leader who was now back with the party. The former BSP MP, too, recalled his association with SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav.



UP needs yogya (competent) government and not a Yogi government: SP president Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow. PTI

Addressing reporters at the party's headquarters in the state capital, he took a fresh swipe at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party saying it "has no work to do" aside from changing names. "It believes in filling pockets instead of potholes," he said.

"Uttar Pradesh needs a 'yogya' (competent) government and not a Yogi government," the SP chief said.

On Rana being named in a case related to the Muzaffarnagar riots, SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said he was not aware of it.

When pointed out that SP

was in power when cases were filed in connection with the riots, Chaudhary said, "Not sure what were the circumstances (behind his arrest) at that time."

The BSP appointed Kushwaha as its state president in 2018 but he was removed from the post and shifted to the party's central unit in 2019, a few months after he lost the Lok Sabha election from Salempur.

Following in the footsteps of Kushwaha and Rana, several other BSP leaders who had contested previous Assembly polls on the party's tickets, also joined the SP on Sunday.

AIADMK'S GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS BEGIN

Sasikala makes pitch for comeback, AIADMK rejects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 17

THE YEAR-LONG golden jubilee celebrations of AIADMK's founding began on Sunday, marked by a renewed and an open attempt by V K Sasikala, confidante of late party supremo J Jayalalithaa, to get back control of the party by pushing for "unity".

Sasikala's strong pitch for joining forces for the sake of the "party and people" was, however, rejected by the AIADMK, which reiterated that there is no place for her in the party.

She unfurled the AIADMK flag at the T Nagar memorial of party founder MG Ramachandran here and a plaque unveiled on the occasion addressed her as party "general secretary", which was strongly opposed by the main opposition party.

Recalling a didactic Tamil film song 'Kampona Pokkile' in an MGR film, which cautions against choosing a path based on whims and fancies rather than wisdom and reason, Sasikala said, "you decide to whom this is applicable today".

Apparently, the message was for the AIADMK brass, steered by O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami, both former CMs.

Addressing supporters at MGR's Ramapuram Garden residence here, Sasikala said she had the party been in power in the golden jubilee year, it would have been a proud moment, in honour of both MGR and Amma.

Onion prices being stabilised with buffer stock release: Govt

New Delhi: Amid a rise in prices of three key vegetables, the Centre on Sunday said onion prices are being stabilised with the release of buffer stock, while efforts are on to soften the rates of tomato and potato.

Onion stocks are being released in the market on the first-in-first-out basis in a calibrated manner from the last week of August in a bid to moderate prices and ensure minimum storage loss, it said.

As a result of this, the retail onion price was ruling in the range of Rs 42-57 per kg in metros on October 14. The all-India average retail price of onion was ruling at Rs 37.06 per kg, while the average wholesale rate was Rs 30 per kg on October 14, it added.

In a statement, the food and consumer affairs ministry said buffer stock of onion is being released in states where prices ruled above all-India average and also where prices are rising over the previous month. **PTI**



Edapaddi K Palaniswami, O Panneerselvam and other leaders pay tribute to late J Jayalalithaa on the AIADMK's 50th anniversary, in Chennai; expelled party leader V K Sasikala (left) hosts the AIADMK flag in Chennai. PTI

Recalling her announcement of staying away from politics ahead of the Assembly polls in April this year, she said she took that stand as she wanted the party to not be affected in any manner whatsoever. "It is the responsibility of all of us to guard the party. The need of the hour is unity," she said, adding the divisions among them facilitated "our enemies", seen as a pointer to archrival DMK, which captured power in Tamil Nadu after a gap of 10 years.

Sasikala said that if attention was not paid to the welfare of the people, the party and cadres, "we

will be thrown away, whatever top positions one may hold".

Reacting to Sasikala's overtures, AIADMK senior leader DJayakumar said she would not be taken back into the party. "No one can touch the AIADMK," he asserted.

Accusing Sasikala-led campas "looters", he said she made no sacrifices for the party's sake and the AIADMK and people would never accept her or her relatives.

On the plaque, declaring her as party general secretary, Jayakumar, also a former Minister said that she has no moral or legal right to use the AIADMK name or flag.

Maharashtra BJP leader quits party to join Cong

Mumbai: Maharashtra BJP vice-president Bhaskarrao Patil Khatgaonkar resigned from the party on Sunday to join the Congress.

The former Nanded MP told the media, "I am resigning from the primary membership of the BJP. I have taken the decision to join the Congress."

Khatgaonkar, the brother-in-

law of state minister Ashok Chavan, had been in the Congress earlier. He had joined the BJP ahead of 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Khatgaonkar's decision is being seen as a setback for the BJP ahead of the Deglur Assembly bypoll in Nanded district on October 30. The BJP had been gearing up for a straight fight with the Congress in the seat. **ENS**

New Army aviation brigade for LAC in eastern sector

KRISH KAUSHIK
MISSAMARI, OCTOBER 17

WITH THE Line of Actual Control (LAC) remaining tense across all sectors, India raised a new aviation brigade in the eastern sector this year. The brigade is mandated with the task of increasing surveillance along the LAC in the eastern sector.

The new brigade was raised in March at Missamari in Assam, close to Tezpur, and has capabilities such as Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH), Cheetah helicopters and Heron drones, said

sources.

The deployment of Army's aviation wing also includes weaponised ALH not far from the LAC in Assam. While the function of the new brigade is largely for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) activities of the Army, it has the capability to support the Army for other objectives as well on the LAC.

A source said the aviation brigade with three squadrons is operating from the Missamari Army Aviation Base.

Lt Col Amit Dadhwal said the Army Aviation Corps has evolved from simple fixed wing aircraft

It's SP rebel vs SP MLA for UP Dy Speaker poll

SP calls it 'undemocratic', CM says House traditions respected

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 17

WITH TWO Samajwadi Party (SP) MLAs, one supported by the ruling BJP, in the fray for the UP Assembly Deputy Speaker's post, the SP on Sunday termed the saffron party's move "undemocratic", arguing that usually, a legislator from the biggest Opposition party is elected unopposed to the post.

Accompanied by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his ministers, SP rebel MLA from Hardoi Nitin Agrawal, who has been keeping distance with his party since 2019, on Sunday filed his nomination papers.

The SP fielded its Sitapur legislator Narendra Verma, who submitted his nomination papers in presence of Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Ram Govind Chaudhary, other SP MLAs and some BSP rebel leaders the same day.

First in 14 years, the election will be held on Monday during the single-day session of the Assembly.

With help of 304 BJP MLAs in the 403-member Assembly, Agrawal is tipped to become the next Deputy Speaker. The SP is banking on rebel MLAs to support six-time MLA Verma.

The Assembly Speaker recently rejected an SP application to disqualify Agrawal from the House. In 2019, Agrawal had defied his party whip against attending a special Assembly session.

Refuting Opposition's allegations, Adityanath said the BJP respected "parliamentary traditions" and that was why the



SP rebel MLA Nitin Agrawal (with blue stole) files his nomination, in presence of CM Yogi Adityanath, at the Vidhan Bhawan in Lucknow on Sunday. Express

candidate was chosen from the biggest Opposition party.

SP's Chaudhary said, "Ever since this Vidhan Sabha was formed, it has been a tradition that the deputy speaker is from the biggest Opposition party. But the Bharatiya Janata Party does not believe in parliamentary traditions, democracy or even the Constitution... That is why they have silently decided to call this session and then announce a candidate without consulting Opposition." He again questioned "the logic of having a deputy speaker now" when the Assembly elections were around the corner.

Sitapur MLA Verma Sunday said the Deputy Speaker should have been elected when the BJP government was formed in 2017. "As per the tradition, the responsibility of suggesting the name of Deputy Speaker lies with the biggest Opposition party, and so far in the history of this Vidhan

Sabha, the Deputy Speaker has been elected unopposed."

Agrawal, whose father Nareish Agrawal joined the BJP before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, was also supported by a Congress and a BSP MLA.

"The SP should not talk about traditions. They were the ones who decided to boycott the session (in 2019) dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. They should learn to respect the traditions as they should know that it is a constitutional post, which gets support from all... a name from the Opposition is proposed by the Leader of the House and the Opposition supports it," Nitin Agrawal said. He said he had applied for a constitutional post as an MLA with no allegiance to any party.

"He is still technically a Samajwadi Party MLA," said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna, who accompanied Agrawal.

Separate statehood: BJP Tripura ally reaches out to Debbarman-led outfit

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

STARING AT political marginalisation, the IPFT, a constituent of the BJP-led government in Tripura, has reached out to the Pradyot Kishore Debbarman-led TIPRA Motha alliance, seeking to revive the demand for a separate state for "protecting indigenous rights".

The move comes ahead of TIPRA Motha's scheduled three-day demonstration, towards the end of this month, involving over 1,000 supporters and workers at Jantar Mantar over the demand for a 'Greater Tripaland'. The two parties had joined hands ahead of the tribal areas autonomous district council (TTADC) polls in April this year, but the IPFT eventually went solo, and drew a blank, while TIPRA Motha bagged 18 out of the 28 seats, and the BJP nine.

Since then, the TIPRA Motha has been rapidly expanding its base, with scores of supporters and leaders of the IPFT, including one of its MLAs, joining it. Nearly two-third of the state's territory comes under the TTADC, home to the majority of the state's indigenous communities that make up around 30 per cent of its total population.

On Saturday, the IPFT and TIPRA Motha (Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance) held talks on a proposed joint movement committee for a "full-fledged statehood demand (Tipraland) and NRC to safeguard



Pradyot Kishore Debbarman

the native indigenous people of Tripura".

The meeting was attended by Debbarman and IPFT general secretary Mevar Kumar Jamatia, who is a minister in the BJP-led government. Debbarman said he is treading cautiously on the IPFT's proposal due to its "past record".

Debbarman told *The Indian Express* on Sunday that he has "made it clear to the IPFT" that a joint movement on the demand cannot be compromised.

"They (IPFT) will have to give us in writing that they will not compromise on the demand for a separate state, a constitutional solution. They should not be in any alliance where the other partner does not support such a demand," Debbarman said. "The IPFT will have to clarify where it stands on these terms and conditions set by us. The movement cannot be halted merely on the assurance of a few seats from parties like the BJP or vague promises of financial packages for development of indigenous communities."

He said one train has been booked to bring over 1,000 supporters and workers of TIPRA

EXPLAINED
E Old demand, fresh push

AHEAD OF the state assembly elections in 2023, the vexed issue of separate statehood is once again gaining centrestage in Tripura. While the demand is not new, the Pradyot Debbarman-led TIPRA Motha's rapid rise has triggered a churn in state politics, especially among parties and forums representing indigenous communities.

Motha to Delhi for the protests, including cultural events. "The protests... are likely to begin on October 28," Debbarman said.

The two sides are also trying to work out a consensus on submitting a joint memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

IPFT general secretary Jamatia told reporters, "The terms and references of the joint movement committee will be drawn up over the next two-three days. We will also submit a memorandum regarding our demand of statehood to the Centre this month."

In the 2018 state polls, the IPFT, which was then spearheading the demand for a separate state, had won eight seats, and the BJP 36. **INPUTS FROM DEBRAJ DEB**

commanders a plethora of capabilities so that we can achieve success in all kinds of operations," he said.

The helicopters, he said, carry troops in full battle loads in any kind of treacherous terrain and weather conditions, and are used for casualty evacuations, induction and de-induction.

The induction of the new brigade has taken place even as talks to resolve the standoff in eastern Ladakh have hit a new roadblock, with 50,000 troops from each side likely to spend another winter in the harsh climes.

The talks to resolve the more

than 17-month standoff hit another deadlock as China refused to vacate Patrolling Point (PP) 15 at Hot Springs during the 13th round of Corps Commander level talks earlier this month. A day after the meeting, both sides issued strong statements, a departure from the past, blaming each other for the situation.

On the eve of the talks, Army Chief General MM Naravane had mentioned that China's increased infrastructure development along the LAC meant that it is there to stay, and it is a matter for concern, even as India will match the deployment.

Army helicopter pilot’s body found 75 days after crash

MANAMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 17

THE BODY of 27-year-old Capt Jayant Joshi, whose helicopter crashed into the Ranjit Sagar Sam reservoir near Basohli in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on August 3, was found by naval diving teams on Sunday. The body has been identified and his family will be taking it to their residence in Delhi on Monday. The final rites will be held on Tuesday.

Captain Joshi along with Lt Colonel AS Baath drowned after their helicopter crashed into the lake waters on August 3. Lt Colonel Baath’s body was recovered on August 15.

“Persistent efforts by Indian Army and Navy for 75 days, which were going on day and night to recover the body of Capt Jayant Joshi, the second pilot of the helicopter, ... have finally succeeded and the body has been recovered from the lake bed using hi-tech equipment,” said Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand in Jammu.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* over phone, Harish Joshi, father of Capt Jayant, said the remains were found around 1.30 pm on Sunday. “I am on my way to Military Hospital Pathankot. The remains were found close to the crash site. Visibility was not very good under the water, which is why it took so long,” he said.

Capt Jayant’s mother is a serving officer in the Military Nursing Service and the family was camping at Mamun Military Station near Pathankot for the last two and a half months, determined to take the remains of their son back home.

The equipment deployed by the Navy for locating the remains and wreckage of the helicopter included Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicles, hand-held navigation system with sonar, side scanner sonar with echo sensor and portable transducer, divers propulsion vehicle, multi-beam sonar and submarine rescue unit of the Navy.

The Army had created a large floating platform from where all diving operations along with the launch of specialist equipment were being executed.

—INPUTS FROM MENS, JAMMU



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the cemetery for Indian soldiers in Jerusalem’s Talpilot on Sunday. PTI

In Israel, Jaishankar lays wreath at cemetery for Indian soldiers

HARINDER MISHRA
JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 17

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday began his five-day visit to Israel by laying a wreath at a cemetery for Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in the region during the World War I at Talpilot, Jerusalem.

About 900 Indian soldiers are interred in cemeteries across Israel in Jerusalem, Ramle and Haifa.

“Visited the Indian Cemetery at Talpilot as my first engagement in Jerusalem. Paid homage to the brave Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during World War I,” Jaishankar tweeted.

The minister wrote in the visitor’s book at the cemetery, “I am deeply honoured to pay homage to the valiant sons of India who fought with bravery and courage in this land during WWI, bringing glory to themselves, their comrades and their motherland.

“The valour and supreme sacrifice of these brave hearts will forever remain etched in the



A VILLAGE MOURNS

Army officials carry the mortal remains of rifleman Yogambar Singh to his village Sankari in Uttarakhand’s Chamoli district on Sunday. Singh was killed in an encounter with militants in Jammu and Kashmir’s Poonch district on Friday. PTI

Sidhu tweets his letter to Sonia with 13-point agenda

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 17

PUNJAB CONGRESS leader Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday tweeted a letter he wrote to AICC interim president Sonia Gandhi, in which he listed out his 13-point agenda for the state.

Hours later, Sidhu attended a meeting with Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, organised by the party to chalk out a strategy for the 2022 Assembly polls. The meeting started at 8 pm and continued late into the evening. AICC observer Harish Chaudhary, PPCC general secretary incharge Pargat Singh and Rahul Gandhi’s aide Krishna Allavaru were also present.

Among the points highlighted by Sidhu in his letter to Sonia are the sacrilege cases, Punjab’s drugs menace, agricultural issues, employment opportunities, sand mining, and welfare of backward classes. Sidhu also stated that the Cabinet should have a Majbhhi Sikh, a Dalit from Doaba, and two backward class ministers.

Raising the issue of liquor in the agenda, Sidhu has demanded that the liquor trade in



Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu

the state should be centralised and a corporation should run it. On sand mining, Sidhu has once again supported his earlier model of providing sand at a fixed reasonable price to the end-user. He has also listed regular jobs and stated that at least 20 employees’ unions are already protesting against the contractual system in the state.

“It might be the last damage-control exercise or else, Mafia Raj ruling the state patronised by the Badals will take the state to the extent of financial emergency, joblessness, corruption, and agrarian crisis, from which, there will be no return,” Sidhu wrote. He also requested a personal audience from Sonia to present to her the Punjab model with a 13-

point agenda to be part of the Congress Manifesto for the polls. Stating that this is “Punjab’s last chance for resurrection and redemption,” Sidhu sought a personal meeting with Sonia.

Sidhu made public his letter a day after Sonia had addressed the CWC meeting and told party leaders to get in touch with her directly instead of choosing the media route. Sidhu was earlier also conveyed that he should raise his issues at party platform only.

Sources said the high command had conveyed its displeasure to Sidhu after his tweet on Sunday. But it is learnt that his camp defended the letter stating that he had not written anything which could go against him. “Every state president can take up the issues with his party leadership. Those issues were not against the party... People are happy that Sidhu has pro-people agenda and he wants it implemented,” a source close to him said.

Meanwhile, Sidhu’s participation in meetings with Channi was significant as he had resigned as PPCC chief and had not withdrawn his resignation yet. The meeting was scheduled on Saturday, a day after Sidhu had met AICC leader Rahul Gandhi.

ISKCON official writes to UN, PM over Bangla attack

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, OCTOBER 17

FOLLOWING REPORTS of vandalism at an ISKCON temple in Bangladesh and the killing of an ashram devotee, vice-president of ISKCON, Kolkata, Radharaman Das has written to the United Nations, requesting the world body to send a delegation to look into the matter. He has also written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to hold talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina.

“We have written to the United Nations urging it to condemn this act and send a delegation to Bangladesh to make further enquiries on this incident,” Das said.

“We have also written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to speak to (the) Bangladesh PM to end this cycle of violence. We will stage silent protests in all metropolitan cities, including Kolkata to condemn this violence,” he added.

On Friday, a mob allegedly attacked an ISKCON temple in Bangladesh’s Noakhali district, killing one of its members. Members and devotees of ISKCON, Kolkata staged a protest outside the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata on Sunday evening, singing ‘kirtans’ (devotional songs).

They lit candles and held placards demanding action against the perpetrators of violence in Bangladesh.

HIGH NUMBERS REMAIN A CONCERN

Over 27,000 cattle deaths on tracks in Covid year

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

COWS CONTINUED to die by the thousands on India’s railway tracks even during the peak of the pandemic last year when the country ran trains sparingly.

The Railways recorded more than 27,000 cases of cattle being run over between April 2020 and March 2021. The numbers climbed up month after month as more trains started returning to service.

A little over 38,000 cows were run over in the “normal” year before the pandemic, April 2019 to March 2020.

Now, with almost all trains back in service, the number has started rising again, clocking close to 3,000 per month since

April this year. Between April and September, over 20,000 cows have been run over by trains.

In 2020, Railways shut down all passenger train services on March 22. Data show only 440 cows were run over by trains in April 2020, at the height of the first nationwide lockdown. Goods trains continued to run as per demand in an effort to keep essential supplies going. Thereafter, regulated train services started with Shramik Specials for the stranded migrants from May 1. In May that year, the number of cattle deaths rose to 1,000.

The Railways began a graded resumption of services across India from June 1, 2020, bringing back 100 special trains at select routes. By the end of July, the number of cattle deaths on the



Yuvraj Singh

Yuvraj arrested, released on bail over ‘casteist remark’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 17

HARYANA POLICE on Sunday said former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh was arrested and released on bail in an alleged casteist remarks case in compliance with a High Court order.

Singh is accused of making casteist remarks against another cricketer during an Instagram chat last year. The police said it was a “formal arrest” when he had gone to Hansi town in Hissar, and he was released on bail in compliance with the order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

“Yuvraj Singh came to Hansi on Saturday and we made a formal arrest. He was released on bail bond after a few hours,” said DSP (Hansi) Vinod Shankar.

Hansi resident Rajat Kalsan had alleged that Singh, during an Instagram Live session, had made an objectionable remark while referring to another cricketer. With Haryana Police seeking Singh “formal arrest”, the High Court, hearing a plea by Singh seeking quashing of an FIR filed against him, had last week directed police that upon joining the probe with the investigating officer, if Singh is arrested, he will be released on interim bail upon furnishing bail and surety bonds.

Expressing regret over the comments, Singh had earlier tweeted, “I understand that while I was having a conversation with my friends, I was misunderstood, which was unwarranted. However, as a responsible Indian I want to say that if I have unintentionally hurt anybody’s sentiments or feelings, I would like to express regret for the same.”

—WITH PTI INPUTS

SINGHU LYNCHING

Jathedar demands independent probe to ‘unveil conspiracy’

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, OCTOBER 17

AKAL TAKHT Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh on Sunday demanded an investigation by an independent agency into the lynching of 35-year-old Lakhbir Singh at Singhu border “to unveil the alleged powers and conspiracy behind the incident”.

The jathedar called the murder a “failure of rule of law” and demanded a probe “to bring out all aspects of this incident to knowledge of world so the right version of Sikh community can be presented.”

In a statement, he also commented on role of the media. “Media should restrain from hurting image of Sikh community. It is duty of media to present the facts and leave the judgement on their readers and viewers instead of itself playing judge,” he said.

He further said, “There is nothing above the Guru Granth Sahib for Sikhs. But the way in which sacrilege incidents are being reported and accused are often termed ‘mentally ill’ to avoid the unfolding conspiracy has hurt the confidence of Sikhs in law and justice system.

“The failure of the Indian justice system in delivering justice to Sikhs in more than 400 sacrilege incidents in last six years is behind the Singhu border incident. Independent agency should conduct probe into the incident so that all the facts come before the public and motive of powers working behind this conspiracy can be unveiled,” said the jathedar.



Giani Harpreet Singh

LAKHIMPUR KHERI DEATHS

SIT on lookout for man who drove third SUV

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 17

A SPECIAL investigation team (SIT) of the UP Police is on the lookout for four more people, including a Kaushambi resident accused of driving one of the three SUVs that ran over a group of protesting farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri on October 3.

Six men — Union MoS Ajay Mishra’s son Ashish Mishra and his associates Luvkush Pandey, Ashish Pandey, Ankit Das, Shekhar Bharti and Lateef — have been arrested in the case. They are in judicial custody, said defence counsel Awadesh Kumar Singh.

Four farmers died after being hit by the convoy while four others, including a journalist, were killed in the subsequent violence. While one SUV belongs to minister Ajay Mishra, another is owned by former Union minister Akhilesh Das’s nephew Ankit Das. The owner of the third vehicle is yet to be ascertained.

Sonipat court sends 3 Nihang Sikhs to 6-day police remand

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, OCTOBER 17

THE DISTRICT and sessions court in Sonipat on Sunday remanded three Nihang Sikhs, who were arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder of 35-year-old Lakhbir Singh at the farmers’ protest site at Singhu border, in six days police custody.

Police claimed that the three accused — Narain Singh, Bhagwant Singh and Govind Preet Singh — have confessed to the murder, and cited “desecration” of the Sikh holy book as the reason.

The police had sought 14 days remand for identification of other accused in the case and for recovery of murder weapons.

Deputy SP (law and order), Sonipat, Virender Singh said, “The three accused were produced in court and sent to six days police custody. We had pleaded the court for 14 days custody, stating that certain recoveries [weapons, blood stained clothes] had to be made and to identify and arrest other co-accused from locations in Punjab. One sword has been recovered from Narain Singh. He claims to have slashed the victim’s leg with the sword.”

Police said the claim of desecration of the holy book is yet to be verified.

“So far, there is no video footage of the alleged act [of desecration]. In preliminary questioning, the accused have given varying statements regarding

the version of events of that day,” said DSP Singh.

Late on Saturday night, the police and crime branch of Sonipat arrested two Nihang Sikhs — Bhagwant Singh and Govind Preet Singh — hours after they had “surrendered” to the police for their alleged role in the lynching of Lakhbir Singh. In a video clip Saturday night, Nihang leaders told media persons that the men were going to surrender to the police.

While Bhagwant is from Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Govind Preet is from Jalandhar in Punjab. Both are part of Fatehgarh Dera in Punjab.

The police said during questioning the accused said the victim was an “agent” who had been sent by nefarious elements to sabotage the farmers’ protests.

The accused were identified through several videos, which were shared on social media following the incident, said the police.

On Sunday evening, several groups of Nihang leaders at Singhu border demanded an independent probe into the October 15 incident, calling it a “big conspiracy”.

“It should be probed who sent him (victim) here? Some are asking for evidence of sacrilege. In earlier sacrilege cases [Bargari, Kotkapura], there was sufficient evidence, but no action was taken and culprits were released,” said Balwinder Singh, from Panth Akali Nirwair Khalsa, Udna Dal.

MLA amassed disproportionate income worth Rs 5 cr: Odisha vigilance dept

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 17

THE ODISHA vigilance department on Sunday revealed that a secret assessment of properties attached to Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahy has led to unearthing disproportionate assets worth Rs 5.05 crore.

Searches are still underway at 15 different locations linked to the legislator, officials said.

Panigrahy, who was a close aide of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, was arrested by the vigilance department in December 2020 for cheating people on the pretext of providing jobs, and was rusticated from the BJD for “anti-people activities”. He, however, has denied the allegations.

On December 9, the vigilance department had filed a complaint before a Lokayukta court, stating that Panigrahy “had amassed assets disproportionate to known sources of income by resorting to corrupt practices”.

Thereafter, the Odisha Lokayukta had directed the department to conduct an inquiry in the case.

“Accordingly, an inquiry was conducted which revealed that Dr Panigrahy had intentionally enriched himself illicitly during his incumbency as a public servant from 24.5.2009 to 30.11.2020 and was found in possession of disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 5,05,04,656. The probe report was submitted to the Lokayukta, Odisha, Bhubaneswar on 28.5.2021,” a statement by the department on Sunday said.

On directions of the Lokayukta, the department registered a case on October 4 for a detailed investigation.

Simultaneous searches are underway by a team of two additional SPs, 17 DSPs and other team members led by an SP.

BRIEFLY

MADHYA PRADESH
4 RPSF jawans injured during gun cleaning

Bhopal: Four jawans of the Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) were injured on Sunday when an automatic gun accidentally went off while it was being cleaned in Madhya Pradesh's Itarsi town, an official said. The incident occurred in the guard running room of the railway station at Itarsi, about 95 kilometres from the state capital, Archana Sharma, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Railway), Itarsi, told PTI over phone. "In an accidental firing during the cleaning of an automatic gun, four RPSF jawans were injured by shrapnel on Sunday afternoon. They were admitted in Hoshangabad's Narmada Hospital," she said. Narmada Hospital's media in-charge Manoj Saran said the condition of jawan Tinku Dharmal was serious. **PTI**

ANDHRA PRADESH
Woman Maoist surrenders before police

Visakhapatnam: An area committee member of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) surrendered before the police in this district. Involved in more than 46 grave crimes, including six murders, Korra Kumari alias Swetha carried a reward of Rs 4 lakh on her head. She joined Maoist ranks in 2009, inspired by her uncle and senior Maoist leader Gemmili Jambri. She became a dalam member in 2010 and elevated as ACM in 2015 in the Pedabayalu Dalam of the Maoist, Superintendent of Police of Visakhapatnam district, B Krishna Rao said. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH
2 killed, 3 hurt in incident of lightning strike

Bahraich: Two people were killed and three others sustained serious injuries when they were hit by lightning here on Sunday, police said. The incident occurred in Behrha village under Khairghat area of the district, they said. SHO of Khairghat Police Station Rajkumar Singh said some villagers were grazing cattle when it started raining. They took shelter under a mango tree and were struck by lightning. The five injured were taken to a health centre where Santosh Kumar (45) and Chandan (30) were declared dead by the doctors, he said. **PTI**

Rapid Action Force and Kerala fire and rescue personnel at Kavalu in Kottayam district on Sunday. **PTI**

Kerala landslides toll rises to 22, rescue efforts continue

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 17

A DAY after rain triggered massive landslides in Kerala's Kottayam and Idukki districts, officials said Sunday the death toll had risen to 22, even as rescue workers rummaged through debris.

As many as 105 relief camps have been set up in various districts as the rain subsided on Sunday. However, a red alert has been sounded for seven dams where the water level is rising. The state government has announced a relief package of Rs 4 lakh each for the dependents of the victims who perished in the landslides at Kootickal village in Kottayam and Kokkayar in Idukki.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi telephoned Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and inquired about the situation, the CMO said in statement, adding that the Prime Minister has promised all required assistance to the state.

Vijayan said NDRF units have been deployed in five districts and directions have been given to deploy more units in other districts. Navy choppers have been used to drop food packets to the stranded

A woman, whose house was damaged in a landslide, at Plappally in Kottayam district. **PTI**

at Kootickal and Kokkayar in Idukki.

At Kootickal, a six-member family, including three minors, was wiped out when a portion of a hill behind their house slid down with trees and slush and fell on the house on Saturday. At Kokkayar, meanwhile, Cheripurath Fousiya shared a video of the heavy flow of rainwater near her house. Minutes later, she and her two minor daughters were caught by the landslide.

State minister V N Vasavan, who was coordinating search operations in Kottayam, said the

bodies of 13 persons missing from the district in the landslide have been recovered. Although all bodies have been retrieved, rescue operations are to continue in the Kanjirapally region, where roads have to be restored on a war footing. Meanwhile, in Kokkayar, where nine bodies have been recovered so far, search operations are on for two missing persons, including a child, he said.

The rescue operations are being led by the state fire and rescue teams, NDRF units and Army men. Three columns of the Army were

deployed for search operations.

A defence spokesperson said that despite the harsh and inclement weather conditions, the Army reached the spot within a few hours of requisition and has since been employed in assistance to the civil administration. The recovery operation was made more difficult by the fact that the team had to clear the entire area of affected landslide only after the road was cleared for the movement of earth movers.

The IMD said Saturday's low-pressure area over southeast Arabian Sea and adjoining Kerala has become less marked and now seen as a trough from south Interior Karnataka to south Tamil Nadu at lower levels. Under its influence, isolated heavy rainfall was very likely over coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu on Sunday and would see a significant reduction thereafter.

The IMD said a fresh spell of easterly wave is likely to affect south Peninsular India from October 20 and would cause fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy falls likely over Kerala, south interior Karnataka and Tamil Nadu from October 20, which would be likely to continue for 3-4 days.

Karnataka
Cong's image consultancy firm among entities searched by I-T

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 17

THE INCOME Tax department has conducted searches on entities across seven locations in Bengaluru, Surat, Chandigarh and Mohali, and has unearthed unaccounted investments and bogus expenditures.

In Bengaluru, the search was conducted on DesignBoxed Creative Private Limited — an image consultancy firm reportedly hired by Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D K Shivakumar to strategise the Congress campaign ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls in the state.

In a press statement issued on Sunday, the I-T department said, "Incriminating evidence found reveals that the group has been engaged in obtaining accommodation entries using an entry operator. The entry operator has admitted to have facilitated transfer of cash and unaccounted income of the group through hawala operators. Inflation of expenditure and under-reporting of revenue has also been detected. The group has also been found to be indulging in unaccounted cash payments."

In a statement, DesignBoxed co-founder Naresh Arora said, "Income Tax raids on DesignBoxed and me and our associates found absolutely nothing — no unaccounted valuables of any kind... They targeted me and my colleagues only because we have been working for the opposition... Apart from trying to find anything remotely incriminatory against top Congress leaders, the raids were intended to intimidate a self-made professional and political campaign management firm so that they don't work for India's main opposition party."

First time since March '20, no Covid death in Mumbai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

MUMBAI ON Sunday reported no deaths from Covid-19 for the first time since March 26, 2020. The city recorded 367 positive cases on Sunday, taking its total caseload to 7.5 lakh, with 5,920 active Covid patients. The death toll in the city stands at 16,180.

"Mumbai records zero Covid death after 26th March 2020. This is great news for all of us in Mumbai. As municipal commissioner, I salute team MCGM for their spectacular performance. Let us all keep the mask on our face and let every citizen of Mumbai get vaccinated if some of us haven't yet," Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said in a statement.

Mumbai had reported its first Covid death on March 17, 2020, with a 64-year-old man passing away six days after he tested positive. Over the last 19 months, the only day Mumbai reported zero deaths was on March 26, 2020. The maximum deaths reported in Mumbai on a single day was in June 2020, with 136 deaths being reported.

While daily Covid cases have seen a slight increase in the last two months after relaxation in

As Covid cases decline, tourists visit the BMC headquarters as part of a 'heritage walk' initiative, in Mumbai on Sunday. **PTI**

lockdown guidelines and festivals like Ganeshotsav and Navratri, the city has been reporting single digit deaths since August 2.

Chahal said that 97% of eligible citizens of Mumbai have received a single dose of vaccination and 55% are fully vaccinated. As per the BMC data, so far 1.34 crore people have been administered at least one dose of vaccine while 48.33 lakh are fully vaccinated with both doses.

According to officials, the decline in numbers of Covid-19 deaths is mainly due to vaccination. "The vaccines have been

proving effective as numbers of deaths have decreased in the last three months even when the number of positive patients was high," said a BMC official.

Meanwhile, of the 343 samples sent for genome sequencing, 54 per cent were of 'Delta Variants', 34 per cent of 'Delta derivatives' and remaining 12 per cent of other strains. According to the BMC, only three Covid patients who died were unvaccinated, while among the vaccinated very few had required hospitalization.

On Sunday, the civic body released data of 343 Covid patients whose samples were taken for genome sequencing at the lab at Kasturba Hospital in Chinchpokli.

Data show that 185 were of Delta variants, 117 were Delta derivatives and 40 patients were of other strains. The civic body in a statement said that of the total samples tested, 121 were found not vaccinated. All three deaths were among unvaccinated people. Two were Delta derivative deaths and one was from Delta variants.

As per the data, 168 people with double dose were infected, of whom 46 were hospitalized. There were 54 patients with one dose of vaccine, of whom seven were admitted in hospital for treatment.

First vaccination dose given to all those eligible: Uttarakhand CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 17

THE UTTARAKHAND government on Sunday announced that it had completed its target of 100 per cent first dose vaccination against Covid-19 among the eligible population in the state.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that over 74 lakh people in the state had received their first dose and over 34.68 lakh among them received their second dose. In August, Dhami had declared that his government will vaccinate everyone in the state in the next four months.

"We had a target that by December we will vaccinate everyone. We have achieved this target before time. All of those who were eligible, except pregnant women and those who cannot be vaccinated due to health reasons, have been given first dose of the vaccine," Dhami said, thanking officials and health workers.

So far, 6 states and UTs have completed 100 per cent first dose vaccination — Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Goa, Himanchal Pradesh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Sikkim.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

595
DAYS SINCE
PANDEMIC
BEGAN

NEW CASES: 13,837

ACTIVE CASES: 1,91,189

TOTAL VACCINATION: 97,65,89,540

DAILY DEATHS
167

TOTAL DEATHS
4,52,291

WEEKLY CFR
0.97%

OVERALL CFR
1.34%



TESTS TODAY: **12,06,075** | TOTAL TESTS: **59,21,41,456**
WEEKLY POSITIVITY: **1.29%** | OVERALL POSITIVITY: **5.76%**

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	7,555	88,107	10.55%	3,72,37,688
■ Maharashtra	1,715	28,631	1.68%	9,13,05,365
■ Tamil Nadu	1,218	14,814	0.93%	5,28,70,985
■ Mizoram	948	11,998	14.08%	11,94,127
■ West Bengal	624	7,421	2.47%	6,62,19,902

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	74	26,944	0.67%	0.57%
■ Maharashtra	31	1,43,388	1.68%	2.19%
■ Tamil Nadu	15	35,899	1.03%	1.35%
■ West Bengal	14	18,977	1.49%	1.21%
■ Assam	6	5,950	1.05%	0.99%

Note: Data as on Oct 17; vaccination numbers as of Oct 16. Deaths include those from previous days.

GMC OXYGEN CRISIS

Panel says nothing unusual about death data; blames hospital for not raising supply issues

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, OCTOBER 17

A THREE-MEMBER committee appointed by the Goa government to probe the alleged oxygen supply issues at Goa Medical College & Hospital (GMC) in May, amid the second wave of Covid-19, has said the hospital administration did not raise the issue of lack of oxygen or seek augmentation of oxygen on time. The committee also said that between May 11 and 13, it didn't "find anything unusual" in the number of deaths.

Between May 9 and May 14 (excluding May 13 on which the government did not issue a mortality bulletin) GMCH — the state's top medical institution that treated most of the critical Covid-19 patients — reported 188 Covid deaths of the total 323 across Goa. After the LMO tank at GMC became functional from May 15 to May 19, it accounted for 104 of the total toll of 230. However, this corresponded with a drop in the number of active cases at the time too.

Health minister Vishwajit Rane had stirred up a storm when he claimed on May 11 that 26 Covid-19 patients had died in the Goa Medical College in the early hours

of the day when supply of oxygen was interrupted. That was also the day Goa recorded its single-day-highest mortality count of 75.

The committee, set up by the government on May 13, submitted its report on July 23. IIT Goa Director Dr B K Mishra, former dean of GMC Dr V N Jindal and revenue secretary Sanjay Kumar are part of the committee.

The committee stated that on three days — May 11, 12, 13 — "it was alleged that GMC had witnessed a large number of deaths between 02:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs, due to lack of oxygen... The committee could not find anything unusual in the number of deaths for those three days as was reported in the media, as compared to the other days."

At the peak of the second wave in Goa, GMC relied on oxygen supply of trolleys that were driven by tractors from the supplier M/S Scoop's plant, about 45 minutes away from the hospital. During peak demand, three trolleys (of 48 oxygen cylinders each) were required to remain connected. The system was replaced by the installation of a Liquid Medical Oxygen tank at the hospital on May 15.

The committee said that prior to the installation of the LMO tank, while there were incidents of pressure drops, they were not

"long enough to cause loss of life".

"Incidents of pressure drops were quite likely to occur during changeover of empty trolleys, especially due to the late arrival of the next trolley. Any drop in pressure activates an alarm in the wards. The committee concludes that such incidents did occur and caused panic among patients and healthcare workers. However, the committee could not conclude that such intermittent incidents of drop in pressure were long enough to cause loss of life... At high demand times, the trolley system based supply might have failed to supply adequate oxygen, especially at the tail end of the supply chain, even if it did not cause any death," the report said.

The committee also said that GMC had not made an assessment for the rational use of oxygen and pointed out that prompt action on the issue flagged in a letter written by the Goa Association of Resident Doctors (GARD) on May 1 would have "enabled better management of the situation".

The 35-page report also said that GMC did not have a Hospital Information Management System (HIMS) in place and that "data on the number of patients admitted, type of oxygen therapy was not readily available".

Gandhi Ashram redevelopment: Trust begins process to prepare 'concept note'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, OCTOBER 17

AS THE Central government and the Gujarat government are moving ahead with a Rs 1,200-crore project of Gandhi Ashram Memorial and Precinct Development, the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust (SAPMT) has started a consultation process to prepare a "concept note" on the interpretation, exhibition and experience a visitor would have while visiting the proposed "larger" ashram premise spread across around 120 acres.

SAPMT started the process after receiving a formal communication from Gujarat government and issued a public statement on Sunday, stating, "The redevelopment proposal for the Sabarmati Ashram precinct in Ahmedabad

has led to much discussion and several concerns have been raised... Currently, the area for visitors known as the Ashram is about 3 acres on which stands Friday Kunj, which was home to Mahatma Gandhi from 1917 to 1930. It also houses the museum designed by Charles Correa. The memorial is visited by over 3,000 people every day."

"The area which people visit is a fraction of the original ashram that was spread over 120 acres of land and had 63 structures... Nearly 48 of these buildings are present even today. With a view to give visitors a larger experience of the ashram as it was, the restoration plan proposes that a larger area approximately 55 acres be developed similar to the current memorial giving the visitors an understanding of the variety of activities and the functioning of the ashram in those days," it adds.

Gandhian organisations protest Ashram project

VIVEK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR, OCTOBER 17

PROMINENT GANDHIAN organisations have kicked off the 'Sevagram-Sabarmati Sandesh Yatra' to protest the Centre and Gujarat government's decision to redevelop Sabarmati Ashram and turn it into a tourist centre.

More than 50 prominent Gandhians began the yatra by offering prayers at the Sevagram Ashram on Sunday morning. They are set to march towards Sabarmati Ashram.

"Mahatma Gandhi contemplated life and society at these institutions, which have inspired thousands of people. And they

continue to attract people from all over the world to draw inspiration from them. But now the Central government is reportedly bringing about changes in the ashram precincts, which is an attack on the Gandhian thought of beauty in simplicity," said Sanjay Singh, the convener of the yatra.

"The Central government is reportedly spending Rs 1,200 crore to turn the Sabarmati Ashram into a tourist spot, which would have a new museum, an amphitheatre, a VIP lounge, shops, eateries and various entertainment facilities. This will end the original form of the ashram, which is a historical heritage of not only India but of the entire world," he said.



WORDLY WISE
WE KNOW THAT NO ONE EVER SEIZES POWER WITH
THE INTENTION OF RELINQUISHING IT.
— GEORGE ORWELL

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

OPENING THE FIELD

Fertiliser crisis shouldn't be wasted: Bring urea under nutrient-based subsidy and let farmers think beyond DAP and MOP

THE NEXT COUPLE of weeks will be closely watched for cases of paddy stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, that have mercifully been lower in number so far. But they will also matter for the availability of fertilisers to farmers across India. As reported by this newspaper, stocks of all nutrients, particularly di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and muriate of potash (MOP), are at precariously low levels. Viral videos of farmers even looting fertiliser bags from trucks, including in the Union Agriculture Minister's constituency, mirror the desperation. Plantings of wheat, mustard, chana, masoor, potato, onion and other rabi crops are about to commence, if they haven't already. Soil moisture conditions are also most conducive, thanks to the surplus rains since September. Shortages of fertiliser — more so DAP, required right at the time of sowing — can be a dampener in such a situation. And with state elections ahead in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand, they can prove politically costly too.

The Narendra Modi government will have its work cut out in the coming days managing supplies and, possibly, farmer anger. It should have raised the subsidy on non-urea fertilisers in time for the industry to plan imports. Given spiraling global prices — of fertilisers as well as inputs such as phosphoric acid, ammonia and sulphur — imports were viable only if companies could pass these on to farmers here. The government acted when they did; retail prices went up from Rs 24,000 to Rs 34,000 per tonne for some complex fertilisers. On October 12, it approved a substantial hike in the subsidy on DAP and three popular complexes. This decision ideally should have come much earlier to enable building of sufficient opening stocks for the rabi season. But now that imports can happen, the government must ensure that the material is moved quickly from the ports to the consumption centres. Once farmers are assured of enough stock in transit, the panic buying will stop and they may not mind even delaying sowing by a week.

The government should also use the current supply crisis to wean away farmers from applying too much high-analysis fertilisers. Urea and DAP contain 46 per cent nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P), respectively, while MOP has 60 per cent potassium (K). Why not replace them with NPK complexes such as 12:32:16 and 10:26:26, or single super phosphate having 16 per cent P and 11 per cent sulphur? Farmers need to know that India imports much of its fertiliser raw materials. These can be used for products delivering the same nutrients in just the required quantities, including in water-soluble form or even foliar application like IFFCO's Nano Urea. This crisis shouldn't be wasted: Bring urea under nutrient-based subsidy and let farmers think beyond DAP and MOP.

BRING STATES ON BOARD

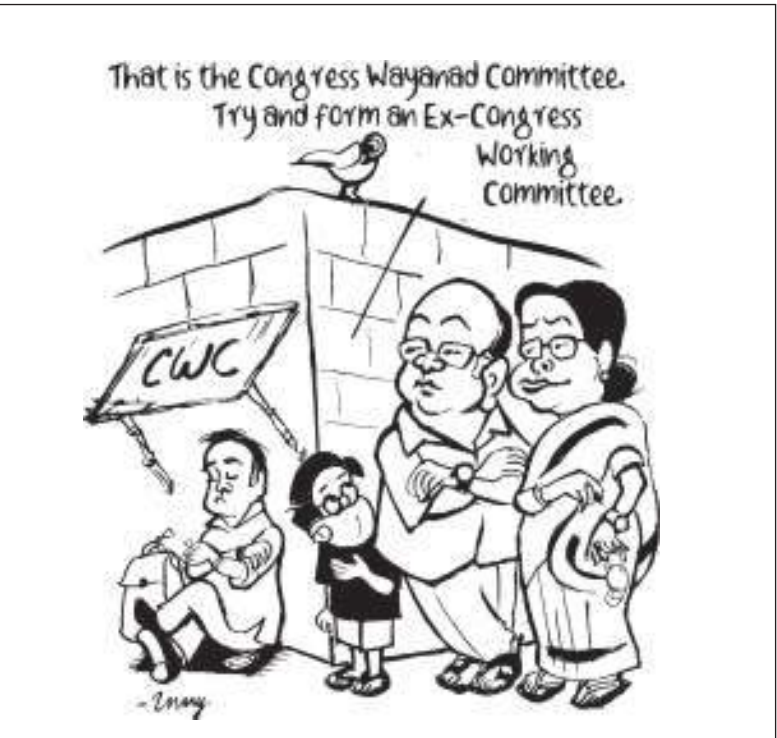
Decision to increase BSF jurisdiction should have been taken after talking to states. It is not too late for Centre to reach out to them

THE UNION MINISTRY of Home Affairs has increased the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force to 50 km from the border in Assam, Punjab and West Bengal, instead of the earlier 15 km. The decision is ostensibly linked to securing the three border states at a time of increased seizure of drugs, new smuggling routes for narcotics and weapons, and concerns over cross-border infiltration by militants, in the backdrop of a deteriorating security environment in the region. The BSF's jurisdiction has been extended only with respect to the powers of search, seizure and arrest that it currently has under the Criminal Procedure Code, Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Passport Act, 1967. It has the same powers under the NDPS Act, Arms Act and Customs Act but its jurisdictions under these will remain within 15 km. But while BSF officials have said this measure would provide "uniformity" in operations in border states, the state governments in Punjab and West Bengal have called it another attack on federalism and an infringement of state powers. No state should have a problem with any move to improve the country's security. The problem, however, is the perceived weaponisation by the Centre of central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation and even the Narcotics Control Bureau. In recent years, this has led to Opposition-ruled states becoming distrustful of any move towards expanding the central role within their boundaries.

As Gujarat Chief Minister, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also protested against the UPA government's move to increase the BSF jurisdiction in states. "Co-operative federalism" is one of the prime minister's mantras, but the real challenge lies in the implementation. Instead of a bland notification announcing the changes, the Union Home Ministry could have taken into confidence the governments of states where it has increased the BSF's area of operation, and prevented a vital paramilitary force from being dragged into a political exchange.

BSF operations would be hamstrung without the co-operation of the state governments. The paramilitary needs the support of the local police force to discharge its duties efficiently, especially as it has to hand over arrested persons and seizures to the police, and leave the rest of the procedures, including the registration of the FIR and the preparation of the chargesheet, to them. Co-ordination with the state police is also crucial for both forces to understand their accountability and prevent blame games when slip-ups happen. These were reasons enough to bring the state governments on board in a decision as important as this one. It is not too late even now for the Centre to call a meeting of the border states and brief them about the security concerns that have prompted this decision.

FREEZE FRAME



E P UNNY



UPENDRA BAXI

THE TRIUMPHANT AND critical perspectives have always been present in the specialist discourses about the "justice" of global and national taxation regimes. India is no stranger to this: Witness the controversies regarding exemption from income tax for agriculture, progressive taxation measures, and even the current post-arbitration negotiation with Vodafone.

Most recently, the ongoing reporting of Pandora Papers reveals the secrets of "wealthy elites from more than 200 countries and territories" and data about "tax and secrecy havens". A spectre of the global economy as a supersystem for wealth-maximisation run amok, reveals again the menacing faith, and face, of the worship of private profit. Giant footprints of illicit economies by the enemies of impoverished people everywhere continue to endanger human rights, justice, and collective human security.

The pursuit of human rights and justice cannot merely be matters of state and polity. It affects all citizens of the world. Even hard-nosed economic theorists and CEOs must now accept the sentiment (in the famous Bollywood ditty of the 1950s): "*Jahan bajti hai shehnai, wahan matam bhi hote hain* (Where the trumpets sound, there is also lamentation)". The global movements for tax justice take people's suffering and civic lamentation seriously as a way of taking human rights seriously.

The European Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has blown its trumpet by announcing its inclusive framework's statement (backed by 134 countries and jurisdictions and extending to over 90 per cent of the global economy). It adopts a two-pillar solution: Pillar one applies to about 100 of the biggest and most profitable MNEs and re-allocates part of their profit to the countries where they sell their products and provide their services — this would obviate the unfair corporate governance practices, which specialise in tax avoidance and evasion. Under pillar two, any company with over EUR 750 million of annual

Elimination of tax abuse, tax havens needs to be seen as a part of the global struggle for human rights

The pursuit of human rights and justice cannot merely be matters of state and polity. It affects all citizens of the world. Even hard-nosed economic theorists and CEOs must now accept the sentiment.

nual revenue would now be subject to an effective minimum rate of 15 per cent.

The OECD declares that "tax havens" would "no longer exist" and that "international financial services may continue" only on "the basis that they add real economic value for their customers and support for commercial transactions that are not tax-driven". Pillar one ensures that with "more than \$125 billion of profit re-allocated to market jurisdictions, developing countries will stand to gain more than developed countries as a share of corporate income tax". And the global minimum tax may "generate around \$150 billion in additional global tax revenues per year". The developing countries will further gain "revenues under a treaty-based subject to tax rule (STTR) which will allow countries to retain their right to tax certain payments..." Besides these two pillars, it is said that the OECD plan will neither discourage tax competition nor innovation.

The elimination of tax havens is a good human rights scenario. The losses due to "tax abuse" have been estimated by the Tax Justice Institute (The State of Tax Justice 2020 report) at nearly \$427 billion annually. Of this staggering amount, nearly \$245 billion is lost to "multinational corporations shifting profit into tax havens in order to underreport how much profit they actually made in the countries where they do business". The remaining "\$182 billion is lost to wealthy individuals hiding undeclared assets and incomes offshore, beyond the reach of the law".

The average loss equivalent of 9.2 per cent haunts national health budgets. This amount goes to tax havens every year, with "lower-income countries losing much larger equivalent proportions than higher-income countries". Higher-income countries, though they suffer a loss of \$382 billion in tax revenue annually, are responsible for facilitating 98 per cent of all global tax losses, while lower-income countries are responsible for less than 2 per cent. Even during the pandemic, when all countries need greater resources to protect public health, the human right to health and equitable healthcare

stands mocked. For example, the equivalent of over 34 million nurses' annual salaries is lost to tax havens each year globally!

The OECD proposals have received a mixed response from global tax justice NGOs because of the apprehension that the global level of 15 per cent tax on multinational enterprises and corporations, instead of serving as a mere baseline, will eventually become the basic norm, thus discouraging any healthy tax competition.

The Global Alliance for Tax Justice has denied legitimacy to the OECD statement and described it as a "politically biased and opaque process, outside the UN system" which does not "address the fundamental problems of the current international tax architecture". It reiterates its demand for "the establishment of a universal, intergovernmental UN tax commission" and "negotiating a UN Tax Convention to comprehensively address tax havens, tax abuse by multinational corporations and other illicit finance..." Probably, the UN Human Rights Council can be a pivotal agency performing leadership tasks, given the history of OECD, which promoted distinctly trade-related and market-friendly multilateral arrangements and undermined the human rights of the impoverished masses and nations. Besides, this suggestion entails greater transparency and wider participation in the UN system.

Given the privatisation and corporatisation of many of its mandates and missions, and the overall performance of the permanent members of the Security Council, the display of faith in the UN system is indeed moving. But one must take the world system as one may find it, without ever abandoning the dreams of a just world order. The human right to dream must remain a struggle to overcome all nightmares, particularly those assiduously justified by market fundamentalism and manufactured by profligate global corporate governance.

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KAVITA KRISHNAN

AN EVENT MARKING the 28th foundation day of India's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) revealed much about the current state of human rights in India. By definition, defending human rights — rights that are recognised to reside in every human being and are not conferred by the state — requires vigilant scrutiny of, and curbs on, the power exercised by the state. The NHRC is India's statutory human rights body, intended to act as an independent watchdog to monitor the actions of the state and its agencies. At this event, though, the watchdog could easily be mistaken for a loyal lapdog of the institutions it is supposed to monitor.

The current chairperson of the NHRC is retired Supreme Court judge Arun Mishra, who as a sitting judge had hailed PM Modi as a "versatile genius" and an "internationally acclaimed visionary who can think globally and act locally". Mishra chose the NHRC foundation day as an occasion to lavish Union Home Minister Amit Shah with praise, declaring: "It is due to you that a new era has now begun in Jammu and Kashmir."

Mishra was referring to the abrogation of Article 370 that stripped J&K of statehood. Since then, the Modi regime has controlled the territory of Jammu and Kashmir without even the nominal rituals of democratically elected state-level representation, let alone the right to express any form of democratic protest. The petition challenging the constitutionality of that move has been gathering dust in the Supreme Court for the past two

WRONG ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights defenders don't tarnish India's image. They are a check on state power

From the dais of this human rights platform, PM Modi accused them of seeing 'human rights violations in certain incidents but not in other similar incidents'. The fact is that India's human rights defenders have held every shade of government responsible and accountable for human rights violations.

years. In this "new era", Kashmiri Muslim government employees are being summarily dismissed from their jobs without any public enquiry on the grounds of mere "association with" any person who sympathises with the self-determination for Kashmiri people. Further, the "new era" has brought back an old spectre — of civilians being killed by terrorist outfits.

From the dais of this human rights platform, PM Modi took aim at India's human rights defenders. He accused them of seeing "human rights violations in certain incidents but not in other similar incidents" and declared that such a "selective" human rights lens "tarnishes the nation's image". The fact is that India's human rights defenders have held every shade of government responsible and accountable for human rights violations and infringement of civil liberties. Sudha Bharadwaj, a leading human rights defender who is in prison for the past three years thanks to flimsy charges under a draconian law, exposed rights violations in Chhattisgarh's Bastar when the Union home ministry, then under the control of Modi's rival, the Congress, unleashed "Operation Green Hunt" that resulted in the rape, massacre and displacement of Adivasi civilians in the name of combating Maoist insurgents. Human rights bodies like the PUCL and PUDR held the Congress regime accountable for the anti-Sikh riots in Delhi in 1984 just as they held the BJP and Modi accountable for the killings of Muslims in Gujarat in 2002.

In fact, it is Modi who is guilty of the "selective" gaze of which he accuses his critics. He tweets his concern for a cricketer's thumb injury but is silent when the SUV belonging to the son of his deputy home minister mows down protesting farmers; or a Muslim man is shot by police in BJP-ruled Assam, and his body desecrated by an embedded photographer.

Modi has repeatedly declared that "No Hindu can ever be a terrorist, and if he is a terrorist, he can never be a Hindu." He said this in an election speech, accusing the Congress regime of having insulted Hindus by charging Pragma Thakur with a bomb blast at Malegaon, a woman he chose to field as an MP candidate from his party. He thus recognises terrorism not by the nature of an act but, selectively, by the identity of the perpetrator. Shah has likewise explained how the selective tool of the Citizenship Amendment Act will recognise undocumented Hindus, Sikhs, and other non-Muslims as "refugees" while helping to weed out undocumented Muslims as "termmites". To protect a whole category of persons from ever being accused of terror charges based on their faith as Modi does; or to declare a whole category of persons as less than human based on their faith as Shah does — this strips entire communities of their rights as human beings, ie, their human rights.

The writer is secretary, All India Progressive Women's Association and politburo member, CPI-ML Liberation



OCTOBER 18, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

AKALI DEMANDS
THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE movement of the Akali Dal (L) has been postponed till November 30. A decision to this effect was taken after a two-hour meeting of the Dal (L) working committee members, district presidents, party legislators and advisors. The party chief, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, presided over the meeting. Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Longowal said the movement had been postponed to provide ample time to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to examine the party's demands. The meeting condemned the state government for arresting Sikh student leaders on one pretext or the other. It demanded immediate and unconditional release of all arrested student leaders.

Through another resolution, the meeting congratulated Sant Longowal for securing the release of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

INDIRA-REAGAN MEET
THE GOVERNMENT of India has said that PM Indira Gandhi and US President Ronald Reagan will meet at Cancun on October 21. Mrs Gandhi and Reagan at the meeting — their first — are certain to discuss ways to improve the relations between the two countries, which appear to have a divergent outlook on crucial international questions. India has already made it known to the US its views on the Reagan administration's concept of strategic consensus which, it thinks, has brought the superpower conflict closer to India. Indo-US re-

lations have touched a new low following the Reagan administration's decision to supply Pakistan F-16 aircraft and sophisticated military hardware.

GEOFF BOYCOTTED?
FOR REASONS KNOWN to itself, Mrs Gandhi's government is fighting shy of announcing its decision on the fate of the MCC team which is scheduled to visit India next month for a six-Test tour beginning on November 6. Two members of the team, Geoff Boycott and Geoff Cook, are reported to have sporting links with racist South Africa. The issue, which has caused differences in the government, was referred to the political affairs committee of the Cabinet for a decision.

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IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

HARISH RAWAT, CONGRESS LEADER, AICC GEN SECY

“For Congmen, no difference between president, interim president. We have confidence in Soniaji”

HARISH RAWAT says Cong had no choice but to replace Amarinder, explains how Sidhu’s public statements “indirectly” help Cong, refuses to commit on who will lead party in Punjab polls, and says Mamata Banerjee’s taking away of Cong leaders is “weakening democratic forces”. This session was moderated by Deputy Associate Editor MANOJ C G

MANOJ C G: Last month you changed the Chief Minister of Punjab, Amarinder Singh, and it was expected that the Congress would now work unitedly for the coming elections. But there has been new trouble brewing, in the form of PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

We are in a very good position in Punjab, we have a new CM and there is no anti-incumbency against him. All around there is love for Charanjit Singh Channi. The Congress has made history by making a Dalit from a poor family the CM of Punjab... Our PCC president is a high-profile man with a huge following among youngsters. People regard him as a protector of Punjab’s interests, and of certain values that the state loves. The combination is very formidable, of the PCC president and the CM. We will certainly make a comeback in Punjab.

MANOJ C G: What about Sidhu’s resignation as PCC chief?
Sidhu is governed by sentiments, and acts from his heart. There are certain issues that he as well as the Congress hold very dear. There may be some hiccups in dealing with issues, he raised the same, and swayed by sentiment, he tendered his resignation on Twitter. This is not the Congress tradition... Knowing his nature, we gave him time. The CM and he will thrash out whatever problems that remain.

MANOJ C G: Sidhu said he would not compromise on corruption. What did he mean by that?
Certainly there should be no compromise on corruption. The CM has made it very clear that his government will not compromise on corruption and other issues that are in the interest of Punjab. So both are on the same page.

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: You said that it is not Congress tradition to tweet one’s resignation. However, in the past six months, the Congress infighting has played out on social media. Sidhu especially has been regularly tweeting against the government.

Yes, it should not have happened, but Sidhu has developed his politics on an anti-incumbency platform and has been raising issues continuously... while the Akalis were in power, when he resigned from the BJP, and to press the urgency of tackling certain matters now. The style of functioning of Captain Amarinder Singh was different. However, MLAs have been anxious about the promises made in the 2017 Assembly elections that remain unfulfilled, in light of the coming elections, and they were virtually on the verge of revolting. Then the CM himself chose to resign, no one told him to do so.

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: So does the Congress condone the open criticism of own government by Sidhu?
I don’t think so. People understand and know well the style of functioning of Sidhu. He has been addressing issues dear to him since the beginning of his political career, even when he was in the BJP and the party was in power in alliance with the Akalis, issues such as corruption. When he joined the Congress, he initially kept silent on those issues, but when even after four years in power, Captain Amarinder Singh failed to deliver anything concrete on the Bargari (Guru Granth Sahib sacrilege case) and the drugs

issue, or the power purchase agreements, Sidhu started raising his voice. I don’t approve of the PCC chief raising such issues in public, but we appointed Sidhu knowing his style of functioning. This has also indirectly helped the Congress because the people who were angry with the government have hopes of him now. It has (diluted) the anti-incumbency factor. The AAP, which was in a position to take advantage of these issues, could not do so.
... We called CM Amarinder Singh to Delhi and had a detailed discussion on issues. He was given an 18-point charter to fulfill. After several months, we called him again. But nothing was done on that charter. So I can’t blame Sidhu entirely...

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: So will Sidhu be the CM face of the Congress in the Punjab polls, or will the party contest under Channi’s leadership?
We have certain traditions, we will adhere to them. Both will lead in the polls, and after the elections, like it has always been the practice in the Congress, the newly elected MLAs will request the party president to select a CLP leader. This is a time-tested tradition of the Congress.

LIZ MATHEW: After Amarinder Singh quit, senior Congress leader and MP from Punjab Manish Tewari said in an interview to The Indian Express that the AICC leaders in-charge of the state had failed to appreciate how Singh had managed the political situation in the border state and its issues, or that he ran a stable government.

The Congress has always respected the mode of functioning of Amarinder Singh. That’s why he was there as CM for four-and-a-half years; no one raised any question. When his government failed to address the Bargari issue, and the court slammed the SIT report (on it), the MLAs, ministers became restless — it was not the high command. They started complaining, coming to Delhi... certain issues were raised in public, some ministers even offered to resign in the Cabinet. The Congress high command virtually yielded to the MLAs’ demand for a CLP meeting. How can any political party refuse to hear a sizeable number of its MLAs who are continuously pressing for a CLP meeting?... He (the CM) failed to meet the charter of points that was given. That’s why the change.

Manish Tewariji is a very senior leader of ours, very capable, intelligent. I have great affection for him. But he should understand the ground situation in Punjab. It is not just a matter of security, but also of continuance of a government. When the MLAs are revolting, the stability of the government is threatened... The honorable CM (Singh) had seldom called a CLP meeting, or addressed these issues with his MLAs.

LIZ MATHEW: Post his resignation, Amarinder Singh came to Delhi, and met Home Minister Amit Shah, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also NSA Ajit Doval. How concerned is the Congress about Amarinder Singh’s future plans in Punjab?
Amarinder Singhji is a very senior leader and a man of certain principles. He has always stood by the secular values of the Congress and the people of Punjab. The BJP is a villain in the eyes of the people of Punjab, especially the farmers. He should have avoided meeting Mr Amit Shah, there was no requirement. It is not up to me to advise him what to do, but after that, when he started saying that he

IDEA EXCHANGE

WHY HARISH RAWAT

The former chief minister of Uttarakhand, Harish Rawat has been AICC general secretary in-charge of Punjab for more than a year now. He has been steering the party through a particularly turbulent time, amidst a series of rebellions and change of CM. The timing could not be worse for Rawat, who has been vocal that he would rather be focusing on poll-bound Uttarakhand, where he lost from both the Assembly seats he contested last time. Interestingly, while he was CM, the 73-year-old Cong veteran himself had an uneasy relationship with the party high command

had been humiliated, I had to come out and say that was not true... He has forced us to go to this extent. Otherwise, he was one of the most important leaders of the Congress... We are not happy how the situation has developed, but there was no other way left. We gave him ample time - four-five months — to resolve issues, but he failed.

MANOJ C G: The CWC meeting was held Saturday. The leadership issue at the national level has not been settled yet. It has been over two years and the Congress does not have a full-time president. When does the party plan to resolve this?
For Congressmen, there is no difference between an acting president and a full-time president. Soniaji has been president for a long, long time... But these are

challenging times. Everyone, including my friends from G-23, as you call them — I call them senior colleagues or respected colleagues — know well that Soniaji is a unifying factor in the party and everyone has confidence in her leadership. (G-23 refers to the group of 23 leaders of the Congress who wrote to Gandhi more than a year ago seeking sweeping changes in the party structure.)
As far as the CWC meeting is concerned, as a working committee member, I have a right to (approach) the Congress president, for that I need not go to the press. And when we elect (the party president), whom we elect, the framework is our prerogative, it’s the prerogative of the CWC as well as AICC.

MANOJ C G: Will Sonia Gandhi continue as interim president till the next general election?
There will be elections in states before the general election. I think the priority for the party should be winning these elections or consolidating in these states... There are bigger challenges before the party and nation and society at large — the issue of democratic values, of *berozgari* (unemployment), welfare schemes — which are not being addressed by the government ... All these things are dear to the Congress. We should focus on these issues and on winning the elections in states where we are facing them (the BJP). But if the party feels there should be an election (for party president), we are ready for an election also.
We will discuss these things at the CWC. Instead of discussing these things in the media, we should meet the Congress president and discuss with her, that this is our view. Everything can be discussed at the CWC. We always have frank discussions at the CWC. So instead, when I read these things in the media, *ajeeb lagta hai* (it feels strange).

MANOJ C G: Recently, there was talk of Prashant Kishor joining the party. But two weeks ago, he put out a tweet on the Lakhimpur Kheri issue, where he raised doubts on the Congress’s revival. What is your sense?
Our membership is open. Anybody who is an Indian citizen and who has faith in certain values of the freedom movement and Congress party can become a member. So can Prashant Kishor. We are always open to new ideas. But the party cannot be mortgaged to a certain person or individual, however capable. We cannot say, ‘Baba, now you do some work on our behalf. We will stop working’. The Congress has a very democratic method of working... we all have different roles to play. If Prashant Kishor thinks he has an important role to play, he is always welcome. But he will abide by our constitution, tradition... There is a method in the Congress party and he has to come through that. He has to first become a

member of the Congress and then, if there is a suitable position, task for him...

MANOJ C G: Kishor had a meeting with the Gandhis. So why is his entry still in limbo? Is the old guard in the party not enthusiastic about his entry?
I am not privy to his meeting with our party leaders. He should first come to the Congress as a worker and then, after everybody comes to know of his utility, the party will utilise his services, capabilities.
MANOJ C G: Mamata Banerjee is trying to expand her party’s footprint nationally and your leaders, Sushmita Dev in Assam and Luizinho Felerio in Goa, have joined the Trinamool Congress. What does this mean amidst talk of Opposition unity?
I have great respect and affection for Mamataji. She is a great fighter. We were together in the Youth Congress and Parliament for a long time. As a CM, she has evolved. The way she gave a fight to (Narendra) Modi and (Amit) Shah in the recent state elections, I have great respect for that. But in states like Goa etc, her eagerness to take away leaders from the Congress is weakening the democratic forces which are opposed to the BJP. She should understand that in states where her party has no presence, she should not, during election time, take away leaders from the Congress by giving him or her some position. This will not help democratic forces and Opposition unity in fighting the BJP. This is my personal view; the party has not made its position clear on this issue.

MANOJ C G: What is wrong in trying to expand nationally? Does the Congress feel threatened by the TMC?
In elections, each and every vote and worker matters. It’s alright to expand your party, it’s alright, but the timing is not proper. During elections, if you poach from Congress ranks and give them certain positions in the party...
KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR: There is an impression that the Congress high command is still soft on Amarinder Singh. But there are also allegations of Amarinder Singh playing the BJP’s politics in Punjab.
Captain Amarinder Singh is a very senior leader of the Congress... He was our CM for more than nine years (in total). That’s enough to say that the Congress has great respect and affection for Captain Amarinder Singh and his capabilities. In a state like Punjab, you always need a per-

son of secular values — that was the strength of Captain Amarinder Singh. That is why the party placed a great deal of trust in him despite whispers that he was soft towards the BJP and Akalis. In fact, people used to call his government Akali 2. But we never thought that he would join hands with... on certain matters, maybe he took a certain position because the Congress is a democratic party, and we love our internal democracy that allows each one of us to speak out... Which is why, despite MLAs complaining against him, we gave him a long rope to resolve internal issues. But ultimately, a day comes when party has to think of all the issues and we had to call the CLP meeting... He then tendered his resignation. It was his decision. Till the end, we gave him a chance to resolve the issues within the party.
So till the time we feel that Amarinder Singh is a useful man for the Congress and Punjab, we will accommodate him. But it is for him to decide. If he decides to go the Amit Shah way, he can. We are not going to stop him. But we will feel hurt that a person who was so close to the party for so many years has gone the wrong way.

LALMANI VERMA: You said the party’s tradition is that the CLP decides the CM. But in the context of Uttarakhand, you recently said the party should have a CM face ahead of the elections.
I didn’t say this only for Uttarakhand. I had said that state issues should be fought at the level of the state. What is happening now is that even for a municipal election, the BJP uses Modi’s name. What happens then is that real grass-root issues, state-level issues, don’t get highlighted. That is why I said the Congress should make an amendment to our policy of choosing the CM after the election. We should make it clear before the election that this is our leader for the state. But that is a different issue. Right now, I only made our existing policy clear.

LALMANI VERMA: But despite your suggestion, the high command hasn’t named a CM candidate for Uttarakhand. A section in the party is projecting your name for CM.
Dulhan wahi jo piya man bhaye (It’s up to the people to choose). I can’t do anything here. Nobody can do anything about it. When you go to the people, you have to get involved with their issues, you have to talk to them. Since I have been CM before, I tell them what we have done in the past and will do in the future. It’s my natural duty to do so.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

TOP OF THE WORLD



Bill and Hillary Clinton walk out of a hospital in Orange, California. AP

USA

Bill Clinton released from hospital

BILL CLINTON was released Sunday from the Southern California hospital where he had been treated for an infection, and will head home to New York to continue his recovery, a spokesman said. The former president left the University of California Irvine Medical Center around 8 am with Hillary Clinton on his arm. Bill Clinton's "fever and white blood cell count are normalised, and he will return home to New York to finish his course of antibiotics," Dr. Alpesh N. Amin said in a statement shared on Twitter by a Clinton spokesman. Clinton, 75, was admitted Tuesday to the hospital with an infection unrelated to Covid-19. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Police: Man kills 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren

A MAN in Pakistan is suspected of killing his two daughters and their four children by setting their house ablaze because one of the women married against his wishes, police said. Police are searching for Manzoor Hussain after he allegedly set fire to the home that sisters Fauzia Bibi and Khurshid Mai shared in a village in the Muzaffargarh district of central Pakistan, police said. Mai's husband also died in the blaze. Fauzia married Mehboob Ahmad 18 months ago against her father's will. "The incident is outcome of the rivalry between the two families over the love marriage," a police officer said. **REUTERS**

SPAIN

No end in sight to volcanic eruption: Canaries leader

THERE'S NO immediate end in sight to the volcanic eruption that has caused chaos on the Spanish isle of La Palma since it began about a month ago, the president of the Canary Islands said on Sunday. There were 42 seismic movements on the island on Sunday, the largest of which measured 4.3, according to the Spanish National Geographical Institute. "There are no signs that an end of the eruption is imminent even though this is the greatest desire of everyone," President Angel Victor Torres said. **REUTERS**



RUSSIAN FILMMAKERS BACK AFTER ISS STAY

Cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy, Russian actress Yulia Peresild and film director Klim Shipenko rest after landing in a remote area outside Zhezkazgan, Kazakhstan, on Sunday. A Soyuz space capsule carrying a cosmonaut and two Russian filmmakers has landed after a three-and-a-half hour trip from the International Space Station (ISS). Peresild and Shipenko rocketed to the space station on October 5 for a 12-day stint to film segments of a movie titled *Challenge*, in which a surgeon played by Peresild rushes to the space station to save a crew member who needs an urgent operation in orbit. Novitskiy, who spent more than six months aboard the space station, is to star as the ailing cosmonaut in the movie. *Roscosmos via Reuters*

17 US missionaries kidnapped in Haiti

DÁNICA COTO

SAN JUAN, OCTOBER 17

A GROUP of 17 missionaries including children was kidnapped by a gang in Haiti on Saturday, according to a voice message sent to various religious missions by an organisation with direct knowledge of the incident.

The missionaries were on their way home from building an orphanage, according to a message from Ohio-based Christian Aid Ministries.

"This is a special prayer alert," the one-minute message said. "Pray that the gang members would come to repentance."



An area in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. By some estimates, gangs now control roughly half of the city. *NYT*

The message says the mission's field director is working with the US embassy, and that the field director's family and one

other unidentified man stayed at the ministry's base while everyone else visited the orphanage.

A US government spokesperson said they were aware of the reports on the kidnapping.

"The welfare and safety of US citizens abroad is one of the highest priorities of the Department of State," the spokesperson said, declining further comment.

Meanwhile, a senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States is in touch with Haitian authorities to try to resolve the case.

Haiti is once again struggling with a spike in gang-related kidnappings that had diminished after President Jovenel Moïse was

fatally shot at his private residence on July 7, and following a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck southwest Haiti in August and killed more than 2,200 people.

Gangs have demanded ransoms ranging from a couple hundred dollars to more than \$1 million, according to authorities.

Last month, a deacon was killed in front of a church in the capital of Port-au-Prince and his wife kidnapped, one of dozens of people who have been abducted in recent months.

At least 328 kidnapping victims were reported to Haiti Police in the first eight months of 2021, according to the UN Integrated Office in Haiti. **AP**

Apple worker says she was fired after leading movement against harassment

REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 17

AN APPLE employee who led fellow workers in publicly sharing instances of what they called harassment and discrimination at the company said she had been fired.

Janneke Parrish, an Apple programme manager, said the iPhone maker informed her on Thursday that she had been terminated for deleting material on company equipment while she was under investigation over the leaking of a company town hall to media. She told Reuters she denies leaking.

Parrish said she deleted apps that contained details of her finances and other personal information before handing her devices in to Apple as part of the probe.

Parrish said she believes she was fired for her activism.

"To me, this seems clearly retaliatory for the fact that I was speaking out about abuses that have happened at my employer, pay equity and, generally, about our workplace conditions," she said. Apple said Friday it does not discuss specific employee matters.

Apple has recently experienced other examples of employee unrest. Last month, two Apple employees said they filed charges against the company with the National Labor Relations Board.

MEANWHILE

ROBERT DURST ON VENTILATOR WITH COVID

Robert Durst, 78, a former real estate mogul, is on a ventilator in a Los Angeles hospital after testing positive for Covid, days after being sentenced to life in prison for the murder in 2000 of his confidante — a case that drew interest globally and inspired a movie and an HBO documentary. "His health deteriorated over the weeks of the trial," his lawyer said.



Vandalism continues in Bangladesh; minority group calls for hungerstrike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DHAKA, OCTOBER 17

A HINDU temple was vandalised in Bangladesh in the latest case of communal unrest amid days of violence unleashed by mobs that attacked the minority community's places of worship during Durga Puja celebrations over allegations of blasphemy, prompting a minority group to announce a countrywide hungerstrike, media reports said on Sunday.

Temples and Hindu-owned shops in Feni, about 157 km from the country's capital, Dhaka, were vandalised and robbed during clashes on Saturday. The clashes broke out after an attack on demonstrators who were protesting against the targeting of Durga Puja venues in several places in Bangladesh, the *Dhaka Tribune* newspaper reported.

The clashes left at least 40 people, including the officer in charge, Nizamuddin, of Feni Model Police Station, injured, the report said.

On Saturday night, authorities deployed additional police and paramilitary forces, after several temples and businesses owned by Hindus were vandalised and robbed during clashes that lasted from 4.30 pm (local time) to midnight, the report said.

It added that some miscreants on Saturday vandalised six idols at the Daniapara Maha Shoshan Kali Mandir in Rashunia union of Sirajdikhan upazila in Munshiganj, about 40 km from Dhaka.

The report said that protests against attacks and vandalism of Hindu temples during the Durga



Police stand guard during a protest in Dhaka on Saturday. AP

Puja celebrations continued across the country on Saturday, as did the vandalism that led to the public outcry.

Meanwhile, in the country's southeastern port city of Chittagong, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council announced a sit-in and hungerstrike from October 23 in protest against the attacks.

The protest events will take place at Dhaka's Shahbagh and Chittagong's Andarkilla, the council's General Secretary Advocate Rana Dasgupta said at a press conference at the Chittagong Press Club.

Before making the announcement, the forum observed a six-hour strike in Chittagong on Saturday.

The Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad has demanded exemplary punishments for those involved in the vandalism and violence that took place during the Durga Puja celebrations.

Milan Kanti Dutta, president of the forum, said they would launch a tougher movement if the government did not pay

heed to their demand.

"From the home minister to ruling party General Secretary Obaidul Quader, everybody has assured us saying they are informed about everything. If you know everything, why are you not punishing the culprits?" he asked.

Charu Chandra Das Brahmachari, general secretary of ISKCON Bangladesh, said the community would not sit silent and watch the attacks happen.

"We believe a group of fundamentalists are initiating such hatred to upset religious harmony. We also know some activists of the ruling party are affiliated with such heinous crimes at some locations. I would like to urge the prime minister to not become weak and take action against them too," he said.

Blaming the Opposition for the violence, Bangladesh Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud said: "BNP-Jamaat is involved in communal incitement... There was a political motive behind the incident in Comilla which has provoked communal outrage across the country."

Rescuers: Last Jew of Kabul is making his way to Israel

JOSEF FEDERMAN

JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 17

THE MAN known as the last Jew of Kabul could soon be heading to Israel, after agreeing to grant his estranged wife a religious divorce in a Zoom call — a precondition for smooth entry to the Holy Land.

Zebulon Simentov, who fled Afghanistan last month after the Taliban takeover, landed Sunday in Turkey on what his rescuers say is a final stop before travelling to Israel, perhaps as soon as this week.

It caps a weeks-long odyssey that included an escape from his homeland as well as a videoconference divorce procedure meant to ensure he will not run into trouble with Israeli authorities.

Under Jewish religious law, a husband must agree to grant his wife a divorce, something he had refused to do for many years. Facing the prospect of legal action in Israel, where his ex-wife lives, Simentov, after resisting for years, finally agreed to the divorce last month in a special Zoom call supervised by Australian rabbinical authorities.

The Associated Press viewed part of the proceeding. During the sometimes chaotic discussion, conducted through an interpreter who struggled to ex-



Zebulon Simentov

plain the procedure, Simentov agrees to sign a divorce document known as a "get" after receiving assurances that he will not face trouble in Israel.

Rabbi Moshe Margareten, whose nonprofit group Tzedek Association funded the journey, said Simentov had spent the last few weeks living quietly in Pakistan, an Islamic country that does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

He said his group had looked into bringing Simentov to the US but decided that Israel was a better destination both because of difficulties in arranging a US entry visa and because Simentov has many relatives, including five siblings and two daughters, already in Israel.

"We are relieved we were successful in helping Zebulon

Simentov escape from Afghanistan and now into safety in Turkey," said Margaretten, whose group has helped evacuate several dozen other people from Afghanistan. "Zebulon's life was in danger in Afghanistan."

Rabbi Mendy Chitrik, chairman of the Alliance of Rabbis in Islamic States, greeted Simentov at the airport in Istanbul on Sunday.

He said he had an appointment to take Simentov to the Israeli consulate on Monday to arrange his entry to Israel. Under Israel's "Law of Return," any Jew is entitled to Israeli citizenship.

Chitrik said he had been working with Margaretten and other volunteers for several months to get Simentov out of Afghanistan. "I'm happy this issue is finally coming to rest," he said.

How long that will take remains unclear. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said it was unaware of the request and Simentov could also be delayed by coronavirus protocols restricting entry to Israel.

Simentov, who lived in a dilapidated synagogue in Kabul, kept kosher and prayed in Hebrew, and endured decades of war as the country's centuries-old Jewish community rapidly dwindled. But the Taliban takeover in August seems to have been the last straw. **AP**

IN THE PROCESS, THE FAMILY RUNNING THE COMPANY WENT FROM BANKRUPTCY TO EXPORTING AWARD-WINNING VINTAGE RUM

In Venezuela, a rum maker offers gangsters a life outside of crime

ISAYEN HERRERA & ANATOLY KURMANAEV
SABANETA, OCTOBER 17

THEY ONCE used the house to hide their kidnapping victims as they awaited ransom. Now they are converting it into an office for a rum distribution business.

The drastic shift by crime boss Luis Oropeza and his gang is part of an unusual social reintegration project that has brought relative calm to the town of Sabaneta as lawlessness engulfs much of Venezuela.

What is even more surprising is that the programme has also helped its founder, rum maker

Ron Santa Teresa, to survive — and even thrive — in a country where the economy has been caught in a downward spiral for years and the authoritarian government has systematically quashed dissent.

Instead of joining the scores of businessmen fleeing the country to escape kidnappings, arrest or financial ruin, the aristocratic Vollmer family that runs Santa Teresa chose to stay and engage with Sabaneta's criminal gangs and with the socialist government that had once promised to destroy the country's elite. In the process, the Vollmers have gone from declaring bankruptcy to becoming exporters of an award-winning vintage rum.

"If you become an absentee owner, you don't have the relevance and the authority to sit down with whoever you need to sit down," said Alberto Vollmer, 53, the family scion who led the company's restructuring. "You have to walk the talk."

Vollmer's leadership has also helped break the vicious cycle of murder and revenge that had made Sabaneta one of the most violent towns in the country.

"We want to use this business opportunity to show that another way is possible," said Oropeza, 32, who said he killed his first victim at 16.

When the project, known as Alcatraz, began in 2003, the



Rehabilitated gang members at Santa Teresa rum factory. *NYT*

county surrounding Sabaneta recorded 174 homicides per 100,000 residents, on par with the capital of El Salvador in the mid-2010s, when the Central

American country had the highest murder rate in the world.

Although the Venezuelan government long stopped publishing statistics, Santa Teresa estimates

the rate has dropped to a quarter of that figure. Anecdotal evidence appears to support the claim.

"I used to get panic attacks as soon as the night came," said Kerling Coronado, who is married to one of the reintegrated former gang members. "I couldn't sleep. I felt as if someone was smashing my door, because they used to burst into people's houses to kill them."

Santa Teresa contends that 70% of 216 gang members that went through Alcatraz — a two-year reeducation programme that includes rugby games, psychology sessions and vocational training — no longer pursue a life of crime. More than 100 of them have been

employed by the company.

Oropeza, the latest crime boss to pass through Alcatraz, lost three brothers and two cousins to gang violence. One was shot 200 times in the face one Christmas Eve, he said; another was decapitated, and his head used as a football by his enemies.

"It was either them or it was you," said Gregorio Oropeza, Oropeza's surviving brother and fellow former gang member, referring to the incessant violence.

Most of the 14 men who enrolled in the programme with Luis Oropeza had spent time in jail, had killed or had relatives killed. It took years of negotiations for Santa Teresa to overcome gang mem-

bers' fear of being ambushed by rivals or exterminated by the police, and to submit to reeducation.

Accepting Oropeza into the programme presented a challenge for the company as well. In 2018, his gang killed a bodyguard and friend of Vollmer's.

"We ask so many people to forgive," said Gabriel Álvarez, general manager of the Alcatraz project. "When it was our turn, we could not say no."

Try to make amends to the town they once terrorised, Oropeza's gang members are now creating a company that will distribute Santa Teresa's products as well as renovating a school and church. **NYT**

14 ECONOMY

AMID WORLD BANK GROUP-INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ANNUAL MEETINGS

Experts call for review of IMF role, data integrity, completing quota reforms

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

IN THE backdrop of the 2021 annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) currently being held in Washington, leading experts have suggested the need to review the role of IMF due to changing economic weight of emerging countries, stressing on completing quota reforms and maintaining data integrity amid the World Bank discontinuing its Ease of Doing Business reports.

"...it is important that the institutions do maintain their strictest vigilance and standards in repairing any damage to credibility, in ensuring that all such possibilities are eliminated to the extent possible," N K Singh, president of the Institute of Economic Growth and Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, said when asked about World Bank's decision to discontinue EoDB report due to data irregularities. In particular, it

was alleged that the EoDB rankings were tweaked to inflate the ranks for China (in EoDB 2018) and Saudi Arabia, UAE and Azerbaijan (EoDB 2020).

Singh stressed the need to complete quota reforms in the IMF amid changing dynamics of developed and emerging economies including India. A restructuring of the Article IV consultations, under which the IMF holds bilateral discussions with its members usually every year and its staff prepares a report, is also being sought. Article IV consultation is the most powerful instrument and it needs to be restructured and sharpened to make it more useful by using the new technologies and access to public data, Singh said.

Rakesh Mohan, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, said he analysed the issue of IMF quota reforms in a research paper last year. Each member's quota determines its voting power as well as its borrowing capacity. Mohan argues that the US and China should jointly lead the ef-

EXPLAINED
Trend of EMs raising share in global GDP

WITH A continuing trend of emerging markets increasing their share in global output or GDP over the years, many experts have called for alignment of quotas and the accompanying lending windows of the IMF to reflect the changed economic positions of countries. A call is also being made to restructure country-specific consultations being done by multilateral institutions.

forts on transformation of relative quota shares in the IMF and associated reforms in the international monetary system.

"First, as China approaches or even surpasses the United States in its share of global GDP at mar-

ket exchange rates its quota share would have to be of a magnitude similar to that of the United States. Second, the share of the European Union countries, including that of the UK, will have to reduce significantly... Third, the quota share of BRICS countries would have to increase significantly," he wrote in the paper, "IMF Quota reforms and global economic governance: What does the future hold?"

C Rangarajan, former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, argues that the IMF should focus on lower income countries and support other developing countries' market funds raising activities, as its Article IV consultation reports are utilised by credit rating agencies, impacting the fund raising capacity of countries like India. Most of the Asian countries including India can now raise funds on their own on the basis of strength of their forex reserves, and do not have to necessarily go to the IMF like in the past to tide of crisis, he said. "...therefore, they should

now really focus on the much lower income groups and those who are not able to go to the market at all to raise funds and so, that is one thing that the IMF has to do. The second is that even though the countries like India and others are no longer clients, there will still be occasions when because of the sudden rise in the price of petroleum products or something, there may be a need and therefore, they need to look at the problems that may arise because of certain situations," Rangarajan said.

During the 1991 crisis, India was able to utilise funding facilities of the IMF and able to tide over the difficult situation.

"The larger issue that has been talked about is how we see the management system in the IMF should be modified, that this forever informal arrangement, that the head of the IMF should be a European and the head of World Bank should be an American. The time has come reconsider this, and the IMF probably should really rethink on it," he said.

Facebook was concerned of hate speech violations in Assam ahead of 2021 polls

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

AN ANALYSIS of Facebook's success at enforcing its content rules by the social media giant's employees has shown how the company only removes a fraction of posts that violate its hate speech rules. *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Sunday, citing internal documents reviewed by it. One of the reasons behind Facebook's inability to regulate such content on its platform is the lack of training its AI has on foreign languages, the report said, adding that in March this year, the company's employees who were gearing up for regional elections in India observed that hate speech was a major risk in Assam, where there is growing violence against Muslims and other ethnic groups.

"Assam is of particular concern because we do not have an Assamese hate-speech classifier," according to an internal Facebook planning document. The legislative Assembly election in Assam was held from March 27 to April 6 and saw the incumbent BJP-led National Democratic Alliance retain power.

Earlier this month, *The Indian*

CLASSIFIER ISSUE

■ "Assam is of particular concern because we do not have an Assamese hate-speech classifier," according to an internal Facebook planning document

Express had reported, citing from the complaint filed with the US securities regulator by whistleblower and former Facebook employee Frances Haugen, that the company was aware of posts being published on its platform that contained misinformation or hate speech but it could not take action or flag this content because of the "lack of Hindi and Bengali classifiers". Classifiers refer to Facebook's hate-speech detection algorithms. According to Facebook, it added hate speech classifiers in Hindi starting in early 2020 and introduced Bengali later that year. Classifiers for violence and incitement in Hindi and Bengali first came online in early 2021.

An e-mail query sent to Facebook did not elicit a response.

The WSJ report, citing employees and internal company documents, has also pointed out examples of content that Facebook's artificial intelligence engines should have detected but missed. It said that Facebook's AI cannot consistently identify "first-person shooting videos, racist rants and even, in one notable episode that puzzled internal researchers for weeks, the difference between cockfighting and car crashes".

While the report claims that Facebook only removes "a low-single-digit percent" of hate speech content, the company's spokesperson in its response to the newspaper has said that these percentages referred to posts that were removed using AI, and didn't include other actions the company takes to reduce how many people view hate speech, including ranking posts lower in news feeds.

For India specifically, Facebook has said earlier that its human reviewers review content in 20 Indian languages — Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi, Urdu, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese, Telugu, Oriya, Sindhi, Mizo, Marwari, Chhattisgarhi, Tulu, Maithili/Bhojpuri, Konkani and Meitei.

EXPORTS WATCH

APR-SEPT

As demand picks up, gems & jewellery exports bounce back to pre-Covid levels

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

GEMS & jewellery exports, hit by the Covid pandemic last year, have bounced back and gained momentum in the first half of the fiscal year. During April to September 2021, the overall gross exports of gems & jewellery recorded a growth of 136.95 per cent to \$18.98 billion as compared to \$8.01 billion in April-September 2020 as demand picked up across the world.

According to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), exports of cut and polished diamonds jumped 124.9 per cent to \$12.37 billion from \$5.50 billion in the same period of last year. Diamond exports rose by 20.24 per cent and total gem and jewellery exports gained 5.13 per cent from the April-September 2019 period before the pandemic hit the country.

Colin Shah, chairman, GJEPC, said, "The sector has already achieved nearly half (46 per cent) of the \$41.66 billion exports target set by the government. The sentiment in the industry is incredibly positive with markets opening up and demand gradually returning to normal."

"GJEPC successfully concluded the International Gem & Jewellery Show (IGJS) in Dubai recently. We have received particularly good feed-

During April to September 2021, gross exports of gems & jewellery recorded growth of 136.95 per cent to \$18.98 bn, as compared to \$8.01 bn in the year-ago period

back from the exhibitors and buyers. Moreover, with the festive season coming up, we are optimistic to achieve the export target by the end of the financial year," Shah said. Being a labour-intensive industry and looking at the growth potential in the sector, the government has declared gems and jewellery sector as a focus area for export promotion.

The space transfer policy announced on October 11, 2021 by the Department of Commerce will significantly facilitate ease of doing business in Special Economic Zones (SEZ), which account for a 30 per cent share in India's total gem and jewellery exports. During September 2021, overall gross exports of gems & jewellery have shown a decline of 0.99 per cent to Rs 23,259.550 crore (-4.03 per cent in dollar terms to \$3162.25 million) as compared to Rs 23,491.20 crore (\$3294.87 million) in September 2019.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

'Global bond funds see first weekly outflow in 7 months'

Global bond funds faced their first weekly outflow in 7 months in the week to October 13 due to worries that central banks may roll back their crisis-era support sooner, showed Lipper data

Inflation-protected bond funds, which act as a hedge against a decline in prices of goods and services, attracted \$1.83 billion, the biggest in 2-1/2 months. global equity funds saw some meagre purchases, obtaining just \$99.95 million, compared with inflows of \$6.36 billion in the previous week

An analysis of 23,430 emerging market funds showed, investors sold bond funds for a fourth straight week, worth \$2.84 billion



Among commodity funds, energy funds received inflows of \$243 million after a outflow

in the previous week, while precious metals funds faced third straight weekly outflow

Among sector funds, financials received \$1.63 billion, a 70% increase over the previous week. Tech funds attracted \$220 million, while communication services and materials saw outflows of \$494 million and \$285 million, respectively

Source: Lipper/Reuters

Amid coal shortage, power consumption up 3% in first 15 days of Oct

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE COUNTRY'S power consumption grew 3.35 per cent in the first half of October to 57.22 billion units, showing recovery amid coal shortage at electricity generation plants, as per Power Ministry data.

Last year during October 1-15, power consumption stood at 55.36 BU which was higher than 49.66 BU in the same period in 2019. Amid the coal shortage at power plants, the peak power shortage moderated to 986 MW on October 15 in sharp contrast to 11,626 MW on October 7. It is to be noted that the 11,626 MW peak power shortage on October 7 was

'Coal import dropped in Aug'

New Delhi: Coal import registered a decline of 2.7 per cent to 15.22 million tonnes (MT) in August this year. The country imported 15.64 MT of coal in the corresponding month last year, as per data compiled by mjunction services. **PTI**

the highest during the first half of this month. Earlier this week, the Ministry had stated that the capacity of units under outage due to low coal stocks reduced from 11 GW on October 12 to 5 GW on October 14. **WITHPTI**

Govt seeks applications for 20 judicial, technical members at NCLT, NCLAT

New Delhi: The government has sought applications for 20 positions of judicial and technical members at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

As many as 15 posts, including that of 9 judicial members and 6 technical members, are to be filled up at the NCLT. Besides, applications have been invited for 3 positions of judicial members and 2 of technical members at the NCLAT.

The last date for submission of the applications online is November 12, as per notices issued by the corporate affairs ministry.

In recent weeks, the government has been filling up vacancies at various tribunals. **ENS WITHPTI**

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

THE INDIAN Space Association, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 11, should not be seen from the lens of an association just for exploring space-based communication, P J Nath, managing director and chief executive officer of Tata Group-owned Nelco said.

"If you look at all the founding members, we are heavily invested in space technology. We are satellite service provider. OneWeb is a satellite operator and so on. The objective of this space association is that it is an industry body which will represent the entire sector. It is not only satellite operators and satellite service providers. It could be manufacturers, R&D (research and development) players, launch vehicles coming in," Nath told *The Indian Express*.

The Indian Space Association, which was formally launched last week, counts among its members government bodies such as Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and private telecom companies such as Bharti Airtel's One Web, Tata Group's Nelco, L&T, MapMyIndia, and others.

The need for such an association was needed because there was no unified body as a whole, Nath said, adding that an industry body would help in the overall development of the sector.

"We can carry the voice of the industry body to the government, to the regulator. When you go as an individual company, a lot of times you have your own personal agenda and so many others. You do not get taken that seriously by the government," Nath said.



P J Nath, MD & CEO, Nelco

Companies such as Bharti Airtel, OneWeb, and Nelco, which are among the founding members of the organisation and are also either in the business-to-consumer or business-to-business communications domain, can also make use of the association to further explore and ensure internet connectivity reaches remote areas.

"The good thing about satellite is that the quality of service is the same, whether you give it in Delhi, Mumbai or Arunachal or deep-sea. On a like-to-like basis, fibre has no comparison with satellite internet. Once the neo-satellites come, we will have to see about the price-points, the kind of service and offering for consumers," Nath said.

In India, the space-based communications network has taken off with several Indian and international companies betting on it as the next frontier to provide high-speed and affordable Internet connectivity to inaccessible areas as well. This includes SpaceX's StarLink, Sunil Bharti Mittal's OneWeb, Amazon's Project Kuiper, US satellite maker Hughes Communications, etc.



A petrol pump in New Delhi. File

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

PETROL AND diesel price on Sunday was hiked again by 35 paise a litre. The fourth straight day of 35 paise-per-litre hike sent petrol and diesel rates to record highs across the country.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 105.84 a litre and Rs 111.77 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. In Mumbai, diesel now comes for Rs 102.52 a litre; while in Delhi, it costs Rs 94.57.

With this rise, petrol is now at Rs 100-a-litre mark or more in all state capitals while diesel has touched the Rs 100-mark in over a dozen states. Diesel crossed Rs 100 in Bengaluru, Daman and Silvassa. Petrol used in two-wheelers and cars now costs 33 per cent more than the price at which aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is sold to airlines. ATF in Delhi costs Rs 79,020.16 per kilolitre or Rs 79 per litre. The costliest fuel is in the border town of Ganganagar in Rajasthan where petrol comes for Rs 117.86 a litre and diesel for Rs 105.95. Since ending of a 3-week hiatus in rate revision in the last week of September, this is the 16th rise in petrol and the 19th time that diesel rates have gone up. **WITHPTI**

BRIEFLY

e-Shram portal

New Delhi: The Ministry of Labour and Employment on Sunday said the number registrations has crossed 4-crore mark on e-Shram portal in less than two months of its launch.

Gold imports

New Delhi: Gold imports zoomed to about \$24 billion during April-September 2021 due to higher demand, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

Bank of India

New Delhi: Bank of India on Sunday announced a cut in its interest rates on home and vehicle loans by 35 basis point and 50 basis points, respectively. **PTI**

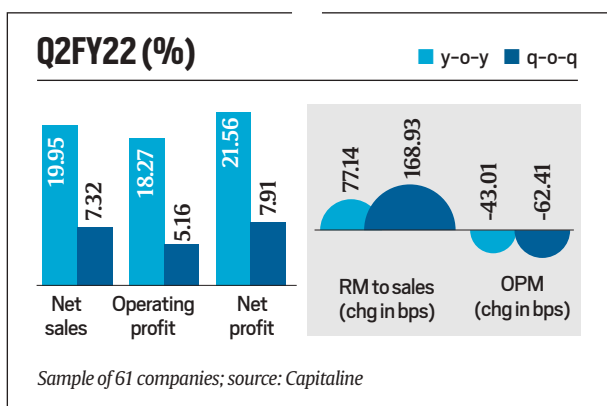
Early Q2 results boost recovery hopes

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

READ THROUGH, from the results statements trickling in, suggest the economy was certainly getting back on track in the three months to September though all businesses were not back at pre-pandemic levels.

At HDFC Bank, for instance both disbursements and recoveries were better. Again, at Avenue Supermarts standalone revenues were up nearly 50 per cent year-on-year driven up by better footfalls post the second wave; the increases were better even when compared with the same period in 2020.

The retailer's gross profit margins expanded 40 basis points y-o-y while Ebitda margins rose 240 bps y-o-y. IT players, which form a huge propor-



tion of early birds, turned in a good performance.

Infosys posted excellent all-round growth reporting stable margins and an improvement in client metrics. Margins at TCS were steady and analysts believe the company is well-positioned to tackle any

headwinds.

It's early days and rising commodity prices would have hit the operating margins of user companies while boosting the revenues of producers. Auto companies would have suffered due to the shortage of chips as seen in the volume data.

IT players are in a bit of a spot because attrition levels have gone up sharply from the range of 10-20 per cent to 20-30 per cent. At TCS, the attrition rate went up to 11.9 per cent in Q2FY22 from 8.6 per cent in the previous quarter while for Infosys it hit 20.1 per cent from 13.9 per cent in Q1 and for Wipro 20.5 per cent.

To cope with the shortage, they plan to recruit graduates in large numbers; TCS proposes to hire 35,000 fresh graduates in H2FY22 taking the total for the year to 78,000.

TCS has on-boarded some 43,000 graduates in the last six months. Pravin Rao, chief operating officer of Infosys said the company intends to expand its plan to hire college graduates to 45,000 for the year; the company had earlier proposed to recruit 35,000 graduates. **FE**

FinMin to seek Cabinet nod for setting up co to monetise some CPSEs' land assets

New Delhi: The finance ministry will soon move the Cabinet to seek approval for setting up a company for transfer and subsequent monetisation of land and non-core assets of privatisation-bound CPSEs, an official said.

An SPV in the form of a company would be set up to hold these assets which would be monetised to fetch value to the exchequer, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said. "We are talking about a company which will be there for many years, which will specialise in handling surplus land and non-core asset monetisation. We are expecting it shortly. As soon as we get Cabinet approval," he said. **PTI**

'China could widen property tax trial'

REUTERS
BEIJING, OCTOBER 17

CHINA COULD expand pilot testing of a property tax to Zhejiang province, a former government expert was quoted as saying in an official media outlet on Sunday, the latest sign that the country is moving closer to adopting the long-discussed levy.

China launched a pilot property tax programme in Shanghai and Chongqing in 2011, and experts have in the past suggested that the pilot testing be broadened to include Shenzhen city and Hainan province, according to state media.

President Xi Jinping on Friday called for progress on a property tax that could help reduce wealth

inequality as the country strives to achieve his goal of "common prosperity" by mid-century.

"China could consider conducting system innovations to expand the scope of property tax while moving forward with tax legislation as soon as possible," said Jia Kang, ex-director of the finance ministry-backed Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences, according to China Property News, which is managed by the housing ministry.

China has mulled introducing a property tax for over a decade but has faced resistance from stakeholders including local governments, which rely on revenue from land sales and worry it would erode property values or trigger a market sell-off.



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

TELLING NUMBERS

Closing in on 100 crore shots

The total number of Covid-19 doses administered in India is set to cross 1 billion in a couple of days. While India is one of only two countries with a billion-plus population, the landmark comes in the face of several hurdles. A look at how the vaccination drive has progressed since January, and the challenges still ahead.

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, OCTOBER 17

IN A couple of days or so from now, the number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in India will have crossed 100 crore, or 1 billion. Already, India has administered more vaccine doses than any other country in the world apart from China. With no other country having a population of anything close to 500 million, the billion-doses club would consist of only these two countries.

Still, for a country that faced huge supply bottlenecks, and a fair amount of vaccine hesitancy, at least in the initial period, reaching the 100-crore milestone is a no small achievement. Transportation, distribution and storage of vaccines at specific low temperatures posed huge additional hurdles in a country lacking in an elaborate cold-chain network. Add to this the fact that for more than three months during this period, India was in the midst of the worst phase of the pandemic, anywhere in the world, one that had crippled the very same health system that was supposed to administer vaccines as well.

The 100-crore milestone is being achieved in about 275 days — the first vaccine doses were administered on January 16 — which means that, on an average, 27 lakh doses have been given every day through this ten-month period. There have, of course, been wide variations in the daily number of doses administered. On six days, more than 1 crore doses were administered, with a record of 2.18 crore being achieved on September 17. On the other hand, in the initial few days in January and a couple of days in February, less than 50,000 doses were administered.

As on October 16, more than 97.65 crore vaccine doses have been administered to over 69.47 crore people. More than 28.18 crore people are fully vaccinated now. This means that 74%, or close to three-fourths, of the adult population in India have received at least one dose, while 30% have got both doses.

Smaller states, better coverage

Not surprisingly, states with smaller populations have a much better coverage of coverage of Covid-19 vaccination. In states such as Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Chandigarh, and Lakshadweep, almost every individual above the age of 18 has already received at least one dose of vaccine. These states also have the highest proportion of fully-vaccinated people — over 40% each in the case of Lakshadweep, Sikkim and Ladakh.

But some of the larger states, with much larger populations, such as Gujarat, Kerala, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand have also managed to vaccinate over 90% of their adult population with at least one dose. On the other hand, some low-population north-eastern states — Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland — and also Puducherry are lagging behind, with less than 60% of their people having been vaccinated with even a single dose.

Among the higher-population states, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Tamil Nadu have all achieved less than 70% coverage for first dose. Between 17% and 25% of their population have received the second dose.

No urban-rural divide

Most of the large urban centres, including the metropolitan cities, have registered fairly good coverage of vaccines. The requirement to get vaccinated in order to attend work or to travel, or even shop, coupled with relatively lower vaccine hesitancy, could have played a role in a large number of people get-



Getting a jab at a free vaccination camp organised by the Delhi government, on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

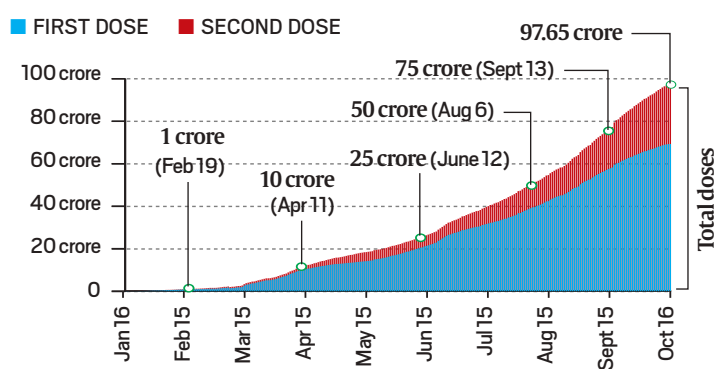
MILESTONES & MILES TO GO

93.89 cr
India's adult population

74%
69.47 cr have been given at least one dose

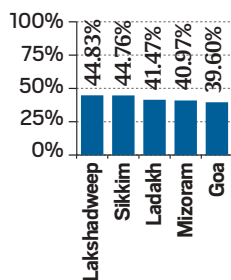
30%
28.18 crore are fully vaccinated

Cumulative vaccines administered

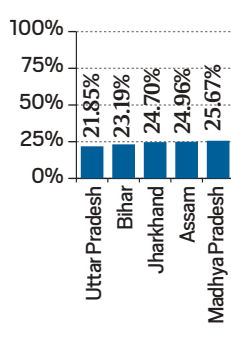


Top 5 states (Second dose)

% of population fully vaccinated in respective states

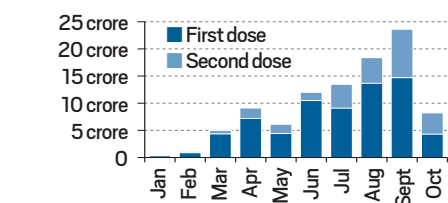


Bottom 5 states (Second dose)

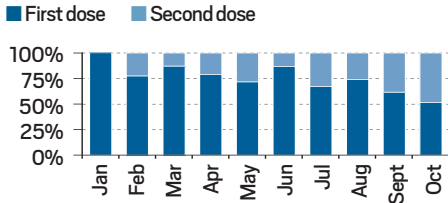


Month by month

Number of vaccines administered across the country, in absolute numbers



2nd doses as a percentage of monthly totals



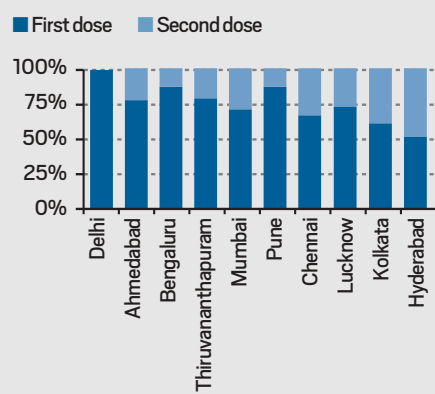
India vs the rest

	1st dose (mn)	2nd dose (mn)	2nd dose (%)
India	694.7	281.8	20%
China	1100	1050	73%
US	218.56	188.9	56%
Europe	434	403.46	54%

* Percentage of total population, which is lower than percentage of adult population. Source: Our World in Data

Vaccination in major cities

First and second doses as a percentage of total doses



Vaccination in BRGF (primarily rural) districts

TOP TEN DISTRICTS

STATE	DISTRICT	%*
J&K	Ramban	80.02%
Chhattisgarh	Raigarh	79.66%
Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	72.21%
Uttarakhand	Chamoli	70.81%
Uttarakhand	Champawat	70.21%
Gujarat	Narmada	69.51%
Kerala	Wayanad	66.73%
Odisha	Ganjam	64.75%
J&K	Kupwara	63.07%
Tripura	Dhalai	61.55%

BOTTOM TEN DISTRICTS

STATE	DISTRICT	%*
Tamil Nadu	Tiruvannamalai	7.28%
Chhattisgarh	Balrampur	7.75%
West Bengal	South 24 Parganas	11.22%
Uttar Pradesh	Rae Bareilly	11.81%
Uttar Pradesh	Lakhimpur Kheri	12.21%
Tamil Nadu	Viluppuram	12.31%
West Bengal	Jalpaiguri	12.52%
Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	13.34%
Uttar Pradesh	Budaun	14.35%
Uttar Pradesh	Sitapur	14.36%

*% of adult population (Census 2011) fully vaccinated

ting the shots. In most major cities, the proportion of people who have received both doses is fairly uniform and, in general, higher than the national average of 30% (see chart, *Vaccination in major cities*).

In the rural areas, the situation is slightly different. Data exclusively from the rural areas are not available, but numbers from the 243 BRGF (Backward Region Grant Fund) districts, which are primarily rural, present a fairly comprehensive picture. A huge variation in vaccine coverage is visible in these districts. The proportion of fully vaccinated people (out of the adult population as per Census 2011) ranges from less than 8% in districts such as Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu or Balrampur in Chhattisgarh, to close to 80% in Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir, and Raigarh in Chhattisgarh. In reality, these percentages would be slightly lower, because of the increase in population in the last 10 years.

However, there is no evidence to suggest that rural areas, in general, are lagging behind in vaccinations. In fact, data show that these 243 BRGF districts have, on an average, provided over 80% of their populations (Census 2011) with at least one dose of the vaccine, much higher than the national average. The coverage of the second dose is about 30%, at par with national average. There does not seem to be a sharp urban-rural divide in terms of vaccination coverage. Again, the increase in population in the last 10 years would probably bring down these percentages by a few points.

The road ahead

Despite the phenomenal work in speeding up vaccination in the last two months, there is still a steep climb ahead. India is aiming to fully vaccinate its entire adult population by the end of this year. That means an additional 90 crore doses have to be administered between now and December 31. That is about the same amount of work, as accomplished till now, but in one-fourth of the time.

In September, India administered over 23.5 crore vaccine doses, the highest for any month. It would have to do significantly better than that to achieve full vaccination by the end of the year. Compared to September, the rate of vaccination has been slower in October. With more than half the month gone, only about 8.21 crore doses have been administered.

But for the first time, people getting their second doses are likely to constitute about half the number this month. So far, 48% of the vaccine doses have gone to people getting their second dose. This proportion has not grown steadily, as would be expected. It dropped sharply in June following the increase in the prescribed gap period between the two doses. After a big jump in July, it declined in August again. After that it has been on the rise, as people with the first dose crossed the halfway mark. In fact, in the last four days, second doses have been vastly outnumbering the first dose.

Vaccination may have already played a key role in limiting the spread of the disease. India's daily count of cases had dropped from a peak of over 4 lakh to 50,000 within 45 days between May and June. However, for the next three months, it remained within a range of 25,000-50,000. It is only now, in October, that this number has finally begun to slide down rapidly. For ten days now, the daily case count has not touched 20,000.

Part of the reason is the vaccination coverage reaching a critical stage. As experts repeatedly point out, vaccination does not offer guaranteed protection against infection, but it does reduce the chances. More significantly, however, it does seem to prevent the disease from taking a serious turn.

China's hypersonic glide vehicle test

SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, OCTOBER 17

A REPORT in the London-based *Financial Times* on Saturday, citing various sources, says China in August tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic glide vehicle that circled the globe before speeding towards its target. Hypersonic speeds are 5 or more times the speed of sound.

The test, as reported

The *FT* report mentions five people familiar with the test as saying the Chinese military launched a rocket that carried a hypersonic glide vehicle, which flew through low-orbit space before cruising down towards its target. The test has caught US intelligence by surprise, the report says.

"The missile missed its target by about two-dozen miles, according to three people briefed on the intelligence. But two said the test showed that China had made astounding progress on hypersonic weapons and was far more advanced than US officials realised. The test has raised new questions about why the US often underestimated China's military modernisation," the report reads.

The report cites a security official, and another Chinese security expert close to the

People's Liberation Army, as saying the weapon was being developed by the China Academy of Aerospace Aerodynamics (CAAA), under the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation that makes missile systems and rockets for China's space programme. Both sources reportedly said the vehicle was launched on a Long March rocket, which is used for the space programme.

The significance

According to the report, two people familiar with the test said the weapon could, in theory, fly over the South Pole. That would pose a big challenge for the US military because its missile defence systems are focused on the northern polar route.

The report quotes the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology as saying on an official social media account on July 19 that it had launched a Long March 2C rocket, its 77th launch. On August 24, it announced a 79th flight. But there was no announcement of a 78th launch, which sparked speculation about a secret launch, the report notes.

"The US, Russia and China are all developing hypersonic weapons, including glide vehicles that are launched into space on a rocket but orbit the earth under their own momentum," the report says.

India's DRDO tested a hypersonic vehicle in September last year. Asked about China's test, a senior DRDO scientist said, "The exact details on technology used by China in this particular test are not known through media sources. But most of the hypersonic vehicles primarily use the scramjet technology. This extremely complex technology, which also needs to be able to handle high temperatures, makes the hypersonic systems extremely costly. It is all about how long can you sustain the systems at those extreme conditions. Most military powers in the world are in the process of developing hypersonic systems."

Scramjets are a category of engines designed to handle airflows of speeds in multiples of the speed of sound.

Implications for India

"This test by China certainly needs to be watched closely by the world, especially India considering relations with China in the recent past," said Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale (Retd), former Vice Chief of Air Staff. "Such capabilities also highlight the threat for our space assets along with the surface assets. The offence system operating at these speeds would mean requirement to develop defence systems at these speeds."

He added, "India too is working on hyper-

sonic technologies. As far as space assets are concerned, India has already proved its capabilities through the test of ASAT."

Hypersonic technology has been developed and tested by both DRDO and ISRO. Last September, DRDO successfully flight-tested the Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), with a capability to travel at 6 times the speed of sound. A solid rocket motor of Agni missile took it to an altitude of 30 km where the cruise vehicle separated as planned. The hypersonic combustion sustained and the cruise vehicle continued on its desired flight path at a velocity of six times the speed of sound for more than 20 seconds.

"The scramjet engine performed in a text book manner. With this successful demonstration, many critical technologies such as aerodynamic configuration for hypersonic manoeuvres, use of scramjet propulsion for ignition and sustained combustion at hypersonic flow, thermo-structural characterisation of high temperature materials, separation mechanism at hypersonic velocities etc. were proven." DRDO had said in a statement.

Last December, an advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility of the DRDO was inaugurated in Hyderabad. It is a pressure vacuum-driven, enclosed free jet facility that simulates Mach 5 to 12.

A comparison of immune responses to three vaccines in use in US

IN A paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine, a team of experts at compared immune responses induced by the three vaccines is use in the US — BNT162b2 (BioNTech-Pfizer) mRNA-1273 (Moderna) and Ad26.COV2.S (Johnson & Johnson). They evaluated the 61 participants' levels of various antibodies, T cells and other immune products at two to four weeks following



1273 and 8 received Ad26.COV2.S.

The single-shot J&J vaccine was found to induce lower initial antibody responses, but these responses were generally stable over time with minimal to no evidence of decline. mRNA-1273 elicited antibody responses which were generally higher and more durable than BNT162b2. All three vaccines demonstrated

broad cross-reactivity to variants of SARS-CoV-2.

Source: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)

CROSSWORD 4563

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ACROSS

1 Trouble in court (5)

8 The strikers' case? (8)

9 Colour that's a success in two different ways (5)

10 Tricked into side issues (8)

11 They employ devious ruses (5)

12 Limb turned to solid jelly (3)

16 Paid companion shows his age when in trouble (6)

17 Nuns take what superiors give (6)

18 Father heads west on foot (3)

23 Shuffle the cards dishonestly and make a pile (5)

24 Rang again and cancelled (8)

25 Start being different (5)

26 Deceives in crooked misdeals (8)

27 Wooden pale (5)

DOWN

2 Hare she'd minced and cooked up again (8)

3 Star skater is upset (8)

4 Last of the latecomers gets rotten seat (6)

5 Bed on board for Caledonians (5)

6 He overrules his brothers (5)

7 Be way out about a point (5)

12 Singapore space centre (3)

13 Not a high-pitched cry (3)

14 Possibly resisted one who arranges publication (8)

15 Custom legislation included in the cost of goods (8)

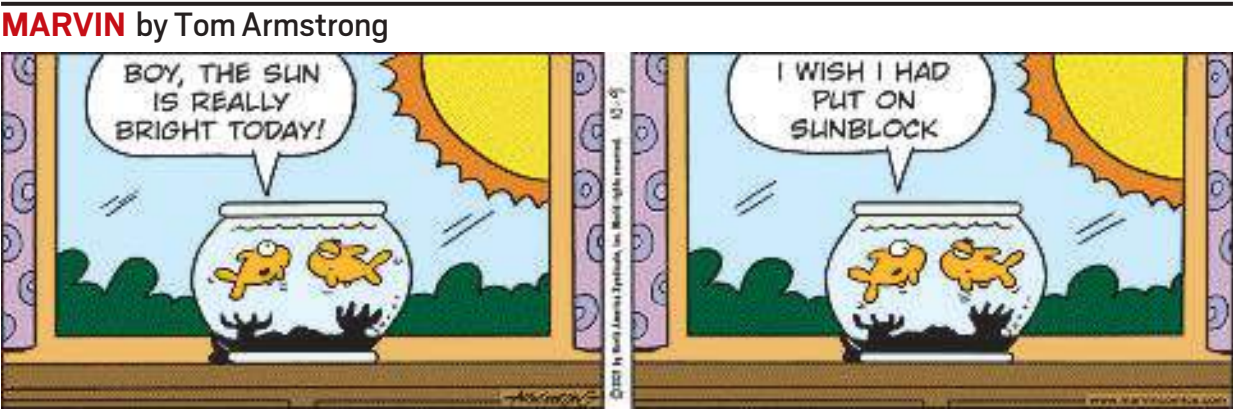
19 Things to be done in company (6)

20 An act that violates an act (5)

21 Health resorts get a number fit (5)

22 Taken about in the morning, being disabled (5)

Solutions Crossword 4562: Across: 1 Fortissimo, 6 Iced, 10 Mafia, 11 Last trump, 12 Friction, 13 Lance, 15 Landing, 17 Outlast, 19 Glances, 21 Risotto, 22 Abuse, 24 Obliging, 27 Impassive, 28 Elite, 29 Tart, 30 Agreements. Down: 1 Fame, 2 Referenda, 3 Isaac, 4 Sifting, 5 Masonic, 7 Chum, 8 Depression, 9 Athletes, 14 Plagiarist, 16 Increase, 18 Attention, 20 Storing, 21 Relieve, 23 Upper, 25 Glean, 26 Peas.



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Ignorance is ___ and knowledge ____ - Thucydides (4, ..8)

GSEEE

AEEDLS

ISORR

BRAVED

SOLUTION: GSEEE, SEATED, LEARNED, AVERRED

SUDOKU 4628

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4627

4 8 7 9 3 6 1 2 5

9 1 2 4 5 8 3 7 6

3 5 6 7 1 2 8 4 9

6 2 9 5 7 3 4 1 8

8 3 5 1 2 4 9 6 7

1 7 4 6 8 9 2 5 3

2 9 1 8 6 7 5 3 4

5 6 8 3 4 1 7 9 2

7 4 3 2 9 5 6 8 1

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

As long as the Sun is so helpfully placed, you are being encouraged to be lively and independent. Over the next two weeks, one of your goals should therefore be to widen your social circle. There's no need to be discriminating at this stage, make friends with anyone and everyone.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

If you're one of those Librans who is absolutely happy with where you're living, you're in a tiny minority. Most of you, even those who have moved home recently, are still in a state of domestic uncertainty. That's a sign that there could be further improvements to come.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

If anything, the build-up of planets in philosophical regions of your chart has intensified, making it more necessary than ever that you continue to take a stand on your principles. Why not set an example to people who are lacking your wisdom and foresight?

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

There's something delightful about your serious-minded determination to ferret out the truth. Now that you're finding it easier to say what's on your mind, other people will at last have the chance to benefit from your wonderfully profound fund of wisdom.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Mercury, your ruling planet, is combining poetic beauty with a truly profound sense of practical possibilities. You can express whatever you want to say in the way you want to say it. It all looks pretty nostalgic as well, just about right for the perfect day. Don't spoil it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The entire week is overshadowed by the emphatic and unambiguous relationship between the Sun and the Moon, in a profoundly positive sense. This will be entirely in your favour, and will encourage you to take whatever steps are necessary to better yourself.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The odds certainly seem to be stacked against you this week, but I am confident that after recent experiences you can cope with just about anything. If you still see yourself as a soft little Cancer, stop it now. There are few people as tough as you when roused.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You're still in the middle of a period of personal revolution that at times mirrors the dramatic changes on the global scene. Only another Capricorn will truly understand your dilemma. And only another Capricorn can understand how you need to re-arrange your finances.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The Moon's current position in your chart is something of a special event. This simple fact means that you have every chance to implement whatever major improvements in your life have been brewing over the past year. But, and this is a big 'but', you must obtain partners' support.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

If you know what's good for you, you'll devote a great deal of attention to making sure that loved ones and colleagues are perfectly happy with your behaviour. You may lavish presents and attention on those whose favour you are seeking. You might get exactly the desired reaction.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Influences over your creative fifth house bring us back to a theme which has been raising its head time after time over the past two years, the need to feel that you are doing something meaningful with your life, not just drifting along with the herd.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Your social activities are becoming both broader and deeper. Some of you may rue the day you took on certain group commitments, but you have little option but to press on and fulfil your duties. Actually, you rather like it when you don't have any choice about what to do.

भारतीय कंटेनर लिमिटेड

Container Corporation of India Ltd.

Navratna Company (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

CONCOR invites E-Tender in Two Packet System of tendering for the following work:-

Tender No. CON/EP/MMLP/JJP/Bal. Civil & P.Way works/2021

Name of Work Balance work of Earthwork, CC Block Pavement, Approach Road, P-Way Track Work, Boundary Wall, Pre-Engineered Warehouses, Admin. Bldg. and other Allied works for development of MMFLP at Jaipur, Odisha

Estimated Cost Rs.2844.65 Lakhs

Completion Period 06 Months

Earnest Money Deposit Nil

Cost of Tender Document Nil

Tender Processing Fee (Non-refundable) Rs.4,720/- (inclusive all taxes & duties through e-payment)

Date of sale of Tender (online) 18/10/2021 (11:30 hrs) to 01/11/2021 (upto 17:00 hrs.)

Date & Time of submission of Tender. 02/11/2021 (upto 17:00 hrs.)

Date & Time of Opening of Tender. 03/11/2021 at 11:30 hrs.

For financial eligibility criteria, experience with respect to similar nature of work, etc, please refer to detailed tender notice available on website www.concorindia.com, but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tenderward.com only. Further, Corrigendum/Addendum to this tender, if any, will be published on website www.concorindia.co.in, www.tenderward.com and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.

Group General Manager (P&S), Phone No.: 011-41225200

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Mahakant Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Tel.: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508, CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC023866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्रांक सं. 783

e-Tender Notice

दिनांक 16.10.2021

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-I), Lakhwar Multipurpose Project, UJVN Limited, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :-

Tender No.03/EE(Civil-I)/LMP/2021-22

Name of work:-"Construction of double storey residential building for Lakhwar Project at Dakpathar, Dehradun".

Estimated cost :- Rs1,66,64,000.00 (Including all taxes)

Date of availability of bid document on website :- 18.10.2021 at 17:00 Hrs

Last date for submission of bids on website :- 11.11.2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

Executive Engineer (Civil-I)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNABEDA

O-822

Date:

E-Procurement Notice for Road works.

1 Name of the work : Construction & Improvement of road works as per Annexure (06 Nos)

3 Class of contractor : "B", "A" & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.

4 Estimated cost : Varies from Rs. 105.01 Lakhs to Rs 499.14 Lakhs (Approximately)

5 Details projects as per : Annexure attached.

Procurement Officer

Bid Identification No.

Availability of Tender online for bidding

Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification

Date & Time of opening of tender

Technical Bid

Financial Bid

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda

6. The details of works can be seen from the web site <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

7. Any Corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web sites.

Sd/-

Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda. OIPR- 25045/11/0016/2122

UTTAR PRADESH METRO RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS LUCKNOW METRO RAIL CORPOTAION LIMITED)

Regd. Off.: Administrative Building,Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar,Lucknow-226010

Ref: UPMRC/Elect/Traction/Tender/AGE-1&2

Date: 18 October, 2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1.Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. invites open e-tenders through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) for the following Tender package:- "AGE-1&2: Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Receiving cum Auxiliary Main Sub Stations Including High Voltage Cabling from Grid Substations, 750 volts DC 3rd Rail Traction System, 33kV Cable Network, ASS, TSS & SCADA System for Corridor-1 & 2 of Agra Metro Rail Project at Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India."

2.Tender documents can be purchased from 18.10.2021 (from 10:00 Hrs) to 01.12.2021 (upto 15:00 Hrs) (IST) from the website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

3.For further details, please visit UPMRCL website www.upmetrorail.com.

Kumar Keshav, Managing Director

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA), Division Bandipora

M/S Kasana Brothers, No:- EE/PMGSY/Bpr/2099-2103

M.P. Abdul Jaleel Kasana, S/O Sh. Mehboob Kasana, R/O Harganiwan Kangan Distt. Ganderbal

Dated:- 16/10/2021

Notice

1. The above cited work stands allotted to you vide Superintending Engineer's Allotment No. SE-PMGSY/Bl/a/413-18 Dated:-27-05-2019 and work had to be completed in 365days as per the Agreement i.e. the stipulated date of completion was 04-06-2020.

2. That total progress of work recorded as on 09/2021is mere 61.16%.

3. That no work has been executed on the said site for the past (20)days for the reasons best known to you.

4. That you have already been informed about the sunset date of PMGSY-I & PMGSY-II schemes announced by the ministry of NRDA has as March 2022.

5. That in spite repeated directions from sub Divisional office as well as this office; nothing has been seen observed regarding progress of work at site.

6. That this department left no stone unturned to address all the site issues to provide a hindrance free site to you for in time completion of project but no effective response has been observed from your side in this regard, rather you turned deaf ear to the directions passed from this office which clearly show your arrogance.

7. That during the meeting held in the office of Worthy Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir on 29-09-2021 regarding the poor progress of the said project; you promised to shift your machinery within two days for starting the macadamization of said road but you completely failed to do so.

8. That only few days are left ahead for macadamisation of road as the winter season at door step after which no road can macadamized due to poor weather conditions.

9. That the locals of the area / PRIs have expressed displeasure over-the hardshipsbeing faced by them due to non-completion of work on the site by you.

Therefore you are given one more chance to resume the work on said road within two days positively, failing which it will be presumed that you are no more interested to work on the said project and the recommendations will be made to higher authorities for black listing your firm and fresh tendering of thebalance workat your risk and cost.

TREAT THIS AS FINAL.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Division Bandipora

DIPK-10746

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Reena W/O. Ful Babu Poddar R/o Bithouli, darbhanga,s.r.bithauli,bihar,8 47201 have changed my name to Guriya Devi for all purposes.

0040588267-1

I Kelash Kumar S/O, Devki Nandan Sharma R/o House No. 223/31, Block - J, Sector Gamma2, Greater Noida, District G.b.nagar, U.P. 201306 have changed my name to Kailash Kumar 0040588268-1

I Sourabh Mishra S/O, Ram Gopal R/o Rzf-754/38/3, Dharamshala Marg Raj Nagar- 2 Palam Colony New Delhi 110077 have changed my name to Sourabh Bhardwaj for all purposes. 0040588272-1

I, Sanjay Kumar Sethi S/O Late Shri Darshan Lal Sethi R/o 25/19, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi- 110018, have changed my name to Sanjay Sethi for all future purposes. 0040588283-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Mrs. Rashmi Mukherjee D/o Late Vimla Chopra R/o Pocket B-21C, Gangotri Enclave, Alaknanda New Delhi-110019 have Lost Original Allotment Letter in the name of Shri Dhan Bahadur Flat No J-1/396, DDA Flats Kalkaji New Delhi- 110019, Issued by DDA Housing Department, FIR LR No 824107/2021 have lodged with crime branch on 14/10/2021 Finder Inform 9818265878

0040588273-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sh. Rishal Singh Dahyia S/o Sh. Shiv Lal R/o B-1/376, First Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have disowned/ debarred his son Ashish Dahyia from all his moveable and immovable properties and ceased all relations with him. If anybody dealing with him, shall do so at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility. My client will not responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Sd/- KAMAL SINGH (Advocate) Regn. No. D-74814 Camber No. 512, Fifth Floor, Distt. Court, Rohini, Delhi-85

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I arrive at a conclusion not an assumption.

Inform your opinion with detailed analysis.

The Indian EXPRESS JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Martyr on 18 th October 2003 Lt Dheerendra Singh Ari, Kirti Chakra (Posthumous) (12 Sep 1978-18 Oct 2003)

This historic day fills our hearts with pride and sorrow alike when in the highest traditions of the Indian Army, you laid down your life in the line of duty. World is a lesser place without you but we know that you are with the gods above and even heavens have improved by your gracious presence.

Fondly remembered by CO and All Ranks of 3 RAJPUT

"IMPORTANT"

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कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लॉक, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून

पत्रांक:- 532 / ई-निविदा / 2021-22 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक:- 16.10.2021

उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय मण्डल, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, दृ-विड सिस्टम (तकनीकी विड एवं कॉम्पिउटेशनल विड) अधीन पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा सं.	कार्य विवरण	ई-निविदा प्रश्न डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा अपलोड करने की प्रारंभ एवं अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा सूचना क्र.सं. 7 अनुसार मूल प्रश्न विभाग में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी विड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता	बि-बिड-निविदा से सम्बंधित सुझाव/संशोधन ई-मेल eeesop@uknigda.in पर send करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
1							
14	वाहक पर अनुसंधान पर, Supply and Installation of Domestic & Bulk tamper proof water meters as per standard conforming to IS:779-1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO:4064 with EEC/MID certification mark shall be with protection class of IP68 and with 2 years warranty anywhere in Uttarakhand कार्य।	19.10.2021 from 11:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m	30.10.2021 from 11:00 a.m to 05.11.2021 upto 5:00 p.m.	06.11.2021 upto 5:00 p.m.	08.11.2021 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	25.10.2021 upto 11:00 a.m.
	अर्हता:- EEC/MID certification license for domestic and bulk water meters as per standard conforming to IS:779-1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO:4064 certificate holder or authorized dealers of the manufacturers are allowed to take part in this tender.						
	ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित समस्त जानकारी एवं शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट http://uijs.uk.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देनी/प्राप्त की जा सकती है।						

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT "CORRIGENDUM"

The Tender invited vide this office NIT No. 5529-5575 dated 14.09.2021 due to be opened on 19.10.2021. The opening date of tender for the Job No. 2 is hereby postponed from 19.10.2021 to 02.11.2021 due to court case pending for directions. The details of key dates are as under:-

Sr. No.	Description	Previous dates	New dates
1	Date of Online Publication	08.10.2021 at 17:00 HRS	08.10.2021 at 17:00 HRS
2	Document Download Start and End Date	08.10.2021 at 17:00 HRS upto 19.10.2021 at 10:00 HRS	08.10.2021 at 17:00 HRS upto 02.11.2021 at 10:00 HRS
3	Bid Submission Start and End Date	08.10.2021 at 17:00 HRS upto 19.10.2021 at 10:00 HRS	08.10.2021 at 17:00 HRS upto 02.11.2021 at 10:00 HRS
4	Date of Technical Bid opening	19.10.2021 at 11:00 HRS	02.11.2021 at 11:00 HRS

Other terms and conditions of the tender will remain same.

Executive Engineer, Paonta B&R Division, HP, PWD., Paonta Sahib.

4503/HP

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New Delhi



PLAYING TODAY
3.30pm: Ireland vs Netherlands
7.30pm: Sri Lanka vs Namibia
7.30pm: India vs England (warm-up game)
Live on Star Sports Network

QUICK SINGLES



Opener Jatinder Singh scored an unbeaten 73 in Oman's win. AP

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VS OMAN
Ludhiana-born Jatinder stars in Oman's win

LUDHIANA-BORN Jatinder Singh smashed an unbeaten 73 as co-hosts Oman thrashed Papua New Guinea (PNG) by 10 wickets in the opening Group B first round match of the T20 World Cup. Courtesy Jatinder's 42-ball knock and his opening partner Aqib Ilyas's 50 not out off 43 balls, Oman chased down a modest 130-run target in only 13.2 overs. None of the PNG bowlers could create any trouble for Jatinder and Aqib.
BRIEF SCORES: Papua New Guinea 129/9 in 20 overs (Asad Vala 56, Charles Amini 37; Zeeshan Maqsood 4/20) lost to Oman 131/0 in 13.4 overs (Jatinder Singh 73 not out, Aqib Ilyas 50 not out) by 10 wickets

SCOTLAND VS BANGLADESH
Greaves helps Scotland script an upset

Chris Greaves scored a valuable 45 and then took two crucial wickets as Scotland shocked Bangladesh in the opening match of Group B. After setting a target of 141, Scotland restricted Bangladesh to 134 for 7 after 20 overs to make a strong start to their campaign. Pacer Brad Wheal took three wickets, including two in the 19th over, to help Scotland secure an upset.
BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 133/7 in 20 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 38, Brad Wheal 3/24, Chris Greaves 2/19) lost to Scotland 140/9 in 20 overs (George Munsey 29, Chris Greaves 45; Mahedi Hasan 3/19, Shakib Al Hasan 2/17)

INDIA
Kohli & Co. face England in warm-up

ALL-ROUNDER Hardik Pandya's form and few batting slots will be foremost on captain Virat Kohli's mind as India look to make the most of two T20 World Cup warm-up matches starting with a game against England on Monday. With all the Indian players coming straight from the recently-concluded IPL, match practice isn't a problem for Kohli and his men but getting the perfect combination on the park before the opening game against Pakistan on October 24 is a priority. Against England and the Wednesday's game versus Australia, the Indian team management would look to give the players who are still not automatic choices in the playing XI, more overs to bat or bowl to get a better idea about their current form.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

They say a T20 game is won in an over of frenetic batting or crafty bowling. It's a cliché that comes true occasionally when powerhouse performers turn up the heat. We look at a few - known and unknown names - to know the man behind the sporting mask. What drove some to excellence, what made some turn to mysterious art forms, and how a few have engineered their rebirth. These are the players we expect to sparkle at the World Cup stage and this is their short story

Mercenary and a family man

Pollard has been dubbed a cricketing gun for hire, but one needs to know his tough upbringing to understand his motivations

SANDIP G

BESIDE A cluster of candy-coloured beach-huts along the two-mile promenade at Long Bay, Antigua, Kieron Pollard is reconstructing the six sixes he belted in an over of a T20 International against Sri Lanka at Antigua's Coolidge Oval in March.

First six: "Just took a chance, didn't hit it cleanly, but it flew really well." Second six: "Straight into the slot, that's my game." Third six: "Outside the off-stump, over the eye-line. I back myself, every time out of 100 balls." Fourth six: "Slog sweep, not my favourite shot, but middled it." Fifth six: "Just pure power. No timing, no feet, no sort of anything. Just see ball and use my strength." Sixth six: "Free swing, cannot be LBW (bowler is bowling around the stumps). So I swung, the ball was on the legside and the breeze helped it along."

It's not the strokes or the descriptions that bewitch David Furlonge, Pollard's Trinidad and Tobago coach. But, "the look in his eyes." "You see that, you understand his desire, his drive, and everything you want to know about him," Furlonge tells *The Indian Express*. It tells a story, as it did to Furlonge several years ago at the Queen's Park Oval Cricket Club.

A skinny, taller-for-his-age teenager was standing at the doors of Trinidad's most prestigious cricket club. Someone — a local scout or acquaintance, Furlonge scratches his memory — introduced him as a "talented boy from the suburb". He asked his age. A stern voice replied: "14". Furlonge told him: "Buddy, come back when you are 15."

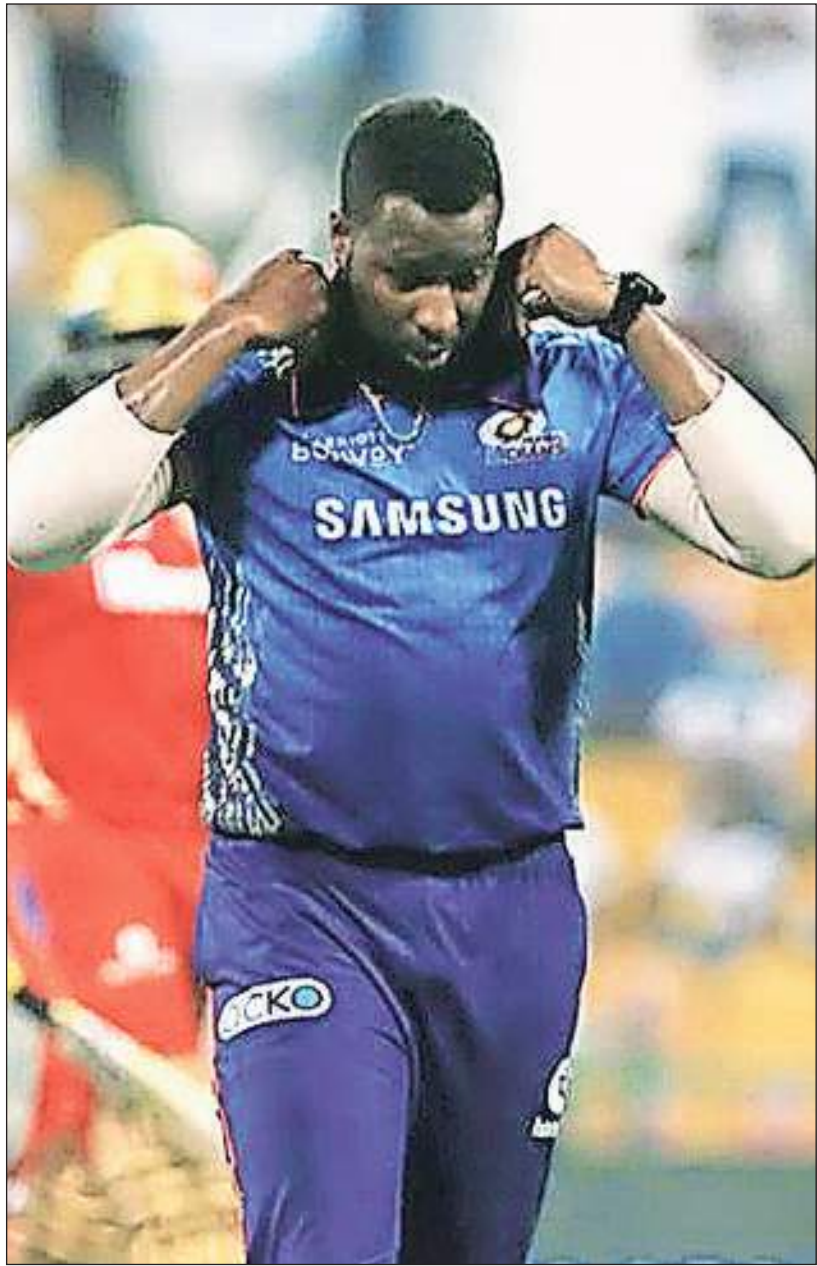
Back in the day, the club was not too much into junior cricket, and the 'come back next year' line was a euphemism for rejection. Many teenagers don't often return — in the Caribbean, he says, "kids move on fast" — but Furlonge knew Pollard would come back next year. "That look in his eyes. The desire I saw, I knew he would come back."

He did return, a week after turning 15. Taller and stronger, like the Caribbean tearaway archetype. The scout appraised: "He knocks over heads." But at the nets, he first picked up the bat and not the ball. "Strong, powerful, good hand-eye coordination, needed a bit of polishing." The coach asked him where he normally bats. He replied: "No 10".

"At that moment I felt like ripping his schoolmaster apart," recalls Furlonge.

That schoolmaster was Aslim Mandol, the agriculture teacher who doubled up as the cricket coach at Success Laventille Composite School. He had his own reasons though. "If the school had allocated more budget for buying cricket balls, we would have opened every single time with Kieron, because he was hitting every ball out into the swamp or bushes," he says, chuckling. He has lost count of the number of glasses he had broken too. But in inter-school matches, he was pushed up the order unhesitatingly.

His early coaches could not be faulted for seeing a bowler in him — the Atlas-like shoulders, Hercules-like forearms and the Prometheus-like fire in his eyes were irresistibly fast-bowler-like. At his peak, with a short run-up, more of a stroll, Pollard hit late 130s kph. Perhaps a Trinidadian Sobers? Could legitimately claim the 'T20 Sobers' title though — 11,232 runs, 300 wickets, 313



Crowds would swell to watch Kieron Pollard play even in age-group games.

catches. And six sixes in an over too.

Pollard drew masses to the stadium, even for age-group games. Crowds would swell to watch him — one day someone even brought a steel band. "They came in droves to watch him. He has hit some of the longest sixes I have ever seen," says Furlonge. "It's an instinct, second nature for him."

Often, his mother Hazel would come to watch him. She almost always had one query for the coaches: "Is her son competent enough to have a future in the game?" She was raising Pollard and his two younger sisters all by herself and could not afford her son to linger too long before beginning to earn and support the family. "She was doubtful but at the same time, wanted her son to do what he really liked. So, she used to ask us whether her son was good enough. We used to tell her he was very, very good," Furlonge says.

That fire in his eyes was his family, his vaulting ambition to succeed the despera-

tion to put food on his family's table. Before begrudging him as a T20 mercenary, before condescending him as the philistine free-lancer, one needs to know who Pollard is and where he is from.

Tacarigua, some 20km from Port of Spain, was one of the most notorious suburbs in Trinidad at the stroke of the century. Drugs, ganja, gang flare-ups, and murders were common. Throw poverty into the mix, childhood was like walking through a carpet of coal.

It was difficult, Pollard told *The Sydney Morning Herald* in 2010: "It was pretty tough, it wasn't ideal getting up and your mum say 'We only have X amount of money'. It was pretty hard growing up, and we had a lot of sacrifices to make in order to play cricket because cricket is an expensive game, all the equipment and getting sponsors. It was a

place where there are a lot of criminal activities, and stuff like that."

Pollard had no cricket gear of his own — he had to use the common kits in the school. One day, his mother managed him a second-hand gear, which he thrillingly took to the school. But his natural ability was such that Mandol knew he would overcome all those struggles. "Even back then, he was very motivated, and we knew that he was not the kind to do drugs. Give him a bat or a ball, he would play cricket all day long," he says.

The mother, though, was always anxious and wanted her son to do well in academics so that they would be redeemed from poverty. "It was the way back then. Study well, get a good job. A future in the sport is uncertain," he says.

It was a difficult time for a cricketer in the Caribbean too. The slide of West Indies as a cricketing superpower was in full swing. Fighting teammates, Russian roulette in captaincy and administrative chaos and apathy had shaken its edifice.

The riches of T20 were distant too. All these could have shaped Pollard's priorities and choices, most strongly his prioritising of club over country. He was not cricket's first free-lancer, but perhaps the youngest. He was barely 25, stepping into the peak of his career, whereas most freelancers then were over-the-hill veterans. The flashpoint came in 2010, when he refused the West Indies Cricket Board's central contract so that he could play T20 cricket for Somerset.

The backlash was stinging. Michael Holding said: "Kieron Pollard, in my opinion, is not a cricketer."

Pollard was, in his own words, "made to feel worse than the rebel cricketers (who toured South Africa)."

Such condemnations were not to stall or stop him — he had been or is still on the pay-rolls of 18 franchises. He has been, like all of mankind, monetising a gift of his for a living. The gift of hitting sixes, the golden currency in T20 cricket. He has struck 758 sixes, behind only Chris Gayle (1,042), almost with the same frequency (once every 9.7 balls to Gayle's 9.4 balls).

He once told Tim Wigmore and Freddie Wilde in the book *Cricket 2.0: Inside the T20 Revolution*: "You would never understand the situation until you are in the situation." Pollard was not a regular fixture in the West Indies team in any format, his future was uncertain in Caribbean cricket, T20 leagues were sprouting around the world, and beyond it, he had to sustain his family. After he was dropped from the West Indies team for the first time, no one bothered to call or console him.

"Yes, I wasn't performing. But afterwards, nobody called or said anything. If I had given myself until 25 and not made it big, I would have gone back to school and become a law enforcer," he had once said.

At that time, he was married and had become a father too. Responsibilities were swelling. "My mother is getting older, so I want to give her the best possible retirement life she could have. I have started my own family as well, so it's a matter of me trying to work hard enough to provide for my family so that they won't have to go through what I went through when I was growing up," he told *The Sydney Morning Herald*.



It's akin to a carnival whenever Pollard finds time to play for Trinidad. When he's there, the entire team is star-struck. "He takes them to his room. They will be playing cards or video games. All fun, when he's around. Everyone wants to be with him, just as he wants to be with them," says Furlonge.

Though it began as a coach-ward bond, then morphed into a father-son relationship,

Pollard and Furlonge are more like brothers now. "We go for drives, have chats, go for an occasional drink, celebrate anniversaries together. He is someone who values friendships and has friends everywhere."

There are many who call him their best friend. Dwayne Bravo and him go a long way, the latter recommended him to Mumbai Indians, mentioned him in the 'Champion' song and calls him his son's 'father-in-law'. To the Pandya brothers, he is a brother in arms. To Nicholas Pooran, he is a father figure, who was beside his hospital bed when he suffered a life-threatening car crash. Since his reinstallation as West Indies captain, he has unwaveringly supported talented but under-firing young guns like Shimron Hetmyer and Pooran.

"It is an opportunity for us to be there for these youngsters (Pooran and Hetmyer) and give them a hug and protect them, then let them come out of it. As a team, we are willing to work with these youngsters because we know what they can do."

At the Queen's Park Club, youngsters wait for Pollard's arrival. Charity games, fundraising games, donations for hurricane victims, Pollard is just an SMS away. "He will bring them kits, jerseys, and of course, a lot of love. To him, it is all a big family," says Furlonge.

In that sense, Pollard is a contradiction — the cricketer who considers every team a family is also the most promiscuous one, having pulled over shirts of 18 different sides, from Bridgetown to Dhaka, Multan to St Lucia and Cape Town. He is not a free-lancer as the cricket world had imagined — cold and callous, plastic and pretentious.

Maybe, he is more of a misunderstood cricketer. To understand his motivations, one needs to understand his situation, the upbringing and background. To appreciate his six-hitting prowess, though, all it takes is *YouTube*.

SHOT STORY

THE STROKE THAT DEFINES THE PLAYER, THE PLAYER THAT DEFINES THE STROKE

From being forced to play left-handed at school to being sultan of reverse hits

SANDIP G

WHILE AT primary school, **Glenn Maxwell** once didn't get out for a week and his peeved classmates complained to the PT master. For a week or so Maxwell switched to basketball, but the game of hoops didn't excite him as much and he went back to cricket.



He was allowed to play on one condition — he should bat left-handed. "So I developed decent left-handed shots. Then I went home and practised a lot left-handed too. My dad always kept pushing me to keep trying to do new things," he explains in a video. Soon, he was so good with batting left-handed that his mates asked him to revert to batting right-handed. Then he began to switch hitting and reverse sweep as he does now.

Of late, the game has seen the mushrooming of a number of 'reverse and switch

hitters'. But no one pulls those strokes with uncomplicated ease of Maxwell. No one had made them look so natural, or added more reverse variants to the repertoire. Anything cricket shot a batsman can play conventionally; Maxwell could produce the reverse version. From reverse sweep to reverse pull, reverse scoop to a reverse cover drive (which he flaunts in the nets).

He improvises his methods too, depending on the shot he wants to reverse. But he starts with backing his back-foot away, as if to shrug mud off the spikes. Then the front-foot opens up and makes a big diagonal stride to cover the line of the ball, the toe facing the bowlers, and then flips the direction of the bat-swing by pushing the back-arm forward. He shifts his grip too, wrapping his bottom hand over the handle than under it, to make the bat come in a flat-line with the pad, and not twisted semi-horizontally. "I do this because I don't want to bend my wrists to get around the ball, so that I could get a nice full swing and offer the full face of the bat," he elaborates.

The degree of bat-swing varies according to the shot. For the reverse lap, which he



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

mostly unfurls against pacers pursuing fuller-lengths, the bat-swing is minimal, and front-foot does not stride out as much. But when

executing the reverse sweep, the bat-swing is more pronounced so as to get the required power. Depending on whether he wants to

For the reverse lap, which he mostly unfurls against pacers pursuing fuller-lengths, the bat-swing is minimal, and front-foot does not stride out as much. But when executing the reverse sweep, the bat-swing is more pronounced so as to get the required power

hit the ball along the ground or in the air, his body contorts. "If I am looking to go over the fielders, I lean back and move the body away. But if want to play it along the ground, I lean forward and get the head over the ball," he explains.

A variety of technical and natural skills abet the shots. Good eyes that detect the length, fast hands that enables the change of grip, reflexes, and muscle memory to complement the change of direction but at the same time maintain the balance. But the

mind plays a role too, for one needs to have the utter self-belief to pull off that shot. The line between being inventive and careless is seldom so thin. Maxwell himself had been pulled up several times in his international career for his reverse-stroke making. Nothing, though, would beat practice, asserts Maxwell.

But trying asking him to eschew or limit the shot, he would shoot back: "To me, it's no different to a cover drive. It's my percentage shot." A lot of hapless bowlers this IPL would attest. On the slow, low tracks, where the ball would stutter before reaching the batsman, he ambushed them with his reverse-stroking sorcery. It could be a recurring theme at the World T20 too, and how to stop him would worry captains and bowlers. There's not so much they can do but pray he somehow misses the shot or mistimes to a fielder.

As a disruptive weapon, the reverse variants are almost unparalleled. Not only do those break up the rhythm of the bowlers and mock the field settings, but also change the mood and tempo of the match. And Maxwell is the sultan of reverse hit.

IOC wants wider consultation with FIFA over WC plan

Athens: The International Olympic Committee wants to have more discussions over controversial plans by the world soccer body FIFA to hold the World Cup every two years instead of every four it said on Saturday. FIFA's proposals are set to be voted on in December by the 211 member associations of global soccer's governing body, with president Gianni Infantino, also an IOC member, travelling the world to rally support for the plan, which has been opposed by former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. But the plan has met with fierce criticism from a number of continental and national federations, players' groups as well as fans.

London: Harry Kane scored his first Premier League goal of the season as Tottenham Hotspur overcame Newcastle United 3-2 at St James' Park on Sunday to prolong the hosts' winless run in a match that was briefly halted after a fan collapsed in the crowd. Newcastle, spurred on by a buoyant atmosphere in their first game since being taken over by a Saudi Arabia-led consortium, flew out of the traps and went ahead after just 108 seconds when Callum Wilson headed in from a Javi Manquillo cross.

Madrid: Professionals usually take 10 to 15 minutes to complete a hole on a golf course but four European Tour players teamed up to break the Guinness World Record by achieving the feat in less than half a minute. Sean Crocker, Nicolai Hoigaard, Min Woo Lee and Wilco Nienaber took up the challenge to break the record of 27.88 seconds set by an American team in 2018. "I don't know about you guys but I kind of want to put my Guinness World Record holder" in my Instagram bio," Crocker said. The hole chosen was the fourth at Valderrama Golf Club in Spain which is 501 yards long.

KKR's hard-hitting opener set to gather fan legions after ending sensational IPL season with a sparkling innings in the final

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 17

THE TILTED head and lopsided eyebrow is straight from the Rajini stylesheet. And through this second leg of the IPL, Venkatesh Iyer has traversed an equally incredible arc nothing short of a movie blockbuster - from a handy state team all-rounder, right upto the IPL final. Almost pulled off a title run too.

Along the way, he has stepped out to hit Rabada for a gigantic six, smacked Axar Patel, Adam Milne, Boult, and Bumrah around, used his feet deftly, reading the wily Ashwin, and in the first 10 overs of the final, made Josh Hazlewood look pedestrian.

His inability to finish the KKR chase leaves a lasting regret, or the Rajini standards of achieving only the impossible, might've even played out in real. His father, Rajasekaran tells Express, that at home everyone is expected to address the superstar as 'Rajini Sir' - standing instructions from the 25-year-old Venkatesh.

The flavour of the season, carries other outrageous tropes onto the field too. The shirts are never tucked in, he will ill-advisedly face a spinner without a helmet, he can throw scorchers from the deep outfield with both hands. And he is a die-hard Rajinikanth fan.

Venkatesh Iyer also has this ability to score runs which has made him the find of the season for Kolkata Knight Riders. If KKR managed to reach the finals of this IPL, his role at the top, had been vital.

As the dust settles on this edition, Iyer is sitting in his hotel room still rueing playing that shot to Chennai Super Kings' pacer Shardul Thakur. He is regretting not finishing the game.

"As a set batsman I should have gone and finished both the games. It's the main difference between a normal player and an extraordinary player. Extra-ordinary players do finish the game. I'm still thinking that I should have taken the game till the end, especially in the finals," a disappointed Iyer says. Further adding, "I knew (Rahul) Tripathi is injured. The pitch was nice for batting and we knew we could chase it. It was a matter of the extra push."

His thought process is clear, and like his batting his talking doesn't have 'ifs' and 'buts'. At 25, Iyer sounds more mature than his counterparts. An MBA in Finance, he has kept his degree aside, given up an offer from a multinational company to play cricket. He says it was the bravest decision taken by his parents to allow him to play cricket and not



Venkatesh Iyer has instructed his family members to always address the superstar as 'Rajini Sir'.

As a set batsman I should have gone and finished both the games. It's the main difference between a normal player and an extraordinary player. Extraordinary players do finish the game. I'm still thinking that I should have taken the game till the end, especially in the finals."

VENKATESH IYER
KKR OPENER

be bothered with what relatives chattered.

Not hemmed in by academics

Iyer's family is not unlike most South Indian families, who set a lot of store on academics, and then follow that by moving abroad. Instead they wanted their son to follow what he liked the most. Iyer was a bright student and also a good cricketer. He wanted to become a Chartered Accountant after his BCom at a later stage but he couldn't because if he enrolled himself into the CA Inter for the next three years, he would have to work under a CA.

Instead while playing cricket, Iyer completed an MBA in finance and later was of-

Once there was an India vs Australia match going on, Venkatesh was a big fan of Sourav Ganguly. Ganguly got out early and Venkatesh began crying. He even got sick that day. We told him not don't worry he will score in the next game but he was upset for the next two days. "

RAJASEKARAN
IYER'S FATHER

ffered a job in Deloitte which means he had to be stationed between Bangalore or Hyderabad, and Iyer once again chose his cricket.

“His mother was firm on him following his passion. Job can wait, she wanted him to do things which he liked the most and he continued to play cricket. Look now his passion is paying off,” his father Rajasekaran said.

The limelight

The IPL has made him an overnight star but Iyer wears his success lightly. Nothing has changed for KKR opener drastically. He explains, "Things have changed for my fam-

Express/iplt20.com

ily. In South Indian families there is a thing that let the boy concentrate on his academics only. It takes courage for a parent to decide that her child will play cricket. Now my relatives are happy, so the smile which I see on my parents' face makes me happy."

Cricket is an expensive sport, especially if you don't have much financial backing. Lyer's father Rajasekaran is a Human Resources consultant in a beverage company and mother Usha is floor co-ordinator in an Indore hospital. His father has worked in Bhopal, Dewas and now settled in Indore.

"My parents faced financial problems initially, as cricket in India is expensive. They had to work hard, at the same time there were societal problems. The burden of expectations are always very high. They (relatives) wanted results quickly but my parents didn't relay those conversations on me," Iyer recalls.

lyer would have made his IPL debut in May itself had his teammate Varun Chakravathy not tested positive which was followed by the IPL being postponed. The left-handed batsman had never imagined having such a great run in the UAE leg.

But how did cricket happen?

His father Rajasekaran recalls an incident which introduced their child to cricket.

"Once there was an India vs Australia match going on, Venkatesh was a big fan of Sourav Ganguly. Ganguly got out early and Venkatesh began crying. He even got sick that day. We told him not don't worry he will score in the next game but he was upset for the next two days. So looking at the passion for the game, we enrolled him in the nearby nets," his father narrates.

Work on fitness

Two years ago, Iyer felt the need to have a good fitness base. He called his best friend Suraj Thakoriya, who planned his diet. "If I have to compete with others then my fitness needs to be at its prime. I'm a medium-pacer, so, many times, I need to bat the whole day and next day I have to bowl with the same intensity. I can only do that if my fitness is good. I increased my strength. I brought regularity in my fitness routine," Iyer stated.

Last year when Madhya Pradesh coach Chandrakant Pandit decided to promote his number six Iyer, the batsman harboured doubts. But it was a move which later proved to be sheer change for Venkatesh. In the Syed Musaque Ali Trophy, Iyer blasted 227 runs in five innings at a strike rate of 149.34. Later in the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy, Iyer continued with his form, wallowing 198 in 146 balls against Punjab.

He was called for KKR trials to Mumbai and later was picked in an auction. Asked if he anticipated this success, he replies, "I never thought that I will have such a ride. Even if I wouldn't have done well, I still would have enjoyed. It's my first season of IPL. I had told myself that I won't look at performance, instead I will give more importance to the process which has brought me here. I didn't have any expectations, *kitna main itna run banaoonga, utne run maaroonga*. I just wanted to enjoy."

Iyer did certainly enjoy. When the KKR coach Brendon McCullum came and told him to play freely, he did. Not many knew Iyer a month ago. One month on, he is with the Indian team as a player who will assist the Indian team during the T20 World Cup.

He met MS Dhoni, but couldn't speak to him much. He met Virat Kohli, who told him importance of match fitness and how to handle pressure.

He says he has the same set of friends even now and a few hundred unread messages. What's not changed is his love for movie star Rajinikanth. It won't be exactly unaltered to find out now that both his heroes, Ganguly and Rajinikanth know exactly who Venkatesh Iyer is. Them, and the greater cricket universe.

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