MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 16 PAGES

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Facebook fuelled hate speech and fake news in India, its staff found

Social media platform didn't have resources in country, say documents

SHEERA FRENKEL&

DAVEY ALBA OCTOBER 24

ON FEBRUARY 4, 2019, a Facebook researcher created a new user account to see what it was like to experience the social media site as a person living in Kerala. For the next three weeks, the account operated by a simple rule: Follow all the recommendations generated by Facebook's algorithms to join groups, watch videos and explore new pages on the site.

The result was an inundation of hate speech, misinformation and celebrations of violence, which were documented in an internal Facebook report published later that month. "Following this test user's News Feed, I've seen more images of dead people in the past three weeks than I've seen in my entire life total," the Facebook researcher wrote.

The report was one of dozens of studies and memos written by Facebook employees grappling CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



LED TO ANALYSIS,

SAYS FACEBOOK

The findings of the

Facebook researcher in

 ${\it Kerala\,led\,the\,company\,to}$

undertake a "deeper, more

rigorous analysis" of its

recommendation systems

in India and make product

the

whistle

THE FINDINGS are based on documents collected by Frances Haugen, a 37year-old engineer who worked at Facebook for nearly two years. Her job was to track the spread of misinformation and ensure that the platform was not used to destabilise democracy



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR PAGE 12



'What's happening with intermediaries in US is why IT rules are important... they create accountability'



PAKISTAN WINS BIG

India captain Virat Kohli congratulates Mohammad Rizwan after Pakistan won the Twenty 20 World Cup match in Dubai on Sunday. Pakistan's Rizwan and Babar Azam (left) chased down India's 151 with 10 wickets to spare. AP

NEW ALLEGATION IN ARYAN KHAN CASE

Signed blank sheets for NCB, heard Gosavi discuss Rs 8 cr bribe for top officer: witness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24



of their raid on the cruise ship. The witness, Prabhakar Sail, also claimed on Sunday that he had heard KPGosavi, the alleged private investigator who accompanied NCB officials on the raid, say that Rs 8 crore would have to

Witness says when Aryan was taken to NCB office. he went too

be given to the NCB's Mumbaibased Zonal Director Sameer

Gosavi, who too is an NCB witness in the case against Aryan and others, is absconding. There are several cases of cheating against him.

Wankhede.

Sail said that he feared he would be killed by the NCB. The

NCB denied his allegations.

In a statement, the Bureau said the matter was being referred to higher authorities for necessary action. NCB officer Wankhede complained to Mumbai Police that attempts were being made to frame him in a false case.

Sail, a resident of Andheri in Mumbai who offers personal bodyguard services, has said that he was employed by Gosavi on July 22.

On the morning of October 2, Gosavi had asked him to come to the NCB office in Mumbai, Sail **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

POONCH HUNT FOR MILITANTS

Jailed Pak terrorist used to track hideout killed; 2 **J&K** cops, soldier injured

Held 18 yrs ago, Mustafa was shifted to Jammu jail this year

ARUN SHARMA

JAMMU, OCTOBER 24

IN WHAT appears to be a gambit gone awry, a jailed Lashkare-Toiba terrorist, who had been deployed to lead security forces to the hideout of a group of militants in the forested heights of Poonch, was killed, and two J&K policemen and an Army soldier injured, in an encounter with the men being hunted.

Officials identified the terrorist killed as Zia Mustafa, a Pakistani national who was arrested in 2003 as the mastermind of the Nadimarg massacre in Pulwama district in South Kashmir in which 24 Kashmiri Pandits were killed.

The three injured were taken to the nearest medical facility. Sources said their injuries are not severe, and that there has been no further exchange of fire with the militants.

Mustafa was taken by J&K police to the encounter site in Mendhar from the high-security Kot Bhalwal Jail in Jammu on Saturday to track the group that has been evading a massive combing operation in the Bhata Durian forests.

The operation was launched 14 days ago after five Army personnel were killed by militants in Chamrel, a forested area in the heights overlooking the Bhimber Gali-Suranakote-Poonch National Highway. Three days later, four more Army personnel were killed in Bhata Durian, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NADIMARG CASE MAY NOW BE SHUT

Both Jammu, Kashmir will grow, '3 families' now powerless: Shah





ARUN SHARMA

JAMMU, OCTOBER 24

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah on Sunday promised equitable development of both the Jammu and Kashmir regions, and said "no one" would be allowed to disrupt the process of development initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Union Territory.

"From this land of temples and of Mata Vaishno Devi, which is also the birthplace of Pandit Prem Nath Dogra and the martyrdom of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, I want to say that



Shah, L-G Sinha in Jammu. PTI

those bent upon disrupting this era of development are causing disruptions, but rest assured no one will be able to disrupt and stop the pace of development in **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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HOLLYWOOD REWIND | PHILADELPHIA: A BATTLE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Tom Hanks was awarded the Best Actor Oscar for his role in the 1993 movie Philadelphia. And while Denzel

Washington was surprisingly not nominated for any major award for his performance, the range he displayed



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The battles of India's first women in medicine

3THINGS

India's first "lady doctors" battled everything from unsupportive husbands and over supportive husbands to widowhood, caste rules, and divorce.

FROM PAGE ONE

J&K shootout

which falls in another part of the same forest.

Army sources said it was not clear if the militants involved in these two incidents were from that group but a senior police officer said they were acting in tandem and had changed locations. On Sunday, police said ini-

tially that Mustafa was seriously injured as security forces came under fire from the militants. and that he could not be rescued. Hours later, they said Mustafa's body was retrieved from the site in a subsequent operation.

Police sources told The Indian Express that Mustafa was deployed because he knew the location of the hideout as he had been in touch with the militants despite being in the jail.

Mustafa was brought to Kot Bhalwal about two months ago from Udhampur where he was found to have been allegedly us-

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ing a SIM card to remain in contact with militants.

An official at Kot Bhalwal jail said: "After he was shifted here, we too started receiving inputs about him being in contact with militants active outside. We searched him and the entire jail premises but found nothing. For the past nearly a fortnight, we had shifted him to solitary confinement and deployed guards to keep an eye on him 24x7."

The prison official said Mustafa was handed over to Mendhar police on transit remand Friday following an order by the Principal District and Sessions Judge in Shopian. A police team from Mendhar had come to take his custody saying that he was wanted for questioning in a case, the official said.

Sources said there have been several instances of jailed militants using mobile phones inside Kot Bhalwal jail, and searches have yielded SIM cards.

Sunday was the first time in over a week that security forces had exchanged fire with the militants holed up in Poonch, They had traded fire earlier in Chamrel on October 12 and in

Bhatta Durian on October 16.

Amit Shah

Jammu and Kashmir," Shah told a public rally in Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu.

"Some people" were raising questions about the security situation in J&K, Shah said.

"I want to tell them that a total 2,081 civilians were killed by militants from 2004-14, which comes to 208 civilians every year (on average). However, from 2014 till September 10, 2021, only 239 civilians have lost their lives, which works out to 30 civilians a year," Shah said.

"But I have come to say that though this number is smaller, we are not satisfied, as we want to create a situation where not a single person gets killed and terrorism is wiped out completely,"

Shah said that under a unique development scheme initiated by the Modi government, 4,500 clubs had been created in Kashmir, involving 45,000 youths. While some of them have got jobs, others have been trained in skill upgradation and other ventures, and were serving society, he said.

"I have told them (members of youth clubs) that if you find any woman without an LPG connection in your village, do write to the government, as we do not want any household to be without an LPG stove, electricity, or tap water," Shah said. "And if these 45,000 youth work in the service of Jammu and Kashmir, then I can tell you that militants will not be able to cause any harm."

Shah is on his first visit to J&K since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. In the evening, he visited forward areas along the international border in Jammu, and interacted with BSF officers and jawans.

Sunday was the birth anniversary of Prem Nath Dogra, founder of Praja Parishad, who led an agitation against Sheikh Abdullah in the 1950s. Syama Prasad Mookeriee died in I&K Police custody in 1953.

"This is an auspicious day. Not just Jammu, people across the country can never forget Prem Nath Dogra... He was the person who founded the Praia Parishad, and along with Dr Mookerjee gave the slogan that there cannot be two heads of government, two flags, and two constitutions in

the same country," Shah said. Shah, who was accompanied by Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Dr litendra Singh, and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, inaugurated or laid the foundation stones of various projects worth a total Rs 15,000 crore.

"The days of discrimination against the people of Jammu have gone, and now no one can do injustice to you," Shah said, Instead, he said, "development will take place simultaneously both in Jammu and Kashmir. There will be no iniustice with anybody and both will develop and prosper together and contribute jointly to take the country forward."

"When we came up with the new industrial policy, the three families used to mock us saying who will come here... But due to PM Modi's efforts, investments of Rs 12,000 crore have come until now, and will rise to Rs 51,000 crore before the end of 2022." Shah said, without naming the "three families" of the Congress, NC, and PDP.

'What did these three families give to the state except for 87 MLAs and six MPs?" Shah asked. In comparison, "PM Narendra Modi has worked to make 30,000 people elected representatives", and announced a Rs 55.000crore package for the people after taking office.

"Today every village has an elected panchayat, councils in block and districts," Shah said, adding that these panches and sarpanches could also become ministers at the Centre, or chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir. "Coercion by these three families is no longer possible," he said.

Drugs case said in a five-page statement

notarised by a lawyer.

The party on board the Empress, the luxury cruise vessel owned by Cordelia Cruises, was supposed to be held that evening off the Mumbai coast.

According to Sail, Gosavi was with NCB officials at the time, and had asked him to

wait in the waiting area at Green Gate, the cruise terminal in

"At about 1.23 pm Kiran Gosavi sent some photographs on my WhatsApp and told me to keep a watch and identify the people in the photographs and to further inform him that if any of the said persons are coming to board the cruise through Green Gate. Accordingly I was waiting," Sail said in his statement.

"I identified one person from the said photograph and informed him (Gosavi) that he was boarded bus no. 2700 on Whats-App. On 4.23 [pm] he replied to me that the said person who I identified is caught and that 13 people are arrested," Sail said. Sail claims he was then called

by Gosavi, and he saw Aryan Khan in one of the cabins of the ship, and fashion model Munmun Dhamecha with NCB officials. Aryan was taken to the NCB office, and he too went along, Sail said.

According to Sail, he was standing outside the NCB office when Gosavi rang him and asked him to come inside and become a *panch* in the case.

NCB officials had then asked him to sign on sheets of blank paper, Sail said in his statement.

Panches are supposed to be respectable inhabitants of society" who would be independent witnesses to search and seizure operations by police. The document the witnesses prepare is called a panchnama, and is used in the trial to support the evidence presented by the prosecution.

"At around 1 am (on October 3) I received a call from KPGosavi instructing me that I should sign as a pancha and called me to the NCB office. I reached there and [NCB Zonal Director] Sameer Wankhede instructed the staff to take my signature and name. One Salerkar from NCB told me to sign on 10 blank papers..." the statement says.

According to Sail, Gosavi then came out of the NCB office, and proceeded to discuss matters related to money with a man named Sam D'Souza.

"Till such time we reached Lower Parel K P Gosavi was talking to Sam on the phone and stated that you put a bomb of 25 crores and let's settle at 18 final because we have to give 8 crores to Sameer Wankhede," Sail said.

According to Sail, who is one of the NCB's nine independent witnesses in the case, Gosavi and D'Souza had subsequently met a person named Pooja Dadlani.

While Sail's statement did not say who Dadlani was. Sail claimed later that Dadlani was Shah Rukh Khan's manager. Dadlani did not respond to requests by The Indian Express for a comment.

Sail has claimed that Gosavi asked him to go to Tardeo traffic signal in south Mumbai and collect Rs 50 lakh. "I reached around 9.45 am at

the said place where one white colour car no. 5102 came and gave me 2 bags filled with cash which I took to Vashi at his (Gosavi's) home and gave it to Kiran Gosavi." Sail claims that Gosavi later

instructed him to give the money to Sam D'Souza, which he did near Trident Hotel. However, Gosavi himself

went missing that day, and has not been seen since. "K P Gosavi is missing now

and I now fear that NCB officials and other persons involved may kill me or abduct me like K P Gosavi. As seen in the big cases. witnesses often are killed or taken away and I therefore want to state the truth," Sail said.

In a statement, Mutha Ashok Jain, NCB's deputy director general in Mumbai, said:

"As he (Sail) is a witness in the case and as the case is before the honorable court and sub judice, he needs to submit his prayer to the honorable court rather than through social media if he has anything to say. In addition, there are certain vigilance-related allegations against certain persons in the affidavit which are based on overhearing Mr Prabhakar [Sail]."

Although the five-page statement released by Sail has been notarised and has the appearance of an affidavit, it has not been submitted to any court.

"Our zonal director, Mumbai Zonal Unit Mr Sameer Wankhede, has categorically denied these allegations. As some of the contents of the affidavit are related to vigilance matters, I am...forwarding the affidavit to the Director General Narcotics Control Bureau and requesting him for further necessary action," Jain said.

Soon after the news of the raid on the cruise ship broke, Gosavi's picture with Arvan Khan was circulated widely on social media.

On Sunday, Sail also released a video that purportedly showed Aryan in custody, with Gosavi apparently making him speak to someone on a mobile phone.

On October 6, the Nationalist Congress Party had released videos showing Gosavi leading Aryan by the hand into the NCB office. NCP spokesperson and Maharashtra Cabinet Minister Nawab Malik had at the time questioned the NCB's decision to allow an individual who was not part of the Bureau to handle such a high-profile accused.

As per documents submitted in court, Sail has been named as Pancha No. 2 in the panchnama conducted by the NCB on October 2. This panchnama was done at the international cruise terminal with regard to five ac-Aryan, Arbaaz Merchant, Ishmeet Singh Chadha, Gomit Chopra, and Vikrant Chhokar, Gosavi is Pancha No. 1 in this panchnama.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday demanded an inquiry into Sail's allegations.

"Witness in Aryan Khan case made to sign on blank paper by NCB is shocking. Also there are reports that there was demand of huge money. CM Uddhav Thackeray said that this cases are made to defame Maharashtra. This seems to be coming true,' Raut posted on Twitter, Tagging Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil, he said, "Police should take suo motu cognizance."

State Congress President Nana Patole demanded that the Maharashtra government institute a high-level inquiry into the allegations.

Nawab Malik said that he would meet Chief Minister Thackeray and Home Minister Walse Patil to ask for a probe into the allegations by a special investigation team.

Sameer Wankhede, who is heading the NCB investigations in the case, sent a complaint to the Commissioner of Mumbai Police on Sunday seeking protection from "unknown persons" who he said were trying to frame him in a false case.

In the one-page complaint on the NCB's official letterhead, Wankhede said, "It has come to my notice that some precipitate legal action for framing me falsely is being planned by unknown persons in relation to alleged vigilance related issue in NCB Cr. No. 94/2021 (the cruise drugs case).'

Wankhede did not name anyone in his complaint, but alleged that he had received threats of being jailed or dismissed on public media by "highly respectable public functionaries"

Senior Mumbai Police officers declined to comment on Wankhede's complaint.

Facebook

with the effects of the platform on India. They provide stark evidence of one of the most serious criticisms levied by human rights activists and politicians against the world-spanning company: It moves into a coun-

New Delhi

try without fully understanding its potential effects on local culture and politics, and fails to deploy the resources to act on issues once they occur. With 340 million people us-

ing Facebook's various social media platforms, India is the company's largest market. Facebook's problems on the subcontinent present an amplified version of the issues it has faced throughout the world,

made worse by a lack of resources and a lack of expertise in India's 22 officially recognised languages. The internal documents, obtained by a consortium of news organisations that included The New York Times, are part of a larger cache of material called

The Facebook Papers. They were collected by Frances Haugen, a former Facebook product manager who became a whistleblower and recently testified before a Senate subcommittee about the company and its so-

cial media platforms. References to India were scattered among documents filed by Haugen to the Securities and Exchange Commission in a complaint earlier this month.

The documents include reports on how bots and fake accounts tied to the country's ruling party and opposition figures were wreaking havoc on national elections.

They also detail how a plan championed by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to focus on "meaningful social interactions," or exchanges between friends and family, was leading to more misinformation in India, particularly during the pandemic.

Eighty-seven per cent of Facebook's global budget for time spent on classifying misinformation is earmarked for the United States, while only 13% is set aside for the rest of the world - even though North American users make up only 10% of the social network's daily active users, according to one document describing Facebook's allocation of resources.

Andy Stone, a Facebook spokesperson, said the figures were incomplete and don't include the company's third-party fact-checking partners, most of whom are outside the US.

"Hate speech against marginalised groups, including Muslims, is on the rise in India and globally,' Stone said. "So we are improving enforcement and are committed to updating our policies as hate speech evolves online.' In India, "there is definitely a

question about resourcing" for Facebook, but the answer is not "just throwing more money at the problem," said Katie Harbath, who spent 10 years at Facebook as a director of public policy and worked directly on securing India's national elections. Facebook, she said, needs to find a solution that can be applied to countries around the world. Facebook employees have

run various tests and conducted field studies in India for several years. That work increased before India's 2019 national elections; in late January of that year, a handful of Facebook employees travelled to the country to meet with colleagues and speak to dozens of local Facebook users. According to a memo writ-

ten after the trip, one of the key requests from users in India was that Facebook "take action on types of misinfo that are connected to real-world harm, specifically politics and religious group tension". Ten days after the researcher

opened the fake account to study misinformation, a suicide bombing in Kashmir set off a round of violence and a spike in accusations, misinformation and conspiracies between Indian and Pakistani nationals. After the attack, anti-

Pakistan content began to circulate in the Facebook-recommended groups that the researcher had joined. Many of the groups, she noted, had tens of thousands of users. A different report by Facebook, published in December 2019, found Indian Facebook users tended to join large groups, with the country's median group size at 140,000 members.

Graphic posts, including a meme showing the beheading of a Pakistani national and dead bodies wrapped in white sheets on the ground, circulated in the groups she joined.

Two months later, after India's national elections had begun, Facebook put in place a series of steps to stem the flow of misinformation and hate speech in the country, according to an internal document called Indian Election Case Study.

The case study painted an optimistic picture of Facebook's efforts, including adding more factchecking partners - the third-party network of outlets with which Facebook works to outsource fact-checking — and increasing the amount of misinformation it removed. It also noted how Facebook had created a "political whitelist to limit PR risk," essentially a list of politicians who received a special ex-

emption from fact-checking. The study did not note the immense problem the company faced with bots in India, nor issues such as voter suppression. During the election, Facebook saw a spike in bots — or fake accounts — linked to various political groups, as well as efforts to spread misinformation that could have affected people's un-

derstanding of the voting process. In a separate report produced after the elections, Facebook found that more than 40% of top views, or impressions, in West Bengal were "fake/inauthentic." One inauthentic account had amassed more than 30 million impressions.

A report published in March showed that many of the problems cited during the 2019 elections persisted. In the internal document, called Adversarial Harmful Networks: India Case Study, Facebook researchers wrote that there were groups and pages "replete with inflammatory and misleading anti-Muslim content" on Facebook.

Much of the material circulated around Facebook groups promoting the RSS. The groups took issue with an expanding Muslim minority population in West Bengal and near the Pakistani border, and published posts on Facebook calling for the ouster of Muslim populations from India and promoting a Muslim population control law.

Facebook knew that such harmful posts proliferated on its platform, the report indicated. and it needed to improve its "classifiers," which are automated systems that can detect and remove posts containing violent and inciting language. Facebook also hesitated to designate RSS as a dangerous organisation because of "political sensitivities" that could affect the social network's operation in the country.

Of India's 22 officially recognised languages, Facebook said it has trained its artificial intelligence systems on five. (It said it had human reviewers for some others.) But in Hindi and Bengali, it still did not have enough data to adequately police the content, and much of the content targeting Muslims "is never flagged or actioned," the report said. Five months ago, Facebook

was still struggling to efficiently remove hate speech against Muslims. Another company report detailed efforts by Bajrang Dal to publish posts with anti-Muslim narratives on the platform. Facebook is considering des-

ignating the group as a dangerous organisation because it is "inciting religious violence" on the platform, the document showed. But it has not yet done so.

(THE NEW YORK TIMES)

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	Cases		Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Oct 23	40		46	0	61,152	
Oct 24	37		51	0	60,704	
Total	320*		14,14,192	25,091	2,90,32,667	

Eye on polls, Delhi BJP pitches unified MCD

ABHINAV RAJPUT

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE DELHI BIP is in favour of unification of the three municipal corporations and is advocating for the merger with the central leadership, it is learnt. The Centre has not taken a decision vet.

Sources said state unit president Adesh Gupta wants the three MCDs - East, North and South — to be unified ahead of the civic body polls due in April and is pitching for it, said sources. Gupta, however refused to comment on the issue.

The BJP, which has been ruling all three MCDs for the past 15 years, is up against a buoyant AAP trying to come into power in the civic

A senior BJP leader said party



The trifurcation is at the heart of the financial crisis in the civic bodies, leading to salary delays and strike by employees. Archive

leaders have communicated to the senior leadership that a merger would solve the financial crisis, faced

by the North and East MCDs especially, to an extent. The trifurcation, which divided

resources unequally, is at the heart of the financial crisis in the civic bodies. While the move was aimed at decentralising municipal governance in Delhi, officials said it only 'tripled the number of officers, increased costs and resulted in unequal distribution of assets and lia-

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had been trifurcated by the Sheila Dikshit government in April 2012. In later years, it was seen that while the South body has more posh colonies and was financially better placed, North faced acute financial crisis leading to a budget deficit, salary delays and frequent strikes by staff. The East MCD, placed between South and North financially, too has a budget deficit and mounting loans.

Sources in the party, however,

said that advocating for a merger also has political connotations as the MCDs have constantly claimed they are devoid of funds because the AAP-led Delhi government is blocking it.

"This would also help the party send out a message to the public of how they plan to fix the fund crisis if voted to power again," said a leader, adding that there has been no decision by the Centre yet.

The AAP, however, claims that mismanagement and corruption in the MCDs is responsible for the fund crisis.

The demand from the Delhi BJP to merge the corporations is not new. It was raised in 2014 and 2017, when former union minister Vijay Goel had batted in favour of unification saying it would lead to better



Puzzle car park opens at Adhchini



It has space for 56 cars

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE SOUTH Delhi Municipal Corporation Sunday inaugurated an automated multi-level puzzle car parking in Adhchini village, which has a capacity to accommodate 56 vehicles.

Mayor Mukesh Suryan said the move will facilitate parking for people in both rural and urban parts as it has been constructed on lesser space than traditional parking lots. Its total plot area is 467.83 sqm and a total of 56 vehicles can be parked at a time.

A senior SDMC official said average retrieval time for each car will be 150 seconds, while it takes nearly 15 minutes in traditional parking lots. The parking lot has two modules, with six levels in each module. Thirtyone cars can be parked in one module and 25 in the second module, said the senior official.

There will be no manual interference at this automated parking facility after parking the vehicle at ground level. The official said the modular design has been made of steel: "It's a pollution free structure where response time will be very less. Fire-fighting and other arrangements have also been made."

Work on two similar parking lots at Punjabi Bagh and M Block Market in Greater Kailash II would also start this month, he said.

5-year-old Dalit girl raped and killed in Gurgaon

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA GURGAON, OCTOBER 24

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD Dalit girl was allegedly raped and murdered in a Gurgaon village on Sunday morning. Police have detained her neighbour, a 22-year-old labourer from Bihar, for the crime. Police said that during preliminary questioning, he alegedly confessed that he committed the crime under the influence of alcohol.

Police said that a group of lo-

to them to 'deliver swift justice'. Police said the incident took

place around 10 am when the accused took the girl out on the pretext of taking her to a shop to eat. Instead, he took her into the bushes behind her house and allegedly sexually assaulted her before killing her. DCP (South) Dheeraj Setia

said, "The girl had injuries on her private parts and neck. The cause of death will be known after a post-mortem, which will be conducted by a medical board ted he was drunk at the time."

Police have detained her neighbour, a labourer from Bihar, for the crime. A group of locals beat up the accused and prevented police from taking

him into custody

some locals pelted stones at police and tried to obstruct officers hands. Action will be taken against them," he said.

The victim's father, a labourer from UP, said they had celebrated her birthday on Saturday and the accused, along with other tenants, was present.

"He has been living here for the past 6-7 months. On an earlier occasion too, he had taken my daughter out but not for a long time. Today, I left for work at 9 am. My wife and three children – two sons aged 10 and 2 and my daughter - were at home. When my daughter did not return for a while, my wife informed me and she went with a neighbour to look for her," said the father.

He said his wife noticed the

accused standing next to their daughter's body in a farm behind their house. "He started to run and was caught by the villagers. My daughter was lying motionless on the ground and was bleeding... There were some bite marks on her neck and bruises. We took her to government hospital, where doctors said she was dead... All I want is justice. I wanted to enroll her in a school, but then Covid came and schools

shut," said the girl's father. An FIR was registered against the accused under IPC sections 302 (murder) and 376 (2) (i) (rape), Section 6 of the POCSO Act and sections 3(1)(i) and 3(2) (v) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act).

4 members of Gogi gang arrested

New Delhi: Police arrested four associates of deceased gangster Jitender Gogi with three pistols in Rohini. The accused are involved in recent cases of murder, gang wars and robbery, and were planning to kill members

of rival Tillu Tajpuriya gang, police said. DCP (Rohini) Pranav Tayal said, "They were carrying illegal weapons and were riding on a stolen bike in Rohini. We received an input that they are in the area and sent teams..." ENS



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office at 3rd Floor 27 Central Market Western Avenue Road Puniabi Bagh, New Delhi - 1100026, under the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 20.07.2020 calling upon the M/s Pammvi Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Vivek Gupta, M/s. Pamvi Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Amit Premkumar Gupta (hereinafter referred to as "Borrowers") to repay the amount mentioned in the notice Rs. 75,15,853/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Three only) within 60 days from the date of receipt

The borrower having failed to repay the above mentioned amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken ymbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 22nd Day of October of the vear 2021.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Citibank N.A. for an amount of Rs. 75.15.853/- and interest thereor The Borrowers's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of te

Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.]

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INDIAN EXPRESS

GROUP

cals beat up the accused and preon Monday. The accused is a from arresting the accused. "We vented them from taking him neighbour and was a frequent rescued him and took him to aninto custody. Another group visitor to their house. He admitother location. There was some pelted stones at a police vehicle anger among locals. But people The DCP confirmed that should not take the law into their and blocked a road, demanding

Class divide a factor in decision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

CLASS DIVIDE is an important factor holding decision makers back from allowing schools to reopen even though many experts are in favour of it, AAP leader Atishi said in a panel discussion Saturday. She was part of a panel of experts speaking at the launch of the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights' new iournal 'Children First' where each panelist, including members of the government, said they were in favour of schools and anganwadi centres re-opening.

When questioned why this was not happening if there is so much opinion in favour of it, she said, emphasising that she was speaking in her personal capacity: "... this is also because of a class divide. A lot of people who are decision makers also those in whose homes children's education has not been disrupted... There are both kind of voices in different states and in Delhi. And you can see this even where schools have opened for class IX onward, you see that in government schools



Atishi was speaking at a panel discussion, Saturday

there is almost 80% attendance Children are coming into schools because for them that is the more effective learning space. But if you look at private schools, attendance is 10%, 15%, 20%.'

Dr Vandana Prasad, convener at Public Health Resource Network, said the move could have come earlier. "Not just schools but anganwadis, childcare services, nutrition rehabilistandstill and I don't know why we have delayed things so far. Communities are also not entirely ready, there is that. Parents are also not entirely ready, but we have seen that when we work with the community everybody recognises the need of these services and they will be very happy to send their children back." While Special Secretary of

tation centres, everything is at a

the Women and Child Development department Dr Rashmi Singh said the anganwadi centre had never stopped working even though the centres continue to remain closed, she said they still need to fully reopen, especially for the mothers.

"Not only because we want children to have that experience of learning, but also because there is the dimension of gender... Women who need to go to work feel that their children are safer when somebody else is taking care of them," she said.

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प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

नौएडा प्राधिकरण द्वारा आवासीय भूखण्डों के आवंटन हेतु आवासीय भूखण्ड योजना 2021 (II) का प्रकाशन दिनांक 14.10.2021 को विभिन्न राष्ट्रीय समाचार पत्रों में किया गया है। इस योजना के अन्तर्गत 50% भूखण्ड सामान्य वर्ग हेतु एवं 50% आरक्षित श्रेणी हेतु आवंटन किये जायेंगे। भूखण्डों का आवंटन ई—ऑक्सन के माध्यम

इस योजना के अन्तर्गत उपलब्ध भूखण्डों में से आरक्षित श्रेणी हेत् भूखण्डों का वयन मैनुअल ड्रा के द्वारा दिनांक 20.10.2021 को किया जाना था जोकि अपरिहार्य काराणों से स्थगित कर दिया गया।

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SKYWATCH

MIN: 18

With winter round the corner in the capital, extended rainfall has meant relatively cleaner air so far. But this relief could be shortlived

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND& ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA NEW DELHI/LUDHIANA, OCTOBER 24

EVERY WINTER, the national capital and surrounding NCR areas grapple with severe air pollution from multiple internal sources such as dust and vehicular emissions as well as meteorological conditions like low wind speed, temperature, and humidity. Add stubble burning to this cocktail and Delhi is enveloped in a grey haze for the entirety of winter.

While Delhi has enjoyed a relatively cleaner pre-winter period (September 1-October 15) this year compared to previous years, as per an analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment, experts attributed this to the extended rainfall as well a delayed paddy harvest in Puniab and Harvana. With paddy stubble burning expected to rise in the next few days, pollution too is expected to go up.

The harvest and the consequent paddy stubble burning are just starting off in Punjab. The delay this year is because of the monsoon, which withdrew later than usual. Around 28% paddy has been harvested in the state till October 22 against 41% last year on the same date.

Fire stats

Between September 1 and October 22, Punjab's fire count was 5,772 — lower than the fire count of 11,664 till October 22 last year, the highest figure since 2016. But this year's count is higher than that of 2019 (4,042) and 2018 (3,502). Haryana's fire count till October 22 was 2.413. up from 2,121 last year. In 2019, the figure for the same time frame was 2,755, while it stood at 2.503 in 2018.

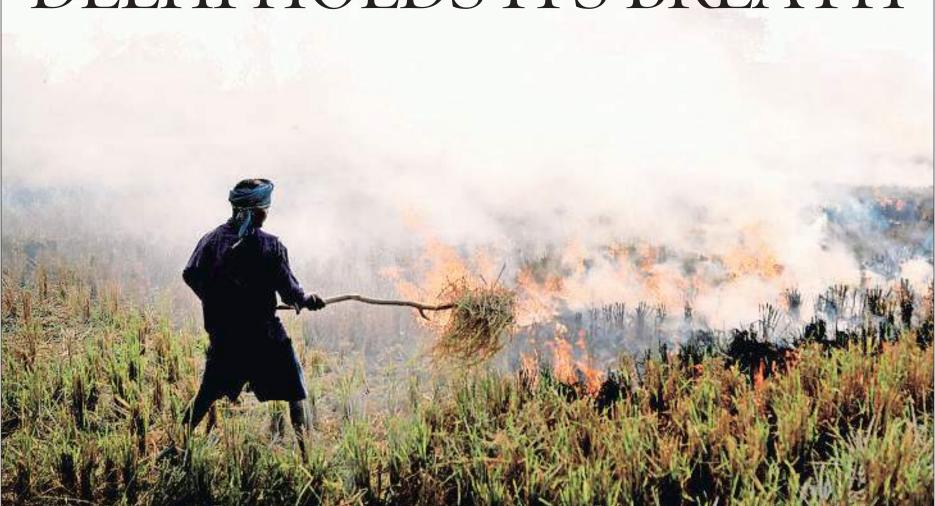
This is as per figures provided by Pawan Gupta, senior scientist, Earth Sciences at the Universities Space Research Association, NASA Marshall Space Flight Centre, USA, of data from the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS), an instrument on board NASA's Suomi National Polar-Orbiting Partnership satellite.

According to the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre (PRSC) at Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, which records farm fires through satellite images, the incidence of stubble burning till October 21 are 4,327 — 3,402 took place in just nine days from

District-wise cumulative fire

DELHI HOLDS ITS BREATH

HARDLOOK



counts in Punjab between September 1 and October 22 indicates that Amritsar and Tarn Taran have the highest, in the range above 850. In Haryana, the districts of Kaithal and Karnal show the highest counts (over 460), maps that Gupta provided show.

"The fire count is lower this year but comparing it to last year's figures might not work. Last year, due to the labour scarcity induced by the pandemic, more farmers adopted the 'direct seeder' technique which resulted in an early harvest and early burning," said LS Kurinji, programme associate at the research institution, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Farm fires usually begin in the last week of September, but this year the rains have delayed the harvest in Amritsar and Tarn Taran where the early maturing rice varieties are grown, Kurinji said. These districts are usually where the burning begins, she added.

The contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 levels in Delhi hit a high of 14% on October 16 this year, having remained below 5% till then. "The fire counts are taken and the area where these counts are is determined before we develop an emission inventory due to these fire counts. Then we run the model

to figure out what the contribution from the fire counts is," said Gufran Beig, founder project director, SAFAR.

Alternatives

Efforts are on to help farmers switch to the Pusa bio-decomposer, developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) to aid the decomposition of crop residue, which is being touted as a cleaner alternative than setting fire to fields.

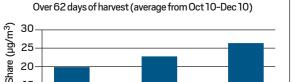
The Delhi government has begun spraying the solution on harvested paddy fields, covering 4,000 acres out of a total of nearly 14,000 acres under paddy cultivation.

Indramani Mishra, head of the Agricultural Engineering Department, IARI, said the Punjab government has procured the decomposer through a licensee to cover around 3,000 hectares while the Haryana government will be covering around 1 lakh acres. The UP government has also procured from a licensee for 10 lakh acres.

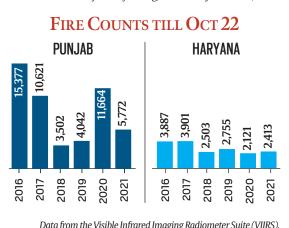
A licensed private company also plans on providing the decomposer for 3 lakh acres in Haryana and 2 lakh acres in Punjab for free as part of their

 ${\it CSR\,activity, Mishra\,said.}$ Going by data available on the website of the Government of Punjab's Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare,

STUBBLE BURNING SHARE IN PM 2.5 LEVELS OF DELHI



*Data from Gufran Beig, Founder Project Director, SAFAR



Data from the Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS), provided by Pawan Gupta, senior scientist, Earth Sciences at the Universities Space Research Association, NASA Marshall Space Flight Centre, USA

an estimated area of 31.49 lakh hectares was cultivated with paddy in 2020-21.

However, only a small section of farmers will be using the decomposer, said Harinder Singh Lakhowal, General Secretary, Bharatiya Kisan Union, Punjab.

"There isn't enough time to spray the decomposer and wait for it to work," Lakhowal said, explaining why farmers were unlikely to use it. Some farmers might want to grow vegetables between paddy and wheat, he pointed out. Besides, the predominant variety of rice being grown in Punjab is PUSA-44 this one has a higher yield, he said, but it is also the 'late' variety, which is harvested later.

Alternatives to both the decomposer and burning include a 'happy seeder,' which cuts the straw and sows the seeds for the rabi crop at the same time. Even with the subsidy, it remains out of reach for many farmers,

Manmohan Kalia Joint Director, Farm Machinery Wing, Puniab Agriculture Department and Nodal Officer, Stubble Management, Punjab, said, "Punjab is going to have over 1 lakh machines in the state by this paddy harvesting season. At present, 86,000 machines are available which are sufficient for stubble management machinery because this is not the peak

season, which starts in the beginning of November. Farmers, however, are not availing these machines because of increasing diesel costs and other factors."

'Burning stubble easier'

Despite spending over Rs 1,000 crore on subsidised machinery to manage stubble in Punjab — which produces around 20 million paddy stubble every year — burning straw across the state continues, with the Majha region on top of the chart currently. In Tarn Taran and Amritsar, which fall in the region, burning fields can be spotted every few 100 metres in around half a dozen blocks. The two districts are also responsible for 43.4% of the total stubble burning in the state till October 21.

Farmers here sow short duration varieties of paddy (nonbasmati) and basmati rice crops. These were harvested between September 10 and October 20. For them, stubble burning is convenient and cost effective.

In Jandiala Guru, Tarsikka. Majitha and Ajnala blocks in Amritsar and Khadur Sahib, and Chohla Sahib blocks in Tarn Taran, farmers sow vegetables like matar (green peas) and table potatoes after harvesting paddy. Peas and potatoes are sown between October 1-20 in

WHY FOCUS ON STUBBLE BURNING

In 2009, the Punjab Preservation of Sub Soil Act was enacted to arrest declining groundwater levels. This delayed the sowing date to match it with the monsoon onset to reduce the burden on ground water for irrigation. Consequently, the harvest was delayed, also reducing the time needed to manage the stubble and prepare for the next crop, said LS Kurinji, programme associate at the research institution, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

This then synchronised with the shift in wind direction in October and November which favour the carrying of smoke towards Delhi. Farm fires in the month of September don't affect Delhi as much since the wind direction then is mostly south westerly, she said.

A farmer setting stubble on fire in his field in Jalandhar.

Jeet Singh, a farmer from Tarn Taran, said, "I harvested the shortduration variety of paddy last week on 5 acres of land. I now have to sow the pea crop; sowing time was up to October 20 which I cannot delay. I was left with just 5-6 days to clear my fields because for sowing vegetables, you need a clean field. It is not like wheat which can be sown in standing stubble with happy seeder or super seeder. It takes at least 5-6 rounds to clear the stubble and the high cost of diesel means machines are out of reach for small, marginal, and semimedium farmers. We are left with no option but to set our fields on fire, even though it harms the soil and creates air pollution."

Peas are a 65-day crop, which is harvested by the second week of December. Farmers then sow another crop with a late variety of wheat or Rabi season crops.

Assembly elections and ongoing protests against the three farm laws also mean that action against farmers who set their fields on fire will be elusive. A senior administrative officer in Amritsar said with elections due in a few months, they cannot take any stringent action against farmers.

Till October 21, environment compensation to the tune of Rs 16.46 lakh was imposed, of which only Rs 7,500 could be recovered. No FIRs are being regis-

BRIEFLY –

AAP to kick off MCD poll campaign after Diwali

New Delhi: Asserting that people want a change in the MCDs, the AAP announced that it will launch a massive campaign after Diwali to oust the BJP in the 2022 civic polls. "People want a change this time as the BJP-ruled municipal corporations have completely failed in fulfilling their responsibility," said senior AAP leader Gopal Rai during a press conference. The Delhi BJP hit back, saying AAP is free to make claims but people have seen how the Kejriwal government failed them during the pandemic and the Centre came to their aid. PTI

Couple found dead at home

New Delhi: A 40-year-old man and his wife were found dead inside their home in New Ashok Nagar Saturday. Police suspect the man allegedly killed his wife and later $committed \, suicide. \, \textbf{ENS}$

Threatened to stop namaz in Gurgaon, says maulvi, 2 booked

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA GURGAON, OCTOBER 24

TWO MEN were booked for allegedly threatening a maulvi to stop conducting the Friday namaz and forcing him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' after confronting him in Sector 39 on Friday night. Police said the allegations are yet to be verified. Earlier, on the same day, a group of people had disrupted namaz in Sector 12.

ACP (Sadar) Aman Yadav said, "An FIR has been registered and a probe has been initiated."

Police said the accused were booked under IPC sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 253-A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 34 (common intention), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 506 (criminal intimidation) at Sadar

police station Saturday night. According to police, the incident took place at 11 pm on October 22, when the complainant, who conducts Friday namaz in Sector 40, was going home after running errands. men, one of whom is a local from the neighbourhood, started fol-

Speaking to The Indian Express let me go but kept following me home. They also circled the area around my house on a motorcyin the area are extremely afraid and feel threatened. The entire experience has shaken us up and we can reappear and attack us.'

be verified. One accused has been named in the FIR. He has a prior case of assault registered

Police said he alleged that two lowing him and confronted him in front of a house in Sector 39.

In the FIR, the complainant claimed, "The accused threatened me and told me to stop conducting the Friday namaz. Both [accused] threatened me with dire consequences if I didn't heed their warning of putting a stop to the Friday namaz. I pleaded with them that we have to live peacefully and we should not spread hate, but they kept abusing and asked me to chant 'Iai Shri Ram'." The complainant said he repeated the chant a few times as "he feared for his life".

Sunday, the maulvi alleged, "They cle thrice. I, my family, and others don't know when they [accused]

A police officer, privy to the probe, requesting anonymity, said, "The allegations are yet to against him."

Rain, hail lash parts of city, AQI settles at 'moderate'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

10

PARTS OF Delhi witnessed rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, beginning Sunday evening and continuing into the night. The IMD's Safdarjung observatory recorded 27 mm of rainfall on Sunday. Of this, around 26.4 mm was recorded between 5.30 pm and 8.30 pm.

The Palam observatory recorded 4.9 mm of rain during the evening. Hailstorms may have occurred over parts of Northwest Delhi and Haryana in the evening, according to IMD scientists. Wind speed also picked up Sunday evening, reaching 30 to 50 kmph in parts of the city.

At 8.30 pm on Sunday, the temperature recorded was 19 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature was 31.5 degree Celsius and the minimum, till 8.30 pm, was 19 degrees Celsius.

A western disturbance persists as a cyclonic circulation over North Pakistan, Another cyclonic circulation, induced by the western disturbance also exists over parts of central Pakistan, and adjoining areas of Punjab and Northwest Raiasthan, according to an update from the IMD in the evening. Western disturbances usually refer to clouds that move in from the Mediterranean region,



The Safdarjung observatory recorded 27 mm of rainfall, **Sunday.** Abhinav Saha

and bring rainfall in winter over the northern parts of the country.

IMD officials said, in an update around 9 pm. that light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorms could continue at isolated places in Delhi over the next three hours.

The rest of the week is likely to remain dry, with the maximum temperature hovering at 31 or 32 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature is likely to dip to around 15 degrees Celsius by the end of the week.

The Air Quality Index was in the moderate category Sunday, with the 24-hour average standing at 160, as per the Central

Pollution Control Board bulletin at 4 pm. The SAFAR forecasting system indicated on Sunday that AOI could improve slightly with the rain, but would, once again, degrade to 'moderate.' A change in wind direction from south westerly to north westerly is also predicted, and could cause the AQI to dip, the SAFAR forecast said. The contribution of stubble burning to PM 2.5 levels on Sunday was 2%. This year, October has already

recorded 7 days of rainfall - the highest number of rainy days for the month since at least 2011. The rainfall last week had already ensured that October this year is the wettest since 1956.

New Delhi

Man held for raping minor has history of sexual assault: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

SEVEN MONTHS after he was held for allegedly molesting a minor girl and later released on bail, police have arrested a 20year-old man from Haryana's Kalanaur for allegedly abducting and raping a seven-year-old girl.

DCP(Central district) Shweta Chauhan said, "The accused has been identified as Suraj Shah. He was arrested by the operations teams of central district from Kalanaur in Rohtak. He was earlier arrested on charges of molestation.

A police officer added, "He was arrested in March for allegedly molesting a minor and sent to Tihar. He was released on bail four months ago during the pandemic. He came to Delhi on October 22 for a court hearing, but found it had been postponed. He was in the Central range when he found the girl and allegedly raped her."

Police said the incident took place Friday when the girl was laying outside her home and was approached by the accused, who offered to buy her sweets. "We found CCTV footage from nearby which showed him walking next the child and talking to her. He took the girl to an isolated place where he allegedly raped her. He threatened her to not tell anyone and dropped her near her home. The girl told her mother, who told her husband," a senior officer said.

Police said footage also shows he had first followed two more children from the same locality, but they went home.

After scanning over 100 CCTVs, police found footage of the accused and started door-to-door verification. "In one footage, he was seen near a Metro station. We suspected he was a resident of West district and checked criminal dossiers of all accused in the area who were arrested for sexually harassing minor girls. Police found the accused resembled someone who was arrested earlier from the district. A team was sent to the local police station and they scanned his case file. They traced his relative, who gave vital

clues about him," the officer said. Chauhan said, "It was a blind case – the accused and victim were not related, he was not a resident of the area, there was no phone number, vehicle, or ID to identify him. We scanned hundreds of CCTVs and got his photo in 36 hours. When he realised personnel from central district were onto him, he tried to escape. We detained him from Kalanaur.'





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Shri Narendra Singh Tomar Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India

India ranks 2nd in farm outputs and 7th largest agricultural exporter worldwide and continuous effort should be made in increasing the agriculture export for the benefit of Indian farmers. He also appreciated FICCI for its continuous support towards the development of the



Shri Kailash Choudhary Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare,

Ministry is providing soil health card for every farmers for better nutrient management. He suggested that farmers should do the seed reatment for better plant health. He also mentioned that Government has launched 10,000 FPOs to form direct link with farmers and is working for value chain development for the sector. He also communicated that Government will take strict action against spurious/fake/counterfeit pesticide



Shri Bhagwanth Khuba Hon'ble Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers and New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India

It is our responsibility to focus on judicious use of agrochemical and reducing residue level Research and development in the agrochemical sector should be strengthened and it is the need of the hour.

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Addressing Virtually



Shri Kailash Choudhary, Addressing Virtually

Prof. Ramesh Chand Member, NITI Aayog Govt. of India

Agrochemical and biochemical plays an important role to increase production efficiency. We need to focus on 'waste to burning'.



80% of India's farmers are smallholders farming on less than two hectares of land Helping them leverage their full farm potential is critical to safeguarding food security and driving the future of Indiar agriculture. To help smallholder farmers lead better lives and have sustained lead better lives and have sustained livelihoods. Bayer CropScience Limited has driven several long-term capacity building initiatives, enhancing their yields and incomes sustainably, while advancing and digitalizing agriculture.



We have to make manual spray a history and focus on drones. The PLI scheme wil help the drones sector in India to grow. To make life easier for the common people



Professor Amitabh Kundu

Sustainable agriculture, ensuring decent income to the farming coemining coeminicome to the farming community, necessitates the cropping pattern to be linked to national and global market, supported by frontier technology and a segment of workers shifted to modern agro-value chain linked industries. This would mitigate outlimization from the would mitigate outmigration from the backward regions as many would ge absorbed within the expanded agrarian



MD, Willowood Chemicals Pvt Ltd

The focus of Government of India on on Make in India and Vocal for Local car

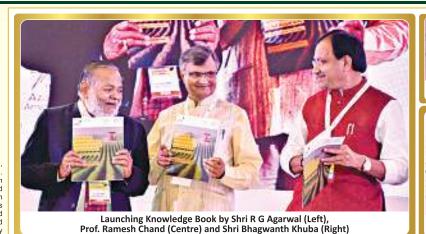


Leaders in crop protection industry need Leaders in crop protection industry need to address three areas a) Growing concerns around crops lost to pests b) Consumer concerns around safer food chains and c) Increasing the sustainability profile of agricultural inputs. FMC, a leader in agricultural science, through its research driven portfolio of innovative chemistries, biological solutions and precision agriculture tools is and precision agriculture tools is committed to supporting growers around the world in addressing their most difficult challenges sustainably. This will enable us

challenges sustainably. This will enable us all to grow well together! We look forward to a stable, forward looking and science based policy regime that will encourage global companies to accelerate their investments in India, and help India become a leader in the global supply chain for agrochemicals.



India is the 2nd largest agricultural producer in the World in variety & volume. The country, in last few years, has registered good growth in food grain production & horticulture & it is currently in food surplus situation. However, low productivity per hectare, lack of awareness for proper agrochemical use high monsoon dependency, unpredictable veather patterns & high post-harvest weather patterns & high post-harvest losses are key challenges faced by agriculture. In order to achieve the ambitious goal of doubling the farmers' income by 2022, it is necessary to address above challenges along with ensuring availability of quality Agri-inputs like agrochemical, seeds & fertilizers at reasonable pricing to the farming reasonable pricing to the farming community of the country. Agrochemical are one of the key inputs required for crop protection & better yield during both pre & post-harvest stages





Agriculture sector plays a significant role in the strong and steady expansion of the economies. The structure of agriculture has undergone substantial transformation over the last 100 years and become more science-based. Agrochemicals has a critical role in increasing agricultural production. Through preventing crop losses and improving yields, Agrochemicals could act as a catalyst towards realizing the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Therefore, the judicious and scientific usage of agrochemical solutions within the confines of a regulatory framework is the need of the hour.

We are pleased to see that the Government of India has undertaken various key initiatives in terms of foreign direct investment, trade & connectivity of

agro-based supply chains and recognized the Agrochemicals Sector as a 'Champion Sector'. These policy initiatives will surely benefit the farmers and the entire agriculture sector of the Country. Congratulations on a very successful conference.



Shri Uday Shankar

President FICCI

Shri R G Agarwal Chairman, FICCI Committee on Crop Protection and

Agrochemicals industry has always been an integral part of mainstream farming which not only facilitates the sustainable development, but also plays an important role with its noticeable share in a healthy

Food, nutrition, health, wealth and environment security are the main pillars of a developing nation. India, one of the fastest emerging country has a huge potential as 58% of its total population is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture and

allied industry sectors. India is a net forex earner from this sector. Agrochemical industry acts as a backbone to our farmers and assures them a high yield with better quality with an insurance of mitigating crop losses. Judicious usage of crop protection chemicals provides them an extra edge in the competitive world, and this also leads to economic benefits to our farmers.

With emphasis on agriculture, we request the leadership to make such policies which benefits small & marginal farmers, reduce GST on crop protection chemicals from 18% to 5% and reforms in laws which will help to attract more foreign investment in agrochemical sector.

We appreciate the Government's policies of 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Less Government, More Governance'. FICCI organized the 10th Agrochemicals Conference with the support of the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Govt. of India and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Govt. of India with the theme "India@75: Expediting the Sustainable Growth of Agrochemicals Industry for Self-Reliant India". I am sure that the rich deliberations in this Conference will be very useful for the overall industry and the policy environment.



Dr. C.D. Mayee

Formerly; Agriculture **Commissioner, Govt. of** Consumption of agrochemicals in India is still India & Chairman, one of the lowest in the world. Currently per Agricultural Scientists hectare usage of agrochemical formulations **Recruitment Board**

India is the fourth largest

producer of agrochemicals globally, after United States, Japan and China. The use of pesticides in agriculture is practiced worldwide as the common method of controlling pests. It is difficult to completely imagine the level and security of today's yields without the use of pesticides. Pesticides are mainly used for plant protection and improving crop yields. Every year, nearly 30% of the



Dr. Ravi Prakash

Agrochemicals are very important for maintaining & improving the food security and sustainable development in agriculture of the country. It contributes to enhance the wealth security of our small and marginal farmers. We from the regulatory side of the Government are ensuring that full support is given to this industry to realize it's true potential not only for domestic Indian market to serve the arming community but also to develop this sector as a Champion sector as an export hub.

insects, pests, plant pathogens & weeds.

in India is only 0.34 kg/ha against China

(13.07 kg/ha), Japan (11.84 kg/ha), Brazil

Out of a total 1175 number of pesticides

registered world over, China has 950+, USA

has 1057+. Pakistan and Vietnam have 450+.

whereas, India has only 294 molecules

registered since independence. The slow

pace of registration has always been blamed

on the lax process of registration and

Regulatory Framework: Stringency in

regulating the use of pesticides across the

Nation is increasing the cost of developing

inordinate delay in decision making.

(5.94 kg/ha) as per FAOSTAT 2018.









SUMMIT ON GLOBAL CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS MANUFACTURING HUBS IN INDIA 25TH - 26TH NOVEMBER 2021 | HOTEL LE MERIDIEN. NEW DELHI PHYGITAL (PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL)

The Objective of the Summit to provide a platform to the Chemicals & Petrochemicals fraternity to highlight the opportunities in the newly developing growth regions and understand how the Indian Petroleum, Chemicals & Petroc Regions (PCPIRs) can emerge and establish themselves as World's next manufacturing hubs.

* "THE PICTORIAL REPRESENTATION DOES NOT PURPORT TO BE THE POLITICAL MAP OF INDIA."



Shri R G Agarwal Presenting Green Certificate

Shri R G Agarwal, Addressing physicaly

Dr. A K Dikshit

Former Emeritus Scientist/ Professor Former Head and Professor, Division of Agricultural Chemicals, IARI, New Delhi Ex-President and Gen. Secretary, Society of Pesticide Science, India

United Nations is celebrating the

/ear 2021 as the International

Year of Fruits and Vegetables`

submitted to register a

should be provided

Pesticides in India are governed under the Insecticides

By Dr. A K Dikshit

Pesticides Management Bill 2020:

Expectations of the Stakeholders

Act 1968, & Rules 71 to address the challenges of a food deficient India that has outlived its utility with India becoming self-reliant in food & having aspirations to address local & global markets with its agricultural produce. The Insecticides Act didn't address the challenges presented by the present & future agriculture. To address this, Govt. of India formulated the Pesticides Management Bill 2008, which was further refined & presented before Rajya Sabha as Pesticides Management Bill 2020 in March 2020 as a reform measure.

Shri R G Agarwal Presenting Green Certificate

to Shri Bhagwanth Khuba

Below major refinements in PMB 2020 are a must for a Value-added Agriculture:

1. Encourage New Molecule introduction in India to broad base the narrow product options available to farmers:

India doesn't invest significantly in R&D to discover newer molecules, and it takes an investment of US\$ 300 Million over a period of 10 to 11 years to bring one molecule to the market (as per CropLife International Data), so Indian farmers must be supported with newer technologies with imports to minimise their risk. Data exclusivity (for the data

new product with CIB&RC) for minimum 5 years from the date of registration in respect of confidential data

submitted for registration by innovator or first-time registrant in the Country. It'll facilitate innovators to introduce newer technologies & create newer. better choices for farmers.

2. Enhance Ease of Doing Business:

i. Decriminalize the various violations identified in the PMB 2020 in line with the national priority to support growth of the industry without compromising the accountability for the industry.

ii. Address misuse of powers by Pesticide Inspectors: implement certain recommendations of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2008) to enforce accountability.

iii. Address the Quality Control effectively: Mandate requisite quality infrastructure across the Country & none of the Govt. Laboratory should be allowed to test any statutory sample of pesticide in line with FSSAI Act. where no laboratory is allowed to test without NABL accreditation.

iv. Grant of registrations/licenses should be made contingent on verifiable capacity and infrastructure to manufacture.

Above suggestions/ measures would not only promote the flagship policies of the Govt. of India, viz. 'Make in India', 'Ease of Doing Business' & 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance', but would also aid the Govt's objective of making India a US\$ 5 Trillion economy & bolstering food security & help in making India a major exporter, not only pesticides but also for

potential of food production are lost due to
new products and simultaneously delaying
competitive in the World in the field of crop the introduction of new products in the market. Pesticides regulation in India is one of the most stringent in the world, which many times creates undue delays in the grant of registrations. In India, registration of new products takes 4-5 years which discourages bringing new innovative product introduction in the country.

> For inventing a new molecule, the industry has to incur a huge investment; sometimes to an extent of more than Rs.2000 crore and a time period of 9-10 years.

> New products are not given Intellectual Property Protection (Data exclusivity). Hence there is a clamor from many reputed national and international industries that the clause of data exclusivity is highly relevant in the present situation for India to become

protection.

Complex, costly and time-consuming registration process needs reforms to speedup registration approval. New molecules registration process should be completed 1 year after the submission of the complete dossier.

Pesticide use allowed the agricultural industry to grow and meet the demands of the rising population. However, despite all the benefits delivered by plant protection chemicals in boosting agricultural yield, there has been apathy towards improving the regulatory system. It is high time that some long pending issues of this sector are resolved for benefit of farming community of







New Delhi



Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Govt. of India to celebrate the 75 vears of independence of progressive India & the glorious history of its people, culture & achievements.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji said that "During Covid-19, we have seen the strength & commitment of our scientists, & the time has come to bring forth the ideas & suggestions of our scientists to transform the agriculture



Agrochemical manufacturing in India is at its cusp. With the right governmental policies, this industry can become a large foreign exchange earner for the country At this point the industry is plagued with a huge shortage of containers. India doesn't have a shipping line of its own to speak about, which is adding to the woes of the exports. We are hoping for a timely intervention from the gover short term & long term strategies to tide



India holds a prominent position in the world as it ranks 4th globally with the world's largest arable land. "He mentioned that Corteva focuses on sustainable commitment and sustainable footprint in Indian agriculture.



Erratic raw material supplies out of China triggers the very need of expediting the sustainable growth of Agrochemicals











6 GOVT & POLITICS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PRIME MINISTER Narendra

Modi is likely to pitch for a united

global approach in dealing with

the situation in Afghanistan and

combating challenges of climate

change and the Covid-19 pan-

demic at the two-day G20

Summit in Italy beginning

Rome and Glasgow from

October 29 to November 2 to at-

tend the 16th edition of the G20

Summit as well as the World

Leaders' Summit of the COP26

respectively, the Ministry of

External Affairs (MEA) said in a

the Prime Minister will be par-

ticipating in the G20 Summit in

Rome from October 30-31 at the

invitation of Italian Prime

Minister Mario Draghi, Italy has

been holding the presidency of

whose members account for

more than 80 per cent of the

global GDP, 75 per cent of global

trade and 60 per cent popula-

tion. The forum has met every

year since 1999 and includes,

since 2008, a yearly summit,

with the participation of the re-

SOURAV ROY BARMAN

AHEAD OF the bypolls to two

Assembly seats in Bihar, the rift in the Opposition widened

Sunday, with RJD chief Lalu

Prasad claiming that the

Congress candidates would lose

Tarapur seats are scheduled to go

to bypolls on October 30. The

of the sitting MLAs — both from

had fought the 2020 Bihar polls

as part of an alliance, and as part

of the seat-sharing agreement,

the Congress had contested from

Kusheshwar Asthan – a seat it

the RID has refused to allow the

Congress to contest either bypoll,

straining relations between both

On Sunday, Lalu told re-

porters, "Why should we give the seat to Congress? So that

they would lose? So they would

lose their deposit?" The RJD

chief was responding to a ques-

tion on a statement by

Congress Bihar in-charge

Bhakta Charan Das, who had

earlier said that the alliance be-

tween the two parties would

have remained intact had the

However, this time around.

lost by 7,200 votes.

The RJD and the Congress

The Kusheshwar Asthan and

their deposit in the elections.

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

BIHAR ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

The G20 is a global forum

the G20 since December 2020.

According to the statement,

PM Modi is scheduled to visit

October 30, it is learnt.

statement Sunday.

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24





Goa Focus

AHEAD OF West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Baneriee's visit to Goa, her party will release a "chargesheet" against the "misrule" of past governments in the state. Before the Tamil Nadu state elections, the DMK had launched a similar "chargesheet" against the AIADMK. Like in the DMK's case, I-PAC is also managing the TMC campaign. Apart from its Lok Sabha MPs, Saugata Roy and Mahua Moitra, former Union minister Babul Supriyo, who recently joined the TMC, will attend the release event at Panaji's Azad Maidan

THE LEAK

AT THE meeting of the Congress Working Committee last week, all the members were asked to leave their mobile phones outside the meeting room. They were asked to do so because in the past details of the discussion were reported real time by the media. But even after asking the members not to carry their phones inside, the schedule of the organisational elections leaked out even before the meeting got over. Even the communication department of the party got to know about the schedule much later. Leaders are now wondering how did it happen.

QUESTION OF HEALTH

KUNWAR DANISH Ali, BSP MP from Amroha, who had earlier written a letter to the Prime Minister demanding restoration of MPLAD scheme for MPs to take care of people's healthcare needs during the Covid-19 pandemic, on Sunday took a jibe at the government over the 100-crore vaccination achievement. Taking to Twitter, he said the PM may try to take electoral advantage of the 100-crore vaccination milestone, but the ground reality is different. He cited an example of non-availability of medicines at the district hospital in his constituency. Insulin injection is not available in Amroha district hospital since past one year, he said, tagging a picture of a letter written by the district health officials to

10 addl judges of Punjab and Haryana HC made permanent

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

TEN ADDITIONAL judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, including three women, were on judges, the law ministry said. The Department of Justice in

the ministry issued a list of additional judges elevated as judges. Normally, additional judges are appointed for a period of two years before being made judges.

According to October 1, 2021, figures available on the law ministry website, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has a sanctioned strength of 85 judges, but is functioning with 45 judges. The 10 additional judges

outfit, his closest aide and former

Cabinet minister Rana Gurmit

Singh Sodhi Sunday appealed to

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

quested the PM to re-initiate

talks with farmers and withdraw

the bills so that farmers can re-

turn to their homes before the

onset of the harsh winter.

to withdraw the farm laws. Sodhi, in a statement, also re-

Capt aide asks PM to scrap farm laws Chandigarh: As former Punjab Sources said Amarinder may chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh prepares to float a new

> Amarinder's aides, it is learnt, have been calling up several leaders inviting them to join his party. Those who fear they may be ignored by Congress during distribution of tickets, may also

formally launch his party on Wednesday, Patiala MP Preneet

whose names have been notified

are Justices Suvir Sehgal, Alka

Sarin, Jasgurpreet Singh Puri,

Ashok Kumar Verma, Sant

Parkash, Meenakshi I Mehta,

Karamjit Singh, Vivek Puri,

Archana Puri and Rajesh

legium, in its meeting held on

October 7, had approved the pro-

posal for the appointment of the

repeatedly spoken about the sig-

nificance of filling up judicial va-

cancies to address the issue of

pendency of cases. According to

the Department of Justice, a total

of 420 vacancies in High Courts

existed on May 1, 2021. As of

October 1, there are 471 vacan-

Chief Justice NV Ramana, has

additional judges.

cies in the HCs.

The Supreme Court col-

look towards Amarinder's party

Kaur, who is also his wife, may also resign from Congress to join

RJD spared one seat for the Congress. Earlier in the week, RJD's Manoj Jha had said that Das was "lecturing from his drawing room", drawing a sharp response from newly-inducted eventually.

Afghanistan, climate

change in PM's agenda

for G2O, COP26 meets

PM to visit Rome and Glasgow from Oct 29 to Nov 2

spective heads of state and gov-

This year, G20 leaders are expected to deliberate on a number of key challenges such as recovering from the coronavirus pandemic, addressing climate change and overcoming poverty and inequality in various parts of the world.

The situation in Afghanistan is expected to figure prominently at the summit, according to sources.

Prime Minister Modi is also set to hold several bilateral meetings, including with Draghi.

From Rome, the PM will travel to Glasgow to attend the World Leader's summit of the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the MEA said. Prime Minister Modi will be attending the climate summit at the invitation of his British counterpart Boris Johnson. COP-26 is scheduled to be held from October 31 to

Opp rift widens as Lalu

mocks Cong candidates

Patna on Sunday. PTI

Kumar on Friday.

Congress leader Kanhaiya

not been in the party, Jignesh

(Mevani) and I could not have

gathered the courage to join

Congress. Do ask your masters in

the drawing room who Bhakta

Charan Das is," Kanhaiya had

leader R P N Singh on Saturday,

Jan Adhikar Party chief Pappu

Yaday too had hit out at Lalu.

terming the RJD "BJP's B-team".

scoffed at the suggestions that

the RJD is colluding with the BJP.

He also revealed that he plans to

spend a month in Patna, and

downplayed reports of disagree-

ments between his sons

Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap

Yadav, saying, "There is no anger.

Both are my sons.'

However, Lalu on Sunday

After meeting Congress

"Had people like him (Das)

Rashtriya Janata Dal supremo Lalu Prasad is welcomed by

supporters on his arrival at Jai Prakash Narayan airport in

dency of the UK.

According to the MEA statement, the World Leaders' Summit will be held on November 1-2 and will be attended by heads of state and government of more than 120 countries.

'The UNFCCC embodies the global will and vision to combat climate change. The periodic Conference of Parties to this Convention have emerged as global climate summits, providing an opportunity for stocktaking and for charting the way forward," the External Affairs Ministry said.

The prime minister last attended COP21 in Paris in 2015, when the Paris Agreement was concluded,-- the implementation of which, commences this

"At COP26, parties will work to achieve the completion of Paris Agreement implementation guidelines; the mobilisation of climate finance: actions to strengthen climate adaptation, technology development and transfer; and keeping in reach the Paris Agreement goals of limiting the rise in global temperatures, the MEA statement said.

According to the statement PM Modi will also hold numerous bilateral meetings on the

PM to launch key healthcare scheme from Varanasi today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will visit on Monday Uttar Pradesh's Siddharthnagar district and his parliamentary constituency Varanasi, where he will launch the Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PMASBY) along with other development projects worth Rs 52,00 crore.

The PM's visit to Uttar Pradesh – which will also involve public meetings in both the districts -- comes just months ahead of Assembly elections in the politically crucial state. UP goes to the polls early next year.

Leaders of the ruling party have stepped up preparations, with state BJP leaders meeting the central leadership in Delhi to discuss a roadmap earlier this month. Analysts say the BJP's popularity in some areas of the state may have been dented due to the ongoing farmers' agitation against the three controversial agricultural laws.

A press release said the PM will inaugurate projects in Siddharthnagar around 10:30am and reach Varanasi by 1:45pm.

From there, he will launch PMASBY - a pan-India scheme aimed at strengthening health care infrastructure across rural and urban areas of the country.

Under the initiative, critical care services will be made available in all districts that have a population of over 5 lakh. It also envisions the setting up of integrated public health laboratories in all districts of the country, along with providing support for 17,788

Findings led to deeper analysis, says Facebook

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE USER account created by a Facebook researcher in Kerala two years ago that encountered several instances of hate speech and misinformation on the basis of algorithmic recommendations led the company to undertake a "deeper, more rigorous analysis" of its recommendation systems in India, the social media platform

Facebook was responding to queries from The Indian Express on The New York Times report about the effects of the social media platform in India, especially in the run-up to the 2019 general elections.

"This exploratory effort of one hypothetical test account inspired deeper, more rigorous analysis of our recommendation systems. and contributed to product changes to improve them. Product changes from subsequent, more rigorous research included things like the removal of borderline content and civic and political Groups from our recommendation systems," a Facebook

spokesperson said. "Separately, our work on curbing hate speech continues and we have further strengthened our hate classifiers, to include 4 Indian languages," the spokesperson said.

The New York Times reported that the researcher's report was one of dozens of studies and memos written by Facebook employees grappling with the effects of the platform on India.

"The internal documents, ob-

tained by a consortium of news organisations that included The New York Times, are part of a larger cache of material called The Facebook Papers. They were collected by Frances Haugen, a former Facebook product manager

company and its social media platforms," it said. "References to India were scattered among documents filed by Haugen to the Securities and Exchange Commission in a com-

who became a whistleblower

and recently testified before a

Senate subcommittee about the

plaint earlier this month," it said. Facebook's changes build on restrictions the company claims to have made to recommendations, like removing health groups from these surfaces, as well as groups that repeatedly share misinformation.

Specifically for groups sharing misinformation, the company has started ranking all content from such groups lower in the News Feed and limiting notifications with an aim that fewer members see their posts.

The platform also said it witnessed "new types of abuse on Facebook" in the context of Covid, and updated its policies to reflect the changes.

For example, the company said, it now removes content that states that people who share a protected characteristic such as race or religion have the virus, created the virus or are spreading the virus. As part of enforcing this policy, the company claims to have blocked several hashtags that were primarily being used to target the Muslim community in the context of Covid.

Goa: TMC reaches out to GFP chief as BJP ex-ally weighs options

MAYURA JANWALKAR PANAJI, OCTOBER 24

AMID POLITICAL poaching in Goa and talks of a pre-poll alliance, the TMC has been keen on president Vijai Sardesai on board in time for the Assembly polls scheduled for early next year, it is learnt.

The TMC announced its arrival in Goa in September, when former chief minister and Congress veteran Luizinho Faleiro joined the party. In the following weeks. Independent legislator Prasad Gaonkar pledged support to the TMC, and several workers of the Congress, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party and Shiv Sena as well as members of civil society joined the party.

It is learnt that the TMC is now looking to capitalise on the flutter it has created by getting Sardesai on board.

Sardesai, formerly with the Congress, is an estranged ally of the BJP. His party has three MLAs in the 40-member Assembly.

In July, Sardesai had said that the Congress had agreed to an "in-principle" alliance with the GFP, but has since been kept hanging. Earlier this month, he referred to that, saying, "If the principal opposition does not want to do it (bring opposition

Goa Forward Party president Vijai Sardesai

the lead..." In an indication that the GFP may be looking towards the TMC for a possible alliance, Sardesai had said, "Women's ered close to the Gandhi family participation can really take the state and the country forward. This is seen in Kolkata. But for this, we need street-fighters."

Sardesai recently had a meeting with political strategist Prashant Kishor, and sources said he may be offered the position of TMC's Goa president and possibly even be the chief ministerial candidate.

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee is expected to arrive in Goa on October 28. Sardesai, sources said, is still deliberating over the possibilities and is likely to take a decision in the coming week. So far, no meeting has been planned between him and Banerjee.

The decision, however, may not be an easy one for Sardesai. Sources said the GFP cadre is not comfortable with the idea of the party's "merger" with the TMC and have voiced concern over it feeling like an "acquisition" of the party, which may not sit well with their voters.

Amethi Cong worker 'close to Gandhis' held in extortion case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW. OCTOBER 24

LUCKNOW POLICE on Sunday said they have arrested Congress worker Mohammad Rafig, who is also known as "Allu Miyan", in ing, extortion and criminal conspiracy registered here. Rafiq is from Congress's traditional stronghold Amethi and is consid-

The police said Rafig had a non-bailable warrant against his name and had been absconding. There were three more cases against him in Amethi, they said. He was held following a tip-off. The Congress claimed that Rafig. an active party worker in his fifties, was being "harassed for not belonging to the BJP".

Lucknow Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Chiranieev Nath Sinha said the case here had been registered against Rafiq, his son Adil Rasheed and wife Mehru Nisha. "In a case lodged at

Wazeerganj police station... evidence was collected against named accused Mohammad Rafig, and a non-bailable warrant was issued... against him. On Saturday, Rafig was arrested. He has several cases against him in Amethi district too. He claims to be an active worker of the Congress party, and he deals in disputed properties," Sinha said.

Need probe into all deals under Malik's tenure as J&K Governor: Ram Madhav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, OCTOBER 24

RSS LEADER Ram Madhav on Sunday called for an investigation into files cleared and "deals" made during the tenure of Satya Pal Malik as Governor of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Madhav's remarks come in the backdrop of Malik's allegations on October 17 of being offered a bribe to clear files belonging to "Ambani" and a senior "RSS functionary" during his tenure – August 2018-October 2019. Malik is currently serving as the Governor of Meghalaya.



RSS leader Ram Madhav; former J&K governor Satya Pal Malik

Madhav, who has served as the BJP in-charge of J&K, was interacting with reporters in Rajkot on Sunday. "Meghalaya Governor Satva Pal Malik has indirectly levelled allegations that there was a file in my name in J&K and that there was some talk

about paying money in that respect. Such type of allegations are all false. There is no question of there being a file in my name or at my behest. It's a false allegation...So far as his attempts to indirectly point at me by repeatedly referring to 'one RSS functionary', I'll explore the legal remedy for this, once I return to Delhi," Madhav said.

"We will certainly initiate legal action but I also want (investigated) all the deals of his time, as he is saying he cancelled two of them. Why were they cancelled? If the government had finalised some deal there should be an investigation into why it was cancelled? I don't know

what deals he is talking about, but let there be an investigation into those deals, as well as, all others," he added

United front

challenge

The RJD-Congress spat in

Bihar is a reminder that a

united front against the

BJP remains a challenge

because of regional poli

tics. It also signals a

churn in Bihar politics

amid the induction of

leaders like Kanhaiya

Kumar in the Congress.

Significantly, the spat

comes at a time when

parties like the TMC and

AAP are trying to expand

their footprint in states

Congress has tradition-

ally been the BJP's rival.

like Goa, where the

A national executive member of the RSS at present, Madhav further said: "I want these allegations probed... because as far as my knowledge of Governors goes, no officer will go to a Governor and tell him to sign files." He also pushed for an investigation into the "officer" who allegedly offered the bribe to Malik. "If he has gumption to go to the Governor and make him an offer, what is the position of the Governor? I want all these aspects investigated," Madhav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, OCTOBER 24

AHEAD OF the October 30 bypolls to Khandwa Lok Sabha seat and three Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, a Congress MLA joined the BJP on Sunday.

Sachin Birla, the MLA from Barwaha, which is part of the Khandwa Lok Sabha constituency, joined the BJP at an event in Bediya in the presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Birla is the 27th Congress MLA to have joined the BJP since March last year, when 22 Congress MLAs

had defected to the BJP, leading to the collapse of the 15-monthlong Kamal Nath-led Congress government, Four other Congress MLAs joined the BIP later.

MLA joins BJP ahead of bypolls

MP: Blow to Cong as another

Addressing the gathering, Chouhan welcomed Birla into BJP fold and said, "Congress party which is responsible for ruining the country as well as the state is on the way to destruction." He accused former chief minister Kamal Nath for stopping all public welfare schemes in the 15 months of his rule in the state. Addressing the rally, Birla,

who has a following among Gujjar voters, said, "I was feeling suffocated within the Congress so I switched over to the BJP."

Hitting back at the BJP, Kamal Nath said, "The BJP... returned to power after buying MLAs as people of MP had voted them out. And sensing the outcome of the upcoming by polls in three assemblies and one Parliamentary seat, the BJP is again poaching MLAs to remain in power." Senior Congress leader

maal hai woh bikega, jo tikau maal hai woh tikega (saleable goods will be sold while durable goods will last)." The development comes

Digvijaya Singh said: "Jo bikau

weeks after former Congress MLA Sulochana Rawat joined the BJP along with her son Vishal Rawat.

New Delhi

and alleged that local Congress

Manipur journalist assaulted by 'Congress workers' Imphal: A correspondent of a lo-

cal newspaper was injured in an assault by a group of people alleged to be Heirok block Congress workers on Sunday in Manipur's Thoubal district. As per the complaint filed by the victim's brother, around 20

masked

now in a hospital. The brother named 13 people and the police registered an FIR against them. The Kakching District (formerly part of Thoubal district) Iournalists Association condemned the incident on Sunday

Elangbam Rameshwar, who is

men assaulted

workers were behind the attack. The district Congress was not **ENS** available for comment.



J&K: Police say civilian killed in 'crossfire' with militants, kin question claim

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 24

A 19-YEAR-OLD CIVILIAN was killed in crossfire after militants attacked Central Reserve Police

Force(CRPF) personnel in a village in south Kashmir's Shopian on Sunday, according to police. Shahid Ajaz, from Arwani village in Anantnag district, was killed when CRPF personnel opened fire in Babapora village of

Shopian. The incident took place

near the CRPF camp at Babapora. "Around 1030 hours unidentified terrorists attacked a naka party of 178 battalion CRPF at Babapora, Shopian, CRPF retaliated the fire and during cross firing one unidentified person got killed. Further details are being ascertained," Shopian police tweeted.

Shahid's family rejected the police claim, saying it was a targeted killing. "I was told by the eyewitnesses that it was a targeted killing," said Shahid's younger brother Zubair Ahmad.

Both Shahid and Zubair worked as part-time labourers, $plucking\,apples\,in\,the\,orchards\,of$ Shopian. "We were both plucking apples in Shopian but at different places," Zubair said. "Yesterday evening, I called him and he told me that we would go home tomorrow. When I called him again in the morning, he didn't take my calls. Then I received a call that he has been killed."

Oldest among five siblings three brothers and two sisters-Shahid was a first year graduation student and worked as a parttime labourer. His father Ajaz Ahmad also works as a labourer.

Mainstream political leaders condemned the killing. "He was shot dead and his bag has no weapons or explosives, he's carrying fruits and vegetables. This policy of 'shoot first' will further alienate people. This is no way to make friends with people or the youth of Kashmir," tweeted NC vice-president Omar Abdullah.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti tweeted: "Another innocent civilian killed allegedly by CRPF in Shopian today. It's sad that armed forces show little restraint and op-



Lakhimpur Kheri violence case: Dengue test positive, MoS son hospitalised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 24

MINISTER OF State Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, who is the prime accused in the deaths of four farmers and a journalist in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri, was on Sunday admitted to the district hospital after he was tested positive for dengue. A police force has been deployed

at the hospital to ensure security. Lakhimpur jail authorities shifted Ashish to a hospital on the recommendation of doctors, who examined him after obtaining the second report of blood test which confirmed dengue.

The district hospital has sent his blood sample for tests and the report is awaited. "We have sent the blood sample of Ashish for a third test and the report is awaited. On the basis of the report, experts would decide the next course of action," Shailesh Bhatnagar, chief medical officer, Lakhimpur Kheri, said.

On Friday, a local court in Lakhimpur Kheri sent Ashish and three others to two days' police custody.

The SIT probing the Lakhimpur Kheri incident sent Ashish to jail on Saturday, a day before his two-day police custody concludes. Sources said the SIT shifted him to jail after receiving a medical report which stated that he had dengue.

"Ashish was suffering from fever for the last three days. His blood sample was collected yesterday for a test. After receiving Ashish's report, the SIT sent him back to jail before scheduled time," Ashish's lawyer said.

Zia Mustafa killing all but pulls curtain down on Nadimarg Pandit massacre

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

WITH THE killing of Zia Mustafa. the Laskhar-e-Toiba "commander" who was taken by security forces to identify militant hideouts in a forest in Poonch, the long held-up trial in the 2003 Nadimarg massacre has lost the main accused in the case and the only one facing substantive

"The trial against him is over. The court will be told that he has been killed, and the case against him will be closed," said Mustafa's lawyer Mohammed Mubashir Gattoo.

All that remains of the case now is a charge of dereliction of duty against seven policemen. Gattoo said the court would have to take a call on the evidence

The Nadimarg massacre shook J&K and the rest of India at a time when the security situation in the erstwhile state was thought to be improving. The incident and the nearly twodecade delay in the trial is cited

On March 23, 2003, militants lined up 11 men, 11 women, and two children outside their homes and shot them dead. Mustafa was arrested as mastermind

by Kashmiri Pandit groups as evidence of the denial of justice.

of the attack

Most Pandits in Nadimarg had left during the exodus of 1990; some 50 people had, however, chosen to stay on. On March 23, militants in army fatigues lined up 11 men, 11 women, and two children outside their homes and shot them dead. After this outrage, the remaining Pandits also left.

Mustafa was arrested on April 10, 2003 by J&K Police as the mastermind of the massacre.

A resident of Rawlakot in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, Mustafa, who was 26 years old at the time, was paraded at a press conference by then J&K DGP A K

specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below

West-Gali/Sandeep Prasad

इंडियन बैंक

📤 इलाहाबाद

Prop: Sri. Awadhesh

<mark>umar)</mark> Mr. Awadhesh

Kumar (Prop.M/s Sunny Ice

Enterprise) Village

Mulrajpur Diyara,P.S.

Salimar, Dist-Patna Also at Ward No-3, Station Road

Mr. Chhote Krishna

Prop.M/s Chhote Krishar

oultry Farm) R/o Village

Barh P.S. - Bhadaur Distt

Patna M/s Chhote Krishan

Poultry Farm (Prop: Mr. Chhote Krishna) R/o Village-

Aadampur,Khajurar, Barh,P.S.

Bhadaur, Distt: Patna Si

Ramdeo Prasad Singh (Guarantor) R/o Village Aadampur,Khajurar, Barh,P.S

Ward No. - 9, Musafir Ganj

Mr. Ashwani Chaubey S/o

Late Prakash Chaubey, Jail

Buxar, Bihar - 802101 Also at Mohalla - Dehri, P.S - Rajpur, Distt - Buxar Shri Baban Upadhyay At Gyatri nagar,

Sri Umesh Chandra Prasa

S/o Sri Surendra Thakur Smt. Pratima Devi W/o Shri Umesh

Chandra Prasad R/o Old

Jakkanpur, Patna, Bihar-

800001 Sandalpur, Bazar Samiti, Mahendru, Patna,

Mr. Krishna Kumar Sinha

S/o Late Shyam Bihari Lal

√ivekanand Colony Near

Malgodan, Patna City, Patna-

800008 Mrs Sunita Sinha

N/o Mr. Krishna Kumar

Sinha Vivekanand Colony

Near Malgodan, Patna City Patna-800008

W/s Maa Laxmi Automobil

Prop. Shri Sunil Kumar Flat

No -101.First Floor. Ram

Krishna Plaza,Old Bye Pass

Kankarbagh.Patna-800020

Satva Naravan Prasad Flat

Krishna Plaza, Old Bye Pass,

Kankarbagh,Patna-800020

M/s Sudarshan Enterprises Proprietor Shri Narayan

Kumar Jha B-22. Arunodav

Colony, Transport nagar Patna -800026 <mark>Sr</mark>

laravan Kumar Jha S/o Si

Jday Chandra Jha at B-22

Arunoday Colony, Transport nagar, Patna -800026 <mark>Smt.</mark> **Subha Devi** W/o Sri

Narayan Kumar Jha at B-22.

Arunoday Colony, Transport

Nagar, Patna -800026

Old Bye Pass, Kankarbagh, Patna - 800020

Bihar-802101

Buxar, Bihar-802103

Barh, Patna- 803213

Suri in Srinagar as a big catch.

Suri said Mustafa was a "district commander" of the LeT who led the killings. He was allegedly carrying an AK rifle, ammunition, and a wireless set when he was arrested. He was said to have told police interrogators that he had been asked by the LeT leadership in Pakistan to carry out the massacre.

No other militants were arrested for the killings. Three other militants named in the FIR were said to have been killed in an encounter in Kulgam by the BSF in April 2003. The policemen who were responsible for guarding the village were charged with failing to do so under Section 30 of the Police Act.

A chargesheet was filed in the court on June 9, 2003, and three months later, on October 1, charges were framed against Zia and the seven policemen.

The prosecution had a list of 38 witnesses, but in February 2009, after only nine were examined, the trial court in Shopian closed the evidence for the prosecution citing the long delay and the prosecution's inability to produce the other witnesses.

Zonal office, Budhmarg, Patna, Bihar-800001

E mail:zopatna@indianbank.co.in,PH:0612-2508237

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security

Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the

Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As i

what is", and "Whatever there is" on 25.11.2021 due to the Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, from the under noted borrowers/Guarantors. The

Equitable Mortgage: All that piece and parcel of land along Rs.8,51,000/- (Rupees

Details of Immovable Properties

with present and future construction in the name of of Mr

Awadhesh kumar vide sale deed no- 5747 dated 11/08/2015; area 3.125 Dismil at Mouza- Daulatpur Chondi,

Ward No- 8,P.S- Barh, Thana No- 58, Khata No. 146, Khasra No. 539,P.S- Barh, Dist- Patna **Boundary: North:-** Sudama

Devi, South:- Gali/Kalisthan, East- Gali/ Bhola Chaudhary,

All part & parcel of Registered Mortgage deed no.1252 dated

09.03.2018 of land and building admeasuring 0.75 kattha, Situated at mouza- Langarpur, Turaochak @ Malahi P.S-

Barh, Touzi No. 8270 Thana No. 71, Khata No- 21, Plot No

76, Dist-Patna, Sub Registry Office – Barh & Sadar Registr

Office- Patna **Boundary : East :** Property of Siyaram Singh

West: Property of Saroj Devi, North: Property of Bindeshwari Singh, South: Property of Lalita Devi

P.S-Buxar having area admeasuring 10 dhur & Sale Deed

No-12068 dt 17.11.1998 .in the name of Smt Gauri Devi W/O Manejar Ram at Mauza- Pandeypatti,Khata No-08 (Old)

.285(New), Plot No-1912(Old),925 (N),926(N) Thana No-

324 & P.S. Buxar, Distt. Buxar having area-10 dhur.

Boundary (As per Deed No-12018dt 16.11.1998) North

Bhola Ram, **South** : Gauri Devi, **East** : Ram Narayan Gond West : Rasta Boundary(As per Deed No. - 12068 dt

17.11.1998): North: Gauri Devi, South: Dev Narayar

future construction thereon in favour of Allahabad bank by

Shri Ashwini Kumar Chaubey S/o Late Prakash Chaubey

area measuring 01 Katha, Sale Deed No-11481 dated 07.10.2013, Khata No-24(old) 251 (new), Khesra No-

15&25 (Old) 41,42,68 (New), Thana No-332, Situated at-Mauza- Buxar Killa, Ward No.1, P.S.-Buxar, District-Buxar,

Bihar. Boundary (As per Deed): North : Seller Nij, South

Manoj Kumar, **East** : 6'Road, **West** : Ram Bachar

All Part & Parcel of Property situated at Mauza- Jakkanpur Paragana-Azimabad, Thana-Phulwarisharif, Hal Thana-

Jakkanpur, Thana No-29,Tauzi No-558, Khata No.-36 C.S

Plot No-170 Admeasuring 10 Dhur in the name of Smt Pratima Devi through Registered Sale Deed No.7625, dated

29.11.1998 in Book No.1 Zild No.86 Page No-65 to 86, Pages

531 to 547 Boundary - North : Road, South : Hira Lal, East

All Part & Parcel of Property situated at Mohalla Chah

Kalyan,Mauza-Dhawalpura,Thana Chowk Patna City,vide Sub Plot B,in Survey Plot No.1407 (Part),Ward No.27,Sheet

No.246,Circle No.163,Thana No 21 (Old),Tauzi No.63 and

having land area 412.5 soft (construction G+1) Total - area

825 sqft. in name of Mrs Sunita Sinha & Shri Krishna Kumar Sinha Boundary: North: Sub-Plot C purchased by Sri Sudhir Kumar & others South: Sub-Plot A purchased Devendra Prasad Singh, East: Part Plot of 1407 (Part)

owned by M/s Pradip Candle Works, West: Nala and Road

Flat No-101,First Floor alongwith one reserved car parking

space at basement, Ram Krishna Plaza, Purchased through Sale Deed No-6313 dated 02/04/2009 situated at Old Bye

Pass, Mauza-Lohanipur, Pargana-Azimabad , Survey Thana-Patna City , At present PS-Kankarbagh, District-Patna bearing Thana No-6,Tauzi No-387, Khata No-85,Survey Plot -294,ward No-24. Total area - 1060 sqft

Boundary: North: Stairs, Lobby then Flat No-104 **South:** Set Back of the Building **East:** Front Set Back of the building

All Part & Parcel of Property situated at Mauza-Kumhrar, Survey Thana-Patna City, Bad Thana Sultanganj, Hal Thana

Agamkuan, Tauzi No.14799,Khata No-335,Khasra Plot No

1465 Ansh Thana No -12 Sub Plot No -B-22 Admeasurin

1200 Sq.Ft. in the name of Smt Subha Devi W/O Shr

Narayan Kumar Jha Registered Sale Deed No 8631, Dated 01/08/2006,Book No -1,Volome No-346 in CD 32 ,Pages

524 to 533 within the Registration Sub-District Patna City

and District Patna **Boundary : North :** Fardu Mian **South** Samiti Ka Sahayak Rasta **East :** Samiti Bhukhand **West :**

Imroja Kharidar Smt Kusum Singh and Dinesh Prasac

Vijay Sharma, West: Nand Kishore Rawat

Singh, **East :** Ram Narayan Gond, **West :** Rasta All the part & parcel of Land & Building along with present &

Chaudhary & Ors

West: Flat No.102

<mark>omt Prem Lata Dayal</mark> W/o Shri Sunil Kumar Flat No -101, First Floor, Ram Krishna Plaza

Survey Plot No. 1465 Ke ansh Me.

Shri Yogendra Kumar S/o Equitable Mortgage of sale deed No-12018 dated Sri Manejar Ram Smt.Gauri 16.11.1998 in the name of Smt Gauri Devi W/O Manejar Ram Smt.Gauri No-12018 dated Six Manejar Ram Smt.Gauri 16.11.1998 in the name of Smt Gauri Devi W/O Manejar Ram Smt.Gauri No-12018 dated Six Manejar Ram Smt.Gauri No-12018 dated Rs. 21,87,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Ten lakhs Sixty Foul Eighty Seven thousand Three hundred Six Manejar Ram All R/o 285 (New), Plot No-1912(Old), 925,926 (New), thana No-324, only)

Indian Bank

Reserve Price (in Rs)

Earnest Money Deposi

Bid Incremental Amt.

Rs.85,100/- (Rupees Eighty Five thousand One Hundred Only)

Rs.25,60,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Sixty

Rs.2,56,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Six IDIB20202148

housand Only)

Rs. 10000/-

Thousand Only)

Two Lakhs Eighteen housand Sever

Rs.30,33,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Thirty Three

Rs.3.03.300/-(Rupees

Three Lakhs three thousand three hundred

Rs. 31,32,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Thirty

Rs. 3,13,200/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Thirteer Thousand Two hundred

wenty Lakhs Sevent Seventhousand Only)

housand Seven hundre

Rs. 47.18.000/- (Rupees

orty Seven Lacs Eighteen Thousand Only

Rs. 4.71.800/- (Rupees

our Lacs Seventy One

Rs.69,16,000/-(Rupees Sixty Nine lakhs Sixteer

Six Lakhs Ninety One

housand Six Hundre

Hundred Only)

housand Only)

Two Thousand Only

housand only)

10000/

The state appealed in the High Court that same month, which dismissed the plea saying it could not condone the delay. In 2015, the Supreme Court asked the I&K High Court to take up the matter again. But the state failed to appear before the High Court, and the petition was dismissed for non-prosecution.

Since then, the prosecution has been pleading before the trial court for time stating that it has filed a review petition in the High Court. But at each hearing, the trial court in Shopian has adjourned the matter to another date. The next hearing is on October 16.

"The prosecution has given the impression that there is a review petition in the High Court against the August 2017 dismissal," Gattoo said.

The Nadimarg massacre took place at a time when General Pervez Musharraf, under post-9/11 pressure from the US, claimed to have wound up all terror groups including LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammad. India and Pakistan were inching towards a ceasefire on the Line of Control that began later that year.

Secured creditor's

Outstanding Dues

Property ID

Encumbrance on

Rs 27,56,054/- (Rupee

Twenty Seven Lakh

Fifty Six thousand an

fifty four only) with furthe

nterest, costs, othe

charges and exp thereor from 23.10.2021 til

realization of bank

Rs. 24,16,549.27 (Rupee

wenty Four Lakhs Sixtee

housand Five hundre

orty Nine and paise

Twenty Seven Only) with

further interest, costs, othe

charges and expenses thereon from 23/10/2021 ti

ealization of bank's dues.

Twenty Three only) with further interest, costs

other charges and expenses thereon

ealization of bank'

Rs.17,73,345/- (Rupees Seventeen lakh Sevent

Three thousand Thre hundred Forty five only with further interest

costs, other charges an

exp thereon from 22.10.2021 till realization

Rs.13,87,177/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand One nundred Seventy Sever

Only) with further interest costs, other charges and expthereon fron 22.10.2021 till realization

Rs.11,51,316/- (Rupee: Eleven Lakhs Fifty Ond Thousand Three hundred Sixteen Only) with furthe

nterest, costs, othe

charges and exp thereor

alization of bank's dues

Rs. 44.70.520/- (Rupee

Forty Four Lacs Sevent Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Only with furthe

nterest, costs, other charges and expense

thereon from 22.10.202

Rs.19,70,551/- (Rupees Ninteen Lacs Seventy Thousand Five Hundred

Fifty One Only) with further interest, costs

other charges and exp

hereon from 22.10.202

realization of bank

till realization of bank

IDIB20202154

IDIB20202155

Not known

of bank's dues

DIB20202150

Not known

of bank's dues

IDIB20202153

Not known

<u>Not known</u>

IDIB20202149

DIB20202147

Not known

Not known

Government of India Ministry of Education National Institutional Ranking Framework



INDIA RANKINGS 2022

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015 to rank higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence in the higher educational institutions. NIRF now invites applications for India Rankings 2022, the Seventh edition of this annual exercise.

All the institutions which have participated in the previous India Ranking exercise have been pre-registered. A mail in this regard has already been sent to the Heads of the respective Institutions to confirm institution details for India Rankings 2022.

In case, your institution is not pre-registered in the above manner, and wishes to participate in India Rankings 2022, you are requested to visit our website i.e. www.nirfindia.org and register your institution by clicking the registration button. In case of any query, contact National Board of Accreditation at helpdesk@nirfindia.org or call at 011-40159583/87/89.

The registration will open from 25th October 2021.

davp 21315/11/0002/2122

Member Secretary

POST OFFER ADVERTISEMENT UNDER REGULATION 18 (12) OF THE SEBI (SUBSTANTIAL ACQUISITION OF SHARES AND TAKEOVERS) REGULATIONS, 2011, AS AMENDED ("SEBI (SAST) REGULATIONS")

JUST DIAL LIMITED

CIN: L74140MH1993PLC150054

Registered Office: Palm Court, Building-M, 501/B, 5th Floor, New Link Road, Beside Goregaon Sports Complex, Malad (West), Mumbai – 400 064 Tel: +91 22 28884060; Fax No.: +91 22 28893789; Website: https://www.justdial.com

OPEN OFFER FOR ACQUISITION OF UP TO 2,17,36,894 FULLY PAID UP EQUITY SHARES HAVING FACE VALUE OF RS. 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES"), REPRESENTING 26.00% OF THE EMERGING VOTING CAPITAL OF JUST DIAL LIMITED ("TARGET COMPANY") AT A PRICE OF RS. 1022.25 PER EQUITY SHARE FROM THE PUBLIC SHAREHOLDERS OF THE TARGET COMPANY, BY RELIANCE RETAIL VENTURES LIMITED ("ACQUIRER"), PURSUANT TO AND IN COMPLIANCE OF THE SEBI (SAST) REGULATIONS ("OFFER" OR "OPEN OFFER").

This post offer advertisement ("Post Offer Advertisement") is being issued by JM Financial Limited ("Manager to the Offer" or "Manager"), in respect of the Open Offer, for and on behalf of the Acquirer, pursuant to and in accordance with regulation 18(12) of the SEBI (SAST) Regulations. This Post Offer Advertisement should be read in continuation of, and in conjunction with: (a) the public announcement dated July 16, 2021 ("PA"); (b) the detailed public statement that was published in all editions of 'Financial Express' (English), 'Jansatta' (Hindi), 'Loksatta' (Marathi), and 'Indian Express' (English) on July 26, 2021 ("DPS"): (c) the letter of offer dated September 14, 2021 along with FOA and Share Transfer Form ("LOF"); and (d) offer opening public announcement and corrigendum to the DPS that was published in the aforesaid newspapers in which the DPS was published, on September 22, 2021. This Post Offer Advertisement is being published in all such aforesaid newspapers in which the DPS was published

Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Post Offer Advertisement shall have the meaning assigned to such terms in the LOF.

The Public Shareholders of the Target Company are requested to kindly note the following information with respect to the Open Offer

Name of the Target Company Just Dial Limited

Name of the Acquirer Reliance Retail Ventures Limited

Name of the Manager to the Offer

Name of the Registrar to the Offer KFin Technologies Private Limited

a) Date of Opening of the Offer

Thursday, September 23, 2021 Wednesday, October 6, 2021

JM Financial Limited

b) Date of Closure of the Offer Date of Payment of Consideration

: Thursday, October 14, 2021

Details of Acquisition:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Proposed ir	the LOF ⁽¹⁾	Actu	als (1)
7.1	Offer Price (per Equity Share)	Rs. 1022.25		Rs. 10	22.25
7.2	Aggregate number of Equity Shares tendered in the Offer	2,17,36,894 (2)		2,63,86,234	
7.3	Aggregate number of Equity Shares accepted in the Offer	2,17,36,894 (2)		2,17,36,894	
7.4	Size of the Offer (Number of Equity Shares multiplied by Offer Price)	Rs. 2222,05,39,891.50 ⁽²⁾		Rs. 2222,05,39,891.50	
7.5	Shareholding of the Acquirer before agreements/ public announcement				
	Number	N	il	N	il
	% of Emerging Voting Capital	(0.0)	0%)	(0.0)	0%)
7.6	Equity Shares acquired by way of agreements				
	Number	3,42,38,799		3,42,38,799	
	 % of Emerging Voting Capital 	(40.95%)		(40.95%)	
7.7	Equity Shares acquired by way of Open Offer				
	Number	2,17,3	6,894	2,17,3	6,894
	 % of Emerging Voting Capital 	(26.00	O%) ⁽²⁾	(26.0	00%)
7.8	Equity Shares acquired after Detailed Public Statement (3)				
	Number and price of Equity Shares acquired	Nil		Nil	
	% of Emerging Voting Capital	(0.00%)		(0.00%)	
7.9	Post Offer shareholding of the Acquirer and the PACs				
	Number	5,59,75,693		5,59,75,693	
	% of Emerging Voting Capital	(66.95%)(2)		(66.95%)	
7.10	Pre & Post offer shareholding of the Public	Pre-Offer	Post-Offer ^{(2) (5)}	Pre-Offer	Post-Offer ⁽⁵⁾
	Number	4,04,29,389	1,86,92,495	4,04,29,389	1,86,92,495
	% of Emerging Voting Capital	(64.76%)(4)	(22.36%)	(64.76%)(4)	(22.36%)

(1) Unless stated otherwise, percentages disclosed in the table above are computed basis the Emerging Voting Capital.

(2) Assuming full acceptance in the Open Offer. (3) Apart from the Equity Shares specified in sl. nos. 7.6 and 7.7.

(4) Includes 57,805 ESOPs, which have vested or which shall vest prior to October 31, 2021. Percentage computed on the basis of Emerging Voting Capital less the Subscription Shares, as disclosed in the LOF. (5) The Acquirer, on September 1, 2021, acquired sole control over the Target Company and became the promoter of the

Other information

8.1 The Acquirer and its directors, in their capacity as directors of the Acquirer, accept full responsibility for the information contained in this Post Offer Advertisement and also for the obligations under the SEBI (SAST)

8.2 A copy of this Post Offer Advertisement will be available on the websites of SEBI (www.sebi.gov.in), BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com), National Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.nseindia.com), Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited (www.msel.in) and at the registered office of the Target

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



JM Financial Limited 7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Tel. No.: +91 22 6630 3030; +91 22 6630 3262
Fax No.: +91 22 6630 3030 Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India

Contact Person: Prachee Dhuri SEBI Registration No.: INM000010361

Registrar to the Offer

Serilingampally, Hyderabad Rangareddi - 500032, **K**FINTECH

KFin Technologies Private Limited (formerly known as Karvy Fintech Private Limited) Selenium Building, Tower- B, Plot No 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District Nanakramguda,

Tel. No.: +91 40 6716 2222/ 1-800-34-54001 Fax No.: +91 40 2343 1551 E-mail: justdial.openoffer@kfintech.com Contact Person: M. Murali Krishna

Place: Mumbai Date : October 22, 2021

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstcecommerce.com) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd. to participate in online bid. Fo Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. Fo Registration status with MSTC Ltd. please contact <mark>ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com</mark> and for EMD status please contac ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://ibapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://ibapi.in and www.mstcecommerce.com

Authorised office

Ink thrown at

Prakash Jha

by Bajrang

BHOPAL, OCTOBER 24

"assault" on Hinduism.

Dal activists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

FILM DIRECTOR Prakash Jha was

smeared with ink by Bajrang Dal

activists in Bhopal on Sunday,

who objected to the name of his

web series Aashram, alleging an

Jha was shooting scenes for the

third season of the series, which

stars Bobby Deol, in Bhopal's old

jail premises. In a video of the in-

cident that emerged on social

media, Bajrang Dal activists can

be seen vandalising the set and

smeared ink on Jha and broke the

windshield of at least three buses

before they intervened and got

no FIR has been registered and

no complaint was made by Jha

or the crew member who was

assaulted. "We are identifying

those involved based on the

videos available and action will

be taken against all those in-

been detained in the incident.

Officials said four people have

Sushil Sudele, VHP convenor

for central India, said, "Madhya

Pradesh government has given

them permission to shoot with

a view to promote tourism but

they were not granted permis-

sion to defame the Hindu reli-

gion. We have been assured that

the title of the web series will be

changed and based on it we will

should learn from his brother

Sunny Deol, who has made such

after mistakenly

He added, "Bobby Deol

review our stand.

patriotic movies.

UP man dies

operated on,

say officials

volved," said Wali.

Bhopal DIG Irshad Wali said

Police said the activists also

assaulting a crew member.

the situation under control.

The incident occurred when

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Alpna W/O, Abhimanyu Tuteja R/o WZ-1968/2,Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034. have changed my name to Alpna Tuteja for all purposes

I Anil Kumar Nagar S/o Late Nafe Singh R/o B-5/3B Dhawalgiri Aptt Sector 34 Noida 201301 have changed my name to Anil Kumar for all purpose

0050185731-1

0040589050-1

I,Zameel Ahmad,S/o Rafi Ahmad R/o.H-250,Gali.no-3, Shaheed-Nagar, Chikamberpur, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201006, have changed my name to Jamil Ahmad, for all future purposes. 0040589069-5

I,Nasheem W/o-Jamil Ahmed,R/o.H-250, Gali.no-3, Shaheed-Nagar, Chikamberpur, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201006, have changed my name to Umme Hani, for all

future purposes. 0040589069-6 I, Mr. Patil Pandit Tuharam No. 2782161 L, Rank -Ex. HAV, A/P-Titave. Tal-Radhanagari, Dist-Kolhapur. have change my son name from 'Prashant' in service document to Patil Prashant Pandit as his education certificate 8975766339. 0040589036-1

Ashutosh Kumar Gupta R/O Flat No. 313 Nirman Apartment Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Extn. ND-91 have changed my minor daughter's name from Anvi Gupta to Anvi Kashyap for all 0050185732-1 purposes.

I Rajender Singh S/O, Bahar Singh R/O L-74-B Malviya Nagar New Delhi-10017 have changed my name to Rajinder Singh 0040589039-

I Ragbubhubir Kaur W/O, Hazoor Singh R/o 357/7, Bagh Kare Khan, Kishan Ganj, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Raghuveer Kaur for all 0040589045-1

No 15413199L Hav NA Birju Mahto, have changed my wife's name from Lalitha Mahto to Lalita Mahto for all 0050185607-

I Hajur Singh S/O, Gurdial Singh R/o 357/7, Bagh Kare Khan Kishan Ganj, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Hazoor Singh for all purposes. 0040589046-1

I Gurinder S/O, Surinder Pal Singh R/o 2654, Gf, Sector-46, Gurugram, Haryana have changed my name to Gurinder Singh for all purposes. 0040589043-1

I Ashutosh Kumar Gupta R/O Flat No. 313 Nirman Apartment Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Extn. ND-91 have changed my minor daughter's name from Niyati Gupta to Niyati Kashyap for all purposes . 0050185733-1

Renu Khurana W/O, Rakesh R/o B-1417, Block-b, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Renu for all purposes 0040589051-1

> This is to inform general public that I, Sh Anil kumar Gupta S/o Late Sh I.M.Gupta and Urmila Gupta W/o of ShAnil Kumar Gupta, am owner of the property No IA-10C, DDA Flat suring area 88 Somts, situated a Ashok Vihar Delhi-110052 purchased from Usha Sahni W/o of Sh J.N Sahni on 18.02.2015. I have lost the original Property document, Demand letter Allotment letter. Possession letter 8 NOC for electricity and water meter issued by DDA while coming from ITO, Vikas Minar, DDA office on 16.10.2021 around 11:30 Hrs. I inyone finds those documents, kindly return the same at below address.
>
> Anil Kumar Gupta S/o Late Sh I.M.
>
> Gupta, R/o M-122 Gali No-8, Shastri Nagar Delhi 110052 Mobile No 8283835049

LOST & FOUND

I Manish Sagar lost my marksheet & pass certificate of Class Xth(PassingYear2016, IndexNumber 1162565/078) and of XIIth(2018 IndexNumber 2187434/028) from Modern Public School Farrukhabad. If Found Please contact 8851359965. 0050185765-1

LOST & FOUND

This is to inform general public that I, Sh Anil kumar Gupta S/o Late Sh I.M. Gupta and Urmila Gupta W/o of Sh Anil Kumar Gupta, am owner of the property No IA-10C,DDA Flat measuring area 88 Sqmts, situated at Ashok Vihar Delhi-110052 ourchased from Usha Sahni W/o of S J.N Sahni on 18.02.2015. I have lost th J.N. Sanni on 18.02./2015. I nave lost time original Property document. Demanc letter, Allotment letter, Possession letter & NOC for electricity and water meter issued by DDA while coming from ITO Vikas Minar, DDA office on 16.10.2021 around 11:30 Hrs. If anyone finds those documents. Welfull, return the same at documents. Welfull, return the same at the documents, kindly return the same a oelow address.

Anil Kumar Gupta S/o Late Sh I.M.Gupta R/o M-122 Gali No-8, Shastri Nagar, Delhi - 110052 Mobile No:8283835049

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Builder Floors DLF, Sushant Lok, Anantraj, Ansal Essencia, Suncity, Sectors Gurgaon 9811141172 VOHRA ESTATE RERA REGISTERED.

0050185482-2

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known that my client Sh. San Parkash Mehra s/o Late Sh. Karam Chand Mehra R/o BB-1, Greater Kailash Enclave-II, intends to get registered the will dated 26.10.11 of Late Sh. O. P. Mehra S/o Late Sh. Karam Chand Mehra who expired on 09.01.2012 at his residence BB-1 Greater Kailash Enclave - II. Sh. O. F Mehra made his will dated 26.10.21 in perfect state of mind with unimpaired faculties. Sh. O. P. Mehra was not suffering from any mentel infirmity and was possessing sound disposing state of mind and he executed his said will dated 26.10.21 in favour of my client Sh. Sarv Parkash Mehra without any pressure, coercion, force or fraud from any corner, whereby he bequeathed his moveable and immoveable properties

Any person having any objection to the tration of said will of said Late Sh O. P. Mehra, may put forth his objectior to the undersigned with in 7 days from publication of this notice and thereafter no objection shall be entertained. SHEETESH KHANNA - ADVOCATE

J-1, LGF, Lajpat Nagar- III, Delhi

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



SI/EXE S. K. SAMAL CISF UNIT, BIOM BACHELI



CT/GD RAHUL GAHLAUT CISF UNIT, BIOM BACHELI



HC/GD SATYAPAL SINGH CISF UNIT, BIOM BACHELI



CT/DVR VIRENDER CISF UNIT, BIOM BACHELI

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts On 25-10-2009, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with the LWE outfits. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noble deed.

23 ASSAM RIFLES, 25TH OCTOBER 2021



HAVILDAR (LATE)



The Tagra Teyees family proudly remembers the above Martyrs who in the true traditions of the Assam Rifles made supreme sacrifice while bravely combating terrorist in Rolling Top, Tirap District (Arunachal Pradesh) on 25 Oct 2007. May the Almighty grant eternal peace to their soul. Their gallant action will continue to inspire us all. DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY

COMMANDANT & ALL RANKS
23 ASSAM RIFLES "TAGRA TEYEES"

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR (MED). 97053 || email: xenmds@gmail.com || website: w **Date Extension Notice-I**

Fabrication/customisation of "TATA" make LPT 712 Trucks as Mobile Veterinary Clinics (MVCs) for Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir, Srinagar,

Reference: 1. This office eNIT No: MDS/TS/2021-22/ 110 /etendering Dated: 06.10.2021

2. Tender Id: 2021 PWDJK 142923 1

In view of request by the intending bidders, the critical dates of the above referred eNIT are extended as under:

Last date of submission of technical bids	30.10.2021	upto	18.55 Hrs
Date of opening of technical bids online	01.11.2021	at	14.00 Hrs
All other terms, conditions and		ofication	ons of the

(Er. Rajesh Sharma)

No: MDS /TS/ 6139-42 Dated: 23.10.2021

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PROCUREMENT CIRCLE, KPDCL KASHMIR 190018

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No: SE/Proc/16/2021-22
For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCL Kashmir Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle, KPDCL Kashmir invites online e-bids from Govt. registered original equipment manufacturers for Purchase of Outdoor Type Three Phase oil immersed 11KV/433-250 V,50 HZ, Copper Wound, Distribution Transformer of energy efficiency level-2 as per IS:1180 (Part-1): as detailed below for the requirement of KPDCL as under:

	Material Description	FOR ECSD
Nn	Outdoor Type Three Phase Oil Immersed 11KV/483 V, 50 HZ, 250 Distribution Transformer of Erangy Efficiency Level-2 as per IS-1180(Per-1):2014.	Srinagar (No's)
1.	250 KV A Copper Wound	154

The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date

1)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	16.10.2021; 10.00 Fbs
ui .	Date & Hine of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	06.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iiij	Date & Time of Building Queries/Clarifications	18.10.2021; 10:00 Hrs to 21.10.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	16.10.2021; 11:00 Hrs to 06.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs
93	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time	08.11.2021 in the office of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement Bernina Srinagar.
vii	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	06 31.2021; 34:00 Hrs.
yin	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders

Venue of Commercial /

Technical Bid Opening

Cost of e-flid document

viii)

20

Bid Declaration form as per SBD. The Nd Security shall be (2015) III-895/1 Dated Amount of Earnest Money 22.12.2020, as per D.O No.: 09/04/2020-PPD Deposit Dated 12.11.2020 of Gove Of India endorsed by Gost OFUT of MK Vide No. A/Misr

Soft Copy Flectronically

(Non-refundable)

Re20000 (Rupers Five Hundred only) for

local firms of J&K and Ss.3000x01 (Suposs

Five Thousand Only) for firms outside McK

Superintending Engineer DIPK-4442 Procurement (KPDCL)

PM in Mann Ki Baat: Vaccine achievement shows India's capability

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded India's crossing the 100-crore vaccine doses milestone, and said that the achievement shows that the success of any scheme can be achieved with everyone's effort. Speaking during his Mann Ki

Baat radio programme, Modi said, "The success of our vaccine programme displays the capability of India...(and)manifests the might of our collective endeavour... Our health workers, through their tireless efforts and resolve, set a new example... They established a new benchmark in service to humanity through innovation and sheer determination."

The PM interacted with Poonam Nautiyal, an ANM healthcare worker from Uttarakhand. He praised Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh for being two of the first states to achieve 100 per cent vaccination of the first dose, despite the difficult terrain.

Further, the Prime Minister said October 31—Sardar Patel's birth anniversary which is observed as National Unity Day -

will be marked by the government with three competitions run by the Culture Ministry for writing patriotic songs, for writing loris (Iullabies) and to make rangolis. He said bike rallies in different states have already been taken out to mark the occasion - by the Gujarat Police from Lakhpat Fort in Kutch to the Statue of Unity, by the Tripura Police, and by the Iammu and Kashmir Police.

United Nations Day, Modi said that not only did India sign the UN Charter in 1945 — prior to independence -but that Indian women have played an important part in UN activities. "India has always strove for

Recognising that Sunday was

world peace. We are proud of the fact that India has been a part of UN peacekeeping missions continuously since the 1950s. India is also playing a leading role in addressing issues related to poverty alleviation, climate change and workers," he said.

The Prime Minister further spoke of India's new drone policy and said that since the policy was introduced in August, many foreign and domestic investors have started investing in drone start-ups.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

NEW CASES: 14,159 ACTIVE CASES: 1,68,658

VACCINATIONS: 10,21,043,258



TESTS TODAY: 12 72 335 | TOTAL TESTS: 60 10 43 655 WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 5.69% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 1.19%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY Positivity	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	8,538	77,964	10.57%	3,80,44,907
■Maharashtra	1,410	23,894	1.29%	9,51,65,513
■ Tamil Nadu	1,127	13,034	0.91%	5,62,87,299
■ West Bengal	989	7,882	2.36%	7,18,03,863
■Mizoram	572	8,143	11.03%	12,07,996

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL Deaths	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	363	28,592	2.21%	0.60%
■ Maharashtra	18	1,43,628	1.30%	2.18%
■ Tamil Nadu	15	36,019	1.23%	1.34%
Andhra Pradesh	10	19,055	1.53%	1.21%
■ Odisha	6	5,973	1.11%	0.99%

Note: Data as on Oct 24; vaccination numbers as of Oct 8. Deaths include those from previous days Kerala added nearly 300 previously uncounted deaths as part of a data cleaning exercise

Kerala Hindu leaders form body Pinarayi urges Stalin to draw for issues confronting community water from Mullaperiyar **SHAJU PHILIP** dam as levels rise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KERALA CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to his Tamil Nadu counterpart M K Stalin, urging his government to draw maximum quantities of water from the Mullaperivar dam as reservoir levels inched closer to the 142-foot mark after heavy rain pounded the area.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

OCTOBER 24

Vijayan made the appeal as water levels in the dam, situated on the banks of Periyar river in Kerala's Idukki district but managed by Tamil Nadu, crossed 137.05 feet on Sunday night. "With the current inflow it is

feared that the reservoir level may reach 142 ft once the torrential rain intensifies. Hence, there would arise an urgent need for the gradual release of water from Mullaperiyar dam through the tunnel to Tamil Nadu.' Vijayan said in his letter.

Supply Installation Testing and

Commissioning of Helical Coil assembly of 20 Lac Kcal/hr Hot

at Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar

No MHCHD/TS/5774-79

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 24

VARIOUS HINDU ashrams and prominent monks in Kerala have formed the Kerala Dharmacharya Sabha (KDS), a forum to form an authoritative opinion on all issues confronting the community. A meeting held in Kochi on

Saturday was attended by representatives of leading ashrams and institutions. Swami Chidananda Puri of Advaithashramam in Kozhikode was elected the KDS chairman, while Mullappally Krishnan Namboodiri of Tantric Vidya Peedhom in Aluva was elected general secretary. The body has a 23-member executive committee comprising swamis and priests. Sources at Kerala Hindu

Aikyavedi, an umbrella outfit of various Hindu organisations, said the KDS has the backing of the Sangh Parivar.

Namboodiri said, "The sabha would have deliberations on all issues affecting the Hindu community, including issues related

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND

CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Telefax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

GIST of e-NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/162/e-tendering

Dated: 20.10.2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited

Time of

(in days)

30

TS No:

MHCHD

TS/125

from the Registered , reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

T/Doc.

1000

The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities

(B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. web

site www.lktenders.gov.in from 21.10.2021 (18.00 hrs).

The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 22.10.2021 (10.00 hrs) to 29.10.2021 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) covers.

The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 30.10.2021 (14.00 hrs) or any date

Dt. 20-10-2021

(In rupee:

Estimated

Cost

(In Lacs)

20.00

convenient to the department in the Office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinaga

DIPK-11136

Lessons from the

THE IDEA of a forum to deliberate on the issues facing the Hindu community in Kerala stems from the lessons of the controversy sparked by the entry of young women at the Sabarimala temple. The KDS wants to have the final word on religious, moral and cultural issues confronting

the community and

wants to respect and re-

tain heterogeneity, even as it maintains a milieu of unity among Hindus. to temple rituals, and would have

a unified view on them. When issues like the entry of young women at Sabarimala emerges, there should not be different opinions from Hindu acharvas. We have representatives from all leading ashrams and scores of

Accorded

Vide

52MCS of

2020

Dt:

15-09-2020

Sd/-Executive Engineer,

MHCHD, Srinagar

sanyasis have extended support for the initiative." A statement about the aims

of the sabha said the Hindu family system is the bedrock of social security, which has seen transgressions in the recent past. "Extreme progressivism and anarchism have joined hands to alienate generations from culture. There is a tendency to infiltrate into minds which are culturally vulnerable. The Sabha would have an action plan to instill courage in children and adults to resist such intrusions,' the statement said.

It said the sabha would undertake the task of uniting and leading the Hindu community in an organised manner by ensuring social harmony, irrespective of caste or creed.

Without referring to any incident, the KDS said the need of the hour is to recognise and respond to "atrocities" committed by the government and vested groups against Hindu deities and temples. "Dharmacharya Sabha believes that it is the duty of the Acharyas to empower the society to defeat such injustices..."

Uttarakhand disaster toll climbs to 77

Dehradun: The bodies of five out of six trekkers feared dead on Suderdhunga trek in Bageshwar district were found on Sunday as the cumulative death toll in rainrelated incidents in Uttarakhand rose to 77.

A search is still on for another trekker in the area, SDRF sources here said. Meanwhile, 19 people stranded in Kafni glacier were brought to their village and 33 stuck in Pindari glacier were evacuated to safety, they said.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday visited the damaged Gaula bridge in Haldwani and said work on war footing will be done to restore traffic movement.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24 A 45-YEAR-OLD man died after

authorities at a Bulandshahr medical facility allegedly operated on him after mistaking him for another patient, district officials said on Sunday. The victim's family alleged the incident was an attempt to illegally harvest organs but authorities have refuted the accusation.

According to officials, Yusuf Saifi, a resident of Kiryawali village in Bulandshahr, was admitted to Sudhir Nursing Home late on Wednesday with dengue symptoms such as high fever and low platelet count. Another patient, with a similar name, is believed to have been admitted at the facility with severe kidney issues.

"It appears there was some confusion regarding the name and an operation was carried out, which resulted in his death," said Dr Vinay Kumar Singh, Bulandshahr Chief Medical Officer.

The district administration has ordered a probe, and a case has been filed against a doctor and two staff members. The three accused are on the run.

Saifi's family staged a protest in the district on Thursday and Friday and alleged the incident was an attempt to steal organs.

Although the case has been registered under sections of Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994, district officials denied the charges. "So far there is no evidence of any action related to organ harvesting," said Kumar.

"As per the post-mortem report, the gall bladder of the victim was missing. The family had alleged an organ had been harvested.... More clarity will be obtained once further probe is done," said Shashank Singh, ASP Bulandshahr

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copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. V, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi Near Paryavaran Complex, Saiduilajab New Delhi 110030 invites on behalf of President of India, on line percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation and Floor Control Department up to 3:00 P.M on dates mentioned as below.

I. NIT No. 47/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_209794_1) (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- 8443 Deposit under MLALAD Fund N.O.W.:- Providing and fixing of 200 signage board and refixing of retro reflective sheet of existing signage boards at ward No. 89, 90, 91 in Kalkaji Constituency AC-51. E.C. Rs. 88,49,453/- Earnest Money- Nil. Period of Completion 60 Days (Date of opening 28.10.2021). 2. NIT 48/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_209798_1 (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- 8443 Deposit under MLALAD Fund. N.O.W.:- Providing and fixing

25 Boom barrier at various places in Kalkaji Constituency AC-51 E.C. Rs. 43,77,707/- Earnest Money- Nil Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of NIT 49/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_209814_1 (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- 8443 Deposit under MLALAD Fund. N.O.W.:- Providing and fixing of 100 victorian benches at various places in Kalkaji Constituency AC-51. E.C. Rs. 14,96,620/- Earnest Money- Nil. Period of Completion 60 Days.

(Date of opening 28.10.2021). NIT 50/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_209827_1 (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- Part-III. N.O.W.:- Demolishing and reconstruction of chaupal at village Adchini New Delhi AC-43 (Balance Work). E.C. Rs. 28,44,753/- Earnest Money- Nil. Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening

5. NIT 51/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_209813_1 (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- 8443 Deposit under MLALAD Fund. N.O.W.:- Providing and fixing of 70 victorian benches at various place in public park of Pushp Vihar, Ambedkar Nagar Constituency AC-48. E.C. Rs. 10,07,363/- Earnest Money- Nil. Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 28.10.2021).

5. NIT 52/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021 IFC 209796 1 (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- 8443 Deposit under MLALAD Fund. N.O.W.:- Construction of boundary wall and wire fencing in Sector 1, 3, 5 Pushp Vihar colony. Ambedkar Nagar Constituency AC-48. E.C. Rs. 34,27,196/- Earnest Money- Nil Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 28.10.2021). NIT 53/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_209810_1 (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- 4225 (SC/ST). N.O.W.:- Repair and maintenance of Ravidas Chaupal in Greater Kailash Constituency AC-50. E.C. Rs. 25,92,442/- Earnest Money- Nil. Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening

3. NIT 54/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_209811_1 (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- 8443 Deposit under MLALAD Fund. N.O.W.:- Construction of boundary wall and wire fencing in Sector 4 and 7 Pushp Vihar colony, Ambedkar Nagar Constituency AC-48. E.C. Rs. 54,03,804/- Earnest Money- Nil. Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 28.10.2021).

9. NIT 55/2021-22/EE/CD-V/Acs/(ID No. 2021) IFC 209808 1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 8443 Deposit under MLALAD Fund. N.O.W.:- Providing and fixing 120 Days. (Date of opening 28.10.2021). NIT 57/2021-22/E/CD-VIAcs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_209836_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4225 (SC/ST). N.O.W.:- Demolishing and reconstruction of road of Nai Basti and its approach road in Devli Assembly Constituency AC-47. E.C. Rs. 91,80,375/- Earnest Money- Nil. Period of Completion 180 Days.

11. NIT 58/2021-22/EE/CD-VIAcs/(ID No. 2021_IFC_209837_1 (Percentage rate). H.O.A:- 4515 (DVDB). N.O.W.:- Development of water body / pond at village Dera Mandi in Kh. No. 93/2 in Mehrauli Block. E.C. Rs. 44,95,185/- Earnest Money- Nil. Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 28.10.2021).

1). The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case the last date of opening of tender is extended the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.

2) Details of above mentioned work can be seen and downloaded from website http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

Tender submitted through e-procurement portal shall be accepted only. 4) Corrigendum, if any will be published on e-procurement web side only

DIP/SHABDARTH/0371/21-22

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD V.

Position of

Available

Core Banking Technical Operations Department, State Bank of India, Global IT Centre, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614 NOTICE INVITING TENDER

RFP NO: SBI/GITC/Core Banking-Tech Operation/2021/2022/799 DATED: 20.10.2021 Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for Procurement of Videowall processor, Pro-control processor, touch panel and procurement of AMC, FMS for operation and maintenance of videowalls and other related equipment installed at GITC CBD Belapur. For details, please visit 'Procurement News' at https://www.sbi.co.in and e-Procurementagency portal https://etender.sbi/SBI/ Commencement of download of RFP: From 25.10.2021. Last date and time for submission of bids: 15.11.2021 up to 15:00 hrs. CB - Tech Operations Department

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-7 **RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

Executive Engineer, C-7, DUSIB, R. P. Bagh Delhi-110007 invites on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (On Line) on two bid system for the following work. NIT No: 347/EEC-7/DUSIB/2020-21

NAME OF WORK:- Renovation/Up-gradation of Community Hall at Mukeem Pura for setting up of Light House by DSEU with Coordination of Light House Communities Foundation as Deposit work (PID No- 13755). Esstt. Cost:- Rs. 38,22,980.00 Earnest Money:- Rs. 76.500.00 Tender Cost:- Rs. 500.00 Period of completion:- 90 Days Last Time & Date of Submission of Bid:- 01.11.2021 upto 15:00 Hours Date of Opening Technical Bid:- 01.11.2021 after 15:30 Hours

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/ All the corrigendum (if required) will be uploaded on portal and wil

not be published in News Paper.

(RAJINDER BANSAL) DIP/Shabdarth/0370/21-22 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-7(DUSIB)



TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)



LAST 10 DAYS (daily)



(Sputnik V's 10.6 LAKH doses not represented in pie)

17,81,502

adminsistered in Tamil

Nadu on October 23, the

highest for any state.

Number of doses

DOSES ON OCT 23 80.14.847 OCT 22: 71,23,831 (1st dose: 30,26,552; 2nd: 40,97,279)

12,41,890

West Bengal 9,62,515

Uttar Pradesh

4,35,480 Madhya Pradesh

Maharashtra

5,83,844

COVAXIN

11.4%

Note: The October 23 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Oct 24 Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Oct 24

Telling Numbers

Among the vaccinated, even non-Covid mortality found lower than among unvaccinated

THE FACT that Covid-19 vaccines reduce severe disease and deaths from the disease has often been stressed. But do they also impact mortality from causes other than Covid-19? At a time when vaccine hesitancy persists in several parts of the world, a new study has addressed the question and found that death rates from non-Covid causes were lower among those vaccinated than among those who were not.

research, by Kaiser Permanente, has been published in the 'Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report' of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Researchers evaluated the electronic health records of 6.4 million vaccine recipients in the US, compared to 4.6 million unvaccinated people with similar demographics and geographic locations from December 14, 2020 to July 31, 2021. The study looked at only non-Covidrelated deaths.

The vaccines in use in the US are those from Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, The Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines require 2 doses for full vaccination, while the

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DEATH RATES PER 1.000 (after excluding Covid deaths)

Vaccine After After Unvaccinated two comparison

C	lose	doses	group
Moderna	3.7	3.4	11.1
Pfizer	4.2	3.5	11.1
J&J	8.4	_	14.7

Johnson & Johnson adenoviral vector vaccine requires only one dose.

■ Pfizer vaccine recipients were found to have a mortality rate of 4.2 deaths per 1,000 vaccinated people per year after the first dose, and 3.5 after the second dose, compared to 11.1 in the unvaccinated comparison group (See table).

■ Moderna vaccine recipients had 3.7 deaths per 1,000 people per year after the first dose, and 3.4 after the second; the unvaccinated comparison group had a mortality rate of 11.1 per 1,000 people per year.

■ The j&J recipients had 8.4 deaths per 1,000 people per year, compared to 14.7 in the unvaccinated group.

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Express News Service

The agenda for Glasgow

SIMPLY PUT

COP26, which begins next week in Glasgow after a year's delay, will seek to finalise the rules for the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate. Why is this important, and what else in on the agenda?

AMITABHSINHA

PUNE, OCTOBER 24

AMID FRESH warnings and new evidence suggesting worsening of the climate crisis, negotiators from around the world are assembling in Glasgow, Scotland, from Monday next week to tie up a few loose ends of the Paris Agreement that have remained unresolved for over two years. COP26 (or the 26th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) was scheduled to be held last year, at the same venue, but had to be put off for the first time in its history because of the pandemic.

The official agenda of the two-week meeting is to finalise the rules and procedures for implementation of the Paris Agreement, which was supposed to have been completed by 2018. However, most of the discussions ahead of the meeting have been around an effort to get all countries to commit to a net-zero target by a specific year, somewhere around the mid-century. Carbon neutrality is a state in which a country's emissions are compensated either by absorption of greenhouse gases, as is done by trees and forests, or by physical removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere using futuristic technologies. Net-zero is an extremely contentious subject, deeply dividing the developed and developing countries.

The COP meetings

The annual climate change meetings are part of a UN-backed process initiated in the early 1990s after the world realised that greenhouse gas emissions were powering a rise in temperature that would slowly make the Earth uncomfortable to live in. Over the years, these meetings have had remarkable success in bringing climate change to the top of the global agenda, and ensuring that every country has an action plan to tackle climate change. This process has also delivered two international agreements — Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and Paris Agreement in 2015 - aimed at cutting down global emissions (see box).

The outcomes of these meetings, however, have not matched the scale of the response required. The original objectives, in terms of the amount of emission reductions and the principles that would govern the international climate architecture, have been diluted severely. Most industrialised countries have failed to deliver on their initial promises, not just on emission reductions but also on their commitments to help with finance and technology. As a result, the climate crisis has worsened in the last 20 years, manifesting itself in more frequent and intense extreme weather events.

Despite the shortcomings, however, these meetings remain the best bet to put the world on a path away from climate disasters

Carbon markets

The rules and procedures of the landmark Paris Agreement of 2015 are still hanging because countries are yet to agree on some of the provisions related to creation of new carbon markets. Carbon markets are an important instrument to facilitate emissions reductions, and were an integral part of the Kyoto Protocol that has now given way to Paris Agreement.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, a set of rich and industrialised countries were allotted specific emission reduction targets. One of the indirect ways to achieve these was to let countries buy carbon credits from developing countries. The latter had no obligations under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce their emissions, but if they were able to do so, they could earn carbon credits. Developed countries could buy these credits and count them towards achieving their targets. Developing countries did not lose anything, and instead received payment to fi-

nance their switch to cleaner technologies. Because emission reductions anywhere helped the entire globe, this was seen as a winwin situation for everyone. There were a couple of other methods through which carbon

CLIMATE ON THE GLOBAL TABLE

1992: EARTH SUMMIT, RIO DE JANEIRO

The meeting that set up the architecture for negotiations on an international climate change agreement. It finalised the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the mother agreement that lays down the objectives and principles on which climate action by countries are to be based. It acknowledged that developing countries had fewer obligations and capabilities to bring down emissions. Developed countries agreed to a non-binding commitment to take measures aimed at returning to

2009: COP15. COPENHAGEN

their 1990 emissions levels by 2000.



Attempt to finalise a new agreement to ended in failure. Over 110 heads of nations assembled, but differences were too deep to be bridged. Countries agreed to try again a few years later. Developed countries committed to mobilising \$100 billion every year in climate finance for developing countries from 2020.

1997: COP3, KYOTO

Delivered the Kyoto Protocol, precursor to Paris Agreement. The Protocol assigned specific emission reduction targets for a set of developed countries, to be achieved by 2012. Others were supposed to take voluntary actions to reduce emissions. The Kyoto Protocol expired last year as Paris Agreement took its place.

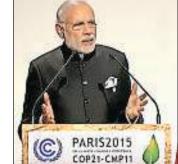
2007: COP13, BALI

It reaffirmed the principles of CBDR in the efforts to find a replacement to the Kyoto Protocol, which developed nations were getting increasingly uncomfortable with, especially after the emergence of China as the world's leading emitter. Developed

countries want emission reduction targets for everyone, or for nobody, their argument being that without stringent action from China and India, the success of any climate action would not be possible.

2015: COP21, PARIS

The successor agreement was finally delivered. The Paris Agreement does not assign emission reduction targets to any country. Instead, it asks all to do the best they can. But the targets they set for themselves must be reported and verified. The objective is to limit the global rise in temperatures to



within 2°C from pre-industrial times.



2021: COP26, GLASGOW

Was supposed to be held last year but postponed because of Covid. The rulebook for implementation of Paris Agreement is still to be finalised. The main remaining hurdle is an agreement over creation of future carbon markets, and the transition of pending carbon credits with some developing countries to that new market.

credits were traded, for money, both within and between countries.

Over the years, developing countries like China, India, and Brazil accumulated large numbers of carbon credits, which at one point. were in great demand as developed countries had to achieve their targets, and this was often a cheaper way than to reduce emisions by upgrading their own industrial facilities.

However, as the clamour grew for a new agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which rich industrialised countries found constraining, the motivation of the developed countries to move towards their targets reduced. Countries realised that non-achievement of their targets did not carry any penalty. So, most never met their targets. Several others even walked out of the Kyoto Protocol. The result was a big drop in demand for carbon credits, and a consequent fall in the price of carbon.

But countries such as India, China and Brazil continued to earn carbon credits in the hope that demand would return, once a successor pact to the Kyoto Protocol was in place. That happened with the Paris Agreement.

Carbon markets are envisioned in the Paris Agreement as well, but a new problem arose. Developed countries said they would not allow the transition of the earlier carbon credits to the new market mechanism, claiming many of these were dubious and did not accurately represent emission reductions. They sought more robust methods to grant carbon credits.

The developing countries are insisting that their accumulated carbon credits, worth billions, remain valid in the new market. This remains the last stumbling block in

the finalisation of the rules and procedures of Paris Agreement. Most other issues were negotiated at the previous meeting in Madrid in 2019. Settling this is one of the main objectives of the Glasgow meeting.

Net zero

An agreement on carbon markets would involve intricate negotiations. The discussion on net-zero targets, in the meanwhile, is much more attention grabbing. Incidentally, the issue of net-zero, or carbon neutrality, does not find a mention in the Paris Agreement, and therefore, does not form part of the process. But this is not the first time that an issue that has not grown organically from the COP meetings has come to dominate a session.

More than 50 countries have pledged to carbon-neutrality by middle of the century. China has said it would achieve this status by 2060; Germany has announced a target of 2045. India is the largest emitter that still does not have a net-zero commitment, and has said it does not intend to commit mmediately. Several other developing countries have also been resisting such targets, arguing it is the developed world's way of shifting their own burden of reducing emissions on to everyone else.

ing steps to demote "sensationalistic tabloid

content" on the homepage. Within a year,

YouTube was able to predict "the likelihood

of a video to include minors in risky situa-

tions" and started removing those from rec-

ing "problematic misinformation and bor-

derline content -that is content that comes

close to, but doesn't quite violate our

Community Guidelines" out of recommen-

dations. The platform does this by using clas-

sifiers to identify whether a video is "author-

itative" or "borderline" with the help of

human evaluators placed across the world.

In recent years, YouTube has been keep-

Last week, in a virtual meeting, ministers

of 24 nations, which call themselves 'Like Minded Developing Countries', or LMDCs, denounced the efforts to force a net-zero target on everyone, saying it went against 'equity' and 'climate justice'. India is a part of LMDC, and interestingly, so is China. Other members include Indonesia, Malaysia, Iran, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Reminding the developed world that the COP meetings were a history of their "broken promises", the LMDC said it was lack of adequate action on the part of rich nations that had led to worsening of the climate crisis.

"Despite their lack of ambition shown in the pre-2020 period, as well as in their Paris Agreement NDCs (nationally-determined contributions), major developed countries are now pushing to shift the goal posts of the Paris Agreement from what have already been agreed by calling for all countries to adopt Net Zero targets by 2050. This new 'goal' which is being advanced runs counter to the Paris Agreement and is anti-equity and against climate justice," the ministerial statement said.

"Demands for 'Net zero' emissions for all countries by 2050 will exacerbate further the existing inequities between developed and developing countries," it said. It is clear that discussions on net-zero are

also likely to lead to fireworks at Glasgow.

TOMORROW PROGRESS ON EMISSIONS SO FAR

How YouTube works out which videos to recommend to which viewer

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

IT IS quite hard for users to come out of YouTube watching just one video. YouTube's recommendation engine suggests what users should watch in the first place and what they should watch next.

"Today, recommendations drive a significant amount of the overall viewership on YouTube, even more than channel subscriptions or search. And, we are thinking about it in a responsible way. Our goal is to help connect viewers to high-quality information by minimising the chances of them seeing problematic content, said Cristos Goodrow, VP Engineering, YouTube in a recent call. He said YouTube's goal was to have views of borderline content from recommendations kept below 0.5% of overall views on YouTube.

So, how does YouTube's recommendations engine work?

Recommendations were originally built

on the simple principle that it should help people find the videos they want to watch. Users now encounter recommendations at two places — one on the homepage as they enter YouTube, which is a mix of content based on past viewing and subscriptions as well as latest news, and then on the "Up Next" panel as they are watching a video.

How does the algorithm decide what appears on recommendations?

YouTube tries to predict what a user would like to see next based on what they usually watch. It does not use connections from the social network to recommend what to watch next. YouTube takes signals from a mix of user behaviours that strongly indicate the user likes a video. So, clicks on videos, watchtime and shares are taken as good cues. YouTube also measures "valued watchtime" using user surveys that ask them to rate a watched video on a scale of one to five.

Can recommendations be switched off? tory also pauses recommendations linked to Yes, when users delete their watch his-

2008: YouTube launched Recommendations system, ranking videos based on popularity

2011: Built classifiers to identify videos that were racy or violent, prevented them from being recommended

2012: Incorporated watchtime into Recommendations to

mendations in the process.

tory, they also disable personalised recom-

Removing a certain video from watch his-



THE EVOLUTION OF YOUTUBE RECOMMENDATIONS

personalisation 2015: Demoted sensationalistic tabloid

content on homepages 2016: Began measuring 'valued watchtime' to

make sure viewers are

satisfied with their time on YouTube; also, started to predict the likelihood of a video to include minors in risky situations and removed them from Recommendations

2017: Began raising up authoritative content for news and information

2019: Began demoting borderline content

How does YouTube factor in languages while recommending videos?

Goodrow told The Indian Express that "the recommendation system in general doesn't have a notion of language". "Most of the recommendations start or are based on what we call code, watching videos that get watched again. This tends to ensure that videos of the same language get recommended together. Or if people speak only one language, they mostly only get videos in that language." This means nothing in particular is done to sort of filter or determine the languages a particular user speaks with respect to recommendations. "It's really due to just the frequency of two videos being watched together."

How does YouTube recommend videos when a user is in incognito mode?

Goodrow says in such a situation, they "usually don't have much information to go on". In such a case they base recommendations based on the devices and what is popular in your location. "At that time we try to ensure that there is some diversity."

How does YouTube handle recommendations for search queries?

When users are searching for a news event, YouTube uses the top shelf to showcase news from authoritative and trustworthy sources. This also means content from untrustworthy sources are demoted and further down in the results.

New Delhi

What is borderline content? How does

YouTube keep it off recommendations?

quality content from being widely viewed

via recommendations. In 2015, it started tak-

Since 2011, YouTube has limited low-

ommendations.

WORDLY WISE
INFLATION IS TAXATION WITHOUT
LEGISLATION.

— MILTON FRIEDMAN

The Indian EXPRESS

Ramnath Goenka

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A SIMMERING UNEASE

Bangladesh violence finds disquieting echoes in Tripura. Government should be mindful of region's multiple fault lines

HE POST DURGA Puja violence against Hindus in Bangladesh has found disturbing resonance in neighbouring Tripura. The last few days have seen protests in the capital Agartala and other towns by the VHP and Hindu Jagran Manch, some of which have reportedly turned into mobilisations against local Muslims — the Tripura State Jamaat Ulama (Hind) has submitted a petition to the chief minister alleging that mosques and homes of Muslims were targeted by protestors. The BJP-led government must act firmly against the trouble-makers and not let extremists fan passions against the Muslim minority in Tripura, which shares a long border with Bangladesh. Tripura has its own social fault lines, a legacy of Partition and the migration in its wake, which fuelled a violent insurgency in the 1990s. The past few years of peace have helped the state to rebuild its economy and emerge as a key player in India's Act East policy, the bedrock of which is friendly relations with Myanmar and Bangladesh.

It is a cause for concern that after nearly two decades of relative peace, the Northeast has started to simmer again. Old fault lines — of land, language, ethnicity, faith — have once again started to shape political mobilisations in the region. The hardening of narrower identities is now visible in Assam and Meghalaya, with the state governments acting as facilitators of this unhappy trend. The polarisation triggered by the government's push on the NRC and CAA has not stopped in Assam even after the assembly elections — Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's constant contributions to the "othering" of Muslims and the government's heavy-handed eviction drive against Muslim peasants deemed to be encroachers that resulted in the death of two people, may have deepened the communal divide. An inter-state border dispute involving Assam and Mizoram led to the killing of six police personnel in July. The anti-outsider politics in Meghalaya has got a fresh lease of life with the attempt to evict a small Dalit Sikh community from their century-old settlement in Shillong. The peace deal with the NSCN-IM in Nagaland has reached a deadlock over the rebel position on the national flag and a separate constitution. Some of these are legacy issues and can be resolved only through dialogue and by exploring out-of-the box solutions within a federal framework. The region's distinct social history and its encounter with colonialism militates against the imposition of unitary notions of identity. Politicians exploit these fault lines for petty electoral gains at great cost to the nation.

Bangladesh, which has outpaced India in improving development indices in recent years, has been alert to the emergence of majoritarian religious extremism and has cracked down firmly on Islamist groups. The Sheikh Hasina government has been quick to reach out to the Hindu community after the Durga Puja violence — several arrests have been made and ministers have been visiting affected Hindu families. Such outreach can help heal strained relations between communities. There's a lesson here for leaders across the border as well.

FUEL AND FOOD

Commodity inflation is back, and for policymakers, this presents a tricky situation

N JUST OVER three months, Brent crude prices have soared from under \$70 to nearly \$86 per barrel. Rising energy prices have spurred demand for bio-fuels. Crude palm oil is trading at a record 5,000 ringgits per tonne in Malaysia, from 4,200 ringgits in mid-July. Similarly, raw sugar in New York has crossed 19 cents per pound, from already elevated 17.5 cent levels three months ago. The Food and Agricultural Organisation's world food index had eased to 124.4 points in July, after touching 127.9 in May, its highest level since September 2011. But it rose again to 130 points this September, marking a 10-year-high. The same story — of renewed global price increase from July dips — has been repeated for skimmed milk powder. And the ruling benchmark Cotlook 'A' index rates of 120 cents per pound for cotton were last seen in July 2011.

Simply put, commodity inflation is back. That may not be bad for producers, including farmers. Soyabean is selling at Rs 5,100-5,200 per quintal in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain mandi, well above the government's minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 3,950. This applies also to raw un-ginned long staple cotton (Rs 7,200 versus Rs 6,025/quintal) and to some extent groundnut (Rs 5,700 versus Rs 5,550/quintal) at Rajkot in Gujarat. Basmati paddy growers in Haryana are realising Rs 3,000-plus per quintal rates in the ongoing marketing season, which is higher than the Rs 1,960 MSP for non-basmati varieties. Even international wheat prices today, at \$300-350 per tonne depending on the country of export, are above India's MSP of Rs 2,015 per quintal (\$269/tonne). But for farmers, all this isn't unqualified good news. They are paying roughly a third more for diesel than a year ago. Higher energy prices have rubbed off on fertilisers as well. Their global prices are anywhere from 10 to 13-year highs now, even as there are reports of desperate farmers raiding trucks carrying di-ammonium phosphate.

Central banks, including India's, have largely been viewing the current inflation as transitory and caused by the post-Covid supply chain disruptions. Having learnt from the 2013 "taper tantrum", they wouldn't want to withdraw stimulus or close monetary spigots too quickly. But when fuel and food prices stay high for long, they feed into inflation expectations of consumers, producers and investors. All discussions about "transitory" or "core" inflation, then, become purely academic. Anchoring inflation expectations is important. The government must play its part by slashing excise duties on petrol and diesel. It can restore them later, when supply response to the vaccine-induced global demand surge would also have hopefully kicked in.

Freeze Frame

E P Unny



The great man syndrome



Icons matter because of what they symbolise, they are not monoliths, neither ours nor theirs are infallible

SATISH DESHPANDE

SUCCESSFUL POLITICIANS MUST place rhetoric before reason and reason before facts, even as they try to use all three. Tacitly acknowledged by politicians across all ideologies, this hierarchy recognises that though they may all be necessary, rhetoric, reason and facts are not equally important for the success of a political agenda. In order to blend them into a seamless persuasive mix, practitioners of politics must learn to interweave them in such a way that, taken together, they can cover up mutual weaknesses. Critics not trained in the art of political weaving often miss the synergy that drives a successful political programme. They pounce on factual errors — the polite term for political lies — and are puzzled when exposure fails to produce the expected results.

When Rajnath Singh claimed that V D Savarkar's mercy petitions to the British government were written at Gandhi's behest, he could be accused not simply of lying, but of uttering a political lie. One of the archaic meanings of the English word "utter" is to pass or circulate counterfeit currency. This is a useful reference because political lies can be understood in analogy with currency. When you or I try to print money, we become criminals no matter what we wanted to spend the money on. But when a government "prints money" to spend more than it earns, this act is evaluated entirely on the basis of what is done with the money. In a roughly similar way, the impact of a political lie depends on the larger project it supports rather than the factual deficit it incurs

That is why establishing the facts of the matter in painstaking detail to expose the falsity of Singh's claims is unlikely to dent the political project that he espouses. In the big picture, the facts of Savarkar's petitions (like their number or tone) do not matter much. What matters is the ideological work that the figure of Savarkar is made to do, the kind of political reason that he symbolises. And since he is also invoked as a referent, the same holds for Gandhi — what matters is not what he said or wrote in some specific context, but the larger

What if we counterpose the Savarkar of the Ratnagiri anti-caste campaigns (roughly 1925 to 1937) to the Savarkar of Hindutva? At this time, Savarkar was pursuing a programme for the eradication of caste distinctions that was far more radical than that of Gandhi. This is the phase of the 'Jatyuchhedak Nibandh', the writings on caste eradication. Would the proponents of Hindutva be willing to accept this avatar of Savarkar and all of its implications? Shifting the debate to this level allows more room for manoeuvre by refusing the all-ornothing frame of the monolithic great-man.

political project that he is made to represent.

At this point, we run into a different set of problems arising from the fact that the dominant political discourse relies excessively on "great men". Political debate in India often becomes a matter of your great man versus mine. This is problematic because the great man tends to be an indivisible icon who must be worshipped or despised in toto. Political competition takes a theological form, with rivals denounced as worshippers of false gods. When the great man becomes a political icon, the historical individual fades into the background, and the details of his life get separated from his iconic avatar. Simply put, the greatman-as-icon becomes "fact-proof", and inconvenient biographical facts are met with "hurt sentiments", followed by the forceful reassertion of hagiography.

How do we escape this impasse? One way out is to focus attention on the iconic role of the great man rather than his factual biography. What is the form of political reason that he is supposed to represent? What is the larger narrative attached to his name, the story in which followers are invited to find their place? And most importantly, what are the non-negotiable parts of this story?

The task seems relatively simple for Savarkar-as-icon: He stands for "Hindutva". More accurately, iconic-Savarkar represents an idea of India in which Muslims and Christians — all the communities whose "punyabhoo" (or sacred place) is not within the geographical borders of India - can be secondclass citizens at best. Regardless of the details about Savarkar-as-person, Savarkar-as-icon is designed to represent this ideal. This is where no room can be spared for ambiguity or interpretation — are we for this ideal, or against it? Choosing to fight on this ground (rather than on biographical details) raises the risks without improving the chances of victory, but it allows for a sharp focus on what is at stake.

A second method of avoiding dead-ends is to break down the monolith of the great man into coherent biographical segments. For ex-

ample, what if we counterpose the Savarkar of the Ratnagiri anti-caste campaigns (roughly 1925 to 1937) to the Savarkar of Hindutva? At this time, Savarkar was pursuing a programme for the eradication of caste distinctions that was far more radical than that of Gandhi. This is the phase of the "Jatyuchhedak Nibandh", the writings on caste eradication. Would the proponents of Hindutva be willing to accept this avatar of Savarkar and all of its implications? Shifting the debate to this level allows more room for manoeuvre by refusing the allor-nothing frame of the monolithic great-man.

Finally, there is the most difficult option of all - subjecting one's own great man to similar scrutiny. Gandhi is the obvious exemplar: Unlike Savarkar's worshippers, those who worship Gandhi-as-icon have enjoyed state power for decades. Because of this, the iconic avatar of Gandhi has been normalised to such an extent that it is difficult to map its ideological boundaries. Broadly speaking, Gandhi-asicon stands for an inclusive India where every community is assured of full membership. Such an avatar is usually surrounded by a halo of taken-for-granted legitimacy. But what about the less-discussed and more controversial aspects of this avatar such as the claim that the celebrated inclusionary acts associated with this icon have often demanded the surrender of agency? The starkest example here is the Poona Pact, which gave birth to reservation but paralysed Dalit and Adivasi political mobilisation for four decades. The "trusteeship" model of paternalistic relations between capitalists and workers could be another example. It is sobering to reflect on the fact that, for a long time, Gandhi-as-icon provoked more hurt sentiments than any other in our

political pantheon.
Iconic great men matter because of what
they symbolise, they are not monoliths — neither ours nor theirs are infallible. Nevertheless,
they are not all the same.

The writer teaches at Delhi University. Views are personal

A STEP TOO SMALL

Advisory on removing queerphobia from medical education is not enough

AQSA SHAIKH AND HARIKEERTHAN RAGHURAM

ON OCTOBER 13, the National Medical Commission (NMC), the body responsible for regulating medical education in India, released an advisory regarding the LGBTQIA+community and the necessary changes in the competencies of its competency-based medical education (CBME) curriculum. The advisory, released under pressure from the Madras High Court, notes that there is unscientific information regarding the queer community and the topic of virginity in medical textbooks — especially in the subjects of psychiatry and forensic medicine. While this is a welcome move and a step in the right direction, it is not sufficient.

Medical education in India has focussed only on the binary of male and female, heterosexuality and cis-gendered lives, while excluding homosexuality and gender non-binary and transgender issues. This results in the exclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community. There is also queerphobic content that has often been called out. Even with the release of the competency-based medical curriculum in August 2019, the curriculum continues to include a queerphobic syllabus.

Such rampant queerphobia traumatises LGBTQIA+ students in medical colleges, with many becoming hesitant to share their queer identity openly and several facing abuse when they do. Similar experiences are also shared by queer faculty members who also face discrimination at the workplace. Such queerphobic teaching precludes the possibility of future health professionals practising queer-affirmative medicine which, in turn, affects queer patients who hesitate to come to them. Our on-

Rampant queerphobia traumatises LGBTQIA+ students in medical colleges, with many becoming hesitant to share their queer identity openly and several facing abuse when they do. Similar experiences are also shared by queer faculty members who also face discrimination at the workplace. Such queerphobic teaching precludes the possibility of future health professionals practising queer-affirmative medicine which, in turn, affects queer patients who hesitate to come to them.

going work in the projects TransCare Covid-19 and TransCare MedEd reveals exactly this. The NMC's notification comes against the ism are called sexual offences even though the

backdrop of several recent developments. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 mandates governments to take measures for the "review of medical curriculum and research for doctors to address their [transgender] specific health issues," but no action has been taken since then. In June 2021, in response to a case filed by a queer couple, the Madras High Court laid down a set of guidelines and directed the NMC to ban queerphobic practices such as conversion therapy which aims to forcibly change the sexual orientation of a person. In September, Justice N Anand Venkatesh, referring to a report filed by Dr Trinetra Haldar Gummaraju, a trans doctor, called out the rampant queerphobia in medical education. A week later, on September 7. the Kerala High Court passed an order asking for the removal of discriminatory and inhuman references to LGBTQIA+ people from MBBS textbooks.

In its notification, the NMC has advised medical colleges to teach gender in a way that is not derogatory to the queer community. The authors of medical textbooks have also been asked to amend the books to remove any harmful contents regarding virginity and the queer community. While the NMC advisory title mentions necessary changes in the competencies of its CBME curriculum, there are no specifications on what these changes are. At the same time, the CBME curriculum itself mentions queerphobic things that are to be taught to students. For example, being trans-

disorder. Sodomy, buccal coitus, and lesbianism are called sexual offences even though the Supreme Court has read down Section 377. Also, the competencies which will make a future Indian doctor respectful and empathetic in treating a queer patient are missing. Instead, by putting the onus on medical colleges and authors of textbooks, the NMC is simply passing the buck of accountability while absolving itself of any responsibility towards making curriculum queer-affirmative. Further, the advisory committee set up by the NMC does not have any queer representation.

The NMC must start by recognising the flaws in its own CBME curriculum and explicitly state the changes required. Specific guidelines on how to make healthcare queer-affirmative are needed. Otherwise, such directives will merely create confusion and indifference, as created a few years ago by a similar notification on disability inclusion in the medical curriculum. The directive also needs to specify changes across several subjects and not just forensic medicine and psychiatry. For this, there needs to be a participatory stakeholder consultation towards the development of a queer-affirmative curriculum. Finally, there needs to be clarity on what the NMC plans to do for tackling queerphobia in the current set of health professionals. Without these changes, equitable access to healthcare for queer persons will remain a faraway dream.

> Shaikh is associate professor, community medicine, HIMSR, Delhi and Raghuram is project coordinator, Sangath, Bhopal

THE TWO-D the industri countries h concrete on tions. The s The outcon Canadian Pr

OCTOBER 25, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

CANCUN SUMMIT FAILS THE TWO-DAY SUMMIT of 21 leaders from the industrialised world and developing countries has failed to produce anything concrete on the gut issue of global negotiations. The summit ended on October 23. The outcome was so disappointing that Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau said that it evaded the major questions. The outcome was predictable given the American insistence on making only small concessions. Developing nations struggled for hours to make the US budge but it would not. The only part of the discussions on which there was an agreement was the following: "The heads of states and governments confirmed the desirability of sup-

porting at the UN a consensus to launch a

global negotiation on a basis to be mutually agreed upon and in circumstances offering the prospect of meaningful progress with a sense of urgency".

FRENCH OFFER

FRANCE IS READY to offer India a package of defence munitions in addition to the Mirage-2000 aircraft, according to General Jacques Mitterrand, Chairman of the French Aeronautical and Space Industries Association. Mitterrand, brother of French President Francois Mitterrand, is visiting India. He claimed that France has one of the best technologies in sophisticated defence equipment. The French delegation visited defence manufacturing units in the country.

AKALI-RAO TALKS

THE AKALIS ARE hopeful that most of their demands, especially the religious ones, will be accepted by the government. This is the impression they have gained after their 150-minute talks with External Affairs Minister PV Narasimha Rao on October 24. Both leaders gave identical statements.

Nanda Devi feat

INDIAN PARATROOPERS ADDED a new page to the history of Indian mountaineering when they scaled the 7,694 metre-high Nanda Devi main peak, achieving a grand double. Earlier this month, the Indian paratroopers had put its members on the summit of the Nanda Devi east peak.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021

THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The only way to bring an end to communal attacks is to match what politicians promise following such attacks with actions. Every time such attacks occur, we hear our politicians claim that they stand by the victims. But do they, really?"

- DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

Time to seed a transition

Shifting to maize from rice, diversifying to fruits and vegetables, will help farmers in Punjab augment their earnings, prove beneficial for environment



By Ashok Gulati and Ranjana Roy

AS PER THE latest Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of agricultural households conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO), an average Indian farmer earned Rs 10,218 per month in 2018-19 (July-June). Across states, the highest income was received by a farming household in Meghalaya (Rs 29,348) followed by Punjab (Rs 26,701), Haryana (Rs 22,841), Arunachal Pradesh (19,225) and Jammu and Kashmir (Rs 18,918) while the lowest income levels were in West Bengal (Rs 6,762), Odisha (Rs 5,112) and Jharkhand (Rs 4,895). But this is not a fair comparison as holding sizes vary widely across states. The moment one normalises these incomes of agri-households by their holding sizes, as in the SAS, Punjab's ranking on per hectare income falls from 2nd to 11th and Haryana goes down from 3rd to 15th (see figure). The states that would do well on this score are Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh where people earn their income from cultivating fruits and vegetables, spices, and livestock. These are high value in nature, not linked to MSPs, and market and demand-driven. There is a lesson here for Punjab and Haryana farmers on augmenting their incomes on a per hectare basis, and also doing farming more sustainably.

The average landholding data is collected by both the SAS and Agriculture Census (latest 2015-16) but there is a big variation between the two data sources, especially for states like Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Gujarat, This anomaly needs to be corrected. As per the SAS, the average operated area per holding for Punjab is 1.44 ha (we have used that in the figure), but the Census gives a much higher value of 3.62 ha of average operational holding. If we normalise incomes of agri-households using Census values of average holding sizes, Punjab's rank would go $further\,down\,to\,21st (household\,monthly\,in$ come Rs 7,376) out of 28 states. Even Bihar (household monthly income Rs 19,338) will do much better than Punjab on this criteria – it will rank 5th. This implies that farmers in Punjab and Haryana are earning higher incomes primarily because the size of their landholding is greater compared to their counterparts from other states.

How can farmers in Punjab and Haryana augment their incomes with more sustainable agriculture? Everyone, from the top policymaker to the farmer, in Punjab realises that rice cultivation is depleting the state's water table, emitting methane and other greenhouse gases that damage the environment and stubble burning is choking millions. Punjab's former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had approached the Centre with an idea to create a fund of around Rs 25,000 crore to help farmers switch from paddy to maize. We feel that the Centre should give this idea a serious thought with the following modifications:

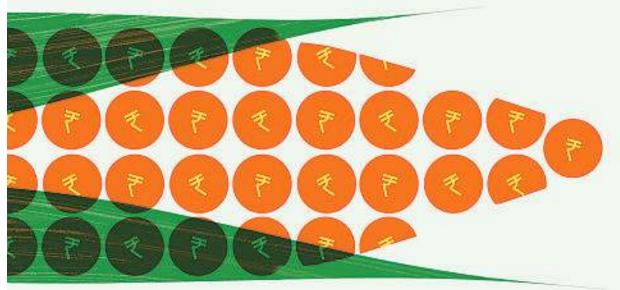
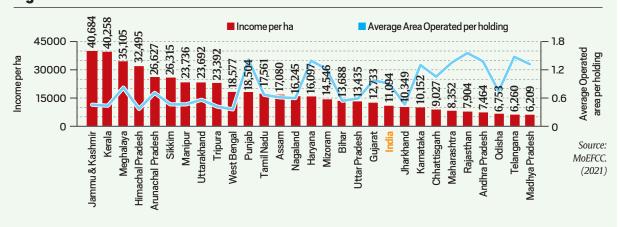


Figure 1: INCOME PER HA OF AVERAGE OPERATED AREA PER HOLDING



One, the fund should be under a five-year plan to shift at least a million hectares of paddy area (out of a total of 3.1 million hectares of paddy area in Punjab) to maize. Two, the corpus should have equal contributions from the Centre and state. Three, since Punjab wants that farmers be given MSP for maize, an agency, the Maize Corporation of Punjab (MCP), should be created to buy maize from farmers at MSP. Four, this agency should enter into contracts with ethanol companies, and much of this maize can be used to produce ethanol as the poultry and starch industries will not be able to absorb this surplus in maize once a million hectares of paddy area shifts to maize. Fifth, maize productivity must be as competitive as that of paddy in Punjab and the best seeds should be used for that purpose. This is to ensure that ethanol from maize is produced in a globally competitive manner.

The Gol's policy for 20 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol should come in handy for this purpose. In the process, Punjab will arrest its depleting water table as maize needs less than one-fifth the water that paddy does for irrigation. Also, Punjab will save much on the power subsidy to agriculture, which was budgeted at Rs 8,275 crore in the FY2020-21 budget, as paddy irrigation consumes much of the power subsidy. This saving subsidy resulting from the switch from paddy to maize can be used to fund a part of the state's contribution to the Maize Corporation of Punjab. This could result in a win-win situation for all

How can farmers in Punjab and Haryana augment their incomes with more sustainable agriculture? Everyone, from the top policymaker to the farmer, in Punjab realises that rice cultivation is depleting the state's water table, emitting methane and other greenhouse gases that damage the environment and stubble burning is choking millions. Punjab's former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had approached the Centre with an idea to create a fund of around Rs 25,000 crore to help farmers switch from paddy to maize. We feel that the Centre should give this idea a serious thought.

Illustration: CR Sasikumar, Graphic: Ritesh Kumar

— farmers, the Government of Punjab and the country — as there will be lesser methane emissions and less stubble burning. Moreover, ethanol will also reduce GHG emissions in vehicular pollution.

Other parts of the diversification strategy have to be along the lines of increasing the area under fruits and vegetables, and a more focused policy to build efficient value chains in not just fruits and vegetables but also livestock and fisheries. They are more nutritious and the SAS data shows that their profitability is much higher in these enterprises than in crop cultivation, especially cereals. The sector needs to be backed by proper processing, grading and packaging infrastructure to tap its full potential. Can the Punjab government and the Centre come together on this important issue? Punjab was at the forefront of providing food security to the country in the late 1960s and early 1970s but today, the Punjabi farmer is languishing in a low-level equilibrium trap of the rice-wheat cycle with the open-ended procurement system of the government. Their income on a per hectare basis needs to increase more sustainably, protecting the state's land, water and air from further degradation, and producing more nutritious food. Punjab can then shine again on the nutritional security front with sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.

> Gulati is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture and Roy is Fellow, at ICRIER

Outside the propaganda

Modi government's bungling during Covid second wave won't be forgotten. Another premature declaration of victory can put us at risk



RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA

IT IS A sign of a leader losing his grip on electoral reality when he starts buying into the myths of his own creation. However, when that propaganda seeks to whitewash the deaths of lakhs of fellow citizens, it is unforgivable and even criminal. Especially when a large number of those deaths were avoidable and caused as a direct result of the government's incompetence and negligence.

The Modi government is back to doing what it does best. In its latest propaganda blitzkrieg, it is attempting to rewrite the narrative of the horrifying devastation during the first and second waves of the Covid-19 pandemic by seeking to direct attention towards the vaccine drive. This attempt is condemned to failure. Let us explain to the Prime Minister why.

Every Indian lost someone they know. Every single person remembers the utter collapse of the healthcare machinery as they struggled to get hospital beds, ventilators and medicines for their loved ones, friends and acquaintances. Friends and family members infected with the coronavirus were gasping for breath as procuring an oxygen cylinder became a near-impossible task. The scars of that time are so deep that they can perhaps never heal.

Why is the Modi government to blame? Because it was Prime Minister Modi who prematurely declared victory over Covid-19. It was also Prime Minister Modi who bragged about exporting remdesivir and life-saving vaccines abroad. It was PM Modi who placed electoral campaigns above the public good and addressed dozens of rallies, despite the warnings from experts. Above all, when the second wave ravaged the country, the Prime Minister simply did not come forward to lead. Forget the average citizen, supporters of the ruling party begged desperately for its intervention as their loved ones died due to lack of medical care. All pleas fell on deaf ears and the government remained missing in action.

What the government and the Prime Minister's acolytes chose to do instead was to go after spirited individuals, opposition leaders and Youth Congress workers, who attempted to fill the massive gaps of administrative failure by providing assistance to anyone who needed it. The BJP government's invisible hand was apparent in the police enquiries on those who were procuring supplies and distributing them for free. The individuals and organisations marshalling their resources in the service of the

nation were raided instead of being applauded. When government representatives finally did emerge, it was to place the blame on the states. No one was convinced.

The Modi government will also be remembered for attempting, at first, to argue that the Covid-19 pandemic did not constitute a "disaster" that would attract provisions of the National Disaster Management Act. And when it was chastised by the Supreme Court and compelled to take action after numerous delays, it announced a paltry sum of Rs 50,000 per Covid-19 death as compensation. In which country of the world is a human life valued at Rs 50,000? Not surprisingly, even this has not been paid. This is what India remembers.

And this is to say nothing of the economic devastation that the pandemic wrought. According to one study, 59 per cent of MSMEs and startups were expected to either shut down or scale down. Across the nation, Indians saw their salaries slashed, livelihoods were lost, savings were eroded by medical costs. Their woes were compounded by galloping food inflation and reall inflation. All the while, the Modi government continuously raised petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices to unheard of levels. It now appears that cruelty and fleecing the citizens have become a state policy.

There is another pattern on display here. Prime Minister Modi is yet again declaring victory prematurely. Only 21 per cent of Indians are fully vaccinated (putting India in the 19th position in the world). To put this in perspective, the government must administer 106 crore doses in less than 70 days in order to fully vaccinate the entire 93 crore adult population by December 31. This would require them to administer 151 lakh doses daily as against the average 35 lakh doses being administered. The strategy and the way forward are unknown to even those in the government.

There are other equally important questions which remain unattended and unanswered by this callous government. There is no plan in place to vaccinate the nearly 30 crore children between the ages of 4 and 17 years. There is also no clarity on booster shots for senior citizens, doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, police personnel, sanitation workers and others engaged in crowd management interactions or duties. Is there even a policy on booster shots for vulnerable sections?

No matter how invincible the Prime Minister seems now, his government's tenure is guaranteed to be remembered as a cautionary tale, not least of the risks of electing demagogues. And he knows this. This desperate barrage of propaganda cannot salvage his legacy, nor will it get him the exoneration he so desperately craves.

The writer is the communications incharge and general secretary, Indian National Congress

A faster track to growth

PM Gati Shakti will synergise infrastructure projects under one masterplan

Hardeep S Puri

HISTORY PROVIDES ELOQUENT testimony — if any was needed — that empires rise, flourish and flounder and that connectivity and logistics invariably provide part, if not all, of the explanation, for the same. Chandragupta Maurya and Ashoka built highways along an ancient route called Uttarapatha in the 3rd century BC. Sher Shah Suri expanded on this network in the 16th century and rebuilt this ancient path of commerce.

The 190 years of British colonial domination has its own story. Yes, they did build railways, ports and bridges, but mainly to mine out wealth from India and ship it to England or export raw cotton and import cloth made in the mills of Lancashire and Manchester. The British left behind a disorganised patchwork of bureaucratic silos, the rail system built by them providing a good example. Their organisations were designed to be commandeered for the imperial exploitation of India rather than synergetic nation-building

than synergetic nation-building.
Under Congress rule, this fractionated style of policy-making and execution would hold back the economic development of India, leading to unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities. New infrastructure development was less than comprehensive, and even then chaotically executed. We became used to signboards saying "work in progress, go slow", as different government departments would work without coordination — for example, digging up newly laid roads for laying utility and optical fibre cables.

The Prime Minister's Gati Shakti plan is a

bold step in changing the status of the progress of the nation from "go slow" to "go fast". Over the past seven years, our government has taken giant strides in simplifying and integrating disparate policies and procedures to accelerate development.

GST simplified the taxation of goods and services while Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mudra brought in instant Direct Benefit Transfer into bank accounts. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, UDAN, Jal Marg Vikas, industrial and freight corridors, the Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects have given a big boost to the infrastructure and industrial prowess of the country.

Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, we rolled out One Nation One Ration Card, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and Aatmanirbhar Bharat mission. We have been able to formulate, mass-produce, transport, administer and follow-up 1 billion doses of a temperature-sensitive novel vaccine.

Indian consumers today enjoy same-day or next-day deliveries on e-commerce platforms and the time has come for the government to deliver to these standards. The Indian logistics sector, already a \$200 billion market, is set to grow at over 10 per cent CAGR in the next five years to reach around \$330 billion and power a \$-5 trillion economy. However, the cost of Indian logistics remains high at 13-14 per cent of GDP compared to developed nations where they are 8-10 per cent.

India's modal mix is heavily skewed towards roads, with 60-65 per cent of transport

happening via road compared to 25-30 per cent in developed countries, prompting higher costs. The rail freight business depends excessively on coal and domestic waterways face numerous challenges due to high first- and last-mile costs, unavailability of return load in most cases, high voyage costs for specialised vessels and high repositioning costs of domestic containers, among others.

The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan will herald a newera of infrastructure development and multi-modal logistics. We will synergise infrastructure development projects from multiple ministries under one masterplan. We will be able to optimise different modes of logistics to reduce freight costs and increase competitiveness, drive investment and create millions of jobs. We will leverage technology and geospatial mapping to create an online dashboard, which will let central and state agencies, departments and PSUs as well as private players have a bird's eye view of each other's planned development throughout the country.

We have come a long way in seven years. Highway construction per day in India increased almost 300 per cent from 12 km/day in 2014-15 to 33.7 km/day in 2020-21. With the PM Gati Shakti Masterplan, we will increase India's highway network to 2 lakh km and provision utility corridors for laying adjoining power and optical fibre cables, which will be a life-saver in times of natural disasters.

will be a life-saver in times of natural disasters. Under the NDA government, India embarked on an unprecedented scale of infrastructure development spending almost Rs 11.5 lakh crore in the seven years compared to just 1.5 lakh crore spent in the 10 years between 2004 and 2014. The metro rail network has been expanded up to 721 km of metro lines in 18 cities from 250 km in 2014, and a network of 1,058 km is under construction in 27 cities. The Masterplan will further augment urban infrastructure development by streamlining planning and approvals, and integrating civic amenities.

We have been working hard to increase the share of natural gas in the country's energy mix to 15 per cent from the current 7 per cent, as natural gas is not only a cleaner source of energy but is also efficiently transported through pipelines. Since 2014, India has increased the length of its gas pipeline network from 14,700 km to 18,500 km, supplying 29 mmscmd gas to thermal and steel plants, and 44 mmscmd gas to fertiliser plants. Under PM Gati Shakti, an additional 15,000 km of gas pipelines will be integrated.

It is difficult to fully visualise the sheer scale of development and investments planned under the PM Gati Shakti Masterplan. It will be an inflection point in the history of our nation. It will transform Indian infrastructure and logistics to compete with the world's leading economies. Future generations will look back and remark at an India before PM Gati Shakti Masterplan and an India after it.

The writer is Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, and Housing & Urban Affairs

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ASK QUESTIONS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Jabs against cynicism, for hope' (IE, October 23). While it is important to laud the efforts of our scientists in the Covid vaccination drive, it is a fact that the vaccine remains out of reach to a sizable section of our population. The Aarogya Setu app and CoWIN platform apart from privacy concerns, presumed access to the internet and English literacy - thereby prioritising some over others. The Centre has faced accusations of exporting vaccines even as citizens faced shortages. It is also a shameful fact that many citizens had to pay for their vaccines while the Centre looked the other way. Demanding accountability from the government is the need of the hour, not celebration.

Ila Railkar, Mumbai

Poor justifications

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Will South Asia go blind?' (IE, October 24). After the recent anti-Hindu violence in Bangladesh, many people, instead of condemning the violence or expressing sympathy for the victims, have focused on holding the happenings in India responsible. They conveniently forget that many serious incidents of violence against Hindus and their places of worship were reported in Bangladesh, even before the CAA-NRC issue emerged in 2019. Mistreatment of Hindus in Pakistan is not a justification for an act of violence against a Muslim in India. But this also cuts the other way.

Umang Phogat, Hisar

FALSE HOPE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The good fight at DU' (IE, October 23). The hope

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● BANGLADESH'S CHALLENGE — REASSURE MINORITIES: SUBIMAL BHATTACHARJEE

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that Delhi University's new VC will be able to restore the spaces for freedom in the campus is, likely, going to be belied for two reasons. First, the issues plaguing India's universities do not emanate from the actions of individuals though they do play a role. The lack of academic freedom at universities is a structural matter, which emanates first of all from top-down curriculum setting. Second, there is such a thing as inductive logic: We do not know as a logical certainty that the sun will rise tomorrow, but it probably will. Similarly, a BJP government appointee could conceivable crackdown on ABVP, encourage debate and dissent. It isn't likely, though.

Radhika Yadav, via email

REMARKABLE FEAT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, '100 crore & counting' (IE, October 22). It is a spectacular and remarkable achievement that India has crossed the one-billion Covid-19 vaccine doses. It is a feather in the cap of the Indian government, scientists, health workers and the citizens of India.

S S Paul, Nadia

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR, MoS, MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT, SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

What's happening with social media intermediaries in US is why IT rules are important... they create accountability

Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar says the IT rules are aimed at "keeping the Internet open" and explains why any law that governs the Internet has to take into account the "evolving jurisprudence" around cyberspace. This session was moderated by Deputy Political Editor LIZ MATHEW & Principal Correspondent AASHISH ARYAN

AASHISH ARYAN: Over the past sixeight months, there had been a sort of tussle between the IT Ministry and social media intermediaries due to the new IT rules. There has been a marked shift since the new minister (Ashwani Vaishnaw) came in, the escalations have come down remarkably. Is there a conscious effort to do this?

I don't want to compare with any particular incident that happened in the past, but the government is very clear about what our objectives are regarding any legislation, public policy, rules, and are making a conscious effort to convey it to the public. The IT rules are aimed at essentially keeping the Internet open, making it trusted and safe, and ensuring that the intermediaries are accountable to the user. There is very little about the government in the entire construct. It is, as you would agree, the remit of the government - in this case, MeITY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) – to ensure that user issues and user grievances are addressed, whether it is having a consumer forum, or in the Internet sense, having a grievance or compliance official. It is a question of understanding our role and our expectations, and it has been made clear to all intermediaries, whether big or small, that we have no intention of interfering in their functions as long as they respect the users who are on their platforms and they comply with the laws that have been laid down.

To one social media intermediary, I said that as part of MeITY, we have many different things to do, for the country and the digital economy. Managing or regulating social media intermediaries is not really high on the priority of things given all of the heavy-lifting that the government wants and has to do. It is simply about laying out our expectations, our role and people understanding it. I have also promised that wherever there are grey areas or interpretation issues, the ministry will time to time introduce FAQs and SOPs. We will create the necessary framework for everybody to do business, make investments, run a successful business model subject to basic requirements of user accountability, fol-

AASHISH ARYAN: Would you say you are satisfied with the way intermediaries have accepted these new rules, barring the legal challenges that continue?

Everybody who is a responsible stakeholder in the Internet right now understands that the jurisprudence around the cyber space is evolving. What was not there yesterday is there today, and what is not there today, will be there tomorrow. Eight-nine years ago, this cyber space did not even exist and we did not even anticipate some of the user harm and the user issues that are now surfacing, I come from a school in the late '80searly '90s where Internet was this big, beautiful Utopia. Of course we now realise that the Internet is about big business interests, user harm, about all good things and there are many bad things. So the jurisprudence around this will evolve, but we are committed to ensuring there is transparency, public consultation as this happens. I think that this confidence the industry and stakeholders are getting from us. I have been asked this question many times and I have repeated that in it is in our DNA to consult the stakeholders, including consumers, before we do any-

thing. But we must be reasonable and expect that there will be judicial and jurisprudential evolu-

PRANAV MUKUL: A Facebook whistleblower has revealed how the company prioritised its profits over dealing with hate misinformation.

Has the government taken note of this, or taken measures to check this in India? Do you think our current IT rules can prevent this?

What's happening with social media intermediaries in the US is precisely why I think the IT rules are very important because they create an accountability relationship between them and the user. There is an absolute relationship between the user who feels the intermediary is being unfair, biased and prejudicial. The consumer has the right to raise that grievance, and the intermediary is obliged to respond to it... I don't see any role for the government there. It's really

about accountability to the users, accountability of the intermediaries to ensure that they are non-discriminatory, that they respect Articles 14, 19, 21 of the Constitution, vis-a-vis every one of our On the issue of the IT rules, we have to get used to the fact that the jurisprudence and the legal framework around cyberspace and all things Internet will continuously

evolve. Age-gating on social media PRANAV MUKUL: sites need not be a binary Lot of mobile between nothing and phone companies have come to putting the youth in a cage. India and we have also seen a lot of The nature of the gating the high-value is something we have to components being discuss once the Bill manufactured in India. But despite comes out efforts of the UPA and NDA

governments, we have not been able to crack chip manufacturing? Where do you think the gaps are?

There is a whole eco-system that needs to be built for the electronics industry manufacturing to grow. We are today at about \$75 billion of electronics production. After petroleum, electronics is the second-largest traded commodity in the world - \$1.5 trillion is the world market, China alone accounts for about \$650 billion. That is the opportunity. Post-Covid realities, supply chain diversifications and how electronics is growing, a significant part I believe will move out of China and look for large markets. India has a huge opportunity to become

an electronics player, not just in mobiles but IT, automotive industry, servers... We want to broaden the electronics manufactured in India, also deepen the components base and the value added in this country. So naturally, one needs to look at semiconductor design, semiconductor manufacturing and semiconductor packaging and testing. The reason why we have not been successful in India in this is partly due to a flawed approach of putting the cart before the horse — you can't manufacture chips when you don't have an electronics ecosystem, when you don't have demand for chips in the country. So, the vision of our honorable Prime Minister is to create a vibrant, robust electronics ecosystem, and then explore the semiconductor opportunity. I want to add that in the next five years, out of the 100 times increase in computing power, 90X will come from semiconductor design innovation and electronics system design innovation and software. India is in a very sweet spot in the post-Covid world... to build on the \$75 billion of electronics manufacturing that we do

LIZ MATHEW: The biggest issue during the last Parliament session was Pegasus. You called it a bogus, hoax narrative when the Opposition raised the issue. But the Supreme Court said it wants to set up a committee. Does the government still maintain its stand that it did not buy or use the spyware?

I think it's improper for me to comment when the matter is in the Supreme Cort. The government and my Cabinet colleagues have said what they had to say, I don't want to add to that. The SC is setting up a committee, the government

should be ok with that. My view is that these are claims that are easy to fling around. Unless today somebody produces a hacked phone with evidence that it has been hacked by the State, to make the claim that a particular software has been used to hack into phones is just that

Chairman of the NDA in Kerala. The state unit of the can't suo motu intervene

LIZ MATHEW: You were Vice-

BIP hasn't managed to set its house in order and make any inroads in the state. How do vou see the situation there?

I was vice-chairman of the NDA in 2016, when I was an Independent MP. Much water has flown under the bridge since then. I

am a BJP karyakarta, a Keralite, and so I am heavily invested in the success of the BIP in Kerala. What and why it has happened is something I haven't studied in deep. But in Kerala, the choice that the people of Kerala have is between a very, very Left Marxist government and a Congress Left that's competing with the Left for how Left they are. So the space is open for development, a Centre-Right narrative, economic prosperity and entrepreneurship. It's something I want to work for and the BIP in Kerala has tremendous opportunity. I am confident we will do well. I think Pinarayi Vijayan built this sophisticated narrative of how great a job he had done during Covid, but

has discovered digital skilling and wherever it is possible to do skilling online, we have moved to blended courses or pure digital courses. But it is clear that in a post-Covid world, a lot of our skilling programmes will now move to digital skilling -- with our own platform and use of social media platforms like The Competition law

if it detects anti-competitive

behaviour. It's something

that's missing today in

the basket of policy

options that the govt has to

regulate big tech

over the last few months, the ministry

facts thereafter proved him wrong.

YouTube etc. This gives us a tremendous advantage as government because it increases our reach that much more. That's going to be the new normal - a great deal of blended learning...

AANCHAL MAGAZINE: The IT structures for many crucial government platforms like the

Income Tax portal and the GST platform were found wanting. You took to Twitter to ask IT firms to see such projects as special responsibility and deploy their best

I did that tweet to alert Indian companies who may have developed a tendency... because government bids are (seen as) maybe less profitable than an overseas project for a corporate client. So there is a tendency to put their lowerlevel talent on a government project... My tweet was to say that look, at the end of the day, don't forget that you are doing people's work. Having said that, there is a need for those on the govern-

New Delhi

complex, multi-locational contracts to be much more effective at programme management and contracting. **HARIKISHAN SHARMA: Given** the recent

ment side, who contract out these large

incidents in Uttar Pradesh – Lakhimpur Kheri, farmer protests etc - what is your assessment of the BJP's prospects in UP?

When the Chief Minister of UP has delivered on many

of his promises — on better law and order, addressing issues of Covid, the economy, giving corruption-free governance I can't believe any sane voter who would compare this government with what they have experienced in the past... rampant nepotism, corruption... would hesitate to vote for the BJP under Yogi ji. This is my view, not as a political expert, but as a person with a highly developed sense of common sense. On Lakhimpur, our party president has said emphatically and repeatedly that whoever has violated the law will feel the full force of the law and it doesn't matter who that person is. This atmosphere of baiting and bullying and ratcheting up the rhetoric is not doing anyone any service. You may think you are scoring big political points by drumming up hysteria and hate, but at the end of the day, it doesn't pay.

AASHISH ARYAN: Since the IT rules came out, there have been legal challenges from the stakeholders with the HCs also observing that the rules go beyond the mandate of the IT Act. There has also been talk of the IT Act being updated. So what happens to the rules once the new IT Act is in place?

The IT act dates back to 2000 vintage - it's 21 years old and in Internet time, that's about four centuries. What will be the next avatar of the IT Act? That's too early for us to discuss but it is commonsensical to conclude that there should be modern legislation that governs invest-

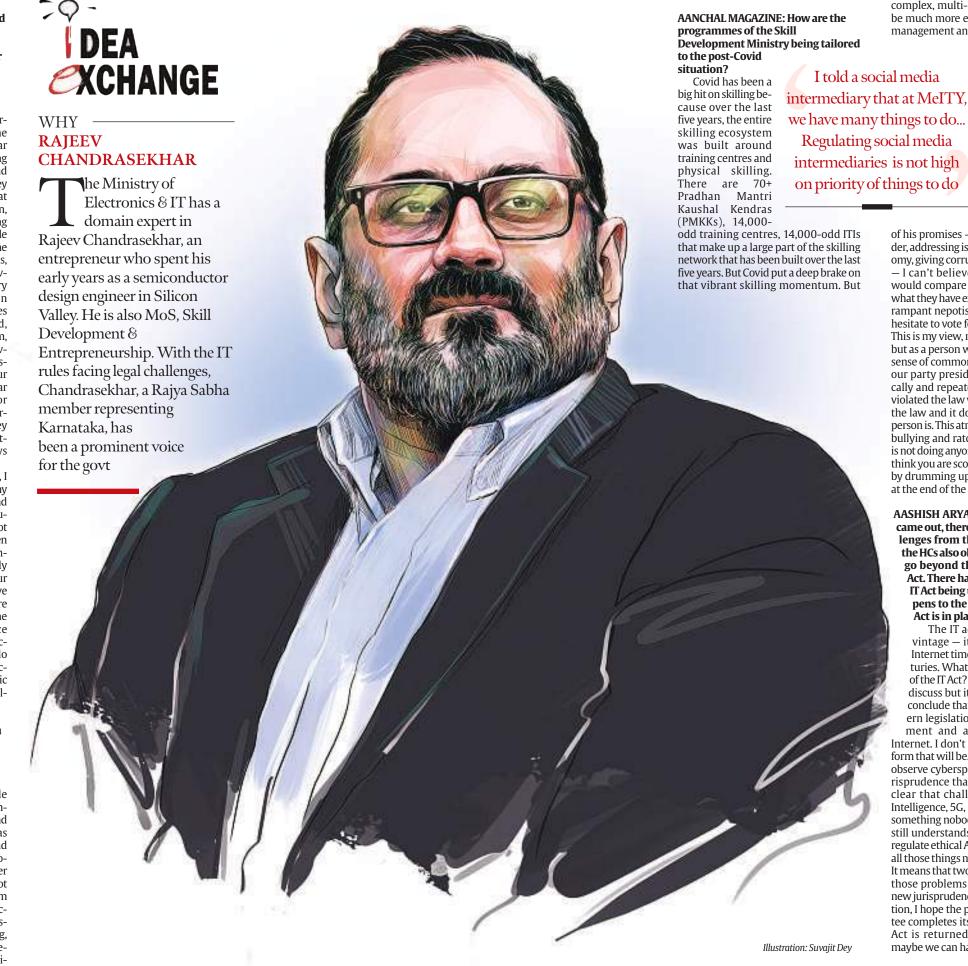
ment and activities around the Internet. I don't know what shape and form that will be. We must as those who observe cyberspace get used to this jurisprudence that will evolve. It's quite clear that challenges from Artificial Intelligence, 5G, Internet of Things... are something nobody can predict. Nobody still understands how you are going to regulate ethical AI. So to try and legislate all those things now is just meaningless. It means that two years from now, when those problems arise, we need to find new jurisprudence for it. On data protection, I hope the parliamentary committee completes its deliberations and the Act is returned to Parliament. Then maybe we can have a debate on that.

AASHISH ARYAN: On the data protection Bill, we are getting to know that the government is in favour of a strict age-gating policy to make it difficult for children below 18 to be on social media sites. Isn't that a very moralistic stand?

On age-gating as an idea, it is not a binary between nothing and putting them in a cage or clamping down on freedom for the youth. There was a parliamentary committee of the Rajya Sabha that was chaired by Jairam Ramesh that went into child safety online and came to the conclusion that some sort of gating is required. What is the nature of the gating should it be hard and fast or more dynamic... that is something we have to discuss once the Bill comes out.

PRANAV MUKUL: India has not been very successful at reining in big-tech companies whenever there have been anti-trust issues. Would you call for some kind of policy intervention on

The PM's vision has been that the Internet should be open, safe, trusted and accountable. Openness means it is not under any state or government but also means it is not dominated by a few platforms or companies. There is a real risk of that happening with big-tech platforms. It's a genuine concern that governments all over the world are grappling with. According to me, the Competition law suffers from an infirmity — that it can't suo motu intervene if it detects anticompetitive behaviour. It's something that's missing today in the basket of policy options that the Government of India has to regulate big tech or to make big tech domination a thing that's not anticonsumer. It's something that we should think about and discuss.



13 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

ED SHEERAN TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

British pop star Ed Sheeran said Sunday he has tested positive for Covid-19 and will do interviews and performances from his house while he self-isolates. Sheeran, 30, broke the news on social media days before his new studio album is due out. The four-time Grammy winner's new studio album is called "=", which is pronounced "Equals."

TOPOFTHE WORLD



Film Ranch in Santa Fe, New Mexico. AP

USA

Film crew voiced complaints before fatal on-set shooting

HOURS BEFORE actor Alec Baldwin fired a fatal gunshot from a prop gun that he had been told was safe, a camera crew for the movie he was filming walked off the job to protest conditions and production issues that included safety concerns. Disputes in the production of the Western film Rust began almost from the start in early Oct and culminated with seven crew members walking off several hours before cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was killed. The crew members had expressed discontent with matters that ranged from safety procedures to their housing accommodations, according to one of those who left.

GERMANY

Police stop far-right vigilantes patrolling border

GERMAN POLICE said on Sunday they had stopped more than 50 far-right vigilantes armed with pepper spray, a bayonet, a machete and batons who were trying to patrol the Polish border to stop migrants from entering the country. The vigilantes were following a call by the Third Way, a far right-party with suspected links to neo-Nazi groups, for its members to stop illegal crossings near the town of Guben on the German-Polish border. Police seized the weapons carried by the 50 suspects and made them leave the Guben area late on Saturday and in the early hours of Sunday. **REUTERS**

UGANDA Deadly blast likely terror act:

President AN EXPLOSION at an eatery in Uganda's capital was an apparent terrorist act, President Yoweri Museveni said on Sunday. Museveni said three people entered the eatery in a suburb of Kampala on Saturday evening and left a plastic bag whose contents later exploded. He provided no more details in a series of Twitter posts but vowed to "get the perpetrators." Police said in a statement that at least one person had died and seven others were injured in the blast.



Another Migrant Caravan Heads To US

A caravan of migrants head north along a coastal highway just outside of Huehuetan at Chiapas State, Mexico, on Sunday. Over 2,000 migrants, mainly Central Americans, began walking out of a city in southern Mexico on Saturday where they have essentially been trapped. There were minor scuffles and a small child suffered a slight head wound as the migrants pushed past a line of state police who were trying to stop them. Tens of thousands of migrants have been waiting in the city of Tapachula for asylum papers that might allow them to travel, but have grown tired of delays in the process. AF

Colombia's most wanted drug lord captured in jungle raid

ASTRID SUAREZ& JOSHUA GOODMAN BOGOTA, OCTOBER 24

COLOMBIAN SECURITY forces have captured the country's most wanted drug trafficker, a rural warlord who stayed on the run for more than a decade by corrupting state officials and aligning himself with combatants on the left and right.

President Iván Duque likened the arrest Saturday of Dairo Antonio Úsuga to the capture three decades ago of Pablo Escobar.

Colombia's military presented Úsuga to the media in handcuffs and wearing rubber boots preferred by rural farmers.

Úsuga, better known by his alias Otoniel, is the alleged head of the much-feared Gulf Clan, whose army of assassins has terrorised much of northern Colombia to gain control of major cocaine smuggling routes through thick jungles north to Central America and onto the US. He's long been a fixture on the

Enforcement US Drug Administration's most-wanted



Dairo Antonio Usuga, leader of the violent Clandel Golfo cartel, after his arrest. AP

fugitives list, for whose capture it had been offering a \$5 million reward. He was first indicted in 2009, in Manhattan federal court. on narcotics charges and for allegedly providing assistance to a far-right paramilitary group designated a terrorist organisation by the US government. Later indictments in Brooklyn and Miami federal courts accused him of importing into the US at least 73 metric tonnes of cocaine between 2003 and 2014 through countries including Venezuela, Guatemala,

Operating under the radar DAIRO ANTONIO Úsuga flew

under the radar of authorities for many years by refusing to become high profile like more famous Colombian drug lords. Úsuga started his violent career as a gunman for armed militias that represented both extremes of the political spectrum. Later, he delved deeper into the criminal underworld and began operating out of the Gulf of Uraba region, a major drug corridor. From there, he led brutal operations that made him Colombia's most wanted drug lord.

Mexico, Panama, and Honduras. Authorities said intelligence provided by the US and UK led more than 500 soldiers and members of Colombia's special forces to Úsuga's jungle hideout, which was protected by an eight rings of security.

Hasina: Certain quarters with vested interests tarnishing Bangladesh's image

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DHAKA, OCTOBER 24

BANGLADESH PRIME Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Sunday that certain quarters with vested interests were disseminating propaganda to create communal divide and tarnish the image of the country, as it recovers from a slew of violence against minorities and mob attacks on temples during Durga Puja festivities, according to a media report.

Attacks on Hindu temples intensified in Bangladesh since October 13 after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations. On the night of October 17, a mob damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh.

"No one can make Bangladesh go backwards. Some



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

of the incidents that we occasionally see are orchestrated. It is being done intentionally so that Bangladesh's image is damaged," Hasina was quoted as saying by bdnews24.com.

Speaking during the inauguration of the Payra Bridge in southern Bangladesh, Hasina said that "certain quarters with vested interests are disseminating propaganda aimed at creating a communal divide". She, however, did not name anyone. "No matter how much good

work we do, there is a quarter that is occupied with discrediting Bangladesh. What do they want? They don't want the normal democratic process to continue in this country," she said, urging people to be wary of the attempts to destabilise the country.

Eight people died as communal violence spread to several other districts amid the festivities, the report said.

Bangladesh's security agencies on Saturday arrested Shaikat Mandal, who is believed to be the second key suspect behind the recent violence. His arrest came a day after police had nabbed Iqbal Hossain, 35, the key suspect from Cox Bazar area. So far, police have arrested nearly 600 people from various parts of the country for inciting violence.

AMID ALLEGATIONS

Nepal's Chief Justice says will stop allocating cases to benches at his discretion

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE KATHMANDU, OCTOBER 24

CHIEF JUSTICE of Nepal's Supreme Court, Cholendra Shumsher Rana, announced on Sunday that he would give up the discretionary practice of allocating cases to benches "at will".

Rana is likely to face an impeachment motion in parliament amid controversy regarding his interactions with politicians and allegations that he pushed for a family member to be on Nepal's council of ministers.

He agreed to end the practice of allocating cases to the benches of his choice from Tuesday, and to instate a system to select benches at random, during a meeting with a delegation of the Nepal Bar Association. Rana also told the delegation that he had no role in having his brother-inlaw Gajendra Hamal inducted in the council of ministers on October 8, asserting it was just a coincidence that they were related. Hamal resigned less than 72 hours after taking office amid allegations about Rana's involvement in his induction into the

Meanwhile, an informal meeting of some Supreme Court judges that took place on Sunday is believed to have resulted in those judges deciding not to attend the "full court" meeting called by Rana on Monday, where he is expected to reiterate his rejection of the allegations.

A Supreme Court judge told The Indian Express that the Chief Justice had twice gone back on his word on the issue of ending the discretion-guided system of allocating cases to benches of his choice.

A high-level committee headed by Supreme Court judge Harikrishna Karki had recommended replacing the existing discretionary system with an automated mechanism

Rana has faced allegations of misusing his discretionary powers in allocation of cases, especially those of a political nature.

China passes new land border law amid military standoff with India **REUTERS&PTI** BEIJING, OCTOBER 24 CHINA PASSED a law on Saturday to strengthen border protection amid a protracted

standoff with India, worries

about spillover effects from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan

and the spread of Covid-19 from

not necessarily change how bor-

der security is handled when the

measure takes effect on January

1, but it reflects China's growing

confidence in its capability to

China has been closely

manage its frontiers.

Xinjiang region.

standoff with Indian troops.

outside of its borders, after ille-

gal crossings from Myanmar and

Vietnam contributed this year to

a surge in cases in its southern

provinces of Yunnan and

People's Republic of China,

founded 72 years ago, has a ded-

icated law specifying how it gov-

This is the first time that the

Guangxi respectively.

The Land Borders Law will

Southeast Asia.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress approved the law at the closing meeting of a legislative session

land border shared with 14 countries, including former superpower Russia and nuclear-capable North Korea

neighbouring Afghanistan, where the Taliban The country will "take effecreturned to power in August, to tive measures to resolutely protect territorial sovereignty and guard against a possible inflow of refugees or Islamic extremists land border security", the law crossing over to link up with the

Muslim Uyghurs in China's Chinese military and military police – the People's Liberation Army and the People's Armed At its Himalayan frontier, Chinese soldiers have been in a Police Force - are responsible for guarding the border against any China has also taken great "invasion, encroachment, infilpains to keep the Covid-19 virus tration, provocation"

The law stipulates that China can close its border if a war or other armed conflict nearby threatens border security.

According to a report in the state-run Xinhua news agency, the law also stipulates that the state shall take measures to support economic and social development as well as opening-up in erns and guards its 22,000-km

such areas, encourage and support people's life and work there, and promote coordination between border defence as well as social and economic development in border areas.

A significant aspect of the new law includes state support for the construction of border towns, improving their functioning and strengthening supporting capacity for the construction.

China in recent years has been strengthening the border infrastructure including the establishment of air, rail and road networks. It also launched a bullet train in Tibet which extends up to Nyingchi, the border town close to Arunachal Pradesh.

Besides that, China also began constructing a number of villages close to the border with proper infrastructure in Tibet which have become an essential and effective part of border defence, state-run Global Times reported on October 19.

India and Bhutan are the two countries with which China is yet to finalise border agreements, while Beijing resolved boundary disputes with 12 other neighbours.

Last week, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said the developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh have "seriously disturbed" the peace and tranquillity in border areas, and this has obviously had an impact on the

China says over 75% of its population is fully vaccinated

Beijing warns of further spread in latest coronavirus flare-up

REUTERS

BEIJING, OCTOBER 24

CHINA'S LATEST Covid-19 outbreak is increasingly likely to spread further, a health official said on Sunday, as authorities urged all regions to step up monitoring and called for a reduction in travel across provinces.

China has largely contained the virus but it is determined to stamp out any sporadic local outbreaks, particularly in the run-up to the 2022 Winter Olympics in February.

More than 100 locally transmitted cases have been confirmed over the last week across 11 provincial areas, with most linked to 13 different tour groups.

There is increasing risk that the outbreak might spread further, helped by "seasonal fac $tors", Mi\,Feng, spokes man\,at\,the$ National Health Commission, told reporters on Sunday.

Health authorities also said on Sunday that about 75.6% of China's population had received complete vaccine doses as of Oct. 23, or some 1.068 billion people.

China is giving booster shots to adults whose last dose was at least six months earlier, with priority groups including essential workers, older people and those with



Staff members wait outside booths at a vaccination centre in Beijing. Reuters

weaker immune systems. Data showed antibodies elicited by vaccines, including the most-used shots from Sinovac and Sinopharm, declined within months.

The Delta variant causing the latest outbreak is highly transmissible, said National Health Commission deputy director Wu Liangyou, adding that sequencing showed it to be different from the source of an earlier outbreak, and suggesting that the new cases came from a new source from abroad.

Authorities have banned travel agencies from arranging cross-provincial tours that involve regions deemed of higher virus risk, and has imposed nationwide suspension on some travel services linking multiple tourist attractions.

broader relationship too. TLP suspends march under agreement with

Pakistan govt

BABAR DOGAR LAHORE, OCTOBER 24

A RADICAL Islamist party agreed Sunday to suspend for three days its march of thousands toward the capital Islamabad after Pakistan agreed to drop pending charges against the party's leader.

Party supporters Saturday dearted the eastern city of Lahore, clashing for a second straight day with police who lobbed teargas into the crowd. The group began its journey a day earlier with the goal of reaching Islamabad to pressure the government to release Saad Rizvi, head of the Islamist Tehreek-e-Labiak Pakistan (TLP) party. Rizvi was arrested last year amid demonstrations against France over the publication of "blasphemous" caricatures.

Raia Basharat, provincial law minister, told The Associated Press that under the agreement, Pakistan's Punjab province will withdraw charges against Rizvi and release all those detained during the protest march by Tuesday.

Rizvi had been detained preemptively on a charge of inciting people to assemble unlawfully. It was unclear when he would be released.

Basharat also said the agreement stipulates that the federal government will honour a previous agreement with the TLP to address diplomatic ties with France over the publication of the caricatures.

CHINESE ASTRONAUT'S 6-MONTH STAY ABOARD THE COUNTRY'S SPACE STATION REVEALS CONFLICTED CULTURAL VALUES TOWARD GENDER

She is breaking glass ceilings in space, but facing sexism on Earth

STEVEN LEE MYERS OCTOBER 24

COLONEL WANG Yaping is a pilot in the People's Liberation Army's Air Force. She is a space veteran, now making her second trip into orbit. She is set in the coming weeks to be the first Chinese woman to walk in space as China's space station glides around Earth at 17,100 mph.

And yet, as she began a sixmonth mission last week at the core of China's ambitious space programme, official and news media attention fixated as much on the comparative physiology of men and women, menstruation

cycles, and the five-year-old daughter she has left behind, as they did on her accomplishments. No one asked about the children of her two male colleagues.)

Shortly before the launch, Pang Zhihao, an official with the National Space Administration, let it be known that a cargo capsule had supplied the orbiting space station with sanitary napkins and cosmetics.

"Female astronauts may be in better condition after putting on makeup," he said in remarks shown on state-run CCTV.

At 41, Wang is a model of gender equality in a country where Mao Zedong famously said that "women hold up half the sky,"

and the object of an undercurrent of sexism and condescension that courses through Chinese society, business and politics.

The 25-member Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party, the country's ruling political body, includes only one woman, Sun Chunlan, Discrimination remains rampant in the workplace, where women are recruited for their looks and dismissed or demoted when they become pregnant. A nascent #MeToo move-

ment in China has faced pushback in the courts and from state censors online. A Chinese gold medallist in the shot put at the Tokyo Olympics in August was harangued on air for her "mascu-



Astronauts Ye Guangfu, Wang Yaping and Zhai Zhigang ahead of their trip to the space station. Reuters

line" appearance, as well as her plans for marriage and family. "A major power like China gives women the chance to go to

space," said Lu Pin, an activist who founded an online forum in China, Feminist Voices, that has since been purged from the internet by

the authorities. "On the other hand, it still tells everyone that, even if you are a woman who has become an astronaut, you still have to play a traditional female role." In China today, it is rare for

women outside the entertainment industry to reach such public prominence as Wang. When they do manage to

break barriers, their accomplishments are often viewed through the prism of gender. Wang's mission has been

treated in official statements and state media as a novelty, even though China sent its first women into space nearly a decade ago. The Soviet Union sent the first woman into orbit in 1963:

New Delhi

Valentina Tereshkova, who spent three days in space and remains the only woman to fly solo. The first American woman, Sally Ride, went up in 1983. The reaction in China echoes

what those earlier trailblazers faced. Ride fielded condescending questions about menstruation, motherhood and whether she intended to wear a bra in orbit. "It's too bad our society isn't further along," she said then.

In a short television report showing her training for the upcoming spacewalk, Wang exuded similar confidence, saying she hoped the mission aboard the new space station, called Tiangong, would be "more brilliant because

"For me, being an astronaut is not a profession, but a career, and

dles she had to overcome.

it is such a career that I have an ardent love for," she said. "This love is enough for me to overcome all difficulties, to overcome all barriers and even to sacrifice my own life.' Wang was a backup on the

of me." She also hinted at the hur-

mission in 2012 that carried the first Chinese woman in space, Col. Liu Yang, another military pilot. Liu was part of a crew aboard the spacecraft Shenzhou 9, which spent 20 days in orbit, docking with a prototype of the current space station. A year later, Wang got her chance, riding aboard Shenzhou 10.

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of five of the top-10 most valued companies eroded by Rs 1,42,880.11 crore last week, with Hindustan Unilever, RIL and TCS emerging major laggards. Last week, the Sensex declined by 484.33 points or 0.79 per cent. PTI

NEW LIBERAL REGULATORY REGIME

GIFT City a reinsurance hub in the making: IFSCA allows more players

GEORGE MATHEW

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24

THE COUNTRY is set to become a reinsurance hub with the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA), India's first single regulator for the Gujarat-based international financial services centre (IFSC), announcing a new liberal regulatory regime for facilitating the formation of various international and Indian insurance businesses in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

The regulations for setting up IFSC Insurance Offices (IIOs) and IFSC Insurance Intermediaries Offices (IIIOs) were notified by the IFSCA on October 22. The new facilities will help India to develop a global reinsurance hub in the country, competing with offshore financial centres like Singapore.

Health cover premium income rises 29%

Mumbai: With people opting for health policy cover in large numbers in the wake of Covid pandemic, general insurers and standalone health insurance firms have reported a 29.22 per cent increase in health insurance premium to Rs 37,108 crore for the six months ended September 2021, as against Rs 28,716

Dubai and Hong Kong, which curance business as IIO," said an inrently dominate the insurance business in Asia.

"Even non-insurance entities can incorporate public companies in IFSC and undertake insurance or reinsurance business. Similarly, Indian insurance companies can set up subsidiaries to undertake insurance or reinsur-

Total non-life industry premium collection for the six months amounted to Rs 1,08,705 crore, up 12.78 per from Rs 96,390 crore last year. Motor premium rose by just 4.92 per cent to Rs 29,339 crore from Rs 27,964 crore in the six-month period of last vear. ENS

surance official. Foreign intermediaries will also be allowed to set up IIOs alongside Irdai registered intermediaries like insurance brokers and corporate agents.

Although IFSC offers zero tax provision for 10 years, no foreign reinsurer has set up operations in the centre till now. Global reinsurregion around India by setting up an operation in the GIFT City, said an insurance analyst.

Under the new regulations, foreign insurers and reinsurers can set up branch offices as IIOs to undertake insurance or reinsurance business from IFSC either by setting up branches or subsidiaries. Even Indian insurance and reinsurance companies including foreign reinsurance branches (FRBs) registered with Irdai can also set up branch offices to undertake insurance or reinsurance business

In the case of a branch, a player doesn't have to bring in any capital and with regard to subsidiaries. new insurance or reinsurance companies will require a paid-up capital (as per Insurance Act, 1938) of Rs 100 crore for insurance and Rs 200 crore for reinsurance

The new rules specify that no

required for foreign insurers or foreign reinsurers setting up IIOs as branches. The assigned capital of \$1.5 million can be maintained in home jurisdictions. Further, there's no onshore solvency requirement for IIO in the IFSC. Also, assigned capital solvency margin will have to be maintained in the home jurisdiction.

"The new regulations have the potential of unlocking opportunities for global insurers and reinsurers. The regulatory framework is very friendly and addresses the aspirations and expectations of the players," said Satyendra Shrivastava, senior partner, Consortia Legal. The new regulations also, for the first time, allow managing general agents under a binding agreement while a delegated authority from foreign insurers or foreign reinsurers will also be able to set up an IIO.

FPIs remain net sellers in Oct so far as crude, US yields rise; pull out ₹3,825 cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 24

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investors (FPIs) have turned net sellers in Indian market by pulling out Rs 3,825 crore in October so far.

In the past two months, huge buying was witnessed in the debt segment when FPIs had put Rs 13,363 crore in September and Rs 14,376.2 crore in August. However, so far in October,

FPIs have pulled out Rs 1,494 crore, depositories' data showed. From equities, FPIs took out Rs 2,331 crore.

The total net outflow stood at Rs 3,825 crore during October 1-22. V K Vijavakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "FPIs have sold software stocks worth Rs 5,406 cr in the first half of October even though the second quarter (Q2) results of software companies were good. So, this is



The BSE in Mumbai. File

a clear case of profit booking. FPIs have been buyers in financial services.

Himanshu Srivastava, associate director (manager research) of Morningstar India, said FPIs have preferred to stay on the sidelines, adopt a wait-andwatch approach and continue to book profits along the way.

He further added that there continues to be a concern among FPIs with respect to the tapering

Breaking record highs, petrol,

diesel prices hiked for 5th day

of easy liquidity after the US Federal Reserve hinted of a rate hike sooner than expected.

Also, concerns such as rising oil prices, US bond yields and challenges to the Chinese economy have been on their radar, thus keeping them on tenterhook and preventing them from substantially investing in domestic equities.

"FPI flows October till date was mixed," said Shrikant Chouhan, head (equity researchretail) at Kotak Securities.

Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand reported FPI inflows of \$617 million, \$38 million and \$679 million, respectively. On the other hand, Taiwan and South Korea reported FPI outflows of \$2,956 million and \$2,472 million, respectively, he added.

"Driven by sharp increase in energy prices globally, which can be a key headwinds for the developed and emerging markets." Chouhan said. WITH PTI

COVID WATCH TRAVEL

Singapore lifts curbs with a caveat: What are the latest rules?

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

THE CITY-STATE of Singapore has lifted its ban on travel of its citizens and permanent residents from India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka effective October 26, meaning that people who have been in these countries in the prior 14 days will be allowed to enter Singapore. However, the

Singapore government has

said the travellers from these

countries will be subject to its

Category IV border measures.

Category IV border measures and

Indian travellers?

Under this category, which is the strictest of the four restriction levels Singapore has for places without a complete ban, only Singapore citizens, permanent residents and travellers under the Death and Critical Illness Emergency Visits Lane are allowed entry. All other travellers are disallowed entry, including travellers who have received prior entry approvals. Further. eligible travellers will have to take a Covid PCR test 48 hours within departure, take another test upon arrival in Singapore and serve a 10-day quarantine at a dedicated facility.

Why has Singapore made these relaxations now?

The Singapore Ministry of Health said: "... We have reviewed the Covid situation in these countries, and all travellers with a 14-day travel history to Bangladesh, India. Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka prior to departure to Singapore will be allowed to enter and transit through

Singapore from 26 October 2021, 2359 hours. These travellers will be subject to Category IV border measures".

Does Singapore allow travellers from other countries?

Yes, the city-state had allowed people to come in from other countries where Covid was under control. To beat the ban on travellers from India, those wanting to return to Singapore from India were spending 14 days in a third country before flying. In August, Singapore introduced vaccinated travel lane (VTL)

with Germany and Brunei Darussalam. VTLs are basically extension of travel corridors albeit only for travellers who have been fully vacci-

nated. VTLs have now been extended to Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, Canada, the US, and South Korea.

Which other countries are allowing travel from India?

A number of other countries including the UAE. Germany, Spain, Maldives, Turkey, and Thailand are allowing Indian travellers to some extent. Last month, Turkish Embassy in New Delhi announced that travellers flying to Turkey from India will no longer have to undergo the mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival as long as they are fully vaccinated. In August, Germany reclassified India to "high(Covid)incidence areas", down from the higher travel restriction level of "virus variant areas". With this, it removed the entry ban for travellers from India. Spain is also allowing fully-vaccinated

'Rising auto fuel prices make households budget conscious'

A majority of households (around 60%) in top 10 cities are spending during the ongoing festive season, but the rising prices of petrol and diesel and increased prices of essentials have made them more budget conscious, as per a LocalCircles survey



Most households from these top 10 cities have been sharing in the past 30 days the concerns related to rising prices of fuel and essentials

and their focus on budget when shopping during this festive season in the various online communities on the LocalCircles platform

Methodology: LocalCircles' 'Mood of the Consumer' national survey covered over 61,000 households across top 10 cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune, Gurugram, and Noida

Percentage of households

planning to spend during festive season 2021 jumped from 30 % in May 2021 to 60 per cent in September 2021, as COVID-19 cases drastically reduced and economic certainty improved in these four months

Residents of seven of the top-10 cities rated budget as their top shopping criteria

Budget is the top criteria for households of Bengaluru, Chennai, Gurugram, Kolkata, Pune and Ahmedabad; while for households in Hyderabad. Delhi, Mumbai and Noida 'Safety' is more important

Convenience is also quite an important criterion for Noida. Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad households



ENSECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

PETROL AND diesel prices on Sunday were hiked for the fifth consecutive day by 35 paise per litre each, pushing pump rates to record highs across the country.

The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 107.59 a litre and Rs 113.46 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of stateowned fuel retailers. In Mumbai, diesel now comes for Rs 104.38 a litre, while in Delhi, it costs Rs 96.32 per litre. This is the fifth consecutive day

of the price hike. There was no change in rates on October 18 and 19, prior to which prices were hiked by 35 paise per litre each on four straight days.

While petrol has already hit the Rs 100-a-litre mark or more in

India Inc profit margins in Q2

Sales rise; input costs hurt

all major cities of the country, tricts of the state had diesel above diesel has touched that level in Rs 100-a-litre mark. over one-and-a-half dozen states and UTs from Jammu & Kashmir

A petrol pump in New Delhi. The price of petrol in the Capital

rose to its highest-ever level of Rs 107.59 a litre. File

have the nation's most used fuel above that level. Krishnanagar, Purulia,

to Tamil Nadu. West Bengal on

Sunday became the latest state to

depending on the incidence of lo-

Baharampur and Cooch Behardis-

Prices differ from state to state,

cal taxes. Petrol price has been hiked on 21 occasions since September 28, when a threeweek-long hiatus in rate revision ended. In all, prices have gone up by Rs 6.4 a litre. WITH PTI

Govt proposal at

WTO: Fishery

subsidies if

stocks kept at

sustainable level

New Delhi: A member country of

the World Trade Organization

(WTO) can provide subsidies to its

fishermen if it maintains stocks at

a biologically sustainable level, ac-

cording to a proposal submitted by

country engaged in distant water

fishing (fishing beyond 200 nauti-

India has also proposed that a

India last month.

16,570 new cos registered in Sept

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

AS MANY as 16,570 new companies were registered in the country in September, taking the total number of active companies to more than 14.14 lakh, according to official data.

Data from the corporate affairs ministry showed that a total of 22,32,699 companies were registered in the country as on September 30. Of them, 7,73,070 companies

were closed, 2,298 were assigned dormant status as per the Companies Act, 2013, 6,944 were under liquidation and 36.110 were in the process of being struck-off. As per the ministry's monthly

information bulletin for the corporate sector, there were 14,14,277 active companies as of September 30. Citing an analysis registration of new companies during

September 2019 to September

2021 period, the ministry said the

Total number of active companies at over 14.14 lakh, as per data from the Corporate **Affairs Ministry**

data indicates that monthly registration of companies has increased after hitting lowest of 3,209 in April

"A total of 16,570 companies were registered in September 2021 as compared to 16,641 in September 2020. An increase (24.68 per cent) in registration of companies has been witnessed in September 2021 over the previous month... A total of 4,535 LLPs were registered in September 2021 as compared to 4,016 LLPs in September 2020," the ministry said. Of 14.14.277 active companies, the ministry said 14,05,098 were limited by shares, 8,872 were limited by guarantee and 307 were unlimited companies. WITH PTI

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 24

WITH DEMAND coming back across markets, rural and urban, the September quarter saw corporate sales regain momentum. Larger players continued to take away market share from unorganised units. However, inflation in inputs weighed on profits keeping margins in check; some firms took price hikes and cut back on nonessential expenses to protect their margins. Management commentary is reassuring with most expecting demand to look up further in the months ahead. At Ultra Tech, for instance, the management is confident of strong demand recovery of about 6-8 per cent y-o-y in H2FY22, post the monsoons.

The quarter reflected a resurgence in demand across businesses, albeit on the subdued base of Q2FY21. Revenues at Jubilant Foodworks were up 39 per cent yo-y while at TVS Motor, they rose 22 per cent y-o-y, led by a 16 per cent increase in the average sales

Q2FY22 ■ %, y-o-y ■ %, q-o-q 437.8 (bps)

Sample of 202 companies (excluding banks & financials) Source: Capitaline

price. Asian Paints reported a stand-alone revenue growth in decoratives of a smart 36 per cent v-o-v, on the back of a 34 per cent jump in volumes while JSW Steel posted an increase in consolidated sales of 71 per cent y-o-y, as steel prices stayed elevated.

Sales, which were up 35 per cent y-o-y, for a sample of 202 companies (excluding banks and financials), were driven by good realisations and price increases. It must be mentioned, though, that the sample is skewed by Reliance Industries, whose sales were up 50

per cent y-o-y. Not all companies were able to pass on the rising input costs. At Havells, the price hikes did not match the sharp rise in prices of raw materials resulting in lower gross margins. At Hindustan Unilever, gross margins contracted 140 bps y-o-y while ebitda margins fell 45 bps y-o-y. The ratio of raw materials to sales was up 355 basis points, in the three months to September. **FE**

cal miles from its sea shores) cannot provide fishery subsidies for 25 years from the date of entry into force of the fisheries subsidies agreement, an official said. Fishing in distant waters or in some other country's territory is a major problem when it comes to maintaining fish stocks at sustainable levels. Such activities lead to depletion of fish stocks in the oceans and this happens because

This agreement is under discussion among the 164 WTO members in Geneva. The aim of these negotiations

of use of highly mechanised ves-

sels or boats for industrial fishing.

is to discipline subsidies with the overall objective to have sustainable fishing and to eliminate IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fishing subsidies and prohibit subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing. There are primarily three areas

of fishing — territorial waters (12 nautical miles from the sea shore), EEZ (exclusive economic zones -200 nautical miles), and high seas.

"The present text is unbalanced and only when Indian suggestions (from its proposal) are considered and incorporated suitably, then only it will be a balanced text for negotiations. The present text cannot form the basis of negotiations because it is not balanced. Only when these suggestions are discussed, deliberated and in some manner incorporated in the revised text, then India can start the text-based negotiations," the official said. PTI

BRIEFLY —

CSC, vehicles

New Delhi: CSC E-Governance India said it has been authorised to provide the noobjection certificate for sale of used vehicles. CSC has partnered with National Crime Records Bureau to make this service available.

ICAI-Hindi use

New Delhi: ICAI president Nihar N Jambusaria asked members to promote Hindi and adopt it in their interactions with stakeholders, eliciting criticism from some quarters where concerns were raised about overtones to impose the language. PTI

Evergrande resumes work on more than 10 projects

REUTERS

BEIJING, OCTOBER 24

CHINA EVERGRANDE Group said on Sunday it had resumed work on more than 10 projects in six cities including Shenzhen – a statement that comes after it appeared to avert default with a last-minute bond coupon payment last week.

Evergrande, deep in crisis with more than \$300 billion in liabilities, has not disclosed how many of its 1,300 real estate projects across China it has had to halt work on.

The company said on Aug. 31 that some projects were suspended because of delays in



Cultural Tourism City, in Jiangsu province, China. Reuters file

payment to suppliers and con- to resume building. tractors and it was negotiating

On Sunday, it said in a post

on its Wechat account that some of the projects it had resumed work on had entered the interior decoration stage while other buildings had recently finished construction.

Evergrande added that its efforts to guarantee construction would shore up market confidence and included several photos of construction workers on different projects, stamped with the time and date.

China's second-largest property developer last month also promised potential buyers it will complete building of their homes and said that work on one of the world's biggest soccer stadiums in the south-

ern city of Guangzhou was proceeding as planned. Last week's move to pay

\$83.5 million in interest on a US dollar bond has bought Evergrande another week to wrestle with a debt crisis looming over the world's secondbiggest economy.

Highlighting the stresses on its core business, Evergrande also announced on Friday plans to give future priority to its electric vehicles business over

Evergrande's woes have reverberated across the \$5 trillion Chinese property sector, which accounts for a quarter of the economy by some metrics, with a string of default an-

New Delhi

grades and slumping corporate Its debt crisis is also being

nouncements, rating down-

widely watched by global financial markets concerned about broader contagion. Facing a deadline on Saturday to pay interest on a US

dollar bond, Evergande sent \$83.5 million to a Citibank trustee account on Thursday, the person with knowledge of the matter told Reuters. That brought relief for

investors and regulators worried about fallout for global markets and added to reassurances from Chinese officials that creditors would be protected.

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game



First charged the batsman; then charged the bowler. Liton Das sashayed down the track and lofted-drove Lahiru Kumara into the hands of Dasun Shanaka at mid-off. Kumara took off towards the direction of Shanaka, then stopped and charged back towards Das, as though he remembered something he had forgotten to tell the batsman. There were no clear triggers. Fast bowlers hate batsmen charging, maybe it provoked Kumara, who whispered something into Das's ears. Whatever he told him angered Das, who shoulderbarged Kumara. He was no physical match, though. Das, short and lithe, Kumara barrel-chested and bouncerlike in his luxuriant beard. Kumara pushed him back, and charged forth with bloodshot eyes, as if he was going to KO him, before being dragged back. Das, though, was not in a mood to leave the ground, before some of his teammates came sprinting to take him away to prevent a full-scale fracas. The umpires nearly officiated a wrestling match.

Shrillmaster Rizwan



Pakistan wicket keepers have been a thorn in the flesh of the opposition over the years... think Rasheed Latif, Moin Khan. Sarfaraz Ahmed. Not the most classy, but clever batsmen who possessed a get

out of jail shot to complement their pushes, nudges and sweeps. And they come as ready-made busy bodies. The latest avatar being Mohammad Rizwan, unorthodox with the bat. Rizwan was in the thick of things, taking two sharp diving catches and milking the leg-side as an opener in the chase and running like a hare when he chose to. When he didn't want to run, he was like a drill-master. His shrill 'no' is one of the loudest in the game. It was like he was admonishing his captain and opening partner Babar Azam. Pakistan's best batsman trusted his 'keeper's judgement just like he placed faith in him during a productive opening partnership.



Virat's throwback

However hard this slam bang format tries to keep conventional strokes out of the game, Virat Kohli keeps them relevant. Playing text book cricket deep in the T20 innings as Indian fans wanted him to smash the ball out of the ground. In the 16th over Hassan Ali kept him in the crease by bowling short. Kohli's run flow wasn't curtailed. Of his two boundaries, the second had Test cricket followers drooling. Kohli leaned into the ball and placed it between extra cover and mid off. Both were fooled in thinking they had a chance to stop the ball, such was the perfect placement. The bat didn't flow down with force but was just placed with such precision that the ball hit it in the middle as it was coming down. Kohli showed you didn't need to be a slogger to be relevant in T20 cricket.

T20 WORLD CUP

ICC

Babar, Captain Cool

How do you celebrate your game-changing 50 in an India-Pakistan game? If you are Babar Azam you barely lift your bat and try to hide behind your batting partner. Unlike any of Pakistan's captains, Babar has a subtle and nuanced approach to his batting and also his captaincy. He is measured in his batting and also in his communication with the players. When Shaheen Shah Afridi was having a horror of a last over, he didn't throw up his arms or shout at him for the totally uncalled-for overthrow. Babar is from the Kane Williamson and Eoin Morgan school of leadership, he has a restrained aggression, such a rare gift. While his opening partner Rizwan would get frustrated on missing out the countless short balls that the Indian bowlers bowled, Babar would walk down and talk to his junior. On one occasion, he actually hit a ball over the fence as if to show Rizwan, how it was done. Considering how important the game has been for Pakistan, Babar gave a template to his team how they should approach these pressure situations.

Learnt, forgotten

Virat Kohli and Hasan Ali were locked in a duel for the majority of the Pakistani pacer's spell, with the Indian captain taking the bragging rights. Kohli, who scored four of his five boundaries off Ali, was reading the bowler like a book. Understandably then, he chose to share some of the knowledge with partner Ravindra Jadeja. After crossing over for a single, Kohli turned towards Jadeja and rolled his fingers across an imaginary ball, gesturing for an incoming slower ball. The next delivery was perhaps a blip. Ali fired it in short and down the leg side, and Jadeja gleefully helped it over the short fine leg. Buoyed by the boundary, Jadeja forgot Kohli's lesson. Ali then bowled it full and slow, fooling Jadeja with the change of pace, who was early on the shot and holed out to deep midwicket.

Salah leads Liverpool's rout at Old Trafford; Real win Clasico 2-1

AFP/REUTERS MANCHESTER, OCTOBER 24

FOR THE first time in Premier League history, United trailed 4-0 at half-time and failed to score in a hopelessly one-sided contest. The

Red Devils have now taken a run of one point

from a possible 12 in the league. Naby Keita started the rout before Diogo Jota doubled Liverpool's lead inside 15 minutes. Mohamed Salah then took centre stage to take his tally for the season to 15 goals in 12 appearances and become the top-scoring African player in Premier League history in the process. To round off a miserable day for United, Paul Pogba lasted less than 15 minutes as a second-half substitute as he was shown a

Keita to leave the pitch on a stretcher. Liverpool's first victory in front of a crowd at Old Trafford under Jurgen Klopp moves them back above Manchester City into second, just a point behind leaders Chelsea

straight red card for a reckless lunge that forced

By contrast, United's hopes of a first league title since 2013 already look over as they remain eight points off the leaders.

That gap is likely to grow in the coming weeks with Tottenham and City to come in the

next fortnight before an international break. Whether Solskjaer will still be in charge come November is now in serious doubt as he has completely failed to form a balanced team from a talented collection of star players.

Salah teed up Keita to open the floodgates after just five minutes with a composed low finish past David de Gea. United came from 2-0 down at the break to beat Atalanta 3-2 in the Champions League on Wednesday.

But former midfielder Paul Scholes' warning after that match that Liverpool would be 4-0 up in 45 minutes if handed the same space to attack into came to fruition. Jota justified his selection ahead of Sadio Mane as he stretched to turn in Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross to double Liverpool's advantage. Salah has now scored in 10 consecutive games and overtook Didier Drogba with his 105th Premier League goal when the Egyptian turned home Keita's cut-back with the United defence all at sea.

Cristiano Ronaldo was lucky to avoid a red card as United's frustrations bubbled over in first-half stoppage time when he was booked for lashing out at Curtis Jones in a sign of what was to come as the home side lost their discipline. Liverpool inflicted further punishment before the break when Salah smashed home his 14th goal in 12 games this season at De Gea's near post. Salah then completed his hat-trick five minutes into the second-half.

Ronaldo thought he had pulled a goal back only for a VAR review to catch him in an offside position. Another VAR check saw the end of



Mohamed Salah has now scored in 10 consecutive games. Reuters

SCORELINE

Man United 0 | Liverpool N Keita 5'

D Jota 13' M Salah 38', 45+5', 50'

Pogba's brief cameo for a studs-up challenge on Keita that forced the Guinean off.

Alaba strike on Clasico debut

Barcelona: Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 in the first Clasico of the season in front of 86,422 fans at the Camp Nou on Sunday after a sensational strike from defender David Alaba and a late goal from Lucas Vazquez gave Carlo Ancelotti's side three points.

 $Barcelona\,controlled\,possession\,in\,the\,first$ half but Real was lethal on the counter-attack, taking the lead when Alaba started a flowing move with a tackle and finished it at the other end with a left-footed drive from the edge of the box. Barcelona manager Ronald Koeman brought on Philippe Coutinho at halftime while strikers Sergio Aguero and Luuk de Jong were also thrown on in the second half as they searched for an equaliser. With seven minutes of injury time added

on, Real doubled its lead when Marc-Andre ter Stegen saved a shot from Marco Asensio from another counter-attack but Vazquez was quicker than Gerard Pique to pounce on the rebound to score. The home side got a goal back in the 97th

minute when Sergino Dest crossed to the Aguero in the six-yard box and the Argentine tapped in for his first goal in a Barcelona shirt.

BRIEFLY -

Boxing: New-look India eye strong show

Belgrade: With a largely fresh-faced squad, the Indian men's boxing team would be in for a challenging time at the AIBA world championships starting here on Monday, up against a topnotch field but nonetheless hopeful of equalling or bettering the two medals secured in the previous edition. World no.1 Amit Panghal, who claimed the country's maiden silver at the event's 2019 edition, and Manish Kaushik, a bronze-winner from the same year, are absent from the squad as they recover from an underwhelming Olympic campaign. Asian medal-winners Deepak Kumar (51kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), and Sanjeet (92kg) form the experienced core of the new-look that flew off to the Serbian capital on October 20.

Jamil to be first Indian head coach of ISL club

Guwahati: Khalid Jamil has become the first full-time Indian head coach in the history of the Indian Super League with NorthEast United FC offering him the top job ahead of the upcoming season. Jamil, 44, guided the Highlanders to the semi-finals after taking over in an interim capacity from Gerard Nus last season. Jamil oversaw a remarkable reversal of fortunes last season as the team, after a spate of defeats, made the last four following an unbeaten ninematch run. A former midfielder, Jamil is an experienced campaigner in Indian football having coached the likes of Mohun Bagan and East Bengal. His biggest success story though came at Aizawl FC, guiding the Mizoram club to a stunning I-League triumph in 2017.

Hockey: Roundglass Punjab defeat SAI-Academy Kolkata

Bhopal: Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy, Raja Karan Hockey Academy, Namdhari XI and Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy stormed into the semi-finals of the 1st Hockey India junior men academy national championship on Sunday. In the first quarterfinal, Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy completed a 4-3 win in the shootout against SAI-Academy (Kolkata), following a 2-2 draw in the regulation time. Despite taking the lead with goals from Gursharanpreet Singh (29') and Savraj Singh (30'), Roundglass $Punjab\,were\,pegged\,back\,through\,goals$ from Manish Yadav (33') and Suresh Mahto (41').

BY PETER VIDAL

Something secret

this could be is far

could be bothering you today. Just what

Social influences are

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

from clear, but it could be connected with regret for

relive the past, at least,

What you need from

this may be asking too

much, but I'm sure you

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Career and

fair share of

attention, all the more so if

own ideas on the line. With

just a little shove in the right

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

may therefore feel that you

have a right to sit down and

put your feet up, but any spare

time is likely to be disrupted

by the need to swing straight

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

listen very carefully to

trying to tell you rather

than always trying to

ignore it. There's just

no time to stick your

head in the sand,

what your imagination is

back into action.

After last week's

week's point to a

shift of gear. You

You still seem to

imagine nobody

else understands

vou. The key is to

energetic stars, this

direction it looks as if your

you are laying your

past efforts could be

about to bring the

professional affairs

now require their

can cope.

friends now seems to be a

sense that they're going to look after you, or provide emotional security. I know

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

looking very pronounced today,

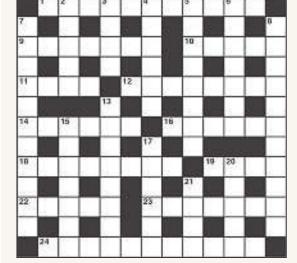
if a little serious.

not now.

affairs which didn't work out.

Stop being such a perfectionist and realise that you can't

CROSSWORD 4569



ACROSS

- 1 Band leader waves at
- customers (11)
 9 Screen has red centre and $unusual\,rose\,edging\,(7)$ 10 Stray around in the woods
- 11 A unit in the Salvation Army East of Suez (4) 12 Makes a shambles of a

perhaps (5)

- Schubert variation 14 Points to one of several
- contemporary children as being bright (6) 16 Squirm and turn whiter
- 18 Things one eats or wastes
- 19 Tail cut to a point (4)
- 23 I adopt a Latin form of language
- 22 Alert for a change in the future
- (7) 24 A direct route provided immediately (11)

DOWN

- 2 Choice of two keys I found in the kennel (5)
- 3 Prepare for take-off?
- 4 Sound cover for some old entertainment (6)
- 5 It helps if you require a frame up(4,4)
- 6 Beg for an adjustment in net 7 Lets one down lightly
- (6,1,4)8 Looking for golden opportunities?(11)
- 13 I go after the winner with a very long ruler
- 15 Five players still not inwardly disheartened(7)
- 17 Intentionally exasperating? 20 Feature on a foreign land
- 21 The ultimate in salt shakers

Solutions Crossword 4568: Across: 1 Friend, 4 Sporadic, 9 Rating, 10 Profound, 12 Eyed, 13 Stick, 14 Plot, 17 Trade returns, 20 Brilliantine, 23 Oath, 24 Acute, 25 Lava, 28 Stay away, 29 Spoils, 30 Leavened, 31 Pranks. **Down:** 1 Forfeits, 2 In the bag, 3 Nuns, 5 Parachutists, 6 Rife, 7 Double, 8 Cadets, 11 Steeplechase, 15 Yearn, 16 Inane, 18 Citation, 19 Relapses, 21 Tonsil, 22 Strata, 26 Game, 27 Spar

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis





CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson









MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

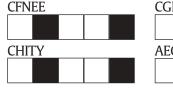






JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the answer for the given quip. All the people like us are __, and everyone else is ___, - Rudyard Kipling (2,,,4)



CGILTH **AEGHIW**

Answer: All the people like us are we, and everyone else is they. - Rudyard Kipling SOLUTION: FENCE, ITCHY, CLITCH, AWEIGH

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 =

DOKU

SU

3 5 6 9 8 4 3 4 6 6 8

9

3

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4634 8 1 6 4 3 5 9 7 2 2 4 5

6 7 9 183 3 7 9 2 1 8 6 5 4 1 9 4 8 2 6 9 2 4 8 5 6 6 8 1 7 2 3 4 9 3 5 6 7 2 1 8 1 5 8 9 4 2 3 6 7 7 6 2 3 8 1 4 9 5

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Another week another Monday and what this sensible, efficient and organised beginning. Underneath it all, the Moon is in a supportive mood, so everything needs to be taken

one step at a time. Yet you can count on getting your own way at home. TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Six out of a possible ten planets are in directly supportive positions, backing your interests. That's not a bad tally! You should be able to take life at your own pace today, so anyone who tries to

pressurise you could be out of

luck. Make the most of any

passing good fortune. GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Home and domestic matters are bound to take up a fair bit of your time and.

even if you're at work, the best way to get on with colleagues will be to imagine you're all part of one big family. Not a perfectly happy one necessarily, but a family nonetheless.

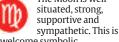
CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Make serious plans and take practical decisions. It has never been more

important to look only at the significant details and put all your hopes, wishes and fantasies to one side. Don't be perturbed by delays. But do keep a very close watch on every detail concerning cash.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) Although you may be preoccupied

with the trivia of material survival. dwelling over questions such as how to save the odd bit of cash here and there, this is in fact a somewhat optimistic and adventurous time. All that is asked of you is that you take the right decisions.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23) The Moon is well situated, strong, supportive and



a welcome symbolic indication that you can have it all your own way at home, but only if you face up to hidden problems and deep undercurrents. People who think differently should soon

be made to apologise for

their errors.

New Delhi

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) You always find criticism difficult. for you allow it to undermine



present time than a little friendly advice. Romantically, by the way, you could soon be on to a total winner.

India take the knee, Pak have hands on heart before showdown

Bolt for the Blue

Upsetting form book, Pakistan thrash India by 10 wickets to register their first-ever win in World Cups over arch-rivals



India took the knee in support of the BLM movement for the first time. Reuters

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY DUBAI, OCTOBER 24

 $ON THE world\, stage, India\, took\, the\, knee.\, After$ they were asked to bat after Pakistan won the toss, the Indian players did it to lend support to the Black Lives Matter movement. Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul took the knee inside the playing area, while the other players did it outside the boundary rope, near the dug-out.

Before the first ball was bowled, Rohit had a chat with Pakistan captain Babar Azam followed by the gesture to support the movement against racism and any sort of discrimination. Pakistan players had hands on heart, as the two Asian giants ensured that on a grand stage, their voices were heard.

Captain Virat Kohli said the decision was communicated to them by the team management. "That was communicated to us by the management. The Pakistan team agreed to pay their tribute to the same cause. We accepted our side of things and that was how it was decided," Kohli said after the match.

Was this a one-off gesture or will India continue to take the knee going ahead? "We have done it for now. Will see in the future," a team source told The Indian Express. The idea was to send out India's anti-racism stance. England and West Indies also took the knee on Saturday, before their Super 12 opener.

The practice of taking the knee has become widespread in sport, mostly football, since 2020 after the death of George Floyd in the United States. The English Premier League led the way and also the England football team. The gesture, though, originally came from American footballer Colin Kaepernick taking the knee during the US national an-

them ahead of an NFL game in 2016. Before the Euros this year, England manager Gareth Southgate had confirmed that his players would take the knee in every $game.\,Harry\,Kane\,and\,company\,walked\,the$ talk, in some cases, ignoring boos from a sec-

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), however, had initially banned the participants at this year's Olympics from taking Charter that prohibits any kind of 'demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda'. Later, the ban was lifted and the Great Britain women's football team took the knee before every game.

The England men's football team performing the gesture during the Euros had invited criticism from certain politicians. UK Home Secretary Priti Patel called it "gesture politics" but was called out by England centre-half Tyrone Mings, while Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho suffered racist abuse following England's defeat

"You don't get to stoke the fire at the beginning of the tournament by labelling our antiracism message as 'Gesture Politics' & then pretend to be disgusted when the very thing we're campaigning against, happens," Mings had tweeted, replying to a post from Patel.



SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

DUBAI, OCTOBER 24

PAKISTAN'S WIN was so convincing that even their die-hard fans went momentarily speechless before going full throttle in their celebration. By then, as Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan made a mockery of Indian bowling, Indian fans had already started to leave the stadium. Before this game, Pakistan had never beaten India in a World Cup. When eventually they turned the tables, they won by 10 wickets, with 13 balls to spare.

The evening dew in Dubai made the job difficult for the Indian bowlers. Also, they were defending a pretty modest 151/7. And yet, India were completely outplayed on the night. The reaction from the Pakistan openers after the victory suggested that they meant business. Rizwan restricted his celebration to a fist pump. Azam offered a silent prayer before the whole squad joined for a team huddle. Early days in the T20 World Cup, but it looked like Pakistan have come here to make a statement.

On Sunday, Shaheen Shah Afridi's bowling would have made even Wasim Akram proud. The arrogance that Azam and Rizwan oozed in chasing down the target offered a throwback to Javed Miandad's dominance over India in the 1980s. But even in their halcyon days, Pakistan never beat India by 10 wickets. This was their crowning glory and India's lowest point in

On match eve, Azam had spoken about how records were meant to be broken. Pakistan's intensity in their pre-match warm-up served as an indication about their resolve. Then, Afridi arrived, firing on all

Fast and straight, and some late movement into the right-handers. This has been Afridi's template with the new ball in limited-overs cricket. An ESPNCricinfo stat says that since making his T20I debut in 2018, the left-arm quick took a wicket in the first over 20 times in 61 innings before this game. On Sunday, he got his 21st, removing Rohit Sharma for a golden duck. It was almost an unplayable delivery for an opener, facing his first ball.

KL Rahul was done in by another inducker, once again the ball shaping in and going through the gate. Such a frontal assault was always going to force India on the back foot. Virat Kohli's fine half-century and Rishabh Pant's 39 off 30 balls saved India from more humiliation.

This was a game for Afridi to treasure, re-Kohli. He was the showstopper, aided by a collective bowling performance; from Haris Rauf to Shadab Khan in the middle overs.

The only solace for the Indian fans here would be Kohli's innings, how he weathered the storm and gradually returned to form, staying true to his conventional stroke-play. But early wickets restricted him in terms of upping the ante. A Kohli half-century with a strike rate of 116 is uncommon. But the India captain had to take the game deep.

Also, not often does Kohli get overshadowed by opposition batsmen in limitedovers cricket after scoring a half-century. Once again, this game was different.

Pakistan's innings was a heady mixture of Azam's class and Rizwan's smash. In stark contrast to Afridi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar's first over was pedestrian. Rizwan took a four and a six off the medium pacer to get going.



Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi clean bowled India opener KL Rahul in the third over of the match. Reuters

SCORECARD

INDIA vs PAKISTAN

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL STADIUM

Toss: Pakistan, chose to field **INDIA** 151/7 IN 20 OVERS KL Rahul h Afridi 3(8b) R Sharma Ibw b Afridi O(1b) 57 (49b, 5x4, 1x6) 11 (8b, 1x4, 1x4) S Yadav c Rizwan b Ali

H Pandya c Azam b Rauf 11 (8b, 2x4) M Shami not out **■ Extras** (b 6, lb 1, w 4, nb 1)

39 (30b, 2x4, 2x6)

79 (55b, 6x4, 3x6)

68 (52b, 6x4, 2x6)

13 (13b, 1x4)

■ FoW: 1-1 (Sharma, 0.4 ov), 2-6 (Rahul, 2.1 ov), 3-31 (Yadav, 5.4 ov), 4-84 (Pant, 12.2 ov), 5-125 (Jadeja, 17.5 ov), 6-133 (Kohli, 18.4 ov), 7-146 (Pandya, 19.3 ov)

■ Bowling: S Afridi 4-0-31-3, I Wasim 2-0-10-0, H Ali 4-0-44-2, S Khan 4-0-22-1, M Hafeez 2-0-12-0. H Rauf 4-0-25-1

152/0 IN 17.5 OVERS **PAKISTAN**

RPantc&bShadab

R Jadeja c sub (Nawaz) b Ali

M Rizwan not out **B Azam** not out

■ Extras (lb 1, w 4) ■ Bowling: B Kumar 3-0-25-0, M Shami 3.5-0-43-0. J Bumrah 3-0-22-0. V

Chakravarthy 4-0-33-0, R Jadeja 4-0-28-0

SRI LANKA WIN BY 5 WKTS

PTI: Sri Lanka defeated Bangladesh by five wickets, chasing down the target of 172 with five wickets and seven balls to spare.

Mohammed Shami bowled the next over, Flexible wrists, supple shoulder and landed one on good length, but Azam stood Kohli was quick to bring Jasprit Bumrah stout heart, Afridi's body of work into the attack. Varun Chakravarthy, too, came with his mystery. They stemmed the run-flow to start with, but Shami had a bad

SRIRAM VEERA

OCTOBER 24

"SHAHEEN, KABHI toh has ley tu!" (Laugh sometimes!)" Shaheeen Afridi's coach Ayaz Akbar Yousafzai would often tell the pacer when he was about 14-15. On Sunday, Shaheen would almost let out a smile, as he stood feet wide apart and air kissed in his signature style after knocking out Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul in the space of 10 balls. If not for Virat Kohli, it might well have been the end of India as that was a Thank you, come again, kind of special spell.

The big jaw, the big forehead, and that centre-parting hair buffed up on top make for easy gifs and jokes but Yousafzai has always focussed on Afridi's limbs. "The shoulhands and the wrist "Yousafzai had told The Indian Express. "It's that flexibility I am talking about." It's quite something to watch. The wrist flexes at the last instant, as if he is doing it in a slow motion demonstration, as if it's a separate piece of arm, attached as an add-on feature in a toy. The wrists take over in the final moment and give it a quite fierce whip. The wrist snaps and the ball swings.

Rohit Sharma would know now. There was no surprise that the first ball was the full in-swinger, almost on a yorker length Anyone who has followed even the highlights of his wickets package in the recent Pakistan T20 domestic would know that's what he does. Knowing is one thing and tackling another altogether. The wrist snap seems to have the batsmen confused about the length, if not the direction itself. And Sharma stumbled to his exit, just about taking the

UNPLAYABLE

Number of wickets Shaheen Shah Afridi has taken in Powerplays in the last three years, more than any other player during this period.

This is the first time we've beaten India and I feel very proud. I knew it would be good for us if I got early wickets and that worked out. My plan was to get as much swing as possible. Generally, it doesn't swing a lot here (in Dubai) so, I had tried it during nets yesterday (Saturday).

SHAHEEN SHAH AFRIDI

front leg out of the way but unable to put any wood in the path of the leather. In the last couple or so years. Sharma has overhauled his batting to ensure that he doesn't lose balance by pressing that front foot too far across as he used to do earlier. And to get this Sharma 2.0 with that nipbacker is quite an achievement.

"He was a natural like that. He had almost everything else apart from a smooth run up. Inswing, outswing, hitting the deck ... he had it all.'

Then that ball to Rahul. More than the in-

swing, it was the seam movement that did in Rahul. "His wrist-snap can allow the ball to swing and seam off the surface," Yousafazai would say. Rahul also must have known by then what Afridi can do. Yet, he couldn't do much after thrusting his foot too far across. From there he contorted his body and wrists to try to get the bat in the way but the ball too contorted and squeezed in to hit the bails.

"Watch out for the flexible shoulder, also," Yousafzai would say. "He can use it a lot more when he wants to hit the deck." We saw that with the wicket of Kohli in the 19th over. The ball leaped off the back of length and Kohli couldn't get on top of the bounce with his pull. Rarely do left-arm fast bowlers are effective hit-the-deckers. South Africa's Brett Shultz was one but he didn't last long. Usually, the lefties are more slingy, swingy, curlers Afridican if he desires effective hit-the-deck er.

Young Afridi had just one problem. With his run-up. "Thak jaata that (get tired) with his run-up. For a tall boy, the strides were important. For any bowler, but for someone tall. it becomes that more crucial – and can upset rhythm if it's too long or too short a stride. We worked a lot on it," the coach says.

"Ayaz bhai, I will play for Pakistan" Afridi had stunned the coach as a 15-year old. As the then head coach at Pakistan's age-group camps held for teenagers, Yousafzai remembers the confidence. ""He said it matter-offactly. Sometimes, kids say na, I want to play for Pakistan - this wasn't like that. He wasn't telling me his wish. He was confident." He is not only playing for Pakistan but threatening to win games for them on his own and carrying the great romantic tradition of Pakistan's left-arm swingers.

Lone ranger Kohli helps India avoid total capitulation after early wickets

SANDIPG OCTOBER 24

IT WAS as if a switch had been flicked. Virat Kohli jaunted down the pitch and blasted Shaheen Shah Afridi over long-on in the fifth over.

The shot was not unusual, but the situation was. India had lost both their openers in the most high-pressure game of the tournament, and one wouldn't expect the captain to unfurl a stroke so fraught with risk. But the shot stoked imagination and possibilities, and as always when Kohli bats, a rush of spontaneous hope. Was it a counterpunch? Or was it his new batting template? A bristling new avatar in his T20 captaincy farewell.

The thrill the stroke instigated was spontaneous – the crowd went rapturous, it surged, the energy crackled; Afridi suddenly looked bedevilled; Pakistan captain Babar Azam looked ponderous, even as the broadcasters began replaying the shot on a loop. Anticipation and excitement brimmed and the audience could sniff something special set to unfold. A sequel to the only Desert Storm in the history of the game? Or maybe, even better? Or maybe, an end to Kohli's

century drought? Or the greatest T20 knock of all time?

Alas, it was not to be. Alas, it was never meant to be. Kohli reverted to characteristic Kohli mode, the swift-running, the fieldmanipulating, the gap-piercing, classical genius. It could have been easy to get carried away and let the rushing adrenaline dictate him and attempt more macho strokes. But Kohli never makes an attempt at pretence.

He cannot morph into an eye-blinking hitter like Kieron Pollard or a head-turning six-hitter like Rohit Sharma. Just as he cannot stonewall like Cheteshwar Pujara or Rahul Dravid. Certainly, in the course of a career, great batsmen end up fiddling with different roles. But the primary nature, the instinct remains the same, which for Kohli is batting sensibly, finding solutions and answers.

The cure to India's feverish start was some stability, more so after they lost Suryakumar Yadav to a rather loose stroke. The next three batsmen are more powerhitters than stabilisers. But before they could take off, if at all the circumstances afforded them that freedom, they required a platform, an axis on which they could revolve. Kohli was that axis. Without that un-



tall and unleashed a gorgeous cover drive.

day at the office. Pakistan's Powerplay

score was 43 for no loss vis-a-vis India's

36/3. That's where basically the game was

Rizwan strong-armed to an unbeaten

79 off 55 balls. Azam was class personified

in his 68 not out off 52 balls. And yet again,

India missed a sixth bowler. Hardik Pandya

was never going to bowl, and now there's a

question mark over his further participa-

tion in the tournament after being hit on

the right shoulder while batting. Ishan

Kishan fielded for him and in hindsight, the

Indian team management might have

missed a trick by not including him in the

playing eleven at the expense of

Suryakumar Yadav. On the heels of three

probably well placed to make his good

ally figured out Varun, and Ravindra Jadeja

didn't look potent in this game, Yuzvendra

Chahal's leg-spin was missed. India made a

U-turn by completely ditching wrist spin

Abbas preferred to keep emotions at arm's

length, "This is cricket and today was

Pakistan's day. They put India under pres-

sure from the outset and never released

it," the former Pakistan captain told The

(read, the tournament) is still to be won. At

the post-match presentation, Kohli admit-

ted that they were outplayed by Pakistan. But

his team is good at making comebacks.

India lost the battle all right, but the war

As he was leaving the stadium, Zaheer

against Pakistan.

Indian Express.

Also, as the two Pakistan openers gradu-

itive T20 half-centuries k

won and lost.

Class personified

Virat Kohli's gritty 57 helped India put up a respectable total. AF

flinching axis of assurance, India could have crumbled embarrassingly like the West Indies the other night. The night ended in blushes, but without Kohli it could have been catastrophic.

Playing the situation

The pitch was slumberous, though not depressingly slow. The Pakistani spinners bowled as adeptly as it were their backyard. It indeed was the backyard for some of them, having played most of their international and Pakistan Super League games in Dubai. Shadab Khan, especially, was un-hittable, his assortment of brisk wrong 'uns, sliders and leg-breaks not easy to break down. He would, intermittently, toss a few balls at Kohli, tempting him for a rush of indiscretion. But Kohli resisted, as he always does, in the circumstances he found himself in. One misjudgment was all that was needed for India's innings to go akimbo.

In isolation, it was more akin to batting in the middle overs of an ODI, like tapping the ball into a minute gap for a jet-heeled single, converting singles into twos, and not letting dot balls pile up. Only the loosest of loose balls were brushed to the rope. Like when Harris Rauf missed a yorker and strayed onto the pads. Kohli just glanced it between the 'keeper and fine-leg.

There were other duels that should be watched in isolation. Like how comfortably he dealt with Afridi, how authoritative the movement of his feet was, how those soft

hands defanged the detonating handgrenades. There seemed to be a Test match within a T20 game

It was only after Rishabh Pant's exit that Kohli changed gears. He picked the perfect bowler too — Hasan Ali with his medium pace all-sorts. Change of pace and scrambled seam cutters are never going to torment Kohli. Even here, his aggression was re-

strained. He waited for semi-ordinary balls. Like a legsidish ball that he whipped through fine-leg; or a ball later, a classical cover drive off a fuller ball. In his next over, he pillaged Ali through extra cover, his last four before his departure.

Nit-pickers and fair-weather fans would quip at his strike rate (116), an invariable outcome of a prolonged

New Delhi

quiet period in the middle overs. The dearth of boundaries, the seeming lack of 'intent' and calculated risk-taking. But Kohli was just being Kohli, figuring out a solution to the problem that had unfolded in front of him. The problems his teammates failed to solve, though his best efforts turned out to be inadequate, an act of defiance gone waste. The six turned out to be all but an anti-climax.



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