



India reaches out, leaders of Bimstec could attend R-Day 2022

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

EFFORTS ARE on to have leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) countries in New Delhi for the Republic Day celebrations next year, it is learnt.

Besides India, the seven-nation subregional grouping includes Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan. Leaders of Bimstec attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in at the beginning of his second term in May 2019, but there have been changes of leadership in some of these countries since then.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that South Block is in close touch with the leaders of these countries and their offices for confirmation of their availability. Feelers have been sent through the "appropriate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Irresponsible nations tweaking sea rules for own benefit, says Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 21

IN AN apparent reference to China, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Sunday said that "some irresponsible nations" are coming up with "new and inappropriate interpretations" of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) due to "hegemonic tendencies", and that this was creating obstacles to a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The Defence Minister spoke at commissioning of indigenous destroyer *INS Visakhapatnam* in Mumbai Sunday. Pradip Das

Centre, states work to link migrant worker database to job-match portal

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

WITH OVER 8.43 crore informal sector workers having registered with their Aadhaar numbers on the e-Shram portal, the Centre is in touch with states to ensure convergence of social security schemes for them and help match them with employment opportunities.

EXPLAINED
E Lessons from the pandemic

The distress of the Covid-19 pandemic brought home the need to have a database of migrant workers and others in the unorganised sector.

To this effect, the worker database will be linked with Unnati, the proposed labour-matching platform. Also, when the 38-crore registration target is achieved, officials said, it will provide an insight into the number of migrant workers and even those who were earlier registered with the organised sector.

"Initially, the registration process on the e-Shram portal

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SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Sunday. Modi addressed the DGPs and IGPs conference in the city. ANI

REPORT PAGE 7

In Rajasthan reshuffle, Cong eyes 2023 state polls; Pilot says all well

HAMZAKHAN
& DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, NOVEMBER 21

FIFTEEN NEW ministers took oath Sunday at Raj Bhawan in Jaipur and the Congress party's message throughout the day was to put up a united front and keep the house in order in the



CM Gehlot, Governor Mishra with some of the new ministers on Sunday. Rohit Jain Paras

run-up to the 2023 Assembly elections in the state. The new faces in the Rajasthan Council of Ministers include four Dalits, three tribals, and three women, one among whom is from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MORE REPORTS
PAGE 7

TRIPURA AGAIN: POLICE ARREST TMC LEADER Attempt to murder charge for 'disturbing' Biplab rally

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, NOVEMBER 21

TRIPURA POLICE Sunday arrested Trinamool Congress leader and actor Sayani Ghosh on several charges including attempt to murder, for allegedly "disturbing" a municipal poll rally of Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb in



Sayani Ghosh to be produced in court today, say police

Agartala the previous night. A senior police officer said

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IDEA EXCHANGE
'Punjab is a liberal society...We are a regional party. I am looking at what we can do for the state'
AMARINDER SINGH
FORMER PUNJAB CM
PAGE 12

Parliament session, sources said. Meanwhile, Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) held a press

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Parliament session," sources said.

Meanwhile, Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) held a press

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Farmer leader Balbir Singh Rajewal (centre) addresses reporters at Delhi's Singhu border on Sunday. Gajendra Yadav

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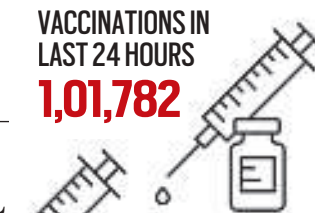
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

4 THE CITY



CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
1,01,782



TOTAL CASES		HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
14,40,666				13,580	13,411
		ICU BEDS		2,802	2,766
Nov 20	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Nov 20	32	32	0	54,249	
Nov 21	29	45	0	49,139	
Total	309*	14,15,262	25,095	3,04,53,225	

*Total active cases

DU sees over 74,000 admissions so far; special drive completed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

WITH FIVE cut-off lists and a special drive for undergraduate admissions completed, the Delhi University has not yet made any announcement on whether any subsequent cut-off lists will be released by the administration.

November 19 was the final day for candidates to make their payments and finalise their admissions in the special drive.

Admissions under the special drive are for those candidates who had not been admitted to any of the colleges at the time of



Five cut-off lists have been released so far. *Archive*

the release of the special drive cut-off list. Students admitted to any particular course or college under previous cut-off lists at the time of the release were not eli-

gible for admissions under it.

Till the completion of admissions against the fifth cut-off list, 74,677 admissions had been completed to the university's merit-based undergraduate programmes. The university has not shared admission numbers from the special drive.

According to university officials, they are putting together admission data from all colleges to ascertain the number of vacant seats in colleges and courses. If there is a sizable number of seats available for particular courses and colleges, another special drive will begin from November 23.

Civil defence volunteer arrested for 'raping' minor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

A 20-YEAR-OLD civil defence volunteer was arrested for allegedly kidnapping and raping a 15-year-old girl in Dwarka. The accused, Abhishek Kumar, was arrested on Saturday.

Police said the victim told her parents that while she heading to her coaching centre on Wednesday, a man on a bike approached her. He introduced himself as a policeman and offered to drop her. When they reached the centre, he showed her his photos in police uniform and promised to help her with her studies.

Police said on this pretext, the accused kidnapped the girl and took her to an isolated park where he allegedly raped her before fleeing.

A case was registered on a complaint by the girl's parents.

DCP (Dwarka) Shankar Choudhary said, "We solved the case in 72 hours. Our team analysed more than 150 CCTVs in the area. In one footage, the accused was seen on a bike and we identified him as Kumar."

GOVT, MCD EMPLOYEES TO WORK FROM HOME

No let-up in pollution, Delhi's schools to remain closed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

SCHOOLS IN Delhi will remain shut, and officials working in the state government and corporations will continue to work from home as air quality in the city remained in the 'very poor' range on Sunday.

Construction activities, however, are expected to resume from Monday as the order issued by the state environment department remained silent on the status of the earlier ban, which was in force till Sunday. Only trucks carrying essential items will be allowed to enter city limits, said the order.

The Commission for Air Quality in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) had ordered closure of these activities till November 21 in an earlier order.

Following instructions from the Department of Environment and Forests owing to the high air pollution levels in the city, the Directorate on November 14 had



Online teaching-learning activities will continue. *Archive*

directed that all schools in the city be closed till November 20. On Sunday, it notified that this closure will continue to be in force "till further orders".

"However, online teaching-learning activities and examinations for Board classes would be conducted as per guidelines issued earlier," the circular states.

The Delhi government had allowed classes for all students to begin on November 1 at 50% capacity after a year and a half of

remaining shut because of the pandemic. Consent from parents was mandatory. Many private schools have still not reopened as parents were not keen on sending their children.

The CAQM had also ordered the closure of colleges, educational/coaching institutes, skill development and training institutes, other training institutes, and libraries.

Since the environment department order has not speci-

cally ordered colleges and other institutes to remain closed, they are expected to reopen.

"Stop entry of trucks in Delhi except trucks carrying essential commodities, till 26th November, 2021 subject to further review for extension of this date. All offices of Government of Delhi / Autonomous Bodies/ Corporations shall remain closed till 26th November, 2021 except those involved in essential and emergency services such as Health and Family Welfare and all related medical establishments, Police, Prisons, Home Guards, Civil Defence, Fire and emergency Service, District Administration... All private offices / establishments are advised to allow their staff to work from home, so as to ensure least vehicular movement on the roads till 26th November, 2021," the order states.

Over the next few days, air quality in Delhi is expected to remain in the 'poor' category, and is then expected to fall into the 'very poor' category again later in the week.

AQI 'very poor' again, slight relief over next 2 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

DELHI'S AIR quality remained in the 'very poor' category on Sunday, with an AQI of 349 according to the Central Pollution Control Board bulletin. This was only marginally better than the 374 recorded on Saturday.

Stronger winds are supposed to have aided the dispersion of pollutants. According to scientists at the India Meteorological Department, wind speed picked up on Sunday, reaching 15 to 20 kmph between 11 am and 1 pm.

Data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) shows particulate matter levels fell with a marginal increase in wind speed in the afternoon at some stations. At the Jawaharlal

Nehru Stadium monitoring station, wind speed increased from 1.6 m/s at 8 am to 4.9 m/s at 1 pm, but fell again to around 1.7 m/s at 8 pm. Simultaneously, PM2.5 levels fell from 266 µg/m3 at 8 am to 88 µg/m3 at 1 pm, and increased again to 144 µg/m3 at 8 pm.

PM 10 levels at Anand Vihar fell from a high of 744 µg/m3 at 8 am to 202 µg/m3 at 1 pm, but climbed again to 587 µg/m3 at 7 pm. Wind speed picked up marginally at the station around noon, from 0.5 m/s to 10 am to 1

m/s at 2 pm, but fell again to around 0.3 m/s at 4 pm.

The SAFAR forecasting system suggests that winds from the northwest of Delhi are likely to become stronger from Sunday night till November 23. Local wind speed is also likely to be high, and this combined with a fall in stubble burning instances indicate that the air quality could improve, but is likely to stay in the lower end of the 'very poor' category for the next two days, the forecast said.

From November 24 onwards, however, a drop in temperature and a fall in local wind speed could make the dispersion of pollutants difficult.

The farm fire count, according to the SAFAR system, fell to 181 on Sunday and the contribution of stubble burning to PM2.5 levels in Delhi was around 8%.

The 24-hour average AQI at some monitoring stations, which had remained in the 'severe' category Sunday morning, had improved to 'very poor' by 8 pm. At the Anand Vihar monitoring station, the AQI as a 24-hour average was 429 on Sunday morning and had fallen to an average of 394 by 8 pm. The monitoring station at RK Puram recorded an average AQI of 407 in the morning, which improved to reach a 24-hour average of 359 by 8 pm.

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GLOBAL TENDER No. PSC / OPS / P & I / JM (O) / 2021
RETENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed P & I Insurance Clubs / Companies for Class I & II cover for Chartered Vessels for the period 31.12.2021 noon to 31.12.2022 noon

Sale of Tender Forms	: 22.11.2021 to 14.12.2021
Last date for receipt of Tender	: 1500 Hrs on 14.12.2021
Tender opening	: 1530 Hrs on 14.12.2021
EMD	: Rs.50,000/- Indian Company / Firm USD 700 Foreign Company / Firm
Cost of tender form	: Rs. 2,000/-
Value of Tender	: USD 56,400 (Rs.42,00,000)

Prospective bidders are advised to refer our website www.tamilship.com / www.tntenders.gov.in for specific transparent details. The conditions / requirement mentioned in the website shall meet out by the bidders. The advertisement is an invitation for bid only. The details given in the website are comprehensive.

Further, all communications will be updated through our website only.
DIPR/3408/TENDER/2021

Chairman and Managing Director
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Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractor registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

Sl. No.	JOB No.	NAME OF WORK	AMOUNT	Tender Publication
1	05/Adv./ (DGM-Jal)/ 2021-22	ADVERTISING RIGHTS ON OVER HEAD SIGNAGE BOARDS ON BOT BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS ON MP-1 ROAD, NOIDA	38,88,000.00	Second Time

Which can be uploaded by date **28.11.2021** upto **5.00PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date **29.11.2021** at **11.00AM**.

(R.P. Singh)
DGM, Noida

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CANTONMENT BOARD MATHURA
(सबका सब के साथ)

INVITATION OF E-TENDERS (DUAL BID SYSTEM)

Electronic Bids are invited by Cantonment Board, Mathura for the under mentioned works:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money 2% (Rs.)	Tender fee (Rs.)
1.	Repair and renovation of Cantt fund Building for the Financial Year 2021-22	50.00 lakh	1,00,000/-	1500/-
2.	Repair and Renovation of Cantt fund Drains for the Financial Year 2021-22	40.00 lakh	80,000/-	1500/-
3.	Repair and Renovation of misc. public improvements works including pedestrian paths and paver blocking for the Financial Year 2021-22	50.00 lakh	1,00,000/-	1500/-

The interested contractors/firms shall upload all the documents related to above works on the website <http://defproc.gov.in/> w.e.f. starting date 22.11.2021 at 1600 hrs to ending date 18.12.2021 at 1700 hrs. The terms & conditions for the above mentioned work may look up the ibid website. The above mentioned works is proposed to be done through untied, granted by 15th Finance commission Cost of Tender is shown in NIT.

Chief Executive Officer
Cantonment Board, Mathura
(Abhijeet Bhanawat)

No. CBM/TC/2021-22/272
Dated: 20 November, 2021

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE, Ground Water Division, Sgr.
Gist of e-Tender.
NIT No. :-PHE/GWDS 58 of 11-2021, Dated:16-11-2021
For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S. No.	Name of work.	No. of Hand Pumps	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Govt of Tender Document	Time of completion	Classes of Contract	Technical Specification	Programme
01	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Bhatki Bhat in District Anantnag	04 Nos.	Rs. 12.00 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	15 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
02	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Gopabari in District Anantnag	02 Nos.	Rs. 9.00 Lacs	Rs. 800/-	07 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
03	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Lachi Mohalla & Guchhi Mohalla in District Anantnag	02 Nos.	Rs. 9.00 Lacs	Rs. 800/-	07 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
04	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at ward no 1 Parktoppe ward no & 11th Bhatki, Tada in District Anantnag	02 Nos.	Rs. 9.00 Lacs	Rs. 800/-	07 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
05	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Lachi Mohalla in District Anantnag	01 Nos.	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 300/-	05 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
06	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Bhatki Bhat in District Anantnag	01 Nos.	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 300/-	05 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
07	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Gopabari Mohalla, NHD Yousaf Gopabari, in District Anantnag	01 Nos.	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 300/-	05 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
08	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Dar Mahi Mohalla, Anantnag in District Anantnag	01 Nos.	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 300/-	05 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
09	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Bhatki Bhat in District Anantnag	01 Nos.	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 300/-	05 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
10	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Bhatki Bhat in District Anantnag	01 Nos.	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 300/-	05 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
11	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Bhatki Bhat in District Anantnag	01 Nos.	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 300/-	05 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—
12	Construction of 105 mm Machine Drilled Hand Well at Bhatki Bhat in District Anantnag	01 Nos.	Rs. 3.00 Lacs	Rs. 300/-	05 days	—	PHED/GWD/58 of 11/2021	—

AA Accorded vide Order No. 419/DDCA of 2021, Dated: 09-11-2021.
Critical Dates/Information

1. Planning Date	17-11-2021 (02:00 PM)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids	17-11-2021 (02:00 PM) to 27-11-2021 (02:00 PM)
3. Period of Submission of Bids	17-11-2021 (02:00 PM) to 27-11-2021 (02:00 PM)
4. Date of opening of tenders	29-11-2021 at (02:00 PM)
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE, Ground Water, Sanganer/Kashmir-100011	
6. Document Cost: Non-refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/cash deposited to Account Head 0219 in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE, Ground Water, Sanganer/Kashmir (The firm shall specify the mode of work for which work)	
7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.uktenders.gov.in	
9. Bidder to submit the bid by 11:00 AM on 27-11-2021. Bids received after this time will be rejected.	

No. :-PHE/GWDS/4409
dlpk-13076

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Sgr.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Ashish Surendrakumar Tiwari S/o Tiwari Surendrakumar Hajari Lal R/o CM-4, 1003, Supertech Capetown Sector-74, Noida (U.P) have changed my name to Ashish Tiwari for all purposes. 0040592734-2

I Bhupesh Kumar S/o Dukh Bhajan Lal R/o M-34, Gali No.-3, New Mahavir Nagar, New Delhi-18 have changed the name of my minor son from Gursimar Singh to Angad Gulati for all future purposes. 0040592763-1

I, Surendrakumar Hazari Lal Tiwari S/o Tiwari Hazari Lal Kamata Prasad R/o CM-4, 1003, Supertech Capetown Sector-74, Noida (U.P) have changed my name to Surendra Kumar Tiwari for all purposes. 0040592734-1

I, Ritu Goel W/o. Naresh Kumar Goel R/o A-51-52, Double-Storey, New Rajinder Nagar, Central Delhi-110060 have changed my name Ritu Goel to Ritu Goel for all purposes. 0040592743-1

I, narender goswami, s/o mahabir giri, ro h.No.124 k block mangol puri delhi 110083, have changed my name to narender giri. 0040592771-6

I, hitherto known as Vir L Saran alias Veer Lamba alias Vir Saran S/o Mohit Saran residing at E-301, Krishna Apra Residency, Plot E-8, Sector 61, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vir Saran 005016754-1

LOST AND FOUND

I SUNITA SHOKEEN W/O CHANDER PAL SHOKEEN R/O B-10 MANAV CGHS LTD ROHINI SEC 9 DELHI 85 HAVE LOST MENTIONED SOCIETY FLAT SHARE CERTIFICATES IN ROHINI AREA. FINDER MAY CONTACT 9868237787 0040592746-1

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Ashok Sehgal S/o Late Shri Baldev Krishan Sehgal R/o B-7A Vatika Appt., mayapuri New Delhi Have lost Original Allotment cum demand letter dt 21/01/77, Possession Letter, Possession Slip, NOC For Electricity, water Payment Receipt of Flat E238, MG Flats, Vatika Appt., Mayapuri Delhi -64 all dated 1976/77. Finder May Contact me-9810650011.

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Website: <https://bank.sbi/>, <https://www.sbi.co.in>

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

RFP No.: SBI/EWLP/RFP/2020-21/001 Dated: 20.11.2021
Bids are invited by State Bank of India from Eligible Bidders for Engagement of Consultant for Managing the Selection of Loyalty Programme Manager for Enterprise Wide Loyalty Program of State Bank of India. For details, please visit procurement news at <https://bank.sbi/>, <https://www.sbi.co.in>, <https://etender.sbi/>
Commencement of download of RFP: From 19.11.2021 at 17:00 hrs
Last date and time for submission of bids: 10.12.2021 up to 17:00 hrs
Place: Mumbai Deputy General Manager (Projects)
Date: 22.11.2021 Digital & Transaction Banking- P&O Department

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-276308 & Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UP2001SGC25560
Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्रांक: 872 **Short Term e-Tender Notice** दिनांक: 20.11.2021

The office of the Executive Engineer (M), UJVN Ltd. Chilla invites sealed tenders from interested firms following details.
Tender No. 19/EEM/2021-22
Name of work : Supply and Application of Coating Material on different Underwater parts in three Units of Power House
Estimated Cost : Rs. 85.01,893.00 (GST extra)
Date of availability of tender document : 20-11-2021 at 17:00 Hrs
Last Date of Receipt of tender: 06-12-2021 at 16:00 Hrs
For fuller and further details kindly visit our website e-procurement Portal uktenders.gov.in.
Executive Engineer (M)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Office of the Director General, Medical Health & F.W.,
Danda Lakshoo, Sahasradhara Road, P.O. Gajra, Dehradun,
Uttarakhand e-mail: dghhealth.uttarakhand@gmail.com,
Ph: 0135-2608763, Fax: 0135-2608746

Bid Identification No. 15P/Store/25/2021/25184/25185 Dated: 20.11.2021

Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement e-tender Notice
1. Name of the Work: (i) Supply of Anesthesia Workstation for various Hospital of Uttarakhand under Quantity contract, (ii) Supply of Dental X-Ray with RVG for various Hospital of Uttarakhand under Quantity contract, (iii) Supply of Laproscope for various Hospital of Uttarakhand under Quantity contract. as per details given in tender notice on <https://uktenders.gov.in> portal.
2. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal: 20.11.2021 at 3:00 PM.
3. Last Date and Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 30.11.2021 at 3:00 PM.
4. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid: Director General, MH & FW Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
5. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website <https://uktenders.gov.in>
6. Portal Registration: The contractor/bidder intending to participate in the bid is required to register in the portal using his/her active personal official email id as his/her Login id and attach his/her valid digital signature certificate (DSC) to his/her unique login id.
For any other queries the bidders are asked to contact through e-mail cmsd.uk@gmail.com
Director General
Medical Health & FW, Uttarakhand, Dehradun

hmda
Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited

HYDERABAD GROWTH CORRIDOR LIMITED
BIDS INVITED FOR TOLL COLLECTION ON ORR

Bid Notice No. CGM (T)/HGCL/135/UFC/2021-22 Date: 18-11-2021

BID NOTICE

The Hyderabad Outer Ring Road (ORR) is 158 km long 8 lanes Access Controlled Express Way with 19 interchanges having 180 toll lanes developed by Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited (HGCL). The Road Users need to pay toll for using the ORR based on the distance travelled. HGCL invites bids for "Collection of user fee/toll through an agency on the basis of competitive bidding on e-procurement basis for Hyderabad Outer Ring Road for a length of 158 km in the State of Telangana, India" for 18 months contract period.

Sl. No.	Description of tender process	Date
1.	Bid document download start date	18.11.2021
2.	Pre-bid meeting	23.11.2021 at 11:00 AM
3.	Bid submission closing date & time	04.12.2021 at 3:00 PM
4.	Contract Period	18 months (extendable for another 6 months)
5.	Minimum Annual Remittance Payable	Rs. 380.00 Crores

For further details and to download the Bid Document, log on to <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> or <https://www.hmda.gov.in>.

Any Amendments, updates regarding this Bid Notice will be published in the HMDA web site /e-Procurement Platform only.

For further queries please email: cgmhgcl@gmail.com, Phone No. 040-29559433
CGM, HGCL

Issued By: Commissioner, I & PR Department, Government of Telangana

SUPPLYCO
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MAVELI BHAVAN, GANDHI NAGAR, KOCHI - 682020.
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BRIEFLY

3 Bhondsi jail inmates injured after scuffle

Gurgaon: At least three prisoners suffered injuries after a scuffle broke out between two rival gangs in Bhondsi jail Saturday evening, said police. The injured were referred to PGIMER in Rohtak for treatment, where their condition is said to be stable. Jagbir Singh, SHO, said, "... On Saturday, several men from the Basai gang attacked Rathi gang members near a barrack with some sharp objects made from utensils..."

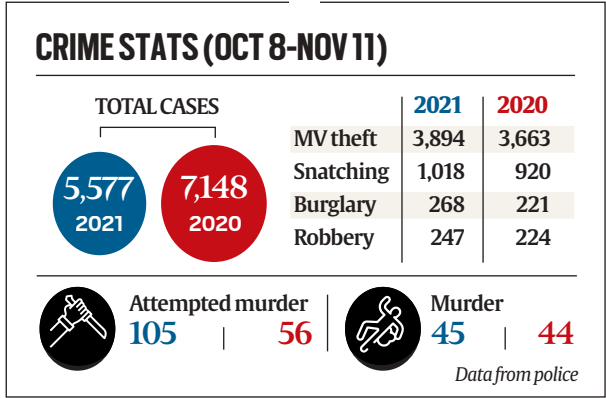
Jewar Film City bids to open on November 23

Noida: Bids for the development of Film City in Jewar will open on November 23. "The Film City will be built in three phases. Bids for the project will be open and the pre-bid will take place on December 8. The land has been allotted for hospitality, commercial activities, and an amusement park. The development of the entire project will be completed by 2029," said Arun Vir Singh, CEO, YEIDA. As per officials, the Film City will be built in an area of 1,000 acres out of which 740 acres will be given to filming activities while another 40 will be allotted to film institutions.

Man held for 'selling' firearms on social media platform

New Delhi: The Delhi Police arrested a 38-year-old man from Haryana for allegedly selling firearms on social media. Officials said that while monitoring social media, they found posts of weapons being sold. **ENS**

BETWEEN OCT 8-NOV 11 1,000 cases of snatching in a month, East district on top



MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

OVER 1,000 snatching incidents have been reported in the last one month in Delhi – 29 per day on an average. As per police data, 1,018 snatching cases were reported between October 8 and November 11 this year as compared to 920 last year in the same period.

In a crime review meeting Tuesday, Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana met the 15 district DCPs to discuss preventive measures taken by them to curb such incidents.

Data further shows that 3,894 motor vehicle thefts were reported this year as compared to 3,663 last year; 247 incidents of robbery this year as compared to 224 last year; 105 attempt to murder cases reported this year as compared to 56 last year.

After the last crime review meeting, Asthana had decided to meet every DCP for 15-20 minutes to discuss the law-and-order situation in their district, but the plan was postponed. "Last Tuesday, Asthana reviewed district-wise crime data and found that the East district saw the most

snatching cases – 112 – this year. He also found that 103 snatching cases were reported in North, 94 in Shahdara, 88 in Outer district, and 87 in Central district," a senior police officer said.

Asthana also asked the DCPs about unsolved cases but was not happy with their response as some were unaware of the facts of these cases and the crime pattern of their district, said the officer. "He also reviewed motor-vehicle theft data and found 414 incidents took place in the last one month in West district, 399 in Northeast district, 361 in Rohini district, 328 in Northwest district, and 306 in Southeast district," the officer said.

"After reviewing data on robberies, he found that maximum incidents (29) took place in Outer-North district, followed by Outer district with 27, Northeast with 22, Dwarka and South districts with 20, and Rohini with 19," an officer said.

He looked at crime figures and the PCR calls and asked the force to implement free registration of FIRs, as he was unhappy with one of the DCPs not doing the same in his district. He also directed senior officials of the crime branch to improve their percentage of solved cases, the officer said.

Delhi zoo explores getting a mate — or a ticket home — for its lone African elephant

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

SHANKAR, A 27-year-old African elephant, is the only one of its kind at the Delhi Zoo.

Having arrived in 1998, as a diplomatic gift from Zimbabwe to the Indian President, it has spent over two decades in an enclosure at the zoo alone, far away from its natural home of the Savanna grasslands of Africa. The Delhi Zoo is now exploring options to end its prolonged isolation.

"This was a diplomatic gift, and since then wisdom has prevailed and we have stopped getting African elephants as gifts," said Sonali Ghosh, Director, Delhi Zoo.

She added, "I have written to parks in Africa on if there is a possibility of finding a mate for the animal, or if they want to take the elephant back. We have sent a team to the Mathura elephant care facility to look at what all can be done in terms of enrichment."

An online petition was recently launched by the Youth for Animals, an organisation for animal welfare, "to help free Shankar from decades of solitary confinement". Nikita Dhawan and Nandika Karunakaram, two school students who founded the organisation, have also written to



Shankar in his enclosure on Sunday. *Express*

zoo authorities about the matter.

Shankar is also only one of the two African elephants housed in zoos in India, the second being another male at the Mysuru Zoo. Shankar was brought to India with a female elephant, which died a few years after it arrived in Delhi.

Not far from the crowd watching it, Shankar sways from side to side, and shifts from foot to foot, flapping its ears and bobbing its head – movements that lead kids near the enclosure to say it is "dancing."

A report by the Animal

Welfare Board of India on captive elephants in Jaipur, however, notes that it could be a sign of stress. "Elephants were observed to display stereotypical behaviour such as repetitive swaying and head-bobbing ranging from moderate to intense, indicative of extreme mental distress and deterioration," the report said.

Ghosh, however, said Shankar has been examined by veterinarians: "We have had veterinarians examine the elephant. There is no issue in terms of stress that is impacting the

3 hold woman at knife-point in cab, rob phones, cash; arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THREE MEN who allegedly robbed a woman at knife-point inside a cab in Nand Nagri have been arrested.

Police said the incident took place on November 7 when the woman, who works at a private firm, took a cab from Shahdara to go to work.

The accused, posing as passengers, also got into the cab. They then allegedly threatened the woman with a knife and robbed her of two phones, a gold chain, gold rings and Rs 10,000,

Police said the accused worked with local gangs to commit snatching and robbery in the east and northeast areas

said police. The men got off at Nand Nagri and threatened the driver to not call police.

Police said the accused have been identified as Pintu Bilal, Noor Islam (20) and Shafiq Rafiq (29).

DCP (Crime) Monika

Bhardwaj said, "We scanned several CCTVs in the area and mounted technical surveillance on the suspects. After several raids, three accused were caught from Seemapuri."

The accused confessed to their crime and said they worked with local gangs to commit snatching and robbery in the east and northeast areas, said police. They are involved in over 20 cases, added police. The accused sold the gold jewellery to one of their associates.

Police said they have recovered the stolen items and are looking for their associate, who is on the run.

animal. It is an animal that is housed singly. By nature, African animals are solitary and it is not possible to put them with Asian elephants. The elephant at the Mysuru zoo is a male, and we can't keep two male elephants together. It is also a fairly old animal – moving it from Mysuru to here or from here might cause stress."

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) in a document titled 'Recommended guidelines during stakeholder meetings on elephants' upkeep in zoos' in 2013, said, "It is recommended to house elephants in small groups and not as single animals."

The document also stated that the CZA "bans further intake of elephants (except elephants rescued from the wild, confiscated and old/abandoned/abused elephants, as mentioned in CZA guidelines on dealing with rescued animals)." The African Savanna elephant is listed as endangered on the IUCN red list of threatened species.

"Elephants are a social species and live in herds, although bull elephants are often pushed out of the herd when they become a nuisance, which means bull elephants need to be housed in strong bullpens, where they are not a danger to other elephants or to people, but they can still communicate

with, see and hear other elephants," said Kartick Satyanarayan, co-founder of Wildlife SOS, that manages the Elephant Conservation and Care Centre at Mathura.

According to a note on Shankar from the zoo, "Unlike the Asian elephant that can respond to commands and training, the African species have never been tamed, nor is there evidence that they can respond to commands. The only way to keep the African elephant is, therefore, modifications in its housing wherein it can get space to move around freely."

The note adds that the zoo is "embarking on a multi-pronged approach" to provide a "happy stress-free" life for Shankar. Habitat enrichment and work on the enclosure are part of this, besides writing to foreign zoos for finding a suitable mate and for possible exchange.

Satyanarayan said, "The Delhi Zoo has sent teams to the centre at Mathura to understand the requirements of animals. Should the Delhi Zoo feel that the elephant needs to be moved to the Mathura facility, we would have no objection in accepting it, where it can live among other animals of its kind."

The Mathura facility, however, houses only domesticated Asian elephants.

4 held for trying to extort Rs 1 crore from businessman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

FOUR MEN have been arrested for allegedly trying to extort Rs 1 crore from a businessman in Rohini. Police said they are members of the Tillyu gang.

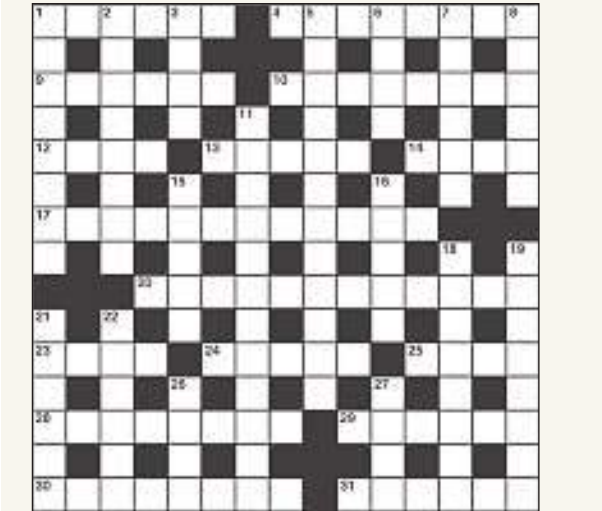
Police said in August, the accused allegedly fired multiple shots outside a businessman's house which hit his car. They left a note threatening to fire 100 bullets at him and his family and called him for the money. A case was registered after the victim filed a complaint. Police said the man owns two factories and manufactures appliances.

DCP (Rohini) Pranav Tayal said, "... We found the calls were made from a Delhi prison. A raid was conducted in Tihar and one of the accused, Sonu, was arrested. By then, he had destroyed his phone."

Police said Sonu is Tillyu's cousin and involved in a dozen murder and firing cases. After his arrest, he confessed and disclosed the names of his associates. Police then arrested Aakash Khatri (25), Jayant Maan (26), Rahul Kumar (31) and Ravi Parasar.

During questioning, Khatri said he allegedly fired the bullets at the victim's car while Maan helped Sonu make extortion calls from jail. Parasar worked at one of the factories owned by the victim.

CROSSWORD 4592



- ACROSS**
- Wave put in the hair (6)
 - May be carelessly dropped in the middle of nowhere (8)
 - Encourage a sound location for a pub (6)
 - Shot drug-crazy man (8)
 - Market's worst seller (4)
 - It may be used to measure a diamond in a ring perhaps (5)
 - Chinese capital lies in total waste (4)
 - What the crafty bounder kept? (3,4,5)
 - As a film it was unspeakably funny (6,6)
 - Forget I'm to about turn (4)
 - Posh vehicle for baker's deliveries? (5)
 - Is entertained by current record (4)
 - Be patronising in speech and overbearing in argument (4,4)
 - Volume of praise (6)
 - Didn't stay uninhabited (8)
 - Wild herb we brought back from Israel (6)
- Down**
- As pot of wet weather (8)
 - Unusually cruel set of criticisms (8)
 - Is not any faster at splitting points (4)
 - Direct speech? (8,4)
 - Make little progress in church (4)
 - It's just one view of a situation (6)
 - Bury Ben in style without Tom (6)
 - He isn't a good forecaster (7,2,3)
 - Port one gets in casks (5)
 - Stick no label upside-down (5)
 - First class student? (8)
 - Unauthorised demand for suspension (5,3)
 - Communist holding out though badly beaten (6)
 - We slid around before finding controls (6)
 - Part of the modern Polish-German border (4)
 - Occupancy residence having central heating? (4)

Solutions Crossword 4591: Across: 1 Trail, 4 Cockpit, 8 Cut, 9 Vindicate, 10 Inquest, 11 Icons, 13 Graves, 15 Ignore, 18 Layer, 19 Tenders, 21 Offensive, 23 Ice, 24 Exposes, 25 Stern. Down: 1 Tacking, 2 Antiquary, 3 Levee, 4 Canute, 5 Ceiling, 6 Pea, 7 Teens, 12 On one side, 14 Errands, 16 Eastern, 17 Ethics, 18 Loose, 20 Needs, 22 Pop.

JUMBLLED WORDS

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

HJAAR

AROID

INUITT

AEEIBN

Answer: I can imagine no society which does not embody some method of _____. - Herbert Read (11)

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4662

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4661



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Two lively planets, Mercury and Venus, are encouraging your best personal attributes. But a dilemma is sharpened: should you or should you not bare your soul to the world? If you find the answer to this or any other questions this week, then you're a very unusual person indeed.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Venus, your planetary ruler is forming some easy relationships, but also some difficult ones. At the heart of this paradox lie a vital contradiction and a complicated relationship. I think you'll have the last laugh in all personal disputes, no matter how complex they are.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
A good general never underestimates his, or her, enemy. So please do not make the mistake of imagining that other people are talking nonsense, otherwise you will, sooner or later, fall flat on your face. Besides, questions which have been running round and round in your mind are unlikely to be resolved just yet.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
I have two good forecasts today. First, you will overcome all obstacles. Second, there should be no new obstacles in any case! But there's another dimension that I need to mention, one related to that nebulous planet, Neptune. This suggests that you might not notice what's staring you in the face.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
If at all possible, delay the launch of a major venture until you are absolutely ready. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't continue with preparations. Quite the contrary: there is much to be done if you are to ensure your eventual success. Just don't box yourself in.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
I'd like to look at your long-term cycles for a moment and point out that within nine months you will be free from much that you currently find so restricting or aggravating. Needless to say, patience is required. And then there's the little matter of the fact that people you live with seem to be stuck in the past. Don't worry: it will pass.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)
It's not your professional skills which shine today, but personal gifts. You do have the perfect opportunity to grasp the reins at work, but it's partly due to your underrated considerate and compassionate qualities. Why not let other people know that you really do care?

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
After so much irritation and mischief-making by partners and family members, you probably expect less from other people than you ought to. It may be another few days at least before you can say your piece and redress the balance. There's no hurry, so don't rush it unduly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
It now seems that you are anxious to change your lifestyle, though I should think that any adjustments will be relatively minor. It's almost just a question of shifting the furniture and replacing a few heirlooms. It's amazing how a sufficient number of small improvements add up to a major transformation.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You have become aware that you cannot always be the giver. Sometimes you must be the one who takes. Yet today you may have to grin and bear it as other people once again seem to have the advantage. Wait until tomorrow. And ignore those people who tell you that 'tomorrow never comes'.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
It's a busy day in a rather trivial, routine sense, and quite an emotional one as well, but that's not what's really significant. Far more important is the necessity to realise that whether you stand or fall is now entirely due to you. That knowledge should give you the incentive you need to pull through.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Cruise along in the realisation that you really are rather smart. It's not often that other people take much notice of your ideas, perhaps because you're so far ahead of the times. But for the next few weeks they'll be listening, so make the most of it.

7 GOVT & POLITICS

Bhagwat: India can develop in 15-20 years if all citizens treat each other as kin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

INDIA HAS not progressed as much as it should have in the last 75 years but can develop swiftly if the people work together and treat each other as family, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said Sunday.

At an awards ceremony in Delhi, Bhagwat said: "The tradition of seeing entire India as one starts from the Vedas. We consider this land to be the motherland, every child of it is a sibling (*sahodar*). We are all brothers and sisters. If we work with this sentiment, then nothing can stop this country from developing.

Bhagwat said: "In these 75 years we have not progressed as much as we should have. It took 75 years, it happens, but if you wake up like this, everything will be fine in 15-20 years."

The RSS chief was speaking at the Sant Eshwar Awards ceremony in the capital.



Bhagwat on Sunday. Prem Nath Pandey

Cong leadership asserts itself with rejig, sends signals to Gehlot, Pilot

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

AFTER THE leadership change in Punjab, the expansion of the Ashok Gehlot Cabinet in Rajasthan is yet another instance of a decisive intervention by the Congress high command. And the reshuffle has multiple messages to all the stakeholders. Now it is up to the leaders how they choose to read the signals.

The first and perhaps the most important message is to the veteran Gehlot — that running the government can't be a one-man show. His wings are certainly not clipped. But by nudging him to expand the Cabinet by ensuring satisfactory representation to those close to his *bete noire* Sachin Pilot — and by keeping the Independents who are close to him out — the high command has made it clear that its writ should run.

The expansion is not Pilot-centric either. In the council of ministers, only five are his loyalists. That should make Gehlot happy. But by laying stress on sizable representation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the leadership ensured that both Gehlot and Pilot were boxed into a corner.

The Rajasthan Congress story will still revolve around Gehlot



CM Ashok Gehlot addresses MLAs ahead of the reshuffle. ANI

and Pilot, but the party has tried to create new leadership. With important organisational roles for Raghu Sharma, a Brahmin, Harish Chaudhary and Govind Singh Dotasra, both from the Jat community, and Bhanwar Jitender Singh, a Rajput, it has thrown leaders from varied backgrounds into the mix.

Gehlot was initially said to be reluctant to induct Pilot loyalists. "But we did not need to force him. After two meetings with high command leaders last month, Gehlot got the signal. Unlike Amarinder Singh, Gehlot

is an organisational man, risen to the top through the ranks," a leader said. "Gehlot is not Amarinder and Sachin is not (Navjot Singh) Sidhu. Gehlot is not temperamental like Captain. And knows the virtues of patience and silence," another leader said.

Party leaders point out that not even a single MLA who was close to Amarinder has quit the party so far. "Not even some of the MPs who were very local in supporting Captain... that has also emboldened the high command," a leader said.

EXPLAINED

RAJASTHAN RESHUFFLE

‘Will do all that Cong wants me to... focus on getting it re-elected’

FORMER RAJASTHAN Congress chief **SACHIN PILOT** speaks to **DEEP MUKHERJEE** about the need for greater representation of weaker sections in the Cabinet and his aim of helping the Congress return to power in the 2023 state elections. Excerpts:

Now that the reshuffle has happened, will the 2023 elections be the main focus for you and the Congress?

Rajasthan has had a history of a Congress government followed by a BJP one. This has to be broken and I think our single focus is to make sure that we win the 2023 elections and the subsequent Lok Sabha elections.

When Congress lost the last elections, we were reduced to 21 seats out of 200. Of the three dozen SC seats, we got zero... In the cabinet we didn't have a Dalit minister for almost two years. Things like that were taken into consideration. We have four Dalit ministers now. Representation of tribals, women and minorities has increased.

What are the issues you would like to focus on now?

We worked hard to fulfil some of the promises in our manifesto but more than just policy announcements, let us make sure that the resonance of our implementation is on the ground.



Pilot on Sunday. Rohit Jain Paras



THE EXPRESS

INTERVIEW

WITH

SACHIN PILOT

FORMER RAJASTHAN CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Didn't you want to return to the cabinet?

I had served in the cabinet as deputy chief minister for a year-and-a-half, and have been party president for almost seven years. Having done both those jobs, I felt that you don't need a position or post to contribute. Whatever the party leadership wants me to do as an official as-

signment, I am happy to do that any time and have been doing it for the last two decades. But my aim, focus and objective is to make sure that we are able to win the 2023 elections.

Have you spoken with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot after the reshuffle?

We have always been in touch with on needs to be done by the AICC, PCC, government or leadership. This reshuffle is also about not one individual. Feedback was sought from everybody. All leaders spoke to (Congress general secretary in-charge for Rajasthan, Ajay) Maken. I gave my feedback. I am sure Ashok Ji was obviously involved in the decision making.

Do you think the reshuffle could have been done without delay? Some strong statements were made by party leaders from all sides...

There is always scope for improvement, but better late and then perfect. Even if delayed, it has been done with a lot of comprehensive thoughts given to it... There is no division in the party. SC, ST, women, MBC, Dalits, minorities have all been taken together, which is now reflected in the cabinet expansion.

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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



ARRIVING TODAY

THE POLITICAL temperature in Delhi is set to rise on Monday with the arrival of West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee. Before Banerjee flies in, several MPs of the party have been instructed to reach the national capital by early Monday to possibly launch a dharna against the arrest of its West Bengal youth unit president Sayani Ghosh in Tripura where civic polls are scheduled later this week. On Sunday evening, party Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien tweeted: "Gujarat model in Tripura. @AITCofficial will never accept such fascist brutality. Trinamool MPs headed to Delhi. Now. Eyeball to eyeball."

STAYING PUT

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla was expected to lead an Indian parliamentary delegation to attend the BRICS Parliamentary Forum meeting in Madrid on November 27-28. However, with three countries — China, Russia and Brazil — not yet confirming attendance of their Speakers, Birla has decided to skip the meeting. Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh will now likely lead the MPs' delegation. Sources close to Birla said the Speaker would also be caught up in preparations for the Winter Session of Parliament. With the Monsoon Session witnessing chaotic scenes, the Speaker wants to make efforts to ensure a smooth session this time, they said.

MALDIVES ASSIGNMENT

MALDIVES JUST got a new Indian Ambassador. Munu Muhawar, who was till recently Indian envoy to Oman, has been posted in Male as the next envoy. Muhawar was joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Considered to be one of the seasoned diplomats, he has a challenging assignment at hand since some opposition groups have been inciting anti-India sentiments in the country.

DGP meet: PM calls for use of tech in grassroots policing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday called for constituting a High-Power Police Technology Mission, under the leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, to adopt future technologies for grassroots policing requirements, according to a government release.

Addressing the 56th DGPs/IGPs conference at the Uttar Pradesh Police headquarters in Lucknow, PM Modi advocated for an analysis of all police related incidents and developing case studies to make it a learning mechanism across the force.

He attended the three-day conference on Saturday and Sunday, and sat through presentations during sessions on national security, sources aware of the matter said.

In his address, PM Modi cited the importance of technology in the lives of people and gave the examples of CoWIN, the backbone India's Covid-19 vaccination drive, GeM (the government e-market platform) and UPI, the instant real-time payment system.

The PM also appreciated po-

lice attitude towards the public, particularly since the pandemic, and suggested positive use of drone technology for the benefit of the people, the release said.

The conference was attended by 62 director general of police (DGPs) and inspector general of police (IGPs) of states and Union territories, apart from director generals of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Central Police Organisations (CPOs). More than 400 officers of various ranks attended the conference virtually from around the country.

The Prime Minister stressed on the review of SMART Policing concept, data driven law enforcement that was introduced in 2014, and urged for a roadmap for its transformation.

To tackle some of the routine challenges faced by the police, Modi said highly qualified youths should be involved to look for technological solutions through hackathons.

The conference was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on November 19. In his opening speech on Friday, the Minister said state police and central agencies must coordinate better, and focus on coastal and border security apart from cyber crime.

Preneet hints at joining Capt party

Ludhiana: In a setback for Congress, Patiala MP Preneet Kaur Sunday indicated that she may join the political party being floated by her husband and former Punjab chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

"Captain Amarinder Singh has always stood by the commitment he makes... *Main apne parivaar de naal haan* (I am with

my family)," Preneet said, while talking to media at an event in Samana.

She was replying to specific queries on whether she would be joining her husband's political venture. After an unceremonious exit from Congress, Amarinder has floated 'Punjab Lok Congress' and applied for a party symbol. **ENS**

Tawde appointed BJP general secretary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 21

SIDELINED BY Devendra Fadnavis during his chief ministership and denied a ticket for the 2019 Assembly elections, Vinod Tawde's political fortunes saw an uptick Sunday with his elevation as general secretary of the BJP. He fills a vacancy created by Bhupendra Yadav's appointment as a Cabinet minister.

The decision to promote him to general secretary from his previous post of national secretary was announced by BJP president JP Nadda.

The BJP also appointed two new national secretaries — Rituraj Sinha and Asha Lakhra.



Vinod Tawde

The party appointed two new spokespersons — Bharti Ghosh, a former IPS officer from West Bengal, and Shehzad Poonawalla

In the Maharashtra unit of the party, Tawde's elevation is being read as a message by the party's central leadership to Fadnavis that "nothing is permanent" in politics.

"It is a big development that the central leadership has awarded Tawde with a major national role. Also a comment on Fadnavis, who had sidelined and

humiliated him in Maharashtra," said a party insider.

Tawde's chief ministerial ambitions in 2014 were upended by Fadnavis, who apparently never stopped seeing him as a rival. His Cabinet tenure was dogged by controversy and Fadnavis trimmed and changed his portfolios constantly. In 2019, Tawde was denied an Assembly ticket. The nomination for his Borivali constituency was given to Sunil Rane.

A senior BJP functionary requesting anonymity told *The Indian Express*: "In politics nothing is permanent. Nobody can take central leadership for granted."

Hailing from the Maratha community and mentored by the late Gopinath Munde and

Pramod Mahajan, Tawde exercised caution while commenting on his new role. He said, "I will do my best in every given assignment."

He added, "It is the fruit of displaying patience. I am confident that this important message will reach our party workers."

Opposition leader Fadnavis tweeted: "Many congratulations Vinod Tawde ji on being appointed as National General Secretary of BJP India."

Although the 58-year-old Tawde is not in charge of Maharashtra, he may get to have a say as he enjoys better rapport with leaders across the state's parties compared to many others in the state BJP, said a party source.

FT LIVE

The Indian EXPRESS
— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

NEW TECHNOLOGY AND THE GREEN ECONOMY: TWO TRENDS SHAPING A NEW INDIA?

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No IMPUNITY

In Hyderpora, leadership of security forces must ensure that personnel follow court's directions, in letter and spirit

THE OPERATION BY the Army and police in a Srinagar locality that ended in the killing of four people, including three civilians, and one person who is allegedly a Pakistani militant, should set off alarm bells at the highest levels of the Jammu & Kashmir administration and the Indian Army. From the 1990s, security forces have battled, with a high sense of duty and commitment, an insurgency in Kashmir that has been fuelled by proxy forces sent by Pakistan over the Line of Control. In the process, many have made the supreme sacrifice. But as those who hold the monopoly over the use of violence, the security forces undermine that legitimacy each time they use it wrongly, to hurt or take the life of an innocent. One of the many challenges of fighting a militancy is to know the distinction between insurgents and the people, and do everything to maintain this difference. In recent times, painting someone as an "OGW" (over-ground worker for militants) or "hybrid militant" has served to blur the difference, at times expediently. At Hyderpora, it seems this blurring took place, again. This time, however, it was more quickly exposed. The J&K administration appeared to acknowledge that a dreadful wrong had been committed when it decided to exhume the bodies of two of the men — the owner of the premises where the operation was staged, and his tenant — from a graveyard where security forces had interred the four, and gave the remains back to their families for an honourable burial. This was a wise decision. But it is hardly enough.

A magistrate's enquiry has been ordered in the incident. But the track record does not inspire confidence that, if wrongdoing is established, those responsible for this operation will be brought to book. Two enquiries, one by the Army and another by the police, ordered last year into the killings of three men in Amshipora in Shopian, found that the men, daily wagers from Rajouri district who were looking for work in the Valley, were shot dead in cold blood by an Army captain and a JCO, in association with two civilians, and wrongly portrayed as terrorists, in order to claim reward money. The police filed a chargesheet against the captain, and the two civilians. The Army, which found in its enquiry that its officials had exceeded the powers granted to them under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, said it would take over the case against the captain from the civilian court. The trial in the civil court has not progressed, and the Army has not provided information on how it has proceeded against the captain and the JCO.

Things have not changed significantly even after a 2019 Supreme Court order that "there is no concept of absolute immunity from trial by criminal court". The Court said a thorough enquiry should be conducted into every "encounter" killing in disturbed areas as the "alleged enemy is a citizen of our country entitled to all fundamental rights including under Article 21 of the Constitution". It also said that before a person is branded a militant or a terrorist, "there must be commission or some attempt or semblance of a violent overt act". The leadership of the security forces must ensure that their personnel follow the court's directions, in letter and spirit.

ANUPAMA'S FIGHT

The struggle of a mother for her baby raises larger questions in Kerala, resonates beyond the state's borders

A 23-YEAR-OLD MOTHER'S protest in Thiruvananthapuram demanding the return of her one-year-old son, who was illegally given away for adoption by her parents, is raising larger questions in Kerala. Last week, a family court stayed the adoption process and the district Child Welfare Committee (CWC) ordered the Kerala State Council for Child Welfare (KSCCW) to bring back the baby from its foster parents who are said to be in Andhra Pradesh. The CWC also directed that a DNA test be conducted to ascertain the baby's biological parents. Meanwhile, the young mother is demanding action against KSCCW and CWC officials, who allegedly facilitated the adoption under pressure from her parents who are influential CPM activists. The case has brought to light three faultlines that threaten the gains Kerala is widely seen to have made in the past few decades. One, the imperilled right of an adult woman to choose her partner and raise her child. Two, the influence of institutions such as caste and family in shaping society's attitudes towards choices made by individuals. Three, the ability of a ruling party to dictate the functioning of public institutions and subvert due process.

Anupama S Chandran and her partner, Ajith Kumar, have been knocking on doors to help them trace their baby taken away by her parents and given for adoption three days after his birth in October last year. They pleaded their case initially in CPM forums since both of them, and their families, were party associates. Child welfare officials ignored their pleas allegedly because Anupama's parents, who refused to accept her choice to bear the child of Ajith, a 35-year-old Dalit Christian who was still to divorce his estranged wife, had prevailed. While Anupama's parents have contested her version of the story, it seems clear that public officials ignored procedures and due process to support the conservative view that an adult woman must necessarily obtain her parent's consent for her choices. Disturbingly, Anupama's case is not exceptional. Reports of honour killing over caste and family status are now not so infrequent in Kerala. This needs to be read together with the low participation of women in the workforce, despite their relatively higher education levels, and the near absence of women in leadership positions in political parties and public office.

An upsurge of social conservatism is visible in Kerala even as old shibboleths about gender, family, and marriage are challenged by a generation less burdened by custom and tradition. Unfortunately, the political leadership seems to be letting down the young. Anupama Chandran's assertion of her rights as a mother and her fight for agency as an individual and woman resonates beyond Kerala's borders.

FREEZE FRAME



E P UNNY



AJAY VIR JAKHAR

IN HIS BOOK *Building Community Food Webs*, food systems analyst Ken Meter observed, "Over time, the thrust of farm policy shifted from supporting market mechanisms to compensating farmers for the fact that markets were fundamentally unfair." In India, our economists and businesses are touting similar failed solutions from the US farm sector. The three farm laws were a consequence of the establishment's misconception that it knows what is best for the farmers. It continues to misdiagnose, falter and stumble, having shot itself in the foot so often in the recent past that such erring has become a habit, just as it has habitually belied expectations.

The perseverance of the farmer unions has forced the repeal of the three farm laws. The politically astute retreat by the PM signals the BJP's flexibility and determination to remain in power beyond 2024. On issues of farmer policy, the government had buckled before, in 2015, by allowing the land acquisition ordinance to lapse. It has now rolled back the farm laws before the UP assembly elections — the control of the Hindi heartland states is critical for the party.

A commitment to using the political process to negotiate a settlement would have spared the PM this situation. There is no gain-saying that a dialogue — not the use of the government agencies for back-channel talks and attempts to drive a wedge between farmer unions — should have been the government's chosen route to resolve the issue. The laws were passed by a hurried voice vote and the PM announced a repeal without the Cabinet approving it. Similarly, the Supreme Court overreached in constituting a committee to study the farm laws, and, worse, it did not forward the report to the government. All this is representative of the rampant undermining of institutions at the highest levels.

In his speech to the nation, the PM listed many initiatives that have been introduced for small farmers. Some like zero budget farming hold promise and some have given respite to farmers. But these cash doles are simplistic responses to addressing the root causes of the distress on farms. Most other government ini-

Resolution of farm crisis needs involvement of all parties, especially those opposed to government's ideas

The PM has announced an expert committee to suggest a way forward. While working with governments, I have learnt that committees are a convenient way to scuttle implementation of ideas. I don't want to cast aspersions on the government's intentions but hollow promises in the past remind me that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. One of the ironies of the moment is that the PM is justifying the repeal with an apology for not being able to convince farmers about the benefits of the farm laws. Let alone explain to the farmers, the BJP has failed to convince its own cadre in villages. Rather than serving a useful purpose for its parent organisation, the party's IT cell has aggravated the mess with its hate spewing campaign.

tiatives, if assessed independently by the intended beneficiaries, would reveal the glaring extent of lapses, missed opportunities and not-so-positive outcomes.

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The perspective from the farm is not a pretty one. India has witnessed more farmer agitations in the past seven years than in the last 70 years. Meanwhile, the country faces its highest-ever unemployment rate, even as demonetisation and other policies play themselves out over seven years of continuously falling GDP and declining social development indicators. Bureaucratic apathy has driven the farmers to a point where they are resorting to looting fertilisers in broad daylight. Historically, across the world, a depressed farm sector has led people from rural areas to migrate to urban spaces in search of livelihood opportunities. The current dispensation has managed — perhaps for the first time since the depopulation of the Roman empire — a reverse migration from urban centres to the villages. The latest setbacks are to be viewed alongside a host of other challenges that the government faces.

An ineffective Opposition perpetuates the mess. It allows the party in office to rule without checks and balances. The government has lost control of the fiscal, administrative and governance space. However, this is not the time to be despondent: If government under-performance is a result of public policy, it can

be undone by changing the approach to policy-making. There is no reason to question the PM's ability to bring any improbability to life.

There is a trenchant demand for a legal MSP. Farmers across the country perceive it to mean that open-ended procurement will continue and it will be extended to all crops. Given that the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) ministerial conference is starting later this month — under whose aegis public stockholding limits remain contentious — any commitment to a legal MSP for all crops seems highly unlikely without exploring the challenges related to efficacy, design and scope of delivery. However, when the trust of the people is lost, one must tread cautiously because the opportunists with political ambitions will use the circumstances to rouse sceptical masses, even against good ideas.

After the repeal of the farm laws in Parliament, farmer unions should consider suspending the agitation to allow space for the PM to deliver on his promises, including one on doubling farmer income by August 15 next year. If not satisfied with delivery, they could remobilise to return to Delhi six months before the parliamentary elections in 2024. Going forward, everyone should pitch in — especially those opposed to the government's ideas — by presenting detailed proposals with guidelines for implementation as well as their financial and social implications. It would be a humane gesture to heal the wounds, if Parliament acknowledges the sacrifice of the 700 who died in the process of making the government reconcile to the will of the people.

Sadly, the way the three farm acts were conceptualised and what unfolded thereafter has only led to the reform momentum losing steam. A status quo was never an option. Worse still, the bureaucracy does not have the capacity to design a food-systems approach that considers human health and that of the planet as one. Yet, it is an idea whose time has come and global thinkers are setting great store by it. The real challenge now is not to satisfy the farmer unions but to secure a future we can all trust.

The writer is chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj



SAJID FARID SHAPOO

ON OCTOBER 27, General Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US, reacted to China testing its nuclear-capable hypersonic weapons system by drawing an analogy with a supposedly similar event that happened 64 years ago: "I don't know if it's quite a Sputnik moment, but I think it's very close to that. It has all our attention." The ambivalence in the general's remarks was spotted on as the Chinese tests, conducted this summer, are in no manner analogous to the Sputnik satellite test. Yet, they are likely to trigger events similar to those that the Sputnik launch set in motion.

The Sputnik launch by the Soviet Union in 1957 was viewed as a symbol of American weakness and a sign of Soviet superiority in technology, both by the people and policy-makers in the US. The shock was exacerbated by the suddenness of the event, with US intelligence agencies being taken by complete surprise. In contrast, China's pursuit of hypersonic missiles is neither new nor surprising. Since the US withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty in 2002, both Russia and China have been wary of Washington's Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) programme.

Missile defence is inherently destabilising — it undermines "strategic stability", which can be understood as the inability of a nuclear-armed state to execute a first strike, leaving it vulnerable to a retaliatory second strike by the adversary. This mutual vulnerability was seen as the bedrock of prolonged peace during the Cold War. A robust BMD would compromise the second strike capability of the adversary by neutralising the sur-

A DEADLY COMPETITION

China's hypersonic missile test has potential to set off a post-Sputnik-like arms race

viving incoming missiles in case of a near-decapitating first strike. Both Russia and China thus view the US BMD as undermining their deterrence and have sought ways to restore their retaliatory strike capability by investing in new technologies, most prominently the hypersonic weapons systems, including Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGVs) that can escape the missile defence systems.

The recent test would thus calm Beijing, which was worried that the US BMD would block China's few surviving weapons in case of a US first strike. The test included an HGV with a "fractional orbital bombardment" system, which can hit a target by entering in lower orbit — it can reach the US via the South Pole, where America has few early warning systems. Moreover, HGVs fly at lower altitudes than ballistic missiles, which means they could potentially escape early warning systems, aided by the earth's curvature. Experts thus consider hypersonic weapons highly destabilising, not due to their speed but because of their stealth and exceptional manoeuvrability.

Despite the absence of a strategic surprise, China's test could potentially have a Sputnik-like effect. The Sputnik shock drove the Eisenhower administration to seek space arms, triggering a ballistic missile race that saw two superpowers come close to a disastrous faceoff during the Cuban missile crisis. The Chinese tests have the potential to set off an aggressive competition among the nuclear powers to modernise their nuclear arsenals and add new, potentially destabilising capabilities to their arsenal.

Emerging technologies like hypersonic

weapons systems impact strategic stability in two ways: They undermine "crisis stability", thereby incentivising the nuclear first-use and they erode "arms race stability" by encouraging an action-reaction cycle. In the present era of minimal arms control measures, the Chinese hypersonic missile system test will trigger an intense arms race both at the global and regional levels. The US is already developing conventional long-range hypersonic missiles. With the Chinese test, the US may be forced to expand its hypersonic programme and further modernise its missile defence systems.

China's nuclear-tipped hypersonic weapon systems, though not particularly India-focused, could nudge New Delhi to adopt two courses of action. First, accelerate its hypersonic missiles programme. Second, consider erecting an equally robust missile defence. India is reportedly developing a dual-capable hypersonic cruise missile and an anti-ship hypersonic missile. Chinese advancement in stealth technologies will drive New Delhi to seek similar capabilities but also develop effective countermeasures. This can then set off a regional arms race, a sign that is not particularly encouraging for regional peace.

China's hypersonic missile test may not have come with a Sputnik-like surprise, but it has the potential to set off a post-Sputnik-like arms race that does not augur well for the strategic stability both at the global and regional level.

The writer is a senior IPS officer and a doctoral scholar at Princeton University. Views are personal

NOVEMBER 22, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

ULTIMATUM ON STRIKE

THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT gave the 9,000 subordinate striking engineers of the State Electricity Board an ultimatum to resume duty within 24 hours or "face the consequences". Chief Minister A R Antulay held discussions with the Energy Minister Jayantrao Tilak who returned from a tour of Raigad district. Tilak said that the government had taken a serious view of the matter and decided to deal firmly with the subordinate engineers as they had gone on an illegal strike without giving any notice. The erratic power supply had hit hospitals in the city. At least one patient on artificial respiratory system in prestigious hospital was on

the verge of death due to power failure.

TASKFORCE FOR PUNJAB

THE CENTRE IS setting up a taskforce for combating operations in Punjab to round up extremists, both Akalis and Naxalites, and also deal with the law and order situation. It has been decided at the highest level that the combining operations will be directed from the Centre. The task force will consist of officials of both the Centre and state government. The latter will be thoroughly screened by the Central Intelligence Bureau. It's not clear if the Centre will post an officer in Chandigarh to give directions to the taskforce.

CHAVAN MEETS PM

Y B CHAVAN, who is waiting for admission to the Congress (I), met Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on November 21. He said the discussion centred on the political and economic situation in the country. Chavan said he did not discuss the question of his admission to the Congress (I).

BHASKARA IN ORBIT

DIFFERENT GROUND STATIONS established contact with Bhaskara II, India's Earth observation satellite which completed its second day in orbit. An ISRO press release said that the parameters of the satellite were satisfactory.

9 THE IDEAS PAGE

Bad loans and choke points

Poor ecosystem and legal delays frustrate many of the initiatives to create an efficient framework for resolving bad debts of banks. These need to be addressed



C RANGARAJAN AND B SAMBAMURTHY

OVER THE LAST five years, considerable progress has been made in resolving and recovering bad debts of banks. Despite this, there are still around Rs 10 lakh crore worth of stressed assets hanging around in the system. The newly-created National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) in the public sector offers hopes for the faster clean up of lenders' balance sheets. This would be the 30th Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) in the business of resolving distressed assets, but the first in the public sector.

Its greatest virtue lies in the faster aggregation of distressed assets that lie scattered across several lenders. Secondly, its securitised receipts (SRs) carry sovereign assurance. This is of particular comfort to PSU banks as price discovery would not be subject to later investigations. It would initially focus on large accounts with debts over Rs 500 crore. This is also expected to free the banks from the tortuous recovery process and afford them more space to focus on much-needed credit expansion. The newly-minted ARC, NARCL is not a bank, but a specialised financial institution to help resolve the distressed assets of banks.

While the aggregation of debt is no doubt a distinct advantage, will it deliver better and faster results to lenders in terms of realisation? The proof of the pudding lies in execution and all eyes will be focused on IDRCL (Indian Debt Resolution Company), the operating arm, which would be in the private sector. Can this public/private partnership make a difference?

Over the last three decades, there have been several institutional and policy measures to resolve the bad debts. Institutional measures include BIFR (Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, 1987), Lokadalat, DRT (Debt Recovery Tribunal, 1993), CDR (Corporate Debt Restructure, 2001), SARFAESI (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement, 2002), ARC (Asset Recovery Company, 2002). But the resolution for these is a measly 6.2 per cent, 4.1 per cent and 26.7 per cent for Lokadalat, DRT and SARFAESI respectively. The RBI has also launched a slew of measures during 2013-14 to resolve, reconstruct and restructure stressed assets. These too did not deliver and they were all abandoned subsequently. The RBI has again come out with a prudential framework for resolution. A poor ecosystem and legal delays frustrate many of these initiatives. These need to be addressed.

Of the 28 ARCs (private sector) in operation, many are bit players. The top five ARCs account for over 70 per cent of the asset under management (AUM) and nearly 65 per cent of the capital. Either they should consolidate or strategise as niche or regional players. Even private sector ARCs have not done well in the sale of zombie assets. Hardly 13.9 per cent of the assets acquired are actually sold. Financial and business restructuring appears to be more an exception than the norm. Nearly one-third of debts are rescheduled. This is not much value addition to what lenders would have otherwise done at no additional cost. (See table 1)

The IBC, introduced in 2016, was landmark

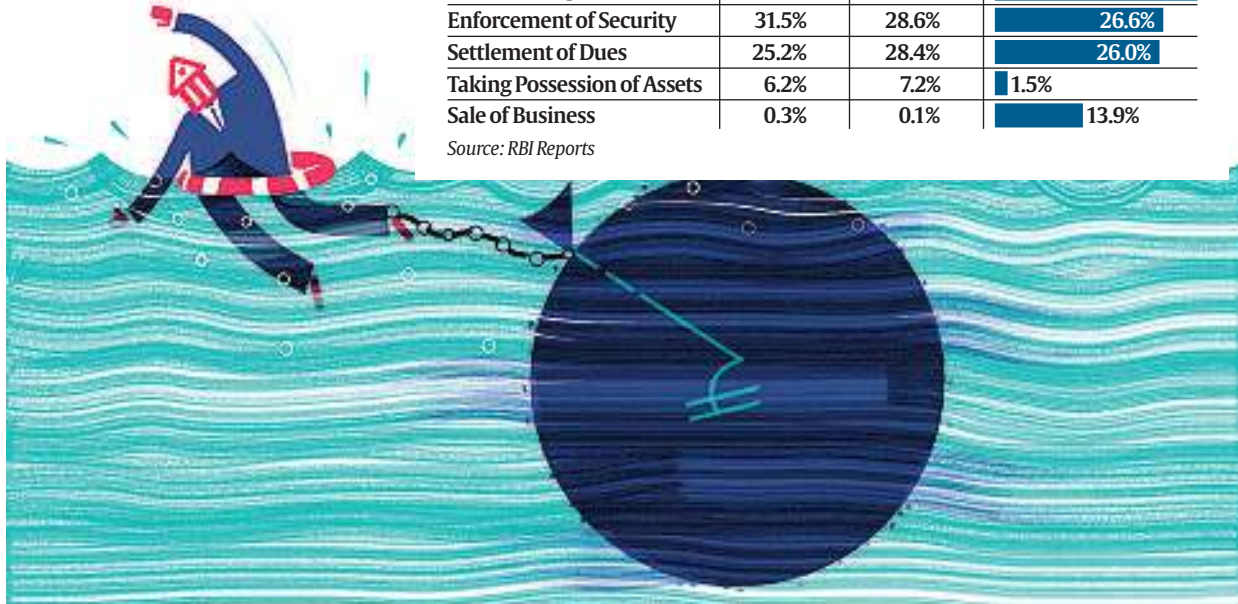


TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL ASSETS - RESOLVED BY METHOD OF RESOLUTION IN %

RESOLUTION METHOD	MAR 2018	MAR 2019	MAR 2020
Rescheduling of Debt	36.8%	35.7%	32.0%
Enforcement of Security	31.5%	28.6%	26.6%
Settlement of Dues	25.2%	28.4%	26.0%
Taking Possession of Assets	6.2%	7.2%	1.5%
Sale of Business	0.3%	0.1%	13.9%

Source: RBI Reports

CR Sasikumar

legislation and marked a welcome departure from the earlier measures, with a legally time-bound resolution. The focus is on resolution rather than recovery. Qualitatively, it has instilled a sense of fear in mischievous corporate borrowers who have siphoned off funds, and dethroned them. It nearly put an end to evergreening. Even though there are delays under this newfound promise, they are counted in terms of days and not years and decades. It has succeeded in resolving a few large corporate borrowers with an average recovery of 45 per cent. But there is concern about the elevated haircuts -- in some cases going up to 95 per cent.

The NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) proves to be the choke point. It is the backbone of the IBC, but lamentably is starved of infrastructure and over 50 per cent (34 out of 63) of NCLT benches were bereft of regular judges. Over 13,170 cases involving distressed debt of Rs 9.2 lakh crore are languishing with the NCLT. Even the parliamentary committee has rightly expressed indignation on a large number of positions left vacant. This lack of adequate infrastructure, coupled with the poor quality of its decisions, has proved to be the IBC's Achilles' heel. We need judicial reforms for early and final resolutions.

Forty-seven per cent of the cases referred to the IBC, representing over 1,349 cases, have been ordered for liquidation. Over 70 per cent of these cases were languishing at the now-defunct BIFR for years and decades. Against the aggregate claims of the creditors of about Rs 6.9 lakh crore, the liquidation value was estimated at a paltry Rs 0.49 lakh crore. Lenders and regulators need to address this issue of delayed recognition and resolution. Perhaps, incentives to lenders for more flexible provisioning requirements would encourage them to recognise early. Business stress and/or financial stress needs to be recognised even prior to regulatory norms on NPA classification.

The tendency to make decisions on the basis of first available information is called "anchoring bias". The first available information in bidding for distressed assets is the cost of acquisition to ARCs. In the case of the IBC process, it is the liquidation value by IBBI valuers. As per reports, distressed assets that are fully provided

Over the last three decades, there have been several institutional and policy measures to resolve the bad debts. Institutional measures include Lokadalat, DRT (Debt Recovery Tribunal, 1993), SARFAESI (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement, 2002). But the resolution is a measly 6.2 per cent, 4.1 per cent and 26.7 per cent for Lokadalat, DRT and SARFAESI respectively.

for may be taken over by NARCL at 20 per cent. This low cost of acquisition would suffer from the anchor effect and bias. Potential bidders would quote prices nearer to this anchor. This was observed in the IBC bidding process where, in many cases, the quoted prices were close to the liquidation value.

Nobel Laureate Daniel Kahneman has argued that "the anchoring effect is not [a] laboratory curiosity. It can be just as strong in the real world" "When people face a difficult situation they clutch at straw[s] and that straw is [the] anchor straw". He may be mitigated by "opposite thinking". He suggests a three-step process to mitigate anchor bias: One, acknowledge the bias; two, seek more and new sources of information, and three, drop your anchor on the basis of new information. Valuation is a highly contested issue.

The IBC has made considerable progress in bringing about behavioural change in errant and wilful defaulters by forbidding them to take back distressed assets. The NARC should uphold this principle, not dilute it. Otherwise, the credit culture suffers. Second, it should have a sunset clause of three to five years. This will avoid the perpetuation of moral hazard and also encourage expeditious resolution. Third, anchor bias needs to be mitigated by better extrinsic value discovery. Fourth, it should avoid selling to other ARCs.

The NARCL is a welcome initiative. But no number of resolution and recovery tools and frameworks can address the fundamental problem of accumulation of elevated and recurring NPA generation. Prevention of the accumulation of NPAs (below 2 per cent) is critical.

The RBI has recently released (November 2) a report on the working of ARCs. The report vindicates our argument that the performance of ARCs is "lacklustre". The draft report, inviting comments from the public, makes 42 recommendations to improve the performance of ARCs. This article incidentally makes an effort to identify some constraints and offer solutions to improve the performance of ARCs.

Rangarajan is former chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and former Governor, RBI and Sambamurthy is former Director and CEO, IDRBT

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"As the US has always been trying to politically exploit the Winter Olympics and put pressure on China, top US officials are unlikely to become kind guests at the Olympics."
— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Just not cricket

Kashmiri students have become soft targets. Arbitrary sedition and UAPA cases against them must be withdrawn



NASIR KHUEHAMI

IN AGRA, THREE Kashmiri students were arrested by the police after a local BJP activist filed a complaint accusing them of raising anti-India slogans post the India-Pakistan cricket match on October 24. When they were brought to the court in Agra, right-wing activists and local lawyers roughed them up inside the court premises. It was declared that no lawyer of the bar association will plead their case. Unfortunately, efforts were made to use the three Kashmiri students as scapegoats for larger political gains, considering that the high-stake UP assembly election is round the corner.

Booking these Kashmiri students under the stringent sedition law over their WhatsApp status is arbitrary and unwarranted. College authorities have made it clear that the trio had only uploaded congratulatory WhatsApp status. But right-wing activists accused the students of raising provocative slogans, which the college authorities have since termed as baseless. The police, paying no heed to "facts" and the official version of the college, went ahead and booked the three students under the sedition charges.

A former Supreme Court judge, Deepak Gupta recently remarked that cheering for any team or player is not sedition and it's ridiculous to think it is so. It may be offensive but it is not illegal in any way. He said that there is no place for sedition in a civilised democracy. In a country that houses the biggest temple of democracy, support for a particular team should never be tagged to someone's political opinion. Every sport is in its inherent capacity neutral and devoid of political inclination. It was a display of sportsmanship by Indian captain Virat Kohli when he reached out to his Pakistani counterpart Babar Azam and hugged him. By giving credit to his opponent and standing by their teammate Mohammed Shami, Kohli taught us an important aspect of sports.

Despite all these messages, Kashmiri students were attacked and roughed up at a few colleges in India after the World T20 match. The message is clear: Sport is no more sport but a means to enforce nationalism. All three families whose sons were arrested belong to marginalised communities and do not have the resources to travel to Agra. Two families even find it hard to meet their daily expenses. One of the students is an orphan. He could pursue studies only because of the PMSSS scholarship.

When the Agra lawyers' association declined to provide legal help to Kashmiri students, we moved to other places to

plead their case. Delhi-based lawyer and activist Tamanna Pankaj called us and assured us help through the Association for Protection of Civil Rights (APCR). Later, Madhuvan Chaturvedi agreed to defend the students in court.

Twelve students were reportedly assaulted in BGJET Sangrur, Punjab and four students in Mohali after the India-Pakistan T20. Dozens of students allegedly barged into their hostel rooms and thrashed them. In Chikkaballapur, Karnataka, members of the Congress student wing, NSUI, filed a complaint against Kashmiri students for posting a congratulatory message after the India-Pakistan match.

Slapping students with UAPA charges is harsh punishment. It will ruin their futures and further alienate them. No doubt they raised slogans that hurt the sentiments and emotions of people, which is not a justifiable act, but charging them under UAPA is excessive and ruins their careers. Students who go to other states of the country do so for pursuing studies seriously. They have nothing to do with politics. In fact, those trying to give political or religious colour to the students studying outside Jammu and Kashmir are damaging the fabric of the country. Many institutions in the country claim zero tolerance against discrimination on the basis of region and religion. However, these institutions rarely stand up for Kashmiri students. Inside many institutions, students are often discriminated against or assaulted on the basis of their regional identity. There are vested interests who spread hate, bigotry and narrow mindedness against Kashmiri students, which has turned them into soft targets. The vilification of the Kashmiri is orchestrated by some media houses and is continued on the ground by anti-social elements, including in campuses.

We must respect everyone's sentiments and restrain from hurting the sentiments of others. But roughing up students for supporting a particular team goes against the spirit of the game. We understand that fans are emotionally connected to the sport but beating up Kashmiri students can't help us to change the results of the game.

We hope that in the larger interest of the country, a large-hearted approach would be taken towards the students booked for sedition in Agra -- the cases against them should be withdrawn. They made a mistake, no doubt, but we hope they will be allowed to return to studies. If students make a mistake, including raising controversial slogans, we need to reach out and counsel them instead of acting harshly against them. The government should give them a chance to restore their faith in the ethical standing and fairness of the Indian Constitution. The government should also take measures to ensure that the relationship between Kashmiri students and others remains cordial.

The writer is national spokesperson of J&K Students Association

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PEOPLE MATTER

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The façade cracks' (IE, November 20). It has now become clear that in a parliamentary democracy, while the institution of Parliament might be hijacked by the ruling executive, it is ultimately the voice of the people that is paramount and it is not always feasible to bulldoze unpopular legislation. This is not to say that there was nothing good about the intended reforms under the farm laws, rather the fact that before the enactment of any new legislation, all the concerned stakeholders must be invited to the negotiating table in order to adumbrate more holistic legislation for deliberation by the legislature. In this regard, the most penitent apology by any government is an avowal to scupper and stymie the tyrannical tendencies within itself.

Vinay Saroha, Delhi

blessing in disguise.

YG Chouksey, Pune

GUJARAT'S DIET

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Gujarat: Myth of a vegetarian state' (IE 21 November). The current dispensation in the state appears to be identifying non-vegetarianism with religion, and not with any concerns over its health effects. The state must remember that choice of food is integral to the right to life, as laid down in the Constitution, and attempts to make forcible changes to people's food habits would be unconstitutional.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

BAD PRECEDENT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Not in public interest' (IE, November 19). The NDA government's blatant extension of the present tenure of two years both for the ED and CBI directors to a maximum of five years through ordinances underlines its preference for their continuation -- for whatever purpose -- and not the public interest. For the same reason, the government's so-called right to adopt an extreme step has no takers. Such arrogance when the ruling party has a brute majority in the Lok Sabha is a sign of the times. But even such arrogance can be short-lived as is evident from PM Narendra Modi's cancellation of three farm bills under the kisan unions' unrelenting pressure. Perhaps political parties should learn from their persistence.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

FUTURE UNCERTAIN

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Step back & forward' (IE, November 21). It is a paradox that the Prime Minister had to apologise to the nation about the farm laws even when according to several Indian and foreign experts, they were in the interest of small farmers. This is a big blow to the growing overconfidence (not arrogance) of the PM about the accuracy and acceptance of his decisions by the masses. If this setback inspires him to be a bit more receptive to people's real opinions and go for building consensus on controversial issues, this blow may become a

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NISHA BISWAL

The push US-India trade needs

Deeper business ties are crucial to post-Covid economic recovery

OVER THE PAST two decades, the partnership between the world's two largest democracies and free-market societies has strengthened tremendously. From strategic cooperation to our deepening people-to-people ties, the gains have been impressive.

In that time, trade and investment volumes between the United States and India have also experienced enormous growth but still lag behind our deepening strategic and cultural alignment. As the US-India Trade Policy Forum begins, it is critical to address this shortfall. The current stakes for a growing economic partnership have never been greater as we experience a volatile and uneven global economic recovery from the pandemic.

Along with other countries, the US is trying to navigate a boom in consumer spending, tame inflationary pressures, and align global supply chains with broader strategic objectives. Expanding trade can reduce consumer prices and put its economic recovery on a more stable footing.

At the same time, India is trying to move up value chains and reach ambitious development targets. The aim is to grow to a \$-5 trillion economy by 2025, become a hub for high-tech manufacturing, and install 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 -- goals that can only be achieved with US capital and investment, and continued access to the American market.

Prior to the start of the US-India Trade Policy

Forum, the US Chamber of Commerce called for urgent action to enhance the commercial relationship and lay the groundwork for an eventual comprehensive bilateral trade agreement. With flexibility and a commitment to keep the bigger picture in mind, progress toward these goals can be achieved.

On India's side, there is already a positive momentum in the economic partnership to build on -- recent moves to raise FDI caps in key sectors and the repeal of the retroactive tax law have boosted investor confidence and stoked optimism on India's liberalisation path. The Indian government has signalled its dedication to reform and has expressly supported a trade deal with the US -- a welcome and historic development. However, some harmful legacy policies have persisted and intensified during the pandemic, with the government implementing unpredictable tariffs and regulatory regimes targeting foreign firms.

The Biden administration, having not yet offered a full-throated global trade policy, signalled a narrower focus on these legacy trade irritants ahead of the TPF. The White House has called repeatedly for democracies to come together in this era of strategic competition.

As the first US-India TPF in over four years begins, neither of these starting points is likely to culminate in the broad trade deal for which we have long advocated. However, both governments can make real progress by pursuing

negotiations on two parallel tracks: One dedicated to removing and resolving longstanding irritants and disputes, and the other focused on building a 21st-century trade framework that can bring together the best of both countries, starting with the key sectors that are driving growth and innovation across the economic corridor.

US-India cooperation in the healthcare sector stands to be one of the most impactful areas for our countries and the global health architecture. As our two countries emerge from the global pandemic, this is a unique moment to form a health initiative that removes barriers to the Indian market that harm both American workers and Indian patients. To facilitate growth in the sector and drive investment in research and development, it is essential that the governments embrace market-based approaches on innovative medical products, ensure that public procurement policies do not discriminate against foreign firms, and align regulatory structures to speed the approval of medical devices and pharmaceuticals so that critical and lifesaving therapies can get to the market faster.

To promote further growth in the digital sphere, which represents over \$100 billion of bilateral trade, we must address several foundational issues, such as the digital service tax, cross-border data flows and common cellular standards. It's important that on the digital

services tax, India accords with emerging global agreements that will accelerate trade.

Similarly, it is important that India and the US come to a common ground on 5G standards so that the world's democracies can operate in an integrated telecommunications ecosystem. New data regulations should also facilitate the flow of information and respect internationally recognised intellectual property rights that serve as the cornerstone for innovation worldwide.

Progress on these fronts can address some of our current economic maladies and create the momentum and goodwill to begin to remove the impediments to a bilateral trade deal -- one that can facilitate the movement of the goods, services, technology, talent, and capital necessary to fortify the world against climate disruption, prepare it for future pandemics, and build an economy ready for the challenges of the 21st century.

Among the Biden administration's most urgent initiatives is proving that democracies can come together in this period of geopolitical flux. Strengthening trade and investment ties through a reimagined US-India Trade Policy Forum is a great place to start.

The writer is president, US-India Business Council and Senior Vice President, International Strategy, Global Initiatives and South Asia, US Chamber of Commerce

L-G Sinha must apologise to Hyderpora victims, says Mehbooba

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 21

PDP CHIEF Mehbooba Mufti led a protest march to Raj Bhawan on Sunday, demanding an apology from Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha over last week's encounter in Srinagar's Hyderpora, in which four people were killed.

The protesters also demanded a judicial probe into the incident and the return of the body of the third person killed in the incident.

The J&K administration has already announced a magisterial probe into the incident.

"Since L-G Sinha is the head of the unified command, he should seek a apology from the families of the victims," Mufti told reporters on Sunday outside Raj Bhawan. "He (Lt Governor Sinha) will need to seek an apology from the people of Kashmir."

Demanding a judicial probe, Mufti said, "They [administration] will have to take back the allegations that they [deceased] were militants, over ground militants and hybrid militants."

After the encounter, police said building owner Mohammad Altaf Bhat was a militant associate, and the next day, they said another civilian, Dr Mudasir Gul, was an over ground militant worker. The police also claimed that Amir, a resident of Ramban in Jammu, was a hybrid militant. The families of all the three deceased have rejected the police's claims.

While the police said that the fourth persons killed in the gunfight was a Pakistani militant, Mufti questioned the statement. "We have doubts if there was any militant (inside). We haven't seen any body. Was a militant really there? Whether the militant was there or not, there is a big question," she added. Hitting out at the administration, Mufti said they had banned all forms of dissent in the UT. "They have taken out the funeral of democracy... They don't allow anybody to talk, anybody to protest," she said.

Meghalaya CM says youth must cross Hindi 'language barrier' to get jobs

SOURAV ROY BARMAN NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

MEGHALAYA CHIEF Minister Conrad Sangma on Sunday exhorted the state's youth to learn Hindi to be able to "cross the language barrier" and get employed in other parts of India, lamenting that Hindi does not get the attention that it deserves in many Northeast Indian states.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new building of the Shillong centre of the Central Institute of Hindi, Sangma said in Hindi, "In many states in the Northeast, Hindi does not get adequate attention... As long as we are not able to cross the language barrier, employment will be a problem... Hindi will put you (the youth) in an advantageous position."

Sangma, whose National People's Party which is a part of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance, also requested the Centre to include Garo and Khasi languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Describing local languages as the "identity" of the people of the region, he pitched for the use of technology for the preservation of local languages. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who was also present at the occasion, said, "What do the youth need? Pride? Self-esteem? For that, one needs to be economically independent, which comes with a job that needs a person to understand things."

He added that the National Education Policy, 2020 lays stress on the mother tongue and Indian languages.

Sangma's comments on Hindi come days after Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah, requesting a Mizo-speaking chief secretary, asserting that the state's top bureaucrat will not be efficient without a working knowledge of Mizo.

Uttarakhand polls: Kejriwal promises free pilgrimage scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN, NOVEMBER 21

AAP CHIEF Arvind Kejriwal Sunday promised a free pilgrimage scheme for people from different communities in Uttarakhand if his party comes to power in next year's Assembly elections.

Under the free pilgrimage scheme, Hindus will be sent to Ayodhya, Muslims to Ajmer Sharif and the Sikhs to Kartarpur Sahib, he announced at a press conference in Haridwar.

The Delhi Chief Minister also spoke with auto and taxi drivers during the day, asking them to give an opportunity to AAP and promising they would "forget all other parties".

"If an AAP government is formed in Uttarakhand, just like Delhi, we will start 'tirth yatra yojna' here. The people of Uttarakhand will get to visit Ayodhya in complete comfort. For our Muslim brothers, we will have a provision of (pilgrimage to) the Ajmer Sharif Dargah and for our Sikh brothers, the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan," he said. Kejriwal's pilgrimage pitch —



AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal at a rally in Haridwar. PTI

in place in Delhi as the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Scheme' — is one he has made in other poll-bound states as well. The auto driver outreach is also a leaf out of his Delhi playbook.

He said on Sunday: "Ours is the first party which promises to make both your life and afterlife better... I recently went to Ayodhya to visit Ram Lalla. While coming outside I prayed to God to make me able to ensure every person in the country gets to visit Ram Lalla. In Delhi we are running Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojna under which the elders in

Delhi are given the facility of tirth yatra free of cost. There is a list of 12 pilgrims and so far 36,000 people have taken advantage of the same."

He attacked both the Congress and BJP and said AAP doesn't see itself between the two parties but among the people.

"In 2020, I had asked the people of Delhi to not vote for me if they felt I hadn't done work. Nobody dares to say this before polls. Today I ask you to give us an opportunity, you'll then stop voting for other parties," said Kejriwal.

Museums of PMs likely to be inaugurated on Vajpayee's birth anniversary

DIVYAA NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THE MUSEUM of Prime Ministers, being built at Delhi's Teen Murti Estate, is nearing completion, with sources saying that the project is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 25 — the birth anniversary of late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Rs 270 crore-museum, which was scheduled to be completed in October 2020, faced repeated delays due to pandemic-related disruptions, and issues related to civil work and content curation.

The 10,975-sq m museum will feature objects and memorabilia from the lives of PMs, including some collected from their families, and employ digital displays and virtual reality. It has also been designed to accommodate future Prime Ministers.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

BJP rakes up halal issue in Kerala, calls for practice to be banned across state

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOVEMBER 21

THE BJP on Sunday demanded that the Kerala government ban halal food and halal boards in eateries across the state.

The BJP demand comes after claims emerged on social media that the Muslim clergy would spit on food to make it halal. Last week, former VHP state president S J R Kumar had moved the High Court, alleging that halal-certified jaggery was used at Sabarimala temple for preparing prasadam.

Upping the ante on Sunday, BJP state general secretary P Sudheer, addressing the media, claimed that halal is a "social evil" like triple talaq. "The BJP does not believe that halal is a religious practice and doesn't think that even Islamic scholars would

EXPLAINED **BJP, Christian groups find common ground**

AFTER THE "love jihad" issue, the BJP and Christian groups have found common ground over the halal issue. However, this is unlikely to make a bigger impact in Kerala, as even eateries owned by non-Muslims sport halal boards, and products manufactured by non-Muslims are given halal stamps as part of enhancing business interests.

back it. By giving a religious façade for halal, extremist organisations are trying to implement a communal agenda in Kerala

society," he said. Claiming that there is a sudden spurt in halal boards in the state, Sudheer said, "If this is being done on behalf of the religion, scholars should be ready to rectify it."

Backing Sudheer, BJP state president K Surendran said in Kozhikode that the "halal phenomenon" in Kerala is "neither accidental nor innocent".

"Certain religious extremists are behind promoting halal culture. Those forces want to divide people of Kerala and foment tension in society. There is a clear agenda behind spreading halal culture," Surendran said.

P C George, a former leader of regional Christian party Kerala Congress (M), also joined the issue. An ex-legislator, George, who had invited the wrath of Muslim organisations over his anti-community comments in the recent past, on Sunday

claimed that halal food is part of religious fundamentalism.

"Spitting on food is mandatory for Muslims. While kneading the dough, they would spit on it three times. The prasadam at Sabarimala should not be used as halal jaggery is used for making it," he told Christian TV channel *Shekinah TV*.

Meanwhile, state BJP spokesman Sandeep G Varier, who had earlier appealed for calm and said that Hindus, Muslims and Christians cannot live by "imposing economic siege against one another", appeared to have changed his tune Sunday after party leaders said his observations would be looked into.

"I have made a personal comment on the issue... But the media wanted to distort it as an anti-party stand. I am withdrawing it as a disciplined party worker," Varier said.

Religion failed them, caste failed them, courts cannot: Devdutt on same-sex marriage



Devdutt Pattanaik

Section 377, Pattanaik asked: "If a young man wants to spend his life with another man and wants to pass on his property to that man, why would the court have a problem with that? Are they against people's freedom?"

"The government of India is saying that love doesn't matter, only men and women can marry. If you have sex outside of marriage, that's also a problem. But to a gay and lesbian couple, it's say-

ing, 'you can have sex but you cannot marry'. That's a very weird idea. You're basically saying that these human beings can have a sexual relationship and not a loving, social relationship," he added.

The Centre has raised objections to same-sex marriage stating that marriage in India necessarily depends upon "age-old customs, rituals, practices, cultural ethos and societal values".

However, Pattanaik in his recently launched book, *Marriage: 100 Stories Around India's Favourite Ritual*, looks at the fluidity of marriage and the concept of family in Hindu scriptures and folklore.

For instance, there's a single father, Rishi Kaanva adopting Shakuntala, or the six Kritikas raising Kartikeya.

"The fact is, Indians are used to seeing diverse ways in which the gods are talking to us. They're not following heteronormative princi-

ples at all. They're not following patriarchal systems in ritual contexts," Pattanaik says.

"Both the Left and the Right try to pigeonhole Hinduism into a very strange thing. The Left will only look at it through a lens of caste. The Right will only look at it through the lens of Brahminical supremacy. These are very limited ways of understanding Hinduism," Pattanaik argued.

Giving examples of the amalgamation of different rituals into a marriage ceremony, such as the mangalsutra from South India, the sindoor from the Harappa, and the saptapadi from the Vedas, Pattanaik said: "The unique thing about Hindu culture is that you will never find standardisation. It's always customised to the context." He added: "So, if the culture is diverse and dynamic, the law also should be diverse and dynamic."

MP: Dalit man's hand hacked off after payment dispute

IRAM SIDDIQUE BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 21

A 45-YEAR-OLD Dalit construction worker's hand was hacked off with a sword in Dolmou village of Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district on Saturday, allegedly by a man who owed him money for work, police said.

The accused, Ganesh Mishra, has been arrested and charged with attempted murder and provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The victim is admitted in hospital in Rewa, and the limb has been reattached to his body. It is not immediately clear if it can be used again.

Around 11.30 am on Saturday, the victim, Ashok Saket, had an argument with Ganesh over a payment dispute at the latter's house in the village, some 60 km from the Rewa district headquarters.

Ashok's brother Shivakumar Saket said Ashok had erected some pillars and beams at the house for which he was owed around Rs 15,000. Of this, Ganesh had paid him only around Rs 6,000, Shivakumar said.

According to Shivakumar, Ganesh rang Ashok around 11 am and asked him to come and take his money. Ashok went immediately, taking along a co-worker, Satyendra Saket.

"They met Ganesh Mishra in his house, where they measured the work done, but a heated argu-

ment broke out over the area constructed and the amount due. Mishra asked my brother to wait while he got the money, but instead returned with a sword which he swung at my brother's neck. My brother raised his left hand to protect himself, and the sword chopped it off entirely," Shivakumar said.

Satyendra and Ashok managed to flee on their motorcycle. The family met them midway, and took them to the police station in a hired vehicle. From there, they went to a primary healthcare centre, and were subsequently referred to Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Rewa city.

Rewa SP Naveen Bhasin told *The Indian Express*, "Soon after I was informed by SDOPPSParaste, we constituted four teams, one of which was sent to the scene of the crime, and the others after the perpetrators."

At the spot, the team led by SDOPParaste began searching for the severed limb, with an ambulance standing by to rush it to hospital. "The accused Ganesh Mishra was living in a house he was getting built amidst his fields. The argument broke out over how the work done on the pillar and beam should be measured. He (Mishra) kept swords and lathis in the house," Paraste said.

The severed arm was found in a field of black gram. "While Ganesh Mishra packed, took some money, and escaped on his mo-

torcycle, two of his brothers picked up Ashok's arm and the sword, and threw them in the fields," Paraste said.

By then, police had reached members of Ganesh's family, including his brother Ratnesh Mishra and cousin Krishna Kumar Mishra, who had helped him to clean up the blood, get rid of his bloodstained clothes, and dispose of Ashok's severed arm.

Ganesh himself was nabbed by the end of the day, police tracking him down based on information provided by his father, Raghuendra Mishra, who works with the local district administration, and is preparing to contest the upcoming panchayat elections.

Ganesh, Ratnesh, and Krishna have been booked under IPC Sections 307 (attempt to murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence), the Arms Act, and the SC/ST Act.

Doctors at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital performed an over-two-hour surgery to reattach Ashok's arm. Chief Medical Health Officer Dr Atul Singh said, "The success of such surgery depends on how soon and in what condition the severed organ was brought in, and whether the body accepts it after the surgery... We immediately cleaned it and began the surgery. Considerable blood was lost, but the surgery was successful. We will be able to say whether the arm is working after four-odd days."

MP to bring in police commissioner system for Bhopal, Indore

IRAM SIDDIQUE BHOPAL, NOVEMBER 21

MADHYA PRADESH will implement the police commissionerate system in Bhopal and Indore, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on Sunday, saying the move will benefit security forces better maintain law and order in the two cities.

"Police is doing a good job... But the population of cities is expanding... Thereby new problems of law and order and administration is coming up. For their resolution and for control on crime, we have decided to implement the police commissioner system in Bhopal and Indore," Chouhan said.

Currently, responsibilities are divided between the district magistrate and the Superintendent of Police. The DM issues arrest warrants and licences, and the SP directs investigation for crimes and the arrests.

With this change, a police commissioner will have the combined responsibility of policing as well as magisterial powers. The commissioner also directly reports to the state government, instead of the district administration.

There are presently 65 commissionerates functioning in the country.

Bungalow construction in Old Goa heritage site triggers protests

MAYURA JANWALKAR PANAJI, NOVEMBER 21

AN ONGOING agitation against the allegedly illegal construction of a bungalow in a heritage precinct at Old Goa reached a new high on Sunday when thousands gathered outside the St Cajetan Church demanding that the structure be torn down.

While agitations have been held before against the construction, Sunday's gathering was the largest so far. About 1,500 chairs set up at the protest venue were filled while hundreds of others stood in solidarity of conserving the heritage precinct. Several speakers — historians and architects among them — addressed the crowd. Among the listeners were residents of Old Goa, students, professionals and political leaders and workers from the Congress

and the Trinamool Congress.

The Save Old Goa Action Committee (SOGCA) has already moved the Supreme Court over the permissions granted for the bungalow's construction.

Historian Prajal Sakhardande, who was among those who addressed the crowd, said that while the state's natural heritage was already at stake, the construction of the bungalow in a UNESCO world heritage precinct was an affront to Goa's heritage structures as well. "The construction of this bungalow violates all heritage norms. Even if they may have obtained permissions for it, these permissions were obtained by dubious means," Sakhardande told *The Indian Express*.

"The Church was instrumental for the large turnout we saw today. The church gave a clarion call for all to turn up in support. There are seven world heritage churches



The protest on Sunday outside St Cajetan Church in Old Goa against the construction of the bungalow at the heritage site. A part of the land on which the bungalow is being built was sold to Manish Munot, husband of BJP spokesperson Shaina NC, in 2015. Express

in Old Goa and this movement is to protect our heritage and it is not at all political," he said.

The bungalow is being constructed in Ella village under

Tiswadi taluka and a part of the land was sold to Mumbai-based developer Manish Munot, husband of BJP spokesperson Shaina NC, in 2015. The SOGCA, in its let-

ter to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in September, said, "This is a case of gross misuse of power by the State Government to favour a powerful and influential party."

Munot, had said in September that he had pulled out of the project. Shaina had also earlier said she had no part in the development of the property. She was not available for comment on Sunday. Goa BJP president Sadanand Tanavde said: "We have nothing to do with this issue. I wish to say nothing about this. This is somebody's personal issue, a local issue... if tomorrow someone finds this illegal, let them demolish it..."

Activists who were a part of the protest on Sunday however, said that even though Munot had pulled out of the project, the construction continued. "This construction will set a bad precedent. It will lead to more concrete structures in heritage precincts. It has

to go," said Sakhardande.

The SOGCA, has stated in its petition before the Supreme Court that the bungalow was being constructed on land that was divided into two parts. By sale deeds executed on May 8, 2015, a 2,400 sq mt part of the land was sold to one Suvarna Lotlikar and another part of 9,500 sq mt was sold to Munot.

They have contended that while the Archeological Survey of India's (ASI) Goa circle had found that Lotlikar had submitted photos of a structure in Pernem, North Goa while seeking an NOC to repair the structure in Old Goa, the ASI headquarters in Delhi granted permission for repair — before the Goa circle's report was submitted — in February 2020 stating that repair should be carried out in consultation with the ASI Goa Circle.

Architect Tahir Noronha, who also addressed Sunday's protest, administered a pledge to the

crowd. "I pledge that until the illegal structure at Old Goa is demolished, and the TCP [Town and Country Planning] department draws the protected area, buffer zones on regional plan at Old Goa, I will not vote for any candidate put forth by the ruling party..."

Goa Congress president Girish Chodankar, who also attended the protest, said, "We are committed to stop illegalities at Old Goa and will always remain with the people to protect the Holy Precinct."

The protesters also held placards against 'Nhaal', Konkani for coconut — the symbol of the Goa Forward Party (GFP). They claimed Lotlikar is the wife of former GFP treasurer Suraj Lotlikar. "After it was brought to my notice, I have removed him. He is no longer a member of our party. We are being targeted because of the election," said GFP president Vijai Sardesai.

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021



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TELLING NUMBERS

The emergence of humour in children, mapped by age

A NEW STUDY has mapped young children's ability, by age, to laugh and make jokes. Using data involving nearly 700 children from birth to 4 years of age, from around the world, the findings identify the earliest age when humour emerges, and how it typically builds in the first years of life. The study, led by University of Bristol researchers, has been published in the journal *Behavior Research Methods*.

The research team created a 20-question Early Humour Survey (EHS) and asked the parents of 671 children, aged 0 to 47 months from the UK, US, Australia, and Canada, to complete a five-minute survey about their child's humour development.

Among the findings, as described in a press release from the University of Bristol:

1 MONTH

The earliest reported age that some children appreciated humour. An estimated 50% appreciated humour by 2 months, and 50% produced humour by 11 months. Once children produced humour, they did so often, with half of children having joked in the last 3 hours.

21

Number of different types of humour identified in the children surveyed. Children under 1 appreciated physical, visual and auditory forms of humour — hide and reveal games, tickling, funny faces, bodily humour (e.g., putting your head through your legs),

and funny voices, the release said.

1-YEAR-OLDS

They appreciated several types of humour that involved getting a reaction from others. This included teasing, showing hidden body parts (eg, taking off clothes), scaring others, and taboo topics (eg, toilet humour).

2-YEAR-OLDS

Their humour reflected language development, including mislabelling, playing with concepts (eg, dogs say moo), and nonsense words. Children in this group were also found to appreciate making fun of others and aggressive humour (eg, pushing someone).

3-YEAR-OLDS

They were found to play with social rules (eg, saying naughty words to be funny), and showed the beginnings of understanding tricks and puns.

The University of Bristol quoted lead author Dr Elena Hoicka as saying: "Our results highlight that humour is a complex, developing process in the first four years of life. Given its universality and importance in so many aspects of children's and adults' lives, it is important that we develop tools to determine how humour first develops so that we can further understand not only the emergence of humour itself, but how humour may help young children function cognitively, socially, and in terms of mental health."

Source: University of Bristol

THIS WORD MEANS

CABOTEGRAVIR & RILPIVIRINE

An injectable treatment combination for HIV patients, approved in UK. Why is this significant?

LAST WEEK, the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published a draft guidance recommending the country's first long-acting injectable treatment for HIV-1 infection in adults.

The recommended treatment is a combination of the injections cabotegravir (also called Vocabria and made by ViiV Healthcare) with rilpivirine (also called Rekambys and made by Janssen).

Oral vs injections

While there is no cure for HIV, infected people can manage the virus with the help of medication. At the moment, treatment involves lifelong antiretroviral tablets that need to be taken every day. The objective is to keep viral loads to levels at which the infection cannot be detected and transmitted between individuals.

"Despite scientific advances HIV is still incurable, but the virus can be controlled by modern treatment. However, for some people, having to take daily multi-tablet regimens can be difficult because of drug-related side effects, toxicity, and other psychosocial issues such as stigma or changes

in lifestyle," NICE quoted Meindert Boysen, deputy chief executive and director of the Centre for Health Technology Assessment at NICE, as saying.

Clinical trials have shown that administering cabotegravir with rilpivirine is as effective as oral antiretrovirals at keeping the viral load low. NICE has recommended the combination as an option for adults with HIV-1 infection in those cases when antiretroviral medicines have kept viral loads to low levels and there is no evidence of viral resistance.

These injections are to be administered separately every two months after an initial oral tablet lead-in period.

Who benefits

About 13,000 people in England will be eligible for injectable treatment, according to NICE. However, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) quoted Professor Alison Grant, Dean of its Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, as saying that the new guidance is still only a recommendation and "there is still much to do before clinicians can give these injections to patients; this will take at least several months".

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Why meat-eating cannot be banned in 'vegetarian state' Gujarat

LEENAMISRA

AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 21

IN HIS 2017 Budget speech, then Chief Minister Vijay Rupani had declared that Gujarat would be a "vegetarian state". The announcement coincided with his government adding more teeth to the cow slaughter law, which now awarded a life term to offenders, and came a few months ahead of the Assembly elections that year.

After the lockdown forced many restaurants to shut in cities such as Ahmedabad, some that reopened dropped the red dot from their menu, and others turned into cloud kitchens, largely because of the economics.

Events over last two weeks, however, show how unlikely it is that meat-eating can be banned in the state. BJP functionaries of municipal corporations in four major cities—Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad—declared a crackdown on carts selling non-vegetarian food on the streets. State BJP pres-

ident C R Paatil had to hush up the city unit leaders, and assert that there was no ban on meat eating and that people had a "right" to eat what they want.

The myth & the reality

In 2003, when Gujarat was recovering from the previous year's riots, then BJP MLA Bhavin Sheth from Ahmedabad's Ellisbridge constituency, under the watch of then MoS (Home) Amit Shah (now Union Home Minister), forced shut food carts selling non-vegetarian fare from the street outside IIM-A, which was part of his constituency. Those food carts have not yet returned. Sheth is a Jain, a community declared as a minority, and an influential community in Ahmedabad occupying powerful political positions.

Gujarat's image of being vegetarian takes from this impression about Ahmedabad where you can even get pizza and *vadapav* in categories called 'Jain' (no onion, garlic or tubers) and 'Swaminayan' (without onion or garlic), the latter taking from the large follow-

ing of the Swaminayan sect.

Marketing about Gujarat also has focused solely on its vegetarian fare. The recipes for the local spicy mutton curry, prawn and fried *paaplet* (pomfret), largely remain a secret preserved in private kitchens or innocuous non-vegetarian *dhabas* along the state highway.

Sociologists and historians assert that the belief that Gujarat is a vegetarian state is a myth. As per the Sample Registration Survey of 2014, Gujarat has a 40% meat eating population, which is even higher than in Punjab and Rajasthan. And these are not just Muslims, Christians and Parsis, but also OBCs, Dalits and Tribals.

Gujarat is also a major fish producer, contributing 17% of the country's marine produce. The Kharwa and Koli OBC communities of Saurashtra and South Gujarat, are largely into fish production. However, fish-eaters in Ahmedabad, who would depend on the fish sold from mobile vans of the government-supported Gujarat Fisheries Central Co-operative Association Ltd, near IIM-A, for

and 69% with two doses of Covaxin.

Vaccine effectiveness was highest with a 6-8 week interval between two doses of both vaccines. However, according to senior author Dr Manoj Murhekar, Director of ICMR-NIE (National Institute of Epidemiology), there were not enough numbers to gauge a 12-week interval. "The main point here is vaccines are effective. We do not really need a booster immediately as by June this year at least 60% of the country's population was infected with SARS-CoV2 and vaccination would have served as a boost to the immune system," he said.

Another senior author, Dr Pragna Yadav, from ICMR-National Institute of Virology, said Covaxin and Covishield were effective against

severe Covid-19 during the dominance of Delta variant in the second wave.

Main author Tarun Bhatnagar from ICMR-NIE, Chennai, said an escalation of the two-dose coverage with vaccines is critical to control the pandemic in the country.

The study

The study was conducted between May and July 2021 in 11 hospitals. Of 1,073 cases of severe Covid and 2,264 controls (Covid-negative individuals), 6% cases and 17% controls reported full vaccination, and 16% cases and 28% controls reported partial vaccination with Covishield. The effectiveness of full vaccination was 80%.

quality products, have had to look for other sources after the association suspended the sale in 2014 because of "protests from locals" say officials. Ahmedabad has low tolerance for non-veg food being sold or consumed in the open. Most egg- and chicken-eating members of vegetarian Gujarati families consume it outside of their homes.

BJP's balancing act

When the BJP has planned a conscious outreach to OBCs with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new ministry inducting a number of OBC ministers, and when Uttar Pradesh, where more than half the population is non-vegetarian, is going to polls, the party brass has realised that upping the ante on meat-eaters would upset the election math. With the presence of Gujaratis in the central decision-making dispensation growing, the party had to make the right noises to assert that what happened in Gujarat was not reflective of its overall mindset.

It might also have dawned on the party

SIMPLY PUT

Politics of UP expressways

Three successive regimes in UP have focused extensively on building expressways, but these have also faced delays, political one-upmanship and public protests. As a result, policy and planning have evolved.

MAULSHREE SETH

LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 21

IN UTTAR PRADESH, expressway projects are so closely intertwined with politics that they have remained the headline achievement for three successive regimes.

UP's expressway network today is 800 km long, the latest addition being the 341-km Purvanchal Expressway inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week. Crisscrossing the state from Greater Noida in the west to Ghazipur near the Bihar border in the east, the network has been built at a cost of Rs 50,000 crore over the last 15 years.

Another 900 km is in the pipeline—longer if we count proposed extensions.

An expressway is a highway project that is "access controlled" for high-speed traffic. Entry and exit points are designated, and a combination of underpasses, bridges, interchanges gives high speed but hurdle-free movement.

Early delays, present rush

The first expressway, the Taj Expressway project (later renamed Yamuna Expressway), went through a series of regimes before it saw the light of day. Conceived in 2001 during the BJP regime under Rajnath Singh, it was planned and executed during 2007-12 BSP regime under Mayawati—who gave it the new name—and was finally inaugurated in 2012 by then CM Akhilesh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party.

This project saw more protests than any other, including a violent clash between protesting farmers and police in Bhatta Parsaul village of Gautam Buddha Nagar in 2011.

Following the experience of the Yamuna Expressway, Akhilesh Yadav rushed into the next two expressways. He inaugurated the Lucknow-Agra Expressway just before the 2017 Assembly polls, at a time when roadside amenities were yet to be developed; these were completed later. Then, he laid the foundation stone the Samajwadi Purvanchal Expressway in a hurry although 90% of the land was yet to be acquired. Subsequently, the BJP government under Yogi Adityanath cancelled the previous bids and renamed the project Purvanchal Expressway, which his government completed and which Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated last week.

The present government is racing against time to complete the Bundelkhand Expressway before the 2022 elections are notified. This will have been conceived and constructed entirely during the current regime.

How policies evolved

Through different regimes, the state's policies and planning have evolved as it learnt from every hurdle.

DIRECT LAND ACQUISITION: Having faced prolonged protests from farmers during construction of the Yamuna Expressway, which was given to the company Jaypee Infratech, the government changed its policy and now buys land directly from farmers. The agreement for each plot is made individually between the



farmer and the district administration, and the amount is transferred to the farmer's account, leaving no scope for a unified protest.

CONSTRUCTION IN PACKAGES: Because of their size, most of these projects were not feasible for private companies to undertake independently. The government has evolved a system of dividing these into six to eight packages, and issuing separate tenders for each.

Expressways built, planned

"With the completion of Purvanchal Expressway, Uttar Pradesh now contributes 28% of the expressway network of the country. Soon Bundelkhand and Gorakhpur Link Expressways will also be completed, and the state would have an over 1200-km-long expressway network," said Awanish Kumar Awasthi, CEO of Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority.

The first three of the expressways described below are already in operation. All three are of 6 lanes, expandable to 8 lanes.

YAMUNA EXPRESSWAY

Greater Noida to Agra, 165 km
Inaugurated on August 9, 2012 by then CM Akhilesh Yadav

As described earlier, it was conceived by the BJP government in 2001, completed by the BSP government, and inaugurated by the SP government. During the acquisition process, farmers felt compensation was not enough compared to the expected profits of the executing company, Jaypee Infratech, which was offered land parcels along the expressway. The protests culminated in the Bhatta Parsaul clash. Using its evolved rehabilitation policy, the BSP government was able to start work and complete the project just around the 2012 elections.

AGRA-LUCKNOW EXPRESSWAY

Agra Inner Ring Road to Sarosa Bharosa (Lucknow), 302 km
Inaugurated on November 21, 2016 by

Akhilesh Yadav

Proposed in 2013, the project initially found no takers among private players, as there was no land parcel along the way that could have compensated for the cost of construction. In 2014, the government decided to develop the project with its own funds by dividing it into five packages of 60 km each. The contracts went separately to PNC Infratech, Afcons Infrastructure (two packages), Nagarjuna Construction Company, and Larsen & Toubro. The Samajwadi Party government claimed to have completed the project in a record 22 months.

PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY

Lucknow to Ghazipur, 341 km
Inaugurated on November 16, 2021 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The idea was initially conceived in 2016, and the foundation stone was laid by Akhilesh Yadav in December 2016. However, after the Yogi Adityanath-led government came to power in 2017, the earlier tenders were cancelled and fresh tenders were issued in eight different packages. The Samajwadi Purvanchal Expressway was renamed, with some changes in its alignment. A stretch of it has been developed for landing of fighter planes, and the present government also plans to develop Industrial hubs along the expressway.



The following projects are in the works.

BUNDELKHAND EXPRESSWAY

Chitrakoot to Etawah (connecting to Agra-Lucknow Expressway), 296 km
Foundation stone laid by PM Modi in February 2020.

The estimated Rs-14,000-crore project has a deadline of March 2022. This four-lane expressway is significant for several reasons. It would connect the underdeveloped

Bundelkhand region to the National Capital Region. A Defence Corridor has also been aligned along this project. The government is racing against time to complete it before the polls.

GANGA EXPRESSWAY

Phase 1: Meerut to Prayagraj, 594 km; Phase 2: Tigri to Uttarakhand border, and Prayagraj to Ballia

A similar project had once been conceived by then CM Mayawati but as its alignment was planned along the Ganga riverbanks, the project was stuck for environmental clearances and could not proceed. Current CM Yogi Adityanath has announced a fresh Ganga Expressway, and land acquisition has already started.

On Saturday, the State Level Environment Impact Authority issued environmental clearance to the proposed alignment. The estimated cost of the project is around Rs 36,230 crore.

GORAKHPUR LINK EXPRESSWAY

Azamgarh to Gorakhpur, 91 km
Being built at Rs 5,876 crore, it will connect Gorakhpur and the adjoining Tarai region with the recently inaugurated Purvanchal Expressway, linking the region with the state capital and the national capital through the expressway network. It is being built in two packages — Gorakhpur to Ambekarnagar, and from there to Azamgarh. The government claims that over 35% of the work is complete.

Industrial hubs

While governments have experimented with reserving a portion for landing of fighter planes, its new focus is on developing Industrial towns along these expressways. "From next month onwards, work will start on development of Industrial Hubs along Purvanchal Expressway as well," Awasthi said.

The government is in the process of identifying industrial hubs and issuing notifications.

Of 887 cases and 1,384 controls, 3.4% cases and 5.3% controls reported full vaccination and 16% cases and 28.3% controls reported partial vaccination with Covaxin. The effectiveness of full vaccination was 69%.

The study was conducted along with researchers from Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi; Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, New Delhi; AIIMS-Jodhpur, JSS Medical College, Mysuru; Government Medical College, Nagpur; SRM Medical College, Chennai; JIPMER-Puducherry; Surat Municipal Institute of Medical Education and Research, AIIMS-New Delhi, Rishikesh, and Bhubaneswar; and ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune.

whom made a living out of selling egg dishes on handcarts, and many for whom this was the only affordable nutritious meal.

But Paatil, in a media interaction in Rajkot on Saturday, reiterated how everyone in this country "has the liberty to decide what to eat. It is not appropriate to remove a person selling non-vegetarian food from a cart. There is no such provision in the law either. People are free to sell anything which is not prohibited. So, there is no question of removing carts (from roads)," he said. He added that all mayors had been instructed not to take any such action against non-veg food carts.

While Rupani, a Jain, could get away with declaring Gujarat "vegetarian", Paatil, who has roots in Maharashtra, could not risk the decision being attributed to him. Surat, his home city, and Navsari, his constituency, have a large traditionally non-vegetarian population, which also includes upper caste Hindus, Parsis, and migrants from many states. It was also the only city that did not add decibel to the noise against non-vegetarianism.

12

IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

AMARINDER SINGH, FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

“Punjab believes in Punjabiyyat, it's a liberal society. We are a regional party... I am looking at what we can do for state”

Amarinder Singh talks about his “legacy” of fulfilling his 2017 manifesto promises, lays out plans for his new party, says he believes Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi have grown into their Cong role, and repeats his fears for Punjab security. This session was moderated by Resident Editor MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: You have announced a new party, Punjab Lok Congress. Is it just born out of anti-Congressism? What would you call your charter or philosophy?

A high-power committee will sit down over the next couple of days and decide the broad outlines, which really will be the manifesto of the party. We are very serious, we are not going to leave Punjab at sea. We have threats from within, without, and it is for us to do our bit. I don't know whether the Congress is going to be in a position to do anything the way they are right now; everyone is pulling everyone to bits. And I don't trust the (Shiromani) Akali Dal, which has always played 'double' on these issues... I was around during the build-up to terrorism, and they played with both sides... I think there is a place for all of us who feel Punjab should be secure, Punjabis should be secure.

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: You said you were open to a seat-sharing arrangement with the BJP, but the BJP has said it will fight all the 117 Assembly constituencies in the state. It said there is polarisation in Punjab and they hope to do well. Are these conflicting signals?

We will fight all the seats with our allies — whether in adjustment with the BJP or with Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (a former Akali Dal leader who has formed his own party). When the BJP said it (that it will contest all the seats), I had not left the Congress... I don't think anyone can claim that we are going to win 117 seats... Neither can you expect a national party to say we will fight anything less than 117 seats. They say that, but they also know that if we have alliances — they are doing it with Dhindsa too — then give-and-take always takes place. I also said we are going to target 117 seats... What I meant was that we will fight with whoever is our electoral partner.

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: As a military historian, you have a deep sense of legacy. How will your alliance with the BJP be seen, given its right-wing ideology that you have always opposed?

I can't talk about ideology at a national level, but in Punjab, we don't have this sort of business. Punjab believes in Punjabiyyat. We are a very liberal society. All of us are together — the Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Jains... We are a regional party and I'm not looking beyond that. I'm looking at what we can achieve for Punjab. Don't forget, we have a 600-km border with a hostile country, and it is very important that we maintain good, friendly relations with all communities.

... I'm here to be remembered as somebody who has achieved a great deal. I had two terms in the government: 2002-07 and now. What we have achieved, I don't think any government has. We achieved 92% of our manifesto promises till I was chief minister, and I think the Congress government is carrying on with it. The last time this was done was by (then Andhra CM) Chandrababu Naidu in 1983, when he achieved 83% of his manifesto promises... For instance, everybody in Punjab is covered by Rs 5 lakh insurance; anybody within the Lal Dora land has possession of their house; we run the Basera scheme in urban areas. I cleared a whole lot of projects, conceived at least three to four months ago. I hope the government implements them before the elections.

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: The Congress now accuses you of not doing what was needed, such as on the power purchase agreements (PPAs), which have been reworked. CM Charanjit Singh Channi has said on record that you were in cahoots with the Badals.

He can say what he likes... When you want to get rid of somebody or something, you find an excuse. All the decisions which I took are now being implemented. About the PPAs... first, let's understand what Punjab requires. This July, the rains were less, the dams were not full and the power requirement went up to something like 50,000 megawatts... We have just two power units... So, then you have to buy from the national grid. Punjab can only transmit 7,000 megawatts... We were, at that time, buying power at a very heavy rate, but it fluctuates... You can be buying it at Re 1 or at Rs 15... depending on the supply and demand. We rejected Damodar Valley and Bokaro offers of Rs 21 and Rs 19... Last week, where I'm sitting, we have had four hours of power cuts already. Industry and farm-



WHY
AMARINDER SINGH

Having floated his own party, Punjab Lok Congress, former CM Amarinder Singh will be among the players to watch for in the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections. While Congress continues to fight its in-house battles, long after Amarinder's exit, the repeal of the farm laws means the road is clear for him to align with the BJP

ers need power... All these things you have to think of, you can't just take decisions emotionally. Yes, we all decided that the arrangement should be renegotiated. Why? Because what the Akali government did was absolutely wrong... that even if we do not ask to buy your power, we will pay you for it.

MANOJ CG: You have been in politics for almost five decades, CM for two terms. Why has no significant Congress leader or MLA or district president joined you? Why are you so isolated?

I'm not isolated, I have got set-ups now in all the districts. We are starting a membership trial. Why is no one from the Congress joining me? It's very simple — if somebody joins me, they sack them... The moment any MLA steps out of line, they cut his funds. Therefore, I told them all, 'Keep sitting, let the Code

of Conduct be enforced, then you join (once it is in place, the use of funds is restricted)'. So we are waiting for the Code of Conduct.

MANOJ CG: After you resigned as CM and signalled that you will float a new party, did Sonia Gandhi speak to you, or Rahul or Priyanka? Did they reach out to you?

Mrs Gandhi spoke to me about three or four weeks before I offered to resign. I told her I cannot carry on. She asked me why. I said because Navjot Singh Sidhu is pulling right, I am pulling left... She told me to stay. Then, one morning, she called me and told me I should resign. I said I had offered you my resignation... She just said I'm very sorry. I said that's fine, you don't have to be sorry... They think I'm ready to retire, I don't think I'm... I have still got many years of productive life left in me. I will fight but I will fight for my state. I will

also fight the anti-national elements... Look at the weapons that are coming in, the drones, the bombs... What is the objective? What is Pakistan's intent?... I have been through the time after Operation Blue Star and terrorist activities, 35,000 Punjabis died. I don't want another Punjabi to die. These are the sort of things that are going to happen, and these fellows have no idea... Submachine guns have come in. These incidents were only documented during June, July and August this last quarter. Drones started coming last year, by June. Earlier, they would burrow the drones under the (border) wires or send them via rivers, but last June they started air dropping them... As a person who has dedicated my life to the state and to the country — 10 years in uniform and then as CM — I owe it to them to do what I can for them.

Do you know what the debt of Punjab is, how much these guys are spending? Our GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) at the time of last assessment was about Rs 5,35,000 crore. We have already borrowed Rs Rs 4,00,000 crore... Seventy-five per cent of Punjab is in debt... Two months since I left, they have spent another Rs 20,000 crore... Therefore, I must stay and do what I can.

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: You once said that if Punjab continues to grow paddy, it will face desertification in 25 years, and that we will grow kinnow instead. But it seems the area under paddy has only increased even under your watch.

We started a field-to-fork programme and a few pilot projects in Ropar district with Reliance. It would have set up 100,000 outlets and we would have grown vegetables and fruits for them. Reliance would give seeds to the farmer, teach them the techniques, and directly lift the produce... But the Akalis cancelled it... I have been talking to experts... suggested that if we can get a grant from the Government of India... for maybe Rs 20,000-30,000 crore, create a sort of MSP for pulses. We stop growing paddy and start growing pulses... Pulses need no water, they will grow just with rainfall... I

hope this interests the Government, we have sent a proposal.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA: During your tenure as CM, did the Centre, particularly the Minister of Agriculture or anyone from the Prime Minister's Office, ever ask you to mediate with the farmers?

Initially, the Government of India thought I was the one behind this movement... If anyone wants to protest in the national capital, it is within their power to do so. I'm not going to stop them... But yes, people have been meeting these farmers at the Singhu border to find a solution — not politicians, but intelligence officials, agencies... I know the farmers are tough but I (was) worried of the impact on the law and order in Punjab. The farmers have been very peaceful, cooperative.

... For me, it (the concern) goes beyond that... Today, there is a China and Pakistan collusion, now you will have a Taliban collusion... The Taliban, Chinese and Pakistani forces together... I want Punjab to be secure and safe.

If you don't have a solution (before the elections), none of us will be able to go to villages, they will not want you. How do you fight an election? How do you enter the rural belt? They throw stones and break cars.

MANOJ CG: Now that you are out of the Congress, what is your frank opinion about Rahul Gandhi? Do you think the Congress can bounce back under his leadership?

ANANT GOENKA: I want to add to the question. Four or five months ago, you were very supportive of the next generation of the Gandhi family (in a conversation with *The Indian*



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Express). I have seen the Congress grow. I was a young MP with Mrs Indira Gandhi in 1980, she had a very good set of advisors. When Rahul came into the picture, I said he was not ready for it. Subsequently, he and Priyanka started travelling, and they have improved since then. So let's see, only time will tell if they are ready for it.

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA: Many feel that if the Congress is to succeed, the Opposition is to succeed, the Gandhis should get out of the way.

I'm no longer in the Congress, why are you asking me? However, you (the party) put aside 23 eminent people, such as Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shashi Tharoor, Kapil Sibal (part of the Group of 23 that is demanding sweeping changes in the Congress). They are assets of the party. What are you achieving by that? If you want to strengthen a party, you make it a cohesive force, make people join it, you don't push them out. And if you think you can do away with the older generation and just start something right from the start, it's not going to work.

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN: You won with a huge majority in 2017, announced some fantastic projects. Can you reflect on where things went wrong? Could you have done something differently?

There are ambitions of your own people; every minister has multiple portfolios. I'm not saying Charanjit Singh Channi is not a good minister. But then ambition comes... People were cooking up reports... I'm going to continue doing a good job whether I'm within the Congress or without it. I hope we will be able to have a seat

adjustment with the BJP and with the Dhindsa faction.

VANDITA MISHRA: One cannot avoid the sense of crisis in Punjab. The industry has stalled, agriculture has plateaued, parents want to send their children abroad. You say Punjab needs to be protected and secured.

But do you think you're not safe, you're not secure? Do you need a government or police or military to secure Punjab and Punjabiyyat?

Punjabiyyat means people of Punjab have always considered themselves Punjabi, whether from an upper caste or any other caste. Everyone works together because it's our heritage, it comes through our religion. You're right, people are asking their parents to sell their land to help them go to other countries. Young people have ambition, that doesn't mean we abandon Punjab. Hence, my target was that Rs 1 lakh crore industrial investment needs to come into the state... They (the vested interests) have no recruits today and Punjab is peaceful. But they will recruit (if there's no solution to the farmer agitation).

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR: Can you share names of some of the big smugglers arrested during your tenure as part of the crackdown on drugs?

When I took over, 65,000 people caught in drug cases were in jail. When I left, there were 45,000. There were six big fish, but I am sorry, I don't have the names with me. For one of the accused we had reached out to the Interpol and were trying to get him extradited. We extradited one person from Armenia, one from Spain, one person is already in a lockup in Rome, another is going through extradition proceedings, and one person is from Georgia... I broke the back of the drug cartels, but that doesn't mean the racket has ended. It hasn't ended in America and Americans have been working since the 1930s to finish the drug cartels.

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR: Your government didn't act on the STF report that alleged a nexus between police personnel, politicians and an alleged smuggler, Gurdeep Singh, who was arrested last year.

It's the STF's job today to see to it that action is taken.

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL: In your resignation letter to Sonia Gandhi, you said a number of Congress leaders were involved in illegal sand mining, but you did not name them as it could embarrass the party. Do you plan to reveal those names now?

I'm told that there are four or five large contractors in the mining business and little fellows who get involved... The Congress president told me illegal mining is going on in the state and we discussed some of the names. I informed the minister concerned to look into this issue. We knew who these people were, but they were not caught. It would not be right of me to take names until these people are caught.

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA: Every successive government in Punjab in the past few decades has been talking about diversification of crops, but nothing has happened. Why is there no concrete or long-term plan on this issue?

No, there is not just talk... We made a proposal that pulses be grown. Unfortunately, these are things you have to raise with the Government of India, because food security is an issue. And it takes a long time for the Government of India to decide. And by the time something happens, governments change. On issues such as diversification and the future of Punjab, every government must follow what the earlier government has done... So I agree that this business of diversification has been all talk and nothing is on the ground... In my time, it's not that the area (under paddy) has gone up, the production has. Cotton area has gone up, but that's part of the diversification programme. We have cut down fertilisers for instance, to get this bumper crop. But yes, it's a bad sign that we continue to have paddy.

(This session was held before the PM's announcement on Nov 19 that the three farm laws would be repealed)



RITTENHOUSE ACQUITTAL SPARKS PROTESTS ACROSS US

At a protest in Chicago, Illinois, on Saturday. Law enforcement in Portland declared a riot Friday night as about 200 demonstrators protested the acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse, who killed two people and injured another in Wisconsin. Protests have been held in several other US cities into Saturday over the verdict, including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. *Reuters*

Protests erupt in Pakistan's Gwadar amid growing backlash against CPEC

Imran Khan says his govt will support Chinese businesses in Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI, NOVEMBER 21

MASSIVE PROTESTS have erupted in Pakistan's port city of Gwadar against "unnecessary" checkpoints, a severe shortage of water and electricity and threats to livelihoods from illegal fishing, part of a growing backlash in the country against China's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road projects. The protests organised by workers of some political parties, civil rights activists, fishermen and others have been going on for a week in Gwadar, a coastal town in the restive Southwest Balochistan province of Pakistan. The protesters demand the removal of unnecessary security check posts, availability of drinking water and electricity, eviction

TTP wants political office in third country, Pak says 'not acceptable'

Islamabad: The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has asked the Pakistan government to allow it to open a political office in a third country, a demand rejected by Islamabad as unacceptable, according to a media report. In a series of meetings with the Pakistani authorities during negotiations for a peace

of big fishing trawlers from Makran coast and opening of the border with Iran from Panjgur to Gwadar, *Jang* newspaper reported on Sunday.

Head of the 'Give rights to Gwadar' rally, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, said the protests

agreement, the TTP made three demands, which include allowing the opening of a political office in a third country, reversal of the Federal Administered Tribal Areas merger with the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province and the introduction of "Islamic system" in Pakistan, the *Express Tribune* newspaper reported. **PTI**

would continue until their demands are met.

Rehman has strongly criticised the government in the past for failing to resolve the basic problems of the people of Gwadar.

The protests are part of growing discontent with China's pres-

ence in Gwadar, whose port is an integral part of the \$60-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project (CPEC), the flagship project of China's multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan has said his government would support Chinese businesses in Pakistan on a priority basis as he directed authorities to immediately resolve the issues related to road connectivity and provision of utilities being faced by investors from China.

Khan made the remarks during his meeting with a Chinese business delegation on Saturday.

"We will support Chinese businesses in Pakistan on a priority basis and are grateful to them for their keen interest in accelerating their investment in special economic zones," Khan said.



MEANWHILE

PUTIN 'REVACCINATED' AGAINST COVID

Russian President Vladimir Putin has been revaccinated against Covid-19, Russian news agencies quoted him as saying on Sunday. Putin said in June that he had been vaccinated with Sputnik V vaccine. "Today, on your recommendation and that of your colleagues, I got another vaccination, Sputnik Light. This is called revaccination," Putin said at a meeting with vaccine-makers.

AFTER LAST MONTH'S COUP

Sudan military leaders reinstate deposed PM

KHALID ABDELAZIZ
KHARTOUM, NOVEMBER 21

SUDAN'S MILITARY reinstated Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok on Sunday and promised to release all political detainees after weeks of deadly unrest triggered by a coup, though large crowds took to the streets to reject any deal involving the army.

Under an agreement signed with military leader General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Hamdok, first appointed after the overthrow of autocrat Omar al-Bashir in a 2019 uprising, will lead a civilian government of technocrats for a transitional period.

The deal faces opposition from pro-democracy groups that have demanded full civilian rule ever since Bashir was ousted and have been angered by the deaths of dozens of protesters in the weeks following the October 25 coup.

A hero for the protest movement, Hamdok became the villain for some. "Hamdok has sold the revolution," protesters chanted after the deal was announced. The Sudanese Professionals Association, a leading protest group, called it "treacherous".

Tens of thousands of people



Sudan PM Abdalla Hamdok

EXPLAINED **Bid to ease pressure**

EXPERTS SAY the military's decision to reinstate Hamdok as PM of a technocratic government is an attempt to bring down the pressure that the military leaders have come under due to the sustained mass protests across Sudan ever since last month's coup. It is unclear how much power the government, which remains under military oversight, will actually wield. Critics say the move by the military is intended to pacify the public while, at the same time, not having to face accountability for the coup and its violent aftermath.

joined scheduled rallies in the capital Khartoum and its twin cities of Omdurman and Bahri. Security forces fired bullets and teargas to disperse them, witnesses said.

"Hamdok has disappointed us. Our only option is the street," said a 26-year-old protester.

The coup triggered mass demonstrations against the military and medics aligned with the protest movement say security forces have killed 40 civilians in increasingly violent crackdowns.

Hamdok said he had agreed to the deal to prevent more casualties.

"Sudanese blood is precious, let us stop the bloodshed and direct the youth's energy into building and development," he said at a signing ceremony broadcast on state television.

Burhan said the deal would be inclusive. "We do not want to exclude anyone except, as we've agreed, the National Congress Party," he said, referring to Bashir's former ruling party.

However, the agreement made no mention of the Forces of Freedom and Change, the civilian coalition that shared power with the military before the coup. A number of people present at the signing ceremony had ties to Bashir.

REUTERS

China lowers diplomatic ties with Lithuania over Taiwan

REUTERS
BEIJING, VILNIUS, NOVEMBER 21

CHINA DOWNGRADED its diplomatic ties with Lithuania on Sunday, expressing strong dissatisfaction with the Baltic State after Taiwan opened a de facto embassy there, escalating a row that has sucked in Washington.

China views self-ruled and democratically governed Taiwan as its territory with no right to the trappings of a state and has stepped up pressure on countries to downgrade or sever their relations with the island, even non-official ones.

Lithuania defended its right to expand cooperation with Taiwan, while respecting Beijing's "One China" policy, and said on Sunday that its foreign minister would go to Washington on Tuesday to discuss trade and common investment projects.

Taiwan, meanwhile, reported that two Chinese nuclear-capable H-6 bombers had flown to the south of the island on Sunday, part of a pattern of what Taipei views as military harassment designed to pressure the government.

Beijing had already expressed its anger this summer with Lithuania after it allowed the island to open an office in the country using the name Taiwan.

UK calls for action on racial bias in medical devices

REUTERS
LONDON, NOVEMBER 21

BRITAIN CALLED on Sunday for international action on the issue of medical devices such as oximeters that work better on people with lighter skin, saying the disparities may have cost lives of ethnic minority patients during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Britain's Health Secretary Sajid Javid

UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid said he had commissioned a review of the issue after learning that oximeters, which measure blood oxygen levels and are

key to assessing Covid patients, give less accurate readings for patients with darker skin.

"This is systemic across the world. This is about a racial bias in some medical instruments. It's unintentional but it exists and oximeters are a really good example of that," Javid said during an interview with the BBC.

Asked whether people may have died of Covid-19 as a re-

sult of the flaw, Javid said: "I think possibly yes. I don't have the full facts."

He said the reason for the discrepancies was that a lot of medical devices, drugs, procedures and textbooks were put together in white majority countries.

"This is an international issue so I'm going to work with my counterparts across the world to change this," said Javid.

El Salvador plans world's first 'Bitcoin City'

NELSON RENTERIA
MIZATA (EL SALVADOR), NOVEMBER 21

EL SALVADOR plans to build the world's first "Bitcoin City", funded initially by bitcoin-backed bonds, President Nayib Bukele said on Saturday, doubling down on his bet to harness the crypto currency to fuel investment in the Central American country.

Speaking at an event closing a week-long promotion of bitcoin in El Salvador, Bukele said the city planned in the eastern region of La Union would get geothermal power from a volcano and not levy any taxes except for value added tax (VAT).

"Invest here and make all the money you want," Bukele said



El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele

in English, dressed all in white and wearing a reversed baseball cap, in the beach resort of Mizata. "This is a fully ecological city that works and is energized by a volcano."

Half of the VAT levied would be used to fund the bonds issued to build the city, and the other half would pay for services such as garbage collection, Bukele

said, estimating the public infrastructure would cost around 300,000 bitcoins.

El Salvador in September became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender.

Although Bukele is a popular president, opinion polls show Salvadorans are skeptical about his love of bitcoin, and its bumpy introduction has fuelled protests against the government.

Likening his plan to cities founded by Alexander the Great, Bukele said Bitcoin City would be circular, with an airport, residential and commercial areas, and feature a central plaza designed to look like a bitcoin symbol from the air.

"If you want bitcoin to spread over the world, we should build some Alexandrias," said Bukele,

a tech savvy 40-year-old who in September proclaimed himself "dictator" of El Salvador on Twitter in an apparent joke.

El Salvador planned to issue the initial bonds in 2022, Bukele said, suggesting it would be in 60 days time.

Samson Mow, chief strategy officer of blockchain technology provider Blockstream, told the gathering the first 10-year issue, known as the "volcano bond", would be worth \$1 billion, backed by bitcoin and carrying a coupon of 6.5%. Half of the sum would go to buying bitcoin on the market, he said. Other bonds would follow.

After a five year lock-up, El Salvador would sell some of the bitcoin used to fund the bond to give investors an "additional coupon", Mow said. **REUTERS**

Missing Chinese tennis star reappears in public

JOE MCDONALD
BEIJING, NOVEMBER 21

MISSING TENNIS star Peng Shuai reappeared in public Sunday at a youth tournament in Beijing, according to photos released by the organiser, as the ruling Communist Party tried to quell fears abroad while suppressing information in China about Peng after she accused a senior leader of sexual assault.

The post by the China Open on the Weibo social media service made no mention of Peng's disappearance or her accusation. The three-time Olympian and former Wimbledon champion was shown standing beside a court, waving and signing oversized commemorative tennis balls for children.

The ruling party appears to be trying to defuse alarm about Peng without acknowledging her disappearance after she on Nov. 2 accused Zhang Gaoli, a member of the party's ruling Standing Committee until 2018, of forcing her to have sex.

Peng's disappearance and official silence in response to ap-



Peng Shuai

peals for information prompted calls for a boycott of the Winter Olympics in Beijing in February, a prestige event for the Communist Party. The women's professional tour threatened to pull events out of China unless the safety of the former No. 1 doubles player was assured.

Discussion of Peng's accusation has been deleted from websites in China. A government spokesman on Friday denied knowing about the outcry. The ruling party's internet filters also block most people in China from seeing other social media abroad and most global news outlets.

Comments on Chinese social media on Sunday criticized the Women's Tennis Association and others who spoke up about Peng. **AP**

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

Regional Office
Baluatal, Motihari

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (CORRIGENDUM)
Refer to Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable property published in The Indian Express (Bihar) on 04.11.2021 (under SARFAESI Act-2002). It is brought to our knowledge that due to typographical error E-auction sale date was published as 00/00/2021. Please read Sale date as 25/11/2021 (Thursday). Rest All other contents shall remain same.
Authorised officer
Central bank of india

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(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
DR. D. Y. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE, HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE
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14 ECONOMY

AMID VALUATION CONCERNS IN NOVEMBER SO FAR

FPIs adopt contrarian game plan: Invest in IPOs, sell in stock market

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 21

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investors (FPIs) are taking a contrarian approach in the domestic capital markets by selling in stock market and investing in the IPO (initial public offering) market. While FPIs have invested over Rs 23,000 crore in the IPOs, they have pulled out around Rs 11,000 crore from stock market amid valuation concerns in November so far.

FPIs have made net investments of Rs 14,051 crore this month so far, according to the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) data. FPIs had invested in several IPOs, which hit the primary market this month, indicating their appetite for unicorns going for listing on the stock exchanges. "The FPI buy figure is inclusive of the large primary market investment of Rs 23,180 crore during this period. So, the actual stock market transaction is selling

of Rs 11,719 crore for November up to 19," said V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

The total FPI investment in IPOs is expected to cross Rs 50,000 crore in calendar year 2021. They had invested Rs 1,570 crore in FSN E-Commerce and Rs 1,400 crore in PB Fintech.

For the first half of November, FPIs have been sellers in banking and even in performing sectors like IT. "The trend indicates that FPIs are likely to turn sellers at every rise since most foreign brokerages have a 'sell' call on India on concerns of stretched valuations. But retail and domestic institutions may turn aggressive buyers if the market dips sharply," he said.

According to stock exchange data, domestic institutions made net investments in Rs 9,663 crore in the cash market in November so far. While FPIs are exiting on valuation concerns, domestic institutions have been absorbing stocks sold by FPIs.

EXPLAINED Eyeing unicorns

FPIs HAVE made net investments of Rs 14,051 crore in November so far, according to NSDL data. FPIs had invested in several IPOs which hit the primary market this month.

"The important point to note is that the old scenario where FPIs representing smart money dictated market trends is over for the present. Domestic institutions flush with money and the exuberant retail investors are calling the shots now. This can change if a major trigger causes a big pullback from the present lofty levels. We are in a period of uncertainty," said an analyst.

Retail investors are using the mutual fund route to invest in the

stock markets. In the equity and growth category, all schemes, barring ELSS and value/contras schemes, reported positive flows while in the hybrid category except for arbitrage and hybrid aggressive or balanced funds, the rest including majority balanced advantage and dynamic asset allocation schemes reported continued wide acceptance.

Assets under management in the equity- and hybrid-oriented schemes rose by almost one-third during April-October to Rs 13.12 lakh crore and Rs 4.76 lakh crore, respectively, as of October 31, from Rs 9.80 lakh crore and Rs 3.57 lakh crore, respectively, as on April 30, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) said.

Amfi said balanced advantage funds saw the largest inflows of Rs 11,219 crore in October. A major chunk of this money will be going into the equity basket.

Going forward, rising inflationary pressure will continue to haunt global markets as fears of rate hikes

will pump out liquidity from emerging markets like India, analysts said.

Domestic indices were hovering with a negative bias throughout the weak tracking volatile global markets in the wake of inflation woes. The Sensex ended lower at 59,636.01 in the bygone week. UK's rising annual inflation rate was reported at 4.2 per cent in October from 3.1 per cent a month ago, forcing investors to remain sidelined. Additionally, robust US October retail sales data, which rose 1.7 per cent, failed to pump optimism into global markets.

"On the domestic front, India's WPI in October spiked to 12.54 per cent from 10.66 per cent in September owing to the rise in prices of crude petroleum and manufactured products. Similarly, India's retail inflation rose to 4.48 per cent from 4.35 per cent led by a surge in food prices. The weak listing of India's largest IPO, Paytm, further impacted domestic sentiment," said an analyst.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

WITH AN aim to correct the inverted duty structure for textiles and footwear under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the Finance Ministry has notified a uniform 12 per cent rate for man-made fibre (MMF), yarn, fabrics and apparels, along with a 12 per cent uniform rate for footwear. The GST Council had taken the decision to correct the inverted duty structure for these two categories in its meeting in September, with the changes to be effective from January 1 next year.

In a notification on Thursday, the Ministry notified a 12 per cent rate for manmade fibre, fabrics, yarn and apparel. At present, tax rate on manmade fibre, yarn and fabrics is 18 per cent, 12 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively. Apparel and clothing up to Rs 1,000 per piece currently attracts 5 per cent GST. Synthetic and artificial yarn have been changed to 12 per cent but natu-

WHAT IS INVERTED DUTY STRUCTURE

■ An inverted duty structure arises when the taxes on output or final product is lower than the taxes on inputs, creating an inverse accumulation of input tax credit which in most cases has to be refunded.

ral yarn like cotton, silk, wool yarn are still in 5 per cent slab.

For footwear also, the price differential has been done away with. The Ministry notified a uniform 12 per cent rate. At present, footwear up to Rs 1,000 a pair attracts 5 per cent GST.

An inverted duty structure arises when the taxes on output or final product is lower than the taxes on inputs, creating an inverse accumulation of input tax credit which in most cases has to be refunded. Inverted duty structure has implied a stream

of revenue outflow for the government prompting the government to relook the duty structure. For footwear, the government estimates peg the refunds to be around Rs 2,000 crore in a year.

The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state finance ministers, had in its previous meeting on September 17 decided to correct the inverted duty anomalies in the textile sector from January 1, 2022.

The decision on inverted duty structure was deferred in June last year as the Council did not agree on the timing of the rate rationalisation to be done during the pandemic. Taking note of the revenue trend dipping below the revenue neutral rate levels, the GST Council will now be looking at a series of measures including rate rationalisations to correct the inverted duty structure and the overhauling of the rate structure going ahead.

SECTOR WATCH TRADE

Importer-exporter codes not updated after Jan 2014 to be deactivated

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 21

THE COMMERCE Ministry's foreign trade arm DGFT will deactivate all importer-exporter codes (IECs) that have not been updated after January 1, 2014, with effect from December 6, 2021, a move which would help in knowing the actual number of real traders in the country.

The Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) is a key business identification number that is mandatory for exports or imports.

No person shall make any import or export except under an IEC number granted by the DGFT.

On August 8, this year, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) had directed all IEC holders to ensure that details in their IEC are updated electronically every year during the April-June period.

"All IECs which have not been updated after January 1, 2014 shall be deactivated with effect from December 6, 2021," according to DGFT's trade notice.

The IEC holders who have not yet updated the relevant information can do that till December 5.

IEC that would be deactivated, would have the opportunity for automatic re-activation after December 6. For that, a trader would have to

KEY BUSINESS IDENTIFICATION

■ The Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) is a key business identification number that is mandatory for exports or imports. No person shall make any import or export except under an IEC number granted by the DGFT.

navigate to the DGFT website and update their relevant information.

"Upon successful updation, the given IEC shall be activated again and transmitted accordingly to the Customs system with the updated status," the notice said.

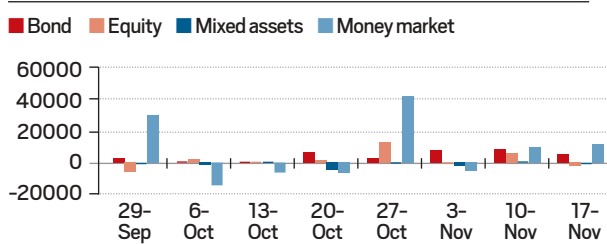
According to an industry expert, de-activation of IECs helps in reducing the base load of the directorate and it helps in knowing the actual number of real exporters and importers in the country.

The nature of the firm obtaining an IEC includes proprietorship, partnership, LLP, limited company, trust, and society. After the introduction of GST (Goods and Services Tax), the IEC number is the same as the PAN of the firm. **WITHPTI**

'US equity funds see outflows on early rate hike prospects'

US equity funds faced an outflow in week to November 17 after 6 straight weeks of inflows as investors assessed prospects of early rate hikes by the US Fed, as per Refinitiv Lipper data

FUND FLOWS INTO US DOMICILED EQUITIES, BONDS AND MONEY MARKET FUNDS (in \$ mn)



Source: Refinitiv Lipper data

US short/intermediate government and Treasury funds received \$1.65 billion, the biggest inflow in three weeks, while US short/intermediate investment-grade funds attracted \$914 million after a outflow in the previous week

Net \$1.98 billion sold in US equity funds, marking the first weekly outflow since September 29

US large- and mid-cap equity funds saw net selling worth \$4.56 billion and \$477 million, respectively, although, small-cap funds received inflows of \$193 million. US value funds secured the first weekly inflow in five weeks, worth \$1.32 billion. In contrast, growth funds faced an outflow for a third week, amounting to \$3.26 billion

Among sector funds, technology funds received \$484 million in net buying after outflows of \$1.56 billion in the previous week

'ADNOC weighs IPO of logistics, services unit'

REUTERS

DUBAI, NOVEMBER 21

STATE OIL firm Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) is weighing an initial public offering (IPO) of its marine services, logistics and shipping arm next year, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

ADNOC Logistics & Services has been selected for a potential float in Abu Dhabi in 2022, said the sources, declining to be named as the matter is not public.

ADNOC declined to comment when contacted by Reuters on Sunday. ADNOC, which supplies nearly 3 per cent of global oil demand, is seeking to extract value from businesses it owns and divest assets seen as non-core businesses.

'Maruti to stay away from diesel segment'

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has ruled out getting back into the diesel segment as it believes sale of such vehicles would further come down with the onset of the next phase of emission norms in 2023, according to a senior company official.

The country's largest car-maker believes the next phase of emission norms would jack up the cost of diesel vehicles, thus further impacting their sales in the market which for the last few years has seen a gradual shift towards petrol cars.

"We are not going to be in the diesel space. We had indicated earlier that we will study it and if there is customer demand we can make a comeback. But going forward, we will not be participating in the diesel space," MSI chief technical officer CV Raman told PTI in an interview.

He cited the upcoming stricter emission norms as a primary reason to avoid diesel-powered cars.



Maruti Suzuki plant, Manesar. File

Raman said the company would focus on improving its existing petrol powertrains in terms of fuel efficiency and going ahead, may also look at a new family of engines to power its product portfolio. There would be hybrid technologies and electric vehicles (EVs) going ahead, so there is going to be a lot of change from powertrain perspective, Raman noted. **PTI**

BRIEFLY Tax collection

New Delhi: With net direct tax collection till October closing in on Rs 6 lakh crore and average monthly GST mop-up likely around Rs 1.15 lakh crore this fiscal, the government's tax collection kitty will surpass Budget estimates this fiscal, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj told PTI in an interview. **PTI**

Infinity launch

Mumbai: Electric scooter rental startup Bounce has said that its maiden consumer e-scooter, Infinity, is set to be rolled out early next month and the deliveries are expected to commence from the early part of 2022. **PTI**

How US lost ground to China in race for clean energy

ERIC LIPTON & DIONNE SEARCEY
WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 21

TOM PERRIELLO saw it coming but could do nothing to stop it. André Kapanga too. Despite urgent emails, phone calls and personal pleas, they watched helplessly as a company backed by the Chinese government took ownership from the Americans of one of the world's largest cobalt mines.

It was 2016, and a deal had been struck by the Arizona-based mining giant Freeport-McMoRan to sell the site, located in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which now figures prominently in China's grip on the global cobalt supply. The metal has been among several essential raw materials needed for the production of elec-

tric car batteries — and is now critical to retiring the combustion engine and weaning the world off climate-changing fossil fuels.

PerrIELLO, a top US diplomat in Africa at the time, sounded alarms in the State Department. Kapanga, then the mine's Congolese general manager, all but begged the American ambassador in Congo to intercede. "This is a mistake," Kapanga recalled warning him, suggesting the Americans were squandering generations of relationship building in Congo, the source of more than two-thirds of the world's cobalt.

Not only did the Chinese purchase of the mine, known as Tenke Fungurume, go through uninterupted during the final months of the Obama administration, but four years later, during the twilight of the Trump presidency, so did the



Solar panels at LaGuardia Airport, New York. AP/PTI file

purchase of an even more impressive cobalt reserve that Freeport-McMoRan put on the market. The buyer was the same company, China Molybdenum.

But an investigation by The

New York Times revealed a hidden history of the cobalt acquisitions in which the United States essentially surrendered the resources to China, failing to safeguard decades of diplomatic and finan-

cial investments in Congo.

The loss of the mines happened under the watch of President Barack Obama, consumed with Afghanistan and the Islamic State, and President Donald J. Trump, a climate-change skeptic committed to fossil fuels and the electoral forces behind them. More broadly, it had roots in the end of the Cold War, according to previously classified documents and interviews with senior officials in the Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump and Biden administrations.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, both Democratic and Republican administrations shifted attention away from containing Communism and slashed generous financial aid that had helped American companies do business in Congo, the documents and interviews show.

In Africa, in particular, the United States pivoted toward human rights and good-governance issues. And globally, after 2001, the War on Terror became an all-consuming preoccupation.

The only serious bidders were Chinese companies, leaving no doubt about the consequences of standing by. "They were able to move swiftly and quicker than anybody else could," Kathleen L. Quirk, Freeport-McMoRan's president, said in an interview. "So we got the deal done."

Over the past year, as the clean energy transition has accelerated, the US government and the private sector have moved more rapidly to recover from past mistakes, scouring the world for new cobalt supplies and deploying cobalt-free batteries in some shorter-range electric cars. But all of that falls far

short of Chinese efforts to take over resources critical to a green future, including cobalt, lithium and others. A Bill that passed the House last week included tax incentives for buyers of electric vehicles and funding for charging stations across the United States. Separate bipartisan legislation that passed the Senate in June would funnel nearly a quarter-trillion dollars into research and development to compete with China, though none of that would address supply-chain threats like the sale of the Congo mines.

The lack of a formal industrial policy for minerals and metals has come at a cost to the US, diplomats from the last two administrations said. The fallout is now complicating Biden's push to make electric vehicles a central pillar of his climate change agenda. **NYT**

Cause for optimism

After a disappointing World Cup, Venkatesh & Axar bring hope as India blank NZ 3-0 in T20I series



Axar Patel took three wickets to ensure New Zealand's chase never got off the ground. AP

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 21

THIS WAS a game to take away positives and note down shortcomings. The final game of the three-match T20I series also presented the Indian team management with an opportunity to look into the bench strength. The series was already secured, but the 3-0 clean sweep served as an embellishment apart from shoring up confidence after a poor T20 World Cup.

One of the positives was winning the game batting first. Coming into the game, India's win rate batting first in T20Is this year was 40 per cent whereas they boasted a 100 per cent win record batting second. Skipper Rohit Sharma yet again won the toss – three on the spin – and “challenged” the batting unit “against challenging conditions”. The Eden Gardens pitch was unusually tacky and India would take heart from the fact that they got to 184/4 despite middle-overs jitters. Then, they dismissed New Zealand for 111 to win by 73 runs.

This was a dead rubber all right, but the country's most-storied cricket venue was hosting an international fixture after a gap of two years and at 70 per cent capacity, the turnout was expected to be around 47,000. It was a sold-out game and like the team management, the fans also enjoyed the cerebral batting of Venkatesh Iyer and the lusty hitting of Deepak Chahar (21 not out off eight balls). They expressed their anguish when the latter dropped a skier to offer Martin Guptill a reprieve and cheered Rishabh Pant's spectacular diving catch to dismiss Jimmy Neesham.

In the grand scheme of things, Dravid and company would be happy with the way Iyer has taken to international cricket.



Rohit Sharma's 56 off 31 balls included five fours and three sixes. PTI

After a 69-run opening wicket partnership in 6.2 overs in which Rohit contributed to the bulk of the scoring, the game suddenly changed when Mitchell Santner came into the attack. The left-arm spinner, leading the Kiwis in the absence of Tim Southee, bowled at the right pace and focused on making the ball skid from the outset rather than trying to give it a tweak. Ishan Kishan, KL Rahul's replacement, played for the turn and was out caught behind. In the same

over, Santner floated one outside the off stump, inducing Suryakumar Yadav to go for a drive. The batsman didn't move his feet much and played it upshilly to Guptill at short extra cover. At the non-striker's end, Rohit wasn't happy; there was a big gap on the off side to manoeuvre.

Santner bagged his third by dismissing Pant and when Rohit departed a couple of overs later, India were 103/4 in the 12th over. The arid numbers say that Venkatesh Iyer had a 36-run fifth-wicket partnership with Shreyas Iyer and the left-hander's contribution was a 15-ball 20. The scoreboard, though, wouldn't capture Venkatesh's maturity. Adjusting his stance to counter the low bounce of the pitch stood out. He is a tall man with a natural upright stance. But here he was staying low, especially against Santner and leg-spinner Ish Sodhi. Using his reach to hit a six off Sodhi attested smartness. Using his feet to hit a four against Santner was excellent cricket. And when for the first time he bowled in this series, Venkatesh returned with 1/12 from three overs, taking pace off the ball and mixing his deliveries well. Both Rohit and Dravid have spoken about playing the T20Is with an eye to next year's World Cup in Australia. Venkatesh has given them a good all-round option.

Ticking the boxes

On a surface where Santner created problems for the Indian batsmen, it was no surprise that Axar Patel made an instant impact despite bowling with the new ball inside the Powerplay. True to his style, Axar started off with a fullish, fastish delivery to dismiss Daryl Mitchell. Mark Chapman's scalp five balls later had a touch of Ravichandran Ashwin, as the senior off-spinner, resting for this game, watched

from the dugout. Axar gave the ball a lot more air, preempted Chapman's charge and dragged it wide outside the off stump. Pant completed a quick stumping. Glenn Phillips fell prey to a poor shot, an attempted reverse sweep to a full ball from Axar. He missed the line and was out bowled. The left-arm spinner finished with 3/9 from three overs and the way he bowled in this series, he has emerged as a pretty decent back-up for Ravindra Jadeja.

Chahal's course correction

Finally, Yuzvendra Chahal got a game and as expected, looked out of rhythm to start with, bowling the wrong line in his first two overs and conceding plenty. But the course correction and Guptill's (51 off 36 balls) wicket would be counted as another positive.

Fielding was very good as well, through a couple of run-outs and a couple of high catches, braving the evening dew. Santner, after being done in by a superb Kishan throw from the deep, threw his gloves in disgust, on his way to the dressing room.

Wrong shot selection under pressure remains an area of concern for India, confirmed by Pant's unnecessary slog to a flatter delivery from Santner. The left-hander seemingly carried the frustration of missing out on a long-hop in the previous over.

As for Rohit, his love affair with Eden continued via another half-century, leading to earning the Man of the Series award. A Sodhi stunner cut short his innings on 56, off 31 balls. But a 3-0 series win would certainly offer greater satisfaction.

BRIEF SCORES: India 184 for 7 (Rohit 56, Kishan 29, Chahar 21*, Santner 3-27) beat New Zealand 111 (Guptill 51, Axar 3-9, Harshal 2-23) by 73 runs

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

Deepak Djokovic, swatter & batter

Sitting in the dugout, Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid would be wondering how it all went wrong. From 90 off 10 overs, India was 162/7 with just 9 balls to go. Dravid would have slight hopes as **Deepak Chahar** was at the crease. Earlier this year, Dravid coached India white ball team in Sri Lanka. Chahar had played the innings of his life and helped India score an unlikely win. It wasn't a fluke. His one six off Milne reminded you of tennis on high-bounce hard courts. Short ball on the off-stump and Chahar made room, swung the bat ferociously and swatted it over the bowler's head for a six. Chahar on the crease had shades of Djokovic on the baseline. Sourav Ganguly removed his mask to beam. The fly on the dugout roof couldn't confirm but it is likely Dravid would have said: "Didn't I tell you, he can bat?"



Out of syllabus

In the final over of the first power play, Rohit Sharma hit a couple of fours and of his trademark jaw-dropping "off the hips" six. Among those impressed were the thousands at Eden Gardens, the Indian dug-out and the non-striker **Ishan Kishan**.



At the end of the over, he would be an inquisitive student asking his perpetual captain, questions. He seemed curious about Lockie Ferguson's "back of the hand" ball, using his gloved hands to show the ball release. New Zealand, in the next over, would change the pace of the game. They would introduce spin. From Ferguson's hitting the deck variety, it would now be Mitchell Santner's left-arm spin. More surprise, Ferguson would start with an armer, Kishan missed. Another armer the next ball and the young opener nicked it behind the stumps. It's like you prepare for Math but the teacher gives you an English test.

Glenn-eagle swoops in

"**Glenn Phillips**' dual unbelievable saves" is much-viewed from the IPL archives. Just as one from Ishan Kishan's edge is about to touch the third-man rope, Phillips comes sprawling across the screen, having run from at least deep point. He squeezes past an advancing Chetan Sakariya – who has to vault over him – palms the ball away, and recovers before Sakariya can, to fire back the throw. Phillips bats, keeps, bowls off-spin. But his acrobatics in the deep regularly make highlight reels. At Eden Gardens, Kishan was at the other end as Rohit Sharma tucked away what seemed like another four. Only for the turbo-charged Phillips to hare across to deep midwicket. Phillips crashed into the rope and the ball was following him there, but he changed direction instantly, and from an almost horizontal position, goal-kicked the ball to an infielder. Another one added to those unbelievable saves.



Chirpy Rohit, relieved Chahar

Skipper **Rohit Sharma** didn't hide his displeasure after Deepak Chahar dropped a skier from Martin Guptill. By the time Chahar came back for his third over, Rohit was in a much calmer mood with Axar stubbing the NZ chase. He was walking around at his usual languid pace, saying few words, and wiping the wet ball with the most matter-of-fact expression of getting the job done by the time Lockie Ferguson

skied the ball, and Chahar settled decisively under it to formally end the Kiwi chase in the 18th over. It was only the fifth victory for India to go with six defeats while batting first this year (They had won five out of five while chasing). To wrap up his first series as full-time captain after choosing to bat first with an emphatic 73-run win brought out a warm, satisfactory smile from Rohit as he went up to pat Chahar on the back.



WI debutant hit on head while fielding; SL end Day 1 on top

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE, NOVEMBER 21

SRI LANKA skipper Dimuth Karunaratne slammed an unbeaten hundred to give his team the upper hand in Sunday's opening Test against the West Indies, whose debutant Jeremy Solozano was taken to hospital after being hit on the helmet while fielding.

After being treated on the field by physios and medical staff at the ground, he was rushed to a Colombo hospital for further treatment.

"Jeremy Solozano's scans show no structural damage. He will be kept at the hospital overnight for observation," Cricket West Indies tweeted. "We will continue to keep you posted on any further updates from our Medical team."

Bad light forced an early end to the day's play in Galle with two overs remaining and the hosts finishing on 267/3.

Karunaratne batted through the day after winning the toss on a slow surface, making a 139-run stand for the first wicket with Pathum Nissanka. Part-time spinner Roston Chase dismissed Oshada Fernando and Angelo Mathews for three each in quick succession to bring the West Indies back into the game.

But Sri Lanka wrestled back the initiative as Karunaratne shared a 97-run partnership with Dhananjaya de Silva for the fourth wicket. This was Karunaratne's 13th Test century and fourth this year. He has bagged more than 750 runs in 2021, including a career-best 244 against Bangladesh, despite



Jeremy Solozano was fielding at short leg when he was hit on the helmet. AP

only playing 10 innings. Shannon Gabriel provided the breakthrough for the tourists when he had Nissanka – who was chasing a full delivery wide outside the off-stump – caught by Rahkeem Cornwall at first slip for 56. But they squandered an opportunity to dismiss Karunaratne on 14, when Cornwall found the outside edge of the bat but Jermaine Blackwood at slip was unable to hold on as he attempted a one-handed grab.

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 267/3 (Karunaratne 132*, de Silva 56*, Nissanka 56) v West Indies at stumps Day 1

Zverev dominates Medvedev, aces Finals

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TURIN, NOVEMBER 21

IF ALEXANDER Zverev's performance this weekend is any indication, a lot can be expected from the third-ranked German in 2022.

Zverev beat the top two players in consecutive matches to earn his second title at the ATP Finals. After eliminating No. 1 Novak Djokovic over three sets in the semifinals, Zverev put on a dominant performance in Sunday's final, beating No. 2 Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-4. Medvedev, the U.S. Open champion, won this event last year and had beaten Zverev five consecutive times.

"There's no better way to end the season than winning here," Zverev said. "I'm also now very much looking forward to next year already."

The title culminates quite a year for Zverev, who also won the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics and who has now finished 2021 with more wins on tour – 59, one more than Medvedev – than anyone else.

The main thing missing in Zverev's trophy collection is a Grand Slam trophy, having lost an epic final to Dominic Thiem in last year's U.S. Open final. The final was a rematch of a round-robin encounter on Tuesday, when Medvedev beat Zverev in a third-set tiebreaker.

This one went Zverev's way from the start, as the 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) player crushed a huge backhand to the corner then gained from a net-cord winner to break Medvedev's serve in the third game of the match.

Helped by fast conditions inside the Pala Alpitour, Zverev was virtually untouchable on his serve, winning 20 of 25 points with his serve in the first set.

Zverev broke again in the opening game of the second set then grew so confident that he began executing audacious swinging-volley winners as he followed his serve to the net on occasion.

Zverev closed it out with an ace out wide on his first match point – on a second serve.

This marked the first edition of the season-ending event for the top eight players in Turin – after 12 years in London, where Zverev won his first finals title in 2018.

Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut won the doubles title by beating Rajeve Ram and Joe Salisbury 6-4, 7-6 (0).

Novak should be at Australian Open, says Zverev

Novak Djokovic says he's going to have to "wait and see" if he plays the Australian Open after tournament chief Craig Tiley confirmed that everyone who attends the first Grand Slam tennis tournament of 2022 will need to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 – including all the players. Djokovic, a nine-time Australian Open champion, has refused to say if he's vaccinated – or if he intends to get vaccinated.

"We'll see. We'll have to wait and see," Djokovic said after getting beat by Alexander Zverev in the semifinals of the ATP Finals on Saturday – marking his final match on tour this year.

"I haven't been talking to them, to be honest," the top-ranked Djokovic added. "I was just waiting to hear what the news is going to



Alexander Zverev defeated World no. 2 Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-4 to earn his second title at the ATP Finals.

be and now that I know we'll just have to wait and see." If he does go to Australia, Djokovic can attempt to break a tie with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal and win a record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

The tournament is scheduled for Jan. 17-30. The Victorian state government had earlier said only vaccinated persons would be allowed into the site for the tournament, and Tiley reiterated that on Saturday.

"Everyone on site, the fans, all the staff, the players, will need to be vaccinated," Tiley said at the tournament's official launch. "There's been a lot of speculation about Novak's position, he's said it's a private matter."

"We would love to see Novak here, but he knows he needs to be vaccinated in order to play. He's always said that the Australian Open is the event that puts the wind in his sails."

The third-ranked Zverev was asked if Djokovic's handling of the vaccine issue should be better respected.

"This is a very tough one because it's very political," Zverev said. "At the end of the day I don't know his criteria."

"But we are visiting another country. This is not about tennis. This is about the virus that is going on, right? ... At the end of the day, the country is allowing us to enter. We need to follow the rules and follow the guidelines," Zverev said. Zverev said that while it would be "easier to win the tournament" if Djokovic doesn't play, "he's No. 1 in the world so he should be there."

"Hopefully," the German concluded, "the Australian government will make an exemption or whatever it is that they can do for him to be able to participate there."

Meanwhile, Djokovic is scheduled to play for Serbia at the Davis Cup finals next week in Austria, which has just announced a national lockdown and a plan to mandate vaccinations as coronavirus infections hit a record high.

People visiting Austria for work during the lockdown have to pre-register and show a negative PCR test if they are not vaccinated or recently recovered from COVID-19.

Djokovic and his wife tested positive for the coronavirus last year after he played in a series of exhibition matches that he organized in Serbia and Croatia without social distancing amid the pandemic.

BRIEFLY

Aronian wins Tata Steel blitz title

Kolkata: World number four Levon Aronian clinched the Tata Steel Chess India blitz title, pipping Indian teenage sensation Arjun Erigaisi in a thrilling armageddon finish here on Sunday. After leapfrogging sole leader Nihal Sarin, both Aronian and Arjun finished on same points and the match was decided in armageddon.

Jamshedpur, East Bengal share spoils

Vasco: East Bengal and Jamshedpur FC played out an intense 1-1 draw in Indian Super League. Both goals came from set pieces. Croatian defender Franjo Prcic (17th) scored a delightful opener for the Red and Golds while Peter Hartley (45+3) equalised at the stroke of half time for the Men of Steel.

Shooting nationals: Twins claim 1-2 finish

New Delhi: Twin brothers Vijayveer and Udayveer Sindhu scripted a 1-2 finish in the junior men's 25m pistol event as Punjab topped of the medals tally at the 64th National Shooting Championship Competitions. Vijayveer shot 587 to pip Udayveer by a point at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range here on Saturday. Shiva Narwal of Haryana finished third.

Sukant wins para badminton gold

Kampala: Sukant Kadam claimed a gold after two years at the Uganda Para Badminton International, while compatriot Pramod Bhagat settled for three silvers. World No. 5 Kadam defeated fellow Indian Nilesch Balu Gaiikwad 21-16 17-21 21-10 in 38 minutes in men's singles summit clash in the SL4 category.

Hamilton wins Qatar GP, closes in on Max

Losail: Lewis Hamilton inched closer to the F1 championship lead with a dominating victory in the Qatar GP to chip away at Max Verstappen's points advantage. Verstappen still holds an eight-point lead with two races remaining in one of the most dramatic F1 title fights in at least a decade.

PTV/AP

Ole Goner Solskjaer

Lopsided defeats against Liverpool & Man City had the one-time fan favourite teetering, a humbling loss to Watford finished him off

RORY SMITH
NOVEMBER 21

MANCHESTER UNITED had not done it after a humiliation by Liverpool. And the club's executives had managed to tolerate the sight of Manchester City's cruising to victory at Old Trafford while barely breaking a sweat. After each defeat, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the manager who had overseen both calamities, somehow remained in his post.

He could not, though, survive a third. Solskjaer had promised, two weeks on since that defeat against Man City, that his team would react, that it would use the embarrassment as fuel for the rest of the season. Instead, his squad, one of the most expensively assembled in soccer's long and lavish history, went to Watford — struggling at the foot of the Premier League, the sort of team United used to swat aside, unthinking — and contrived to lose on Saturday, 4-1. That was the end. A board meeting was called. A decision was made. Solskjaer, a favorite son finally out of rope, was out.

"Ole will always be a legend at Manchester United and it is with regret that we have reached this difficult decision," the club said on Sunday in a statement that seemed to take pains to avoid saying Solskjaer had been fired. "While the past few weeks have been disappointing, they should not obscure all the work he has done over the past three years to rebuild the foundations for long-term success."

The decision to remove him, though, did little to resolve the uncertainty around United's future. United said Michael Carrick, Solskjaer's assistant and another former United player, would take over on an interim basis "while the club looks to appoint an interim manager to the end of the season." That decision — naming a placeholder for a to-be-announced interim manager — raised new questions about the direction of the club, the most decorated team in English soccer but one that has not won the league since 2013.

Saturday's defeat had seemed to spark a sudden shift in the players' attitudes. United's squad had, for the most part, remained staunchly behind Solskjaer: He is, and has been, well-liked by his charges. After the loss at Watford, though, United's long-serving goalkeeper David De Gea acknowledged that it appeared his team did not "know how to defend." He bemoaned his colleagues' tendency to give up a host of "easy chances, easy goals."

For the first time, that view appeared to be shared by United's hierarchy, too. Solskjaer's managers convened a meeting on Saturday evening to discuss the best course of action. The conclave's very existence was message enough: From that point on, Solskjaer's depa-

POOR START

17 Number of points Manchester United have won in their opening 12 league games this season. It is their second-worst start to a Premier League campaign, ahead only of the 2019-20 season when they had 16 points, also under Solskjaer

ture was a matter of when, rather than if.

He could not have been surprised. Solskjaer returned to Old Trafford almost exactly three years ago, answering his former team's distress signal after the firing of José Mourinho. His reign has been variable in the extreme: mercurial, in a kind light, and violently erratic, in a harsher one. He restored morale to a team heavily exposed to late-stage Mourinho. He masterminded several surging, emotional runs of good form, and he put together a record-breaking streak on the road. He sent out a team that eliminated Paris St.-Germain from the Champions League. He reached a Europa League final. He finished (a distant) second to Manchester City in the Premier League.

Failure to harness players

But he also failed to harness all of the richly talented players at his disposal into something approaching a coherent unit. He lost home games to the lesser lights of the Premier League at an alarming clip. He lost that Europa League final. He did not win a trophy. After the 5-0 defeat to Liverpool last month, he was subjected not just to anger and pity but also to ridicule. He became, to his team's rivals, a laughing-stock. Particularly in the early days of his tenure, Solskjaer made a habit of evoking Manchester United's glorious past, the history in which he had played such a stirring role. He would joke about the club's tendency to score late goals or to mount comebacks or to make things dramatic. The leitmotif might have chafed after a while, but Solskjaer was nothing if not sincere. He cherished United's history. He felt, keenly, that it was his job to make sure that this iteration of the team lived up to the standards set by its predecessors.

In a way, his departure is vindication of his belief in the importance of United's history. To tolerate three humiliations, Liverpool and Manchester City and Watford, would have been to betray how Manchester United sees itself; how Solskjaer sees it. To be true to what the club is, United had no choice but to part ways with the man who saw it as his job to maintain that standard.

NYT



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was under pressure after a series of defeats. Reuters

What caused Solskjaer's failure despite full backing

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
NOVEMBER 21

MANCHESTER UNITED made Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's sacking official on Sunday, after three

years in charge. The cycle of managerial hire-and-fire continues - four in seven years - but why have United fallen off their perch despite being one of the richest clubs in the world?

How was Solskjaer's tenure as manager?

Ever since his appointment in December 2018, first as a caretaker followed by a full-time role, the club has backed the Norwegian to the hilt. Solskjaer, being a club legend, carried a positive vibe. He reset the team culture. Despite his questionable managerial pedigree — a Cardiff City discard — he improved the situation at United, on and off the pitch, because he knew the club inside out. For the first time since Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013, the club secured back-to-back top-four finishes in the Premier League under Solskjaer. This season, after a

summer transfer window that saw the acquisitions of Jadon Sancho, Raphael Varane and Cristiano Ronaldo, it felt like United will be title contenders. But several issues plague the club, starting with an ownership.

Was Solskjaer solely to blame?

As the fans were booing Solskjaer, Bruno Fernandes pointed towards himself and his teammates and suggesting that as players, they deserved the boos. Except De Gea, no player has put in a consistent performance this term.

What about the club hierarchy?

This is Woodward's fourth managerial casualty after he became the de facto head following David Gill's retirement in 2013. A former investment banker, the outgoing executive vice-chairman has shown his naivety in football matters despite backing the managers with sufficient funds. The club never had a structure in place and be-

Man City ease past Everton 3-0

Manchester: Joao Cancelo's latest brilliant assist and a long-range thunderbolt from Rodri led Manchester City to a 3-0 win over Everton in the Premier League, lifting the defending champions back to within three points of leader Chelsea on Sunday. It was a strong response by City to big wins by title rivals Chelsea and Liverpool on Saturday over Leicester and Arsenal, respectively.

AP

PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
Chelsea	12	9	2	1	26	29
Man City	12	8	2	2	19	26
Liverpool	12	7	4	1	24	25
WHam	12	7	2	3	9	23

lately appointed a director of football and a technical director after losing ground to Manchester City and Liverpool.

Has Ronaldo's signing augured well?

The 36-year-old forward guarantees goals, but looking back, Solskjaer would rue the signing. Ronaldo's arrival has robbed the team of its high press, leading to a tactical conundrum.

Can United save their season?

With 17 points from 12 matches, they are already out of the EPL title race. But a top-four finish is still achievable. In the Champions League, they are likely to reach Round of 16.



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