



DOWNLOAD APP

■ VISUAL STORIES

■ DAILY BRIEFING

■ PODCASTS

■ CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE

Indian Express

★★★★ 4.6



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD THE APP



YASHWANT SINHA ON DEPORTATION FROM SRINAGAR: WAS TREATED LIKE TERRORIST

In an interview with The Indian Express, Sinha said he was associated with a group known as Concerned Citizens Group, which has been working for years trying to bring peace to the Valley.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



NAGALAND

This villager has built a World War II museum in his home

FULL COVERAGE



EC ANNOUNCES POLL DATES FOR HARYANA, MAHARASHTRA

Voting on October 21, results on October 24

EXPRESS AUDIO

How Vinesh Phogat qualified for the 2020 Olympics

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of Express Sports, we look at the challenges she has faced over the years and how she has now managed to become a well-rounded wrestler

FROM PAGE ONE

Courses

16 lakh students in the last four years at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

According to AISHE 2018-19, the present Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is 26.3%, up from 25.8% in 2017-18. GER is a statistical measure for determining the number of students enrolled in undergraduate, post-graduate and research-level studies within the country and expressed as a percentage of the population in the 18-23 years age group.

Out of the total 3.74 crore students in higher education in 2018-19, 1.92 crore are men, and 1.82 crore are women. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) has increased over the last five years, from 0.92 in 2014-15 to 1 in 2018-19. GPI — the female: male ratio in higher education — measures progress towards gender equity.

"The highest number of students are enrolled in Arts courses. The total number of students enrolled in Arts courses are 93.49 lakh, of which 46.96% are male and 53.03% are female. Science is the second major stream with 47.13 lakh students, of which 49% are male and 51% are female. Commerce is the third major stream with 40.3 lakh students enrolled. The share of male students enrolled in Commerce is 51.2%, whereas female enrolment is 48.8%," the survey states.

The survey also found that there are 993 universities, 39,931 colleges and 10,725 standalone institutions in the country. There were 903 universities the previous year, and 864 in 2017-18.

AISHE 2018-19 findings are based on the responses from 962 universities, 38,179 colleges and 9,190 standalone institutions.

Tahilramani

The principal consideration, it is learnt, was her short working hours in the Court.

"It is a young High Court and the model set by the Chief Justice matters. There were reports that the Chief Justice did not sit beyond noon on most days and this had a bearing on what other Judges did. In one of the busiest High Courts in the country, this had implications," sources said.

Another consideration, said sources, was the "inexplicable and abrupt dissolving of the bench hearing idol-theft cases" on June 4. This bench was set up by Justice Indira Banerjee, when she was Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. It was this two-judge bench that quashed a government order transferring all future idol theft cases to the CBI and appointing Pon Manickavel as special officer of the idol wing, set to take charge immediately after his retirement.

It was believed to be "on the verge of wrapping up its work, when it was suddenly dissolved". The notification issued by the Court at the time had said that the "very few" remaining writs and matters pending would be listed in front of "respective division benches and single benches".

While this decision raised eyebrows, the Collegium also considered the perceived "proximity with a senior political figure in the ruling party in the state, and the purchase of two apartments in Chennai".

Of the 58 Judges in the Madras High Court currently, 15 judges have declared their assets online and this list does not include Justice Tahilramani.

Repeated attempts to contact Justice Tahilramani did not yield a comment. Her private secretary said, "Since things are settled, she said she doesn't want to come out with a press statement." He added: "Moreover, she is out of station now, we could not get her comment on this. If she wants to respond to this, we will get back to you."

A detailed message mention-

ing the specific issues related to her transfer was sent to her and her secretary. Neither was available for comment.

On September 19, Madras High Court reserved its order on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) which had called for the President of India, to not put his stamp of approval on the Collegium's decision to transfer Justice Tahilramani, which was issued without furnishing any reasons for its decision.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Advocate R Prabhakaran, who filed the PIL, said that the lack of transparency in the Collegium's decision led to his petition. "When the Collegium decides to swap the Madras High Court Chief Justice with the Meghalaya High Court Chief Justice, reasons should be in the public domain. According to the Constitution, the decision of the transfer should be taken by the President, not the Collegium, which is actually to be consulted on the President's decision. Also, there is a precedent that the judge is being asked for consent before he or she is transferred. In Justice Tahilramani's case, not only that she was not consulted but she was not even given the reason for her transfer," he said.

When asked about the Collegium's observations, Prabhakaran said: "We do not have a Performance Commission. All these alleged charges against her are unfounded... If they are serious for the Collegium, they should send those files to the government...impeach her."

He added, "It was the same Collegium comprising the current CJI Ranjan Gogoi that had decided to elevate Justice Tahilramani from Mumbai High Court to Madras High Court last year. What is the point of talking about her poor performance now? Decision of which Collegium went wrong here, then CJI Dipak Misra's or current CJI Gogoi?"

Sources said the Collegium wanted to "not speak of all this publicly and hoped that the transfer to a smaller High Court, with lesser work would enable them to resolve the problem without a fuss."

Justice Tahilramani is one of the senior-most Judges in the country and was elevated to the Bombay High Court as a Judge in 2001, before assuming charge at Madras High Court on August 12, 2018. Her profile on the Madras High Court website lists many "landmark judgments including many in death sentence cases and the Bilkis Bano (Godhra riots case), which was transferred to Maharashtra from Gujarat by the Supreme Court. The Bilkis Bano case was a very voluminous and complicated case. The judgment in Bilkis Bano case ran into almost 400 pages."

AIIMS

Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan said she hadn't received the letter yet. "I will take action after looking at it," she told The Sunday Express.

"Patients unable to avail financial assistance due to the lacunae between RAN umbrella scheme and AB-PMJAY schemes are coming to us in severe distress after their RAN application is rejected... Both schemes must complement each other to help patients suffering from life-threatening diseases. On the contrary, certain poor patients are deprived of healthcare benefits, against the situation before 2019, when all BPL patients suffering from life-threatening diseases were able to avail financial assistance from RAN," stated the letter.

Among those whose applications were rejected are the family members of 12-year-old Nandani Kumari. The girl, suffering from aplastic anaemia, required a bone marrow transplant. Hailing from Bihar, she was brought to the medical institute in December 2018. She died on August 12.

notification will be issued on September 27. The last date of filing nominations is October 4. Polling will be held on October 21, while counting will take place on October 24".

With the announcement, the Model Code of Conduct has come into effect in the two states.

The term of the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly ends on November 9, while the term of the 90-member Haryana Assembly ends on November 2.

The elections come in the backdrop of a series of policy decisions taken by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the first 100 days of its second term. Besides its decision on J&K, the government also managed to get the triple talaq Bill passed by Parliament.

On the other hand, the BJP will have to explain the deepening economic crisis including the slowdown in the automobile sector, joblessness and its measures to handle the

agrarian crisis.

In Maharashtra, the Congress and NCP have already finalised their alliance and declared that they will contest 125 seats each. They have left 38 seats for other parties, including the SP. Swabhimani Shetkari Saghtana and CPI. In the 2014 Assembly polls, the Congress won 42 seats, while the NCP won 41.

The BJP and Shiv Sena are still working on their seat-sharing deal. In 2014, the two allies fought the polls separately — the BJP won 122 seats, while the Shiv Sena got 63. This time, the Sena wants to contest at least 150 seats, but the BJP is unwilling to concede. BJP leaders have also made it clear that the party will hold the chief minister's post.

In the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year, the BJP's vote share was 27.81%, Shiv Sena 19.3%, Congress 17.95% and NCP 17.24% in the state.

"We are in a comfortable position. The popularity of both Prime Minister Modi and

will be a 90-minute cultural event.

Preeti Dawra, CEO of Asian Century Communications and one of the spokespersons for organisers Texas India Forum, sidestepped the question of who will speak first — Modi or Trump? "We'll leave an element of surprise for you," she said.

Calling the event "history in the making", Dawra says over 50,000 people registered in "just three weeks" to attend the event. This is the third time that PM Modi is addressing the Indian diaspora in the US after the event at Madison Square Garden in 2014 and San Jose in 2015, but this time, the scale is larger than the past two events.

Vijay Chauthaiwale, BJP overseas cell chief, who is camping in Houston, told The Sunday Express that while 50,000 Indians have confirmed entry, another 3 to 4,000 are on waitlist. "We will be able to accommodate about 51,000 people," he said.

Beyond the logistics and

the planning, the significance of the event is also in the how the organisers want it to be seen. Although a larger audience had attended the event at the 80,000-seat-capacity Wembley stadium in London in November 2015, which was also attended by then British PM David Cameron, the organisers ensure that they underline the two key takeaways of the Houston event — this is the first time an American President will be attending an event where an Indian PM will address the Indian diaspora; and two, this is the largest gathering of people in the US for a foreign leader, after the Pope.

While Gitesh Desai, who was awarded at the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas this year for his role during Hurricane Harvey two years ago, says the event has brought the community together and showcased "unity in diversity", some volunteers expressed the hope that anti-Modi protesters would not be able to

find their way to the venue.

A group called the Alliance for Justice and Accountability is planning to hold protests near the NRG stadium on Sunday.

"We don't expect them to get close, since the area will be sealed off for the US President's arrival," a volunteer said. Seating for the event will start at 5 am on Sunday.

Houston, according to Desai, was chosen since it is the hub for energy, space and medicine in the world. "Houston is uniquely positioned since India is aspiring to be a space power. Houston has NASA space centre," he said.

Nisha Biswal, president of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) and former Assistant Secretary of State in the Obama administration, said, "President Trump's decision to meet Prime Minister Modi in Houston demonstrates the depth and importance of US-India ties. We often talk about

how that relationship transcends politics, as well as the growing links between India and the US at the state level. There's no clearer demonstration of this than the bipartisan group of US governors and members of Congress who are attending the event."

The logistics of the events are somewhat staggering. Dawra reels out the numbers: attendees are from 50 states in the US and some are flying in from overseas. "If you count the flyer miles of the attendees, it will be equivalent to revolving four times around the Earth," she claims.

They are drawn from 20 countries, and speak 31 languages, and most importantly, she points out, "one-third are under 30", reflecting the enthusiasm among the youth in the Indian diaspora.

And, at last count, she says, the number of samosas these volunteers for the Howdy Modi event are consuming is "2,063 and counting".

ins)," he says.

Barasati, 45, a daily-wage labourer whose son Aleem is a Class 1 student in the school, says his only hope is that the school continues to function the way it has been for the last few years. "We all know how important education is. I would want my son to at least finish his Class 12, so he can read signboards."

Bahraich Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Shyam Kishore Tiwari says the Yadavpur school has improved because of the efforts of the teachers and the principal. "We are working on improving the school further, but the work done in this school is an example for the education sector in the state and the country. In eight years, the teachers have made the school a model school," he says.

Panghal
Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015), Gaurav Bidhuri (2017) and Manish Kaushik, in the 63-kg category in this edition, had all returned with bronze medals. The audience of 60-odd comprised the village priest, pradhan, the shopkeepers who had closed early for the day and Panghal's rel-

atives and friends. Early birds got the 25 chairs spread out, the ones after took the five charpays. Last-minute entrants just stood eyeing any openings.

Setting up the home theatre wasn't for the technologically challenged. Connecting three extensions, pushing out a refrigerator to act as a stand and placing a television was the easy part. The TV needed to be 'smart' and the operator smarter. Amit's elder brother Ajay was in charge of switching on the mobile hotspot and finding a stable stream.

"Everybody is asking which channel the final is on," said a flustered Ajay. "How do I explain it to them that it's on YouTube, when their mobile phones don't even have internet?"

The residents of the village, the first one off the Rohtak-Jhajjar road, had spent most of the evening wishing away the menacing dark clouds. Some well-wishers came from neighbouring villages with boxes of laddoos.

To set the mood, Ajay first played a music video starring his younger brother on loop, before switching to his 2018 Asiad gold-winning bout.

Panghal lost Saturday's final to the reigning Olympic champion, Shakhobidin Zoirov, a taller boxer with greater reach. Those closest to the television, however, would shrug off whenever Zoirov connected, and clapped at each semi-successful punch from the Indian. The ripple effect would lead to more applause.

"*lb boxing samajh na aave manne* (I don't get boxing now)," mumbled a *tau* walking off. The man had spent the first round trying to figure out where the points were displayed on the screen. "It's 10 minutes and then whoever wins," he continued before turning around and addressing the deflated crowd: "Shok kyu mana rahi ho? Silver toh laaya hai na. (Why is everyone downcast? He has won silver)."

Earlier, Ajay broke up the hookah baithak doubling as the welcoming party, and asked them to gather around a table. He then emptied a bag on the table, displaying all its riches: his brother's career medal haul.

Mother Usha Rani stood quietly identifying the medals to her friends. "That one from the Commonwealth Games is very important."

Usha later admitted nothing gives her more joy than revelling in her son's success. "He was born premature, and was a sickly child. But he was extremely naughty... looting kites, playing marbles. He would crouch behind people and scare them with cat noises."

Usha would always shield her son from the enraged; she also tried shielding him from boxing.

"He took up boxing and assured me that he would keep studying. But his tuition classes and boxing were both at 4 pm. So I told him he can't box anymore," said Usha. "Then his fellow trainees came by and asked me to let him box, that he would be a big boxer one day. To be honest, I was also worried because he was a weak child. And I was worried he would get hurt."

She still winces whenever Panghal gets punched. The crowd disperses soon after the bout. Some stick around, consoling and cheering the household. Usha takes forced bites of a laddoo while Ajay sees the visitors off. Eyes already bloodshot, he quivers and looks for silver linings.

"The opponent was good too. You can't take anything away from him. But Amit won a silver even at the Commonwealth Games," he says, recalling a performance which was followed by gold at Asian Games and Championships. "*Ab iss silver ki khunnas Tokyo me niklegi* (The frustration of winning only a silver will push him at the Tokyo Olympics)."





ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

IAS & HOW TO CRACK IT

FREE SEMINAR

ROHINI

Sun. 22nd Sept. 2019

10 A.M. to 12 P.M.

4 P.M. to 6 P.M.

TILAK NAGAR

Sat. 28th Sept. 2019

10 A.M. to 12 P.M.

4 P.M. to 6 P.M.







NIRVANA

IAS ACADEMY

www.nirvanaias.com

Batches Start 7th October 2019

ROHINI: H-17/262, Near Rohini West Metro Station, (Opp. Metro Pillar No.424), Sector - 7, Rohini, New Delhi - 85.

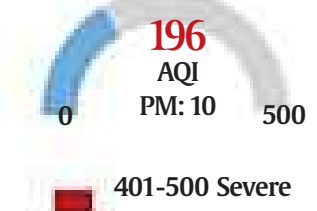
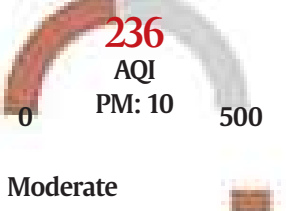
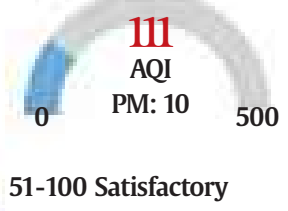
TILAK NAGAR: 30/4, Ashok Nagar, Near Tilak Nagar Metro Station, Gate No- 3, New Delhi - 18.

Ph: 011-47032447, 011-25121005, 9990471004, 9990471005.

Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service

Ph. 23276901, 23282028 (M); 9212008155, 9212665841.

epaper.indianexpress.com



WAS TAKING HER HUSBAND TO THE HOSPITAL FOR DIALYSIS

Murder in a matter of seconds: Sitting inside her car, 59-year-old woman shot dead by two men on a bike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

SITTING INSIDE her car, a 59-year-old woman, working as an assistant manager with an insurance company, was shot dead by two bike-borne assailants near Max Hospital in Patparganj on Saturday morning. The woman, Usha Rani, was waiting for her husband, who had gone to a temple, around 6.40 in the morning.

Police have recovered CCTV footage which shows two men arriving on a bike, wearing helmets. Meanwhile, the woman gets out of the passenger seat and sits in the driver seat. "It all happened in under 20 seconds. One of them started knocking on the car's window and tried to smash it with the butt of his pistol, but she tried to escape by accelerating her vehicle. While one of the men stayed with the bike, the other ran after the car and



CCTV footage shows a man firing at the woman

shot at the woman from close range. The bullet pierced the window and hit her on the head," an officer said.

"The incident took place when her husband had gone inside a temple and she was waiting outside," the officer said, adding that prima facie it appears the men wanted to rob her as she was wearing a gold chain,

ring, bangles and earrings.

JCP (Eastern Range) Alok Kumar said, "We have registered an FIR of murder and further investigations are on."

Rani's husband, Kailash Chand Gupta (64), is a former MTNL employee. The couple have a daughter, who is married, and a 20-year-old son. "Gupta has a kidney problem and he vis-

its a hospital thrice a week for dialysis. She would always accompany him. They left home at 6.30 am and stopped on the way at a temple. Gupta headed inside, and in under half a minute, the two assailants approached the car and one of them opened fire. The men then fled within seconds. According to eyewitnesses, there was panic and people started screaming for help. Her husband rushed to the vehicle and found she was lying in a pool of blood. She was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival," the officer said.

A PCR call was made by locals and a team of experts from the forensic unit was called to collect evidence. Police found that her valuables had not been stolen. "Police have recorded the statements of her family and suspect the assailants may have been aware of her routine," the officer added.

She put others ahead of herself, recount relatives and neighbours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE MOMENT Usha Rani's husband, Kailash Chand Gupta, saw her bloodied body inside their car, he started screaming for help, but passersby were reluctant to come to their aid.

By the time police arrived, Gupta's blood pressure had shot up, and he too had to be rushed for treatment alongside his wife, an officer said.

Rani's brother Navneet Goyal said, "Since their 20-year-old son is pursuing engineering, Usha would herself take Kailash to the hospital thrice a week. She was set to retire next year. We just can't understand why



Usha Rani worked with an insurance company, was set to retire soon

someone would kill her without reason. She had no enemies."

At her home, relatives gathered and recounted her "helpful nature".

"She would always volunteer to help those in need. Recently, a woman in our locality had been struggling to get her insurance money. Usha put in extra effort to make sure the woman got

Rs 3 lakh," said her neighbour, Satish Kumar, who has lived in the locality for 15 years.

Meanwhile, police said they are questioning relatives and colleagues as part of the probe. Officers are also examining all insurance-related files she had been handling to see if there's any particular claim she had rejected.

"We are also checking the activity of several gangs known for targeting people, especially morning walkers," an officer said.

"Police have found in their probe that the assailants were possibly following the victim's car. We are also scanning other CCTV cameras to ascertain from where they started following the couple's car," he added.

120 kg plastic products seized, unit fined Rs 2 lakh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

AN ENVIRONMENT compensation of Rs 2 lakh was imposed, and 120 kg of single-use plastic products were seized from a unit that sold and stored the items, during a raid in West Delhi's Raghbir Nagar on Friday, officials said.

The unit was found keeping and selling carry bags and other plastic products with a thickness of less than 50 microns, in violation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016.

A seizure memo said, "As the unit has failed to comply with the Rules, it is directed to deposit environment compensation of Rs 2 lakh." The raid was conducted by officials of the district magistrate's office, revenue department, and municipal corporation. The unit has been asked to pay the fine to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee within 10 days from Friday.

Officials said such raids will continue in the future.

National Museum sent fine of Rs 5.4 lakh for 'damaging trees'

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

A FINE of Rs 5.40 lakh has been imposed on the National Museum in Delhi for concretising 54 trees in its jurisdiction, causing "damage to their health".

A notice was sent to the joint director of the museum at Janpath Road by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (South) on August 30, informing that the fine must be paid "immediately".

The notice was issued after

the forest department received a complaint on the issue, following which an inspection was carried out. "An inspection of the area at the National Museum was done by official staff of south forest division on June 24, and at least 54 trees were found to be concretised at the base," the notice read.

As per an order of the National Green Tribunal from April 2013, an area within one metre radius of the tree trunk has to be left deconcretised around the base, to ensure its good health. A fine of Rs 10,000 per concretised tree has

been set by the Department of Forest and Wildlife in Delhi.

"You are directed to deconcretise the trees as per the NGT order and submit a report," the notice issued to the museum read.

A museum official said the building was constructed decades ago, and its horticulture section is handled by the Central Public Works Department. He added, "We have drafted a letter regarding the forest department notice and will be sending it to the CPWD soon. They have to take a call."

Dr. Sonali Chaudhary receives "Best Cosmetologist in North India"

ment Award 2019 ceremony was held in Holiday Inn, New Delhi, on August 23, by Merit Awards and Market Research.

According to Dr. Sonali Chaudhary Most skin treatments today are commercialized and don't really take into account the root cause.

"A holistic, holistic and approach is required to treat the skin. diet, skin care, and health, environmental factors, hormonal changes and genetic factors have a huge impact on the skin."

Dr. Sonali Chaudhary

Dr. Sonali Chaudhary recently awarded as the Best Cosmetologist in North India.

New Delhi, Aug 23: Dr. Sonali Chaudhary, a dermatologist, was awarded as the "Best Cosmetologist in North India" by India's first Gold Medalist in the gut microbiome and kills the healthy friendly bacteria, *Gaia Phagat* and bacteria for decades. Our treatments, Television Actress & Bharatnatyam Dancer, explore all aspects of the current field of Cosmetology. Her outstanding microbiome and use food as medicine in performance has made her the woman to combination with conventional medicine. This is what will bring long lasting results.

At IIT-Delhi: Mock eggs made using lentils

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

A "MOCK EGG" in the form of a pale-yellow slurry made of lentils, identical to an egg in taste and nutritional value, was one of the projects showcased at the third IIT-Delhi Industry Day Saturday. At least 200 project prototypes created by faculty members and researchers were put on show.

With moong dal as its main ingredient, the vegan mock egg was developed by a team led by Dr Kavya Dashora of the Centre for Rural Development and Technology from IIT-Delhi. "It is made up of five lentils and the price is the same as that of a brown egg: Rs 20-25 per dozen, and 250 ml of this would equal at least five eggs," said a team-member.

A nano composites-infused fabric for inflatable balloons, which can be used for aerial surveillance and security purposes, has been developed by Dr Mangala Joshi from the Department of Textile Technology as a part of a DRDO-sponsored Joint Advanced Technology Centre initiative. "India imports this fabric. It is more resilient to UV radiation, has more holding capacity and doesn't allow leakage of helium or hydrogen gas. So they asked us to develop it indigenously. This has been a five-year-long project," said Joshi. Other projects by the IIT-Delhi faculty included a personal body armour and biodegradable vascular stents or dental implant systems, among others. A new corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding policy decision was announced by Niti Aayog member Dr V K Paul, to boost research funding at IITs.

The new policy is meant to help India become an innovation-led economy, said Professor V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi. "We are not only looking for collaborations with the industry but we also want the industry to treat them as a part of their innovation ecosystem," said Rao, adding that the policy will "boost research funding in institutions like IIT-D and promote collaborations between academia and industry."

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL

Before selling a car, motorcycle or scooter, check the credentials of buyer.

Report any suspicious activity in your area.

Do not rent out your premises to unverified persons.

Insist on identification of papers before booking a room of a guest house.

IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME & TERRORISM

DO NOT TOUCH UNCLAIMED OBJECTS.

CALL 1090 TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS

Email to CP, Delhi at: cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in

National Board of Examinations

DNB FINAL EXAMINATION - DECEMBER 2019

DNB FINAL NOTICE

- National Board of Examinations (NBE) shall conduct the DNB Final Examination on **13th to 15th December, 2019** in various Broad and Super Specialty disciplines.
- For details of scheme of examination, specialties in which exam shall be conducted, eligibility criteria and examination fee, candidates are advised to refer to the information bulletin which can be downloaded from website www.exam.natboard.edu.in
- Application form for DNB final examination December 2019 session can be submitted online at www.exam.natboard.edu.in from **21st September, 2019 to 20th October, 2019**.

Important Dates for DNB Final Theory Examination:

Availability of Information Bulletin and application form	: 21 st September, 2019 (onwards)
Last date of submission of Online application form	: 20 th October, 2019
Examination Dates for DNB Final Theory	: 13 th , 14 th and 15 th December, 2019

After successful submission of online application form, candidate has to send the printed copy of application form along with required documents (Self attested copies only) as prescribed in the information bulletin latest by **30th October, 2019**, at National Board of Examinations, Ansari Nagar, Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Ring Road), New Delhi-110029.

Note: Possession/use of Mobile Phones/Electronic Devices is strictly prohibited in the premises of NBE Examination Centers; defaulter candidates shall be liable for penal action for any such act.

Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, Ring Road, New Delhi-110029
Ph.: 011-45593000, Toll Free No. for Candidates : 1800 11 1800, E-mail: final@natboard.edu.in

Wake up Call

Special Revival Campaign For Revival of Lapsed Policies Period - 16.09.2019 to 15.11.2019

Revive Your Lapsed Policy

Register Your Mobile Number, NEFT details and email

Continue the cover

Avail Applicable concession in Health Requirements

Avail eligible Late Fee concession

FEES

Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

LIC

Har Pal Aapke Saath

BRIEFLY

Two detained for job scam

New Delhi: Two men have been detained for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing them jobs in Doordarshan through a fake website. The racket came to light after police received a complaint from the additional director general (Doordarshan) Dinesh Mahur, who had received several complaints from the public. "He alleged that in their website, they were even using a logo of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharti. They were using photographs and videos to make it seem genuine," an officer said.

Two women assaulted in Sangam Vihar

New Delhi: Two sisters were assaulted by 11 men with sticks at their home in Sangam Vihar's B block on the afternoon of September 17, police said. The men were allegedly sent by the estranged husband of one of the victims. This was the second instance of assault on the sisters within eight days, police said.

Exchange of fire, 3 held

New Delhi: Three men, who allegedly made extortion calls to a businessman, were arrested Saturday after a brief exchange of fire in Dwarka. "An owner of a retail shop in Najafgarh was getting calls demanding around Rs 30 lakh from one of the accused for the past 2-3 months. On Saturday, police spotted the accused on Kair road and arrested them after a brief exchange of fire," a senior police officer said. **ENS**

4 arrested for stealing e-rickshaws

New Delhi: Four men were arrested for allegedly stealing e-rickshaws, police said. Nine e-rickshaws and a mobile phone were recovered from their possession, police said. **PTI**



The farmers were stopped at the Delhi-UP border, and only a delegation was allowed to meet officials at Krishi Bhavan Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

5 of 15 demands met, farmers call off protest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

FARMERS FROM Uttar Pradesh, who marched to the national capital Saturday, called off the agitation after the government accepted five of 15 key demands, but said they would return if the assurances are not met on time. The farmers, under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Sanghathan, were marching to Kisan Ghat in the city to protest against issues, including payment of sugarcane dues, loan waivers and cheap elec-

tricity. They were stopped at the Delhi-UP border and only a delegation was allowed to meet officials at Krishi Bhavan.

State president of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangathan, Rajendra Yadav, said officials promised to form a committee to look into some demands. "The officials said some of the promises do not come directly under the farming ministry, so a committee will be formed in 21 days, which will hold dialogue with the Bharatiya Kisan Sangathan," he said, warning of another agitation if the assurances are not met.

Radhe Thakur, vice-president of the Samasth Karyakarta and Kisan Biradri, said a delegation of farmers met central government officials at Krishi Bhavan after which five demands, such as an insurance scheme for farmers and their family, payment of sugarcane crop in 14 days, rejuvenation of rivers and prices of crops to be decided in the presence of farmer representatives, were agreed upon.

The farmers gathered near the Ghazipur toll as Uttar Pradesh authorities put up barricades on NH-9 and NH-24 and diverted

traffic heading towards Delhi. A large number of security, paramilitary and fire brigade personnel were deployed, apart from ambulances stationed in the area.

The farmers started their march from Saharanpur on September 11. On reaching Noida on Friday, they held talks with government representatives but failed to resolve the issues.

They wanted to march to Kisan Ghat, the memorial of former prime minister and farmers' leader Chaudhary Charan Singh. The farmers had 15 demands,

including cheap electricity for irrigation and waiving of loans. They also demanded implementation of Swaminathan Committee's recommendations. In a tweet, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "What is the reason that farmers are being prevented from coming to Delhi and raising their demands? The BJP government, in its campaigns, talks about welfare of farmers. But when farmers of Uttar Pradesh say they want sugarcane arrears, loan waiver and cut in electricity prices, why are they not allowed to speak?"

Rita, country's oldest chimp, on Maaza diet

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

INDIA'S OLDEST chimpanzee, 59-year-old Rita, which has been unwell for more than a week in its home in Delhi's National Zoological Park, is on a liquid diet of fruit juices, particularly her favourite drink: Maaza.

Rita's old age has caused it to restrict movement in its enclosure, which houses an unknown tomb from the Mughal era, officials said. "Earlier, it used to climb on top of the tomb and sit there watching visitors... it doesn't move around much now. We can't take it out as it is quite frail," zoo curator R A Khan said.

He said Rita does not suffer from any illness, but is weak due to old age. "It would enjoy eating apples and other fruits, but now we have to give that in the juice form. It is unable to eat solid food...

Rita enjoys drinking Maaza and we have been giving it crushed almonds, cashews and pistachio with it to give the animal more strength," Khan said.

Rita was born in ARTIS Amsterdam Royal Zoo in Netherlands and was brought to the Delhi Zoo in 1964. Its birthday is on December 15. Zoo officials said it has been living alone after its partner Moni died in 2014. Chimpanzees usually have a lifespan of around 45 years, but in captivity, that can increase.

Khan said Rita had three babies, none of which survived. It has had other companions over the years, one of which was later shifted to Rajasthan.

"Rita is quite intelligent. It would spread its own mat and wrap a warm shawl around during winters," Khan said, adding that a team of veterinarians have been keeping Rita under observation.

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE POST-MORTEM report of Rama, the eight-and-a-half year old Royal Bengal tiger who died in Delhi's National Zoological Park Friday, shows there were no external injuries, a zoo official said Saturday.

This discredits allegations raised by activists that the tiger was attacked by keepers, said R A Khan, zoo curator. An examination report by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Uttar Pradesh, is awaited, he added.

"The post-mortem report does not mention that there are any external injuries. There were allegations that the tiger was hit on the head. Nothing like that has been found," he said.

Reports also pointed to the



Two yellow Royal Bengal tigers remain at the Delhi zoo. *Archive*

tiger's broken canine tooth. A zoo official clarified that the tooth broke around September 13, when the tiger was undergoing treatment in a squeeze cage. A squeeze cage, which has movable walls to prevent movement of the animal, is used for treatment of animals, including ad-

ministering injections and application of medicines.

"It was already distressed and had deficiency of calcium caused by an increase of phosphorus in its blood. When it attacked the bars of the cage during treatment, its canine broke, which was then recorded and taken into custody," a zoo official claimed.

Khan said the zoo would receive more clarity on the matter after IVRI sends its report and a three-member Central Zoo Authority committee starts probing the events leading to Rama's death.

Rama fell sick on July 29 after which it stopped eating. The tiger was on a liquid diet for past several days and later stopped eating entirely. It died of multiple organ failure Friday.

It had attacked a 50-year-old zookeeper, injuring a finger in his right-hand, 10 days ago.

NEW EDUCATION POLICY

Autonomy for colleges has fake degree risk: Sisodia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia Saturday said giving autonomy to colleges could increase the risk of fake degrees.

Sisodia, who was speaking after attending the HRD Ministry's Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) meeting on the New Education Policy (NEP) draft Saturday, questioned the clause which deals with providing autonomy to colleges running under a university.

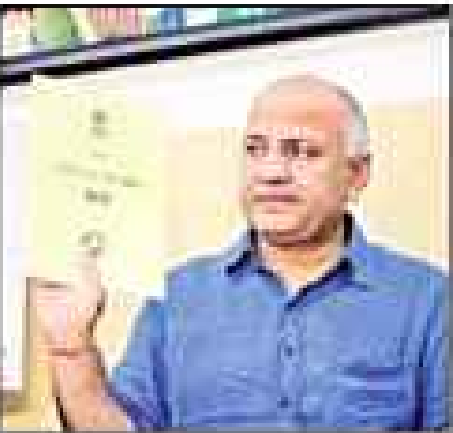
"There is a suggestion to give autonomy to colleges in the country, which means even an institute having 200 students will be offering its separate degree. The country is already struggling hard to deal with the issue of fake degrees and certificates. In the middle of this, if all the colleges are given freedom to issue a degree, how will we be able to regulate the system?" he said.

Sisodia also raised objections about the clause under the policy which allows for the creation of private education boards. "Having a private education board will affect the concept of quality education for all and will deteriorate the education system," he said.

Several Delhi University colleges have been mulling autonomy, with many having already prepared applications as well.

DU officials had approached six colleges — St Stephen's College, Hindu College, Shri Ram College of Commerce, Sri Venkateswara College, Hansraj College and PGDAV college — to apply for autonomy in 2017. St Stephen's College had even passed the proposal in its governing body meeting. "However, it was later found that changes would have to be made in DU statutes to allow for autonomy and the whole process was abandoned. No college applied for autonomy," said an official.

Talking about a series of suggestions, Sisodia said that while the policy has a positive vision in some areas for the country's education system, a roadmap to a section of initiatives is still




Sisodia said 6% of GDP must be allocated for education

missing. The meeting, chaired by Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', was attended by state education ministers and representatives, heads of autonomous organisations, vice-chancellors of universities, HRD secretaries for higher education and school education R Subrahmanyam and Rina Ray, along with senior officials of the central and state governments.

Calling the country's education policy "highly regulated and poorly funded", he claimed that the new policy will add more regulations to the existing policy. "The roadmap for the proposed draft seems to be missing. The proposed draft has some positive aspects too but there are certain areas which I feel are not taken care of," he said.

To meet the fund shortage of the education system, Sisodia said he has proposed a law for mandatory allocation of at least 6 per cent of GDP to the education sector. "Unless there is a law which binds the governments to allocate the fund, the policy per se will not result in the transformation of education in India," he said.

Another issue he raised was about the quality of education provided in government schools. He suggested that it should be on par with private schools. "Going to private schools should just be an option, not a necessity due to the lack of quality education in our government schools. Only 5 per cent of children get access to quality education, the rest 95 per cent have been getting average quality education," he said.



GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI

DELHI FIRE SERVICE

HEAD QUARTERS, CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI - 110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention: All owners / occupiers of public building / premises providing sleeping accommodations (Hotels/ Guest Houses / Nursing Homes / Hospitals)

In a recent fire in a hotel in Karol Bagh, Delhi, 17 precious lives were lost and it was observed that great difficulty was faced by the occupants and staff of the hotel during evacuation and fire fighting in the initial stage of fire.

Ant it would be in public interest that all the occupants and employees of building occupancy having sleeping risk e.g. Hotels / Guest Houses / Nursing Homes/Hospitals should undergo basic fire safety training to keep themselves acquainted with evacuation and firefighting procedures.

It is proposed to conduct three days basic firefighting training programme at Fire Safety management Academy, Delhi Fire Service, Rohini, Delhi. The training will be imparted in different batches of 40 persons (maximum), depending on the number of nominations received from different organizations, on first come first serve basis, against the prescribed fee as per Delhi Fire Service Rules 2010.

Therefore, the owners / occupiers of all public buildings that provide sleeping accommodation namely Hotels/Guest Houses/Nursing Homes/Hospitals are hereby advised to nominate their staff /officials, either directly or through their respective associations, for the basic firefighting training. The nominations may be sent to Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Service, Fire Safety management Academy, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi - 110085 (Telephone No. 011-27552155, Mob. No. 9811032931 and e-mail sstdfs@gmail.com).

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

Issued in public interest by Delhi Fire Service

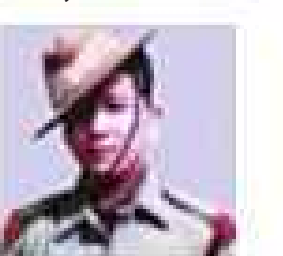
DIP/Sabdhart/0687/19-20

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

23 ASSAM RIFLES, 22ND SEPTEMBER 2019



RFN (LATE)
SHANKAR
KUMAR GURUNG



RFN (LATE)
SUNIL KUMAR
THAPA



RFN (LATE)
KAILASH
CHANDRA



RFN (LATE)
KAMAL SUBBA

The Tagra Teyees family proudly remembers above Martyrs who in the true traditions of the Assam Rifles made supreme sacrifice while bravely combating terrorism in Udaipur (Tripura) on 22 Sep 1999. May the Almighty grant eternal peace to their soul. Their gallant action will continue to inspire us all.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY
COMMANDANT & ALL RANKS
23 ASSAM RIFLES 'TAGRA TEYEEs'**



ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Under the Department of Science & Technology
Government of Odisha
(ISO 9001 : 2008 / ISO 14001 : 2004)
S/59, MANCHESWAR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
Website : www.oredaorissa.com E-mail : ceoreda@oredaorissa.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Tender Call Notice No 4249/Dated 19.09.2019

ODISHA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY invites sealed e-tender in two part bidding system from manufacture for supply, installation, commissioning including warranty and comprehensive maintenance contract for a period of five years of SPV Street Lighting Systems and Mini Mast Light in the state of Odisha. Details are given below.

Date of Hosting of the bid document on website	21.9.2019
Date & time of pre-bid meeting at OREDA Conference hall	30.09.2019 at 3.00 PM
Hoisting date of final revised bid document	03.10.2019
Date and time of last submission of online bid document	22.10.2019 upto 1.00 PM
Date and time of last submission of hard copy of bid document	25.10.2019 upto 1.00 P.M.
Opening of Techno-Commercial bid	25.10.2019 at 3.00 P.M.

Interested prospective bidder may visit OREDA web site www.oredaorissa.com and www.tenderwizard.com/OREDA for details relating bidding, process and all other terms and conditions. The bidder can view the tender documents from www.oredaorissa.com website on free of cost.

Sd/-
Chief Executive



UTTARAKHAND TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, UTTARAKHAND
Sudhawal P.O Chandanwan, Dehradun-248007, Uttarakhand.
Email id: teqip@uktech.ac.in

Ref. No : 534/TEQIP-III/2019 Date: 20.09.2019
IFE No : TEQIP-III/UK/Unsu/15
INVITATION OF BIDS UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

1. The Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of package under TEQIP-III as listed below:

Package Name	Bid Document Sale Start Date	Bid Document Sale End Date	Prebid Meeting Date
University Management Software (UMS)	21.09.2019 10:00 AM	24.10.2019 12:00 Noon	12.10.2019 01:00 PM

2. Interested Bidders may obtain further information on purchase of bid documents, time table for issue of bids and submission, cost of bid and methods of payments, bid security and pre bid meeting, from the office of the **TEQIP-III, Uttarakhand Technical University, Uttarakhand, Dehradun**, India or visit the Institute website <https://uktech.ac.in/>

3. Bids should be submitted along with Demand draft of Rs 2,000/- in favor of Uttarakhand Technical University TDS, payable at Dehradun. **Coordinator**



JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchary Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No: +91-651-2225897
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail judco.limited@gmail.com
NIT No: JUDCO/PMAY/Vertical-III/2019/14 Dated: 21.09.2019
e-procurement Tender Notice

1. (a)	Name of the work	Construction (including structural design) of 6-48 dwelling units in G number of C-8 blocks of 32 DPs each at Benomagar, Jamshedpur under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) under Package-X-8. Scope of work include Architectural Planning & Design, Engineering Procurement, preparation of detailed structural design & drawing, project execution & construction, after obtaining all approvals from municipal/statutory bodies including internal water supply and sanitation/ electrification work & rain water harvesting of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Benomagar, Jamshedpur Package-X-8 on EPC basis.
2.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 46,48,06,936/- (Forty Six Crore Forty Eight Lakh Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Three Rupees Only). Tender document fee: Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) (Non-Refundable)
4.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Rs. 46,48,06,936/- (Forty Six Crore Forty Eight Lakh Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Three Rupees Only) (Non-Refundable)
5.	Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website	21.09.2019 17:00 Hrs
6.	Submission of pre-Indicatives	27.09.2019 17:00 Hrs
7.	Date of Pre-Bid meeting	28.09.2019 11:00 Hrs
8.	Last Date / Time of Bid Submission	10.10.2019 17:00 Hrs
9.	Last Date / Time of Tender Fee & EMD	11.10.2019 17:00 Hrs
10.	Date of Bid Opening	11.10.2019 17:30 Hrs
11.	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, 3 rd floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchary Road, Ranchi - 834001
12.	Helping No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 651 2225870

Note: Only e-Tenders shall be accepted. Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website and can be seen on the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
**Project Director (Technical)
JUDCO Limited, Ranchi**

PR 217668 (Urban Development and Housing)19-20#D

Unauthorised colonies: AAP trains guns on BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

WORKERS OF the Aam Aadmi Party protested outside the BJP headquarters Saturday against the alleged delay by the Centre in regularising unauthorised colonies in the capital. Calling it “dhoka divas”, the protesters claimed BJP had betrayed the people of Delhi.

“The Delhi government had cleared a proposal for the regularisation and sent it across to the Centre, but the file is stuck and no response was provided on the same,” said AAP leader Gopal Rai.

The issue of regularisation of unauthorised colonies has been a major poll plank in Delhi as there are a total of 1,797 such colonies, housing lakhs of people.

Earlier, AAP leader Atishi had taken on the BJP: “After the Centre sent the draft cabinet note, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal directed all departments not to raise any issue so that the note gets approval within a month. BJP’s own cabinet minister said in July regularisation will be done in a month. Now, [Delhi BJP chief Manoj] Tiwari says it will be done in six months.”

Meanwhile, BJP leaders will organise an outreach programme Sunday in 22 assembly districts of Delhi on the issue of unauthorised colonies.

BJP general secretary Kuljeet Singh Chahal said the issue of unauthorised colonies has been politicised, first by the Congress and now by AAP. He blamed Kejriwal for not cooperating with the Centre on the matter.

“Centre wrote many letters for demarcation of boundaries of these colonies to Delhi government, but they didn’t take any concrete steps... through this campaign, not only will the lies of the Kejriwal government be exposed, but the efforts of the Central government for regularisation of unauthorised colonies will also reach the people,” he said.



A PLEASANT SURPRISE

After the rain at Connaught Place, Saturday. IMD has forecast a cloudy sky for Sunday morning, with a possibility of light rain towards noon. *Praveen Khanna*

For parents of EWS students, temporary relief in HC order

SUKRITABARUAH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE DELHI High Court’s order Wednesday restraining Air Force Bal Bharti School from expelling 10 students from the economically weaker section (EWS) has brought a temporary halt to months of anxiety and uncertainty faced by the children and their parents.

The students had been admitted to the school against seats reserved under EWS category and had completed class VIII in the 2018-2019 academic session. The fear of being forced to leave the school started last December when they received letters from the principal telling them they will no longer be eligible for free education under provisions for EWS students once they reached class IX in April, and that they should make “suitable arrangements”. Last month, they received a “final reminder” saying that the students faced expulsion if they did not pay Rs 36,620 — the fee for two academic quarters.

The mother of one of the students, who approached court, recalled that one of her daughter’s deepest anxieties was that her classmates would find out about

the threat of expulsion she faced.

“It felt very strange to know that this is something children have to worry about... even as we decided to take it up in court, she said we should be careful that her classmates do not hear of it. Their friends and classmates do not know which students are from EWS category and she was worried they might stop talking to her if they find out,” she said.

Mid-term examinations began on September 9 because of which parents said the children were doubly stressed. “There have been days when they’ve come back from school and we’ve just whisked them away to court in their uniforms for the formalities,” said the mother of another student.

After they began receiving letters from the school, the families began considering their options. One mother said that she had resigned to the idea that she would have to withdraw her child from the school. “I had even gone to a government school to find out about admission, but the principal told me that my child would not be able to adjust there after having studied at a private school like this,” she said.

Every parent *The Sunday Express* spoke to said they have

had very positive experiences with the school in the past, even though getting admission in the first place had seemed like a pipe dream at the time.

“Standing at the gate of these buildings was itself a big deal. At the time of my daughter’s admission, I didn’t know about the EWS provision. An auto driver told me that parents are lining up to apply and I should also try for my daughter. We were the last to apply, it was all luck,” said one of the mothers, who works as a health-care worker with an NGO and is the sole breadwinner in a family with four children.

The school’s principal had earlier said that schools are well within their right to ask for fee from the students concerned.

With the court’s order, parents’ worries may have been put to rest for a while, but future challenges await. The mother of one of the students, an anganwadi worker, has a daughter studying in class VIII at another prominent school. “We have already been informed that from next year, we will have to pay fees there. I was in a hurry to wind up the current matter because I will have to prepare to deal with that as well. There will be another fight,” she said.

NORTH WEST DELHI

Running from thieves, man mistaken for child lifter, killed

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

OVER TWO weeks after he was beaten up over suspicion of child lifting in a North West Delhi colony, a 27-year-old man died early Saturday morning at Safdarjung Hospital. The man has been identified as Govind, a daily wage labourer.

DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya said, “The incident took place on September 3 at Jailerwala Bagh, and an attempt to murder case was registered against three men at Ashok Vihar police station. The men were arrested on September 4.”

Police said that in his statement, Govind said he was beaten up by residents of Jailerwala Bagh when he hid on a terrace to escape two men

Govind was near the railway tracks when he was stopped by 2 men with knives. To escape, he hid on the terrace of a building, police said

who wanted to rob him.

An officer said, “The men who allegedly beat him assumed he was a thief or a child lifter.” They have been identified as Yashwant Kumar (35), Rakesh Yadav (22) and Phool Chand (69).

The victim’s brother, Bhim Singh, said that he and Govind lived with their mother in Wazirpur Industrial Area. “Early morning on September 3, Govind went to relieve himself

near the railway line and was stopped by two men with knives. They attempted to rob him and he ran to save his life and reached Jailerwala Bagh,” he told *The Indian Express*.

Singh said his brother told him that he knocked on the doors of several homes to seek shelter, but no one opened the door. He said, “Govind climbed a terrace of a home and hid there, and then someone opened the door and spotted him. More people gathered and started beating him up with bats and sticks and accused him of child kidnapping... then they left him to die. I found out at 7 am when people saw his bloodied body.”

DCP Arya confirmed that this was the statement given by Govind to the police on the day of the incident.

Govind was employed at a shoe factory in Wazirpur Industrial area. He earned around Rs 7,000 a month and took care of his mother and brother. His post-mortem was conducted Saturday.

Singh alleged that his brother didn’t receive regular treatment at a slew of government hospitals they took him to, and that on September 3 he was admitted to Deep Chand Bandhu hospital in Ashok Vihar and discharged soon after.

“Till September 17, he was at home and every day we took him to hospitals for treatment, but they kept asking us to go to another hospital. On September 17, he was finally admitted to Safdarjung Hospital, where he died at 5 am... if he had received timely treatment, he might have survived,” he said.

BJP leader’s image on school bags, South MCD issues showcause notice

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

SCHOOL BAGS with pictures of BJP leaders and a vaccination drive carried out, allegedly by a local councillor without permission from authorities, has come under the scanner of the South MCD’s education department.

A South MCD official said former standing committee chairperson Shailendar Singh Monty distributed bags, featuring his photo alongside a photo of BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi and the BJP’s Lotus symbol, to children at a civic body school in Hauz Rani. The official also said there were reports of a vaccination drive being conducted by a BJP councillor with the help of some NGOs and private physicians in some South Delhi schools.



The bags were distributed at a school in Hauz Rani

Taking cognizance of the incidents, the South body’s education department issued show-cause notice to the zonal official on September 17. “Schoolbags with photographs of former councillor in Hauz Rani and Begampur schools. Vaccination has been done without permission in certain schools by some

NGOs and physicians. You are hereby directed to show cause as to why disciplinary action should not be initiated against you,” the notice states.

SDMC education director Shirish Sharma said no one can distribute bags or administer any form of vaccine without taking permission. “Zonal officials in all schools have been issued strict instruction that no such activities should be allowed and all requests have to be passed through headquarters,” he said.

Monty, however, claimed he had not distributed the bags inside the school but in a lane outside the main gate. “These children are from a very poor background, so I am helping them. Every year I give bags, fruits, cycles to children in schools,” he said.

However, in a video posted

on Monty’s Facebook profile on September 12, he is purportedly seen distributing bags both inside and outside the school premises.

“The issue is being politicised because I had not invited the education committee chairperson Nandini Sharma to the event,” he claimed.

Sharma denied Monty’s allegations: “I ordered the probe because such activities cannot be allowed. I am waiting for the report.”

A senior South MCD official said that any health camp requires a permission from authorities as mandatory checks are required to ensure standards are maintained. He said strict action will be taken if reports of a vaccination drive without permission are found to be true.

For 3 govt schools, dinner with the CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal will host a dinner Sunday in honour of teachers, principals and other staff of three Delhi government schools ranked among the top 10 government schools of the country, an official said.

The official said that along with Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia, senior officials of the Education Department will also

attend the dinner at the Chief Minister’s official residence.

According to India School Ranking 2019 prepared by Education World, a portal for educators, teachers and parents, Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya, Sector 10, Dwarka has been ranked the best in the country for the second consecutive year.

From the other two, RPVV Lajpat Nagar has jumped one position and is now ranked at fifth, while RPVV Rohini has entered the top 10 group by getting rank seven.

Punjab & Sind Bank
(Formerly Punjab National Bank)
Zone Delhi & NCR

Where service is a way of life

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform the esteemed customers of the Punjab & Sind Bank and Public in general that our Branches in all the districts of NCT of Delhi are going to be uniform business hours from **10.00 AM to 4.00 PM w.e.f 01.10.2019**. Inconvenience caused is regretted.

Zonal Manager,
Delhi 1 (Nodal Office Delhi State)

**ALL INDIA SAINIK SCHOOLS
ENTRANCE EXAM (AISSEE - 2020)
SAINIK SCHOOLS SOCIETY**

(An Autonomous Organisation under Ministry of Defence, Govt of India)

**ADMISSION 2020 - LAST DATE OF REGISTRATION
EXTENDED TO 10 OCT 2019**

Last Date for submission of Online Applications for admission to Class VI & IX in Sainik Schools for the session 2020-21 has been extended to **10 Oct 2019** due to administrative reasons. Candidates may visit website sainikschooladmission.in for online registration process.

SAINIK SCHOOLS SOCIETY

**HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA
AGARTALA**

No. F.11(4)-HC/2019/16908
Dated Agartala, the 20th September, 2019

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from the eligible practising Advocates of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes for filling up 2 (Two) vacancies in **Grade-I of Tripura Judicial Service**. If no suitable candidate of such reserved categories is found available, the posts may be filled up from UR category. Therefore, willing candidates of UR category may also apply for the post. Detailed advertisement, application form and syllabus etc. may be downloaded from the official website of the High Court of Tripura (<http://thc.nic.in>).

Last date for submission of application in prescribed form is **11.10.2019**.

Belated and incomplete applications will be rejected summarily.

**Sd/-
(S. G. CHATTOPADHYAY)
REGISTRAR GENERAL**

**Bank of Baroda Regional Office:
4th Floor, Dipali Medical Centre
A.T Road, Jorhat-781001**

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF CHAPTER III OF THE
SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL
ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002.**

1) **M/s. Shambhala Traders** (Borrower)
POA Holder Mr. Sudra Nabam, Village Pita Post Mengio, P.S. Sargalee Dist. Papumpare, Arunachal Pradesh-791112

2) **Mr. Sudra Nabam** (Borrower)
S/o Mr. Nabam Takam, Room No.4, F - Sector Nahanagan, Dist. Papumpare, Arunachal Pradesh-791110

3) **Mrs. Nabam Nem Likha** (Guarantor)
W/o Mr. Likha Som, E-608, E - Sector, P.O. & P.S. Nahanagan, Arunachal Pradesh-791110

4) **Mrs. Nabam Nem Likha** (Guarantor)
W/o Mr. Likha Som, Flat No. B-8/105, 2nd Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, South West Delhi, New Delhi-110029

Ref: Financial assistance sanctioned to you by Bank of Baroda (erstwhile Vijaya Bank) Itanagar Branch-Defaults committed by you in payment of instalments of Principal, Interest, etc.

W/o. Bank of Baroda (erstwhile Vijaya Bank) Itanagar Branch had issued Demand Notice dated **04.03.2019** to the addresses furnished by you. The Notice could not be served upon you. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

W/o Bank of Baroda (erstwhile Vijaya Bank) Itanagar Branch had at your request granted to No.1 of you various credit facilities by way of financial assistance on the terms and conditions contained in the agreement w.e.f. 01.03.2019 and hereby call upon you to jointly & severally to pay to Bank of Baroda (erstwhile Vijaya Bank) within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice the aggregate sum of **Rs. 1,27,80,637.12 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven and Paise Twelve Only)** as on 28.02.2019 is immediately due and payable along with further interest w.e.f. 01.03.2019 and hereby call upon you to jointly & severally to pay to Bank of Baroda (erstwhile Vijaya Bank) within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice the aggregate sum of **Rs. 1,27,80,637.12 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven and Paise Twelve Only)** together with further interest thereon with effect from **01.03.2019** at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, other monies until payment or realisation.

In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in this notice without prior consent of Vijaya Bank. This notice is issued in terms of Section 13(2) of the said Act.

ANNEXURE-I

Sl. No	Nature of Facility	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.)	Amount outstanding as on 28.02.2019 (Rs.)
1.	CCB A/C No. 68010621000048 NPA Date 29.12.2016	80,00,000/-	Rs. 1,05,26,139.00/- (Rupees One Crore Five Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand One Hundred Thirty Nine Only)
2.	Term Loan A/C No. 880109041000170 NPA Date 30.03.2017	19,00,000/-	Rs. 22,54,488.12/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight and Paise Twelve Only)
Total Amount as on 28.02.2019			Rs. 1,27,80,637.12/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Seven and Paise Twelve Only) together with further interest thereon with effect from 01.03.2019 at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, other monies until payment or realisation.

ANNEXURE-II

(Details of the Mortgaged Property of the Guarantor)

All that part and parcel of property consisting of Flat No B-8/105, 2ND Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, South West Delhi, New Delhi-110029, in the name of Guarantor Mrs. Nabam Nem Likha

Date: **21-09-2019** Authorised Officer
Place: Itanagar Bank of Baroda Itanagar Branch

**इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank**
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी
Good People to grow with

Regional Office: 2nd & 3rd Floor, Naseema House, West Gandhi Maidan, Near Biscoman Bhawan, Patna - 800001. Ph.: 0612-2219025

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES (Under Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank**, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on Dates as mentioned below (date of the sale) for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder due to the Secured Creditor from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s).

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor & Branch	Description of the Immovable Property	Reserve Price	Amount mentioned in the notice (Plus future interest & expenses to be calculated further)	E-auction Date
		EMD of the Property		
		Bid Increase Amount		Timing of E-auction
Borrower: M/s New Glass King , New Bypass Road, Opp- PNB Anisabad, Opp-Bimal Raje, Enclave-B, Near Hemichak, Anisabad Patna-800002. Prop: Shri Lalu Prasad, S/o Mohan Singh, Behind BSNL Office, BSNL Road, Madhusudan Colony, Hemichak, Anisabad, Patna-800002. Guarantor/ Mortgage: Mr Chandra Bhushan Yadav, Add-S/o Late Ramdhari Singh, Bairagibagh, PO-Bharthua Thana, Jehanabad, Bihar, Pin-804408. B/o: Anisabad, Patna	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable mortgage of commercial land and building Registered in the name of Mr Chandra Bhushan Yadav S/o Late Ramdhari Singh vide sale deed no 27629 dated 14.12.2013, in Book no.-1, volume 605, on pages from 105 to 117 and CD 93/2013, situated at Mohalla- Chitokhara, P.S – Gardainibagh, Dist- Patna, Sab & Sadar Registry office, patna bearing Tauli No-5243, Revenue Thana NO-17, Khata No-204, Cadestral Survey Plot no-315, (Part), Ward no-8, Zone-3 serial no-114, circle- Patna Sadar, under PMC, Patna. Total area of Plot- 0.50 dismil (217.76 Sq Ft). Bounded: North- Part Plot No-316, Md Kamal Mustafa, Sarwar Imam, South-Part Plot No-316, Md Kamal Mustafa, Sarwar Imam, East-Govt Land, West- Main Road.	₹39,48,000/- ₹3,94,800/- ₹10,000/-	₹16,03,452/- and interest thereon	24.10.2019 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM 22.10.2019
Borrower: M/s Mangala Bricks , Factory: Thana No-79, Tauli No- Samilat, Khata No-145, Survey Plot No-361, Khewat No-8, Mauza-Katari, PS-Bikram, District-Patna 801104. Partner: 1. Mr. Vinod Mohan (Guarantor) H/o Dineshwar Sharma, West Jagjivan Nagar Road, Near DM Residence, Gaya, Bihar-823001. 2. Mr. Ranjit Kumar Upadhyay (Guarantor) S/o Tulsi Upadhyay, Magadh Colony, Chandauti More, Near Munna Dish TV, Gaya, Bihar-823001. Guarantor/Mortgagor: 1. Smt Heeramani Devi W/o Sri Tulsi Upadhyay, Vill-Katari, PS-Bikram, Dist-Patna, Bihar-801104, 2. Sri Tulsi Upadhyay, Vill-Katari, PS-Bikram, Dist-Patna, Bihar-801104 B/o: Gola Road, Patna	All that part and parcel of the property consisting : Simple Mortgage of Land in the name of Mr. Ranjit Kumar Upadhyay, S/o Tulsi Upadhyay, Thana No-79, Tauli-Samilat Khata No-145, Survey Plot No-361, Khewat No-8, Mauza-Katari, P.S.-Bikram, Dist-Patna, PIN-801104. Bounded by North-Sri Shama Upadhyay, South- Sri Shama Upadhyay, East-Niz, West-Sri Brahmdao Upadhyay.	₹80,99,000/- ₹8,09,900/- ₹50,000/-	₹89,40,406/- and interest thereon	24.10.2019 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM 22.10.2019
Borrower: M/s Maa Kalratri Motors , Prop.: Sushil Kumar (Mortgagor) S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, At- Adalpur, Dighikala, Hajipur, Distt Vaishali, State-Bihar 848115. Guarantor: Sri Sanjeev Kumar Sah, S/o Lt. Rajender Sah, At-Village+PO: Thara Gopalpur, PS-Wauni, Block: Pusar, Dist-Samastipur. B/o: Samastipur	All that part and parcel of the residential house property situated at Adalpur, PO- Hajipur, Vaishali, consisting of Khata no- 60,127, Khesra no-304,306, Thana no-139, Jamabandi no-755 within the registration sub-district Hajipur and District Vaishali in the name of Shri Sushil Kumar S/o Shri Kapileshwar Prasad Singh, Area- 4.5 Decimal. Bounded by: North-Ram Prasad Singh, South-Rameshwar Singh, East-18 feet road bihar Sarkar, West- Ramchandra Singh.	₹33,60,000/- ₹3,36,000/- ₹50,000/-	₹31,21,250/- and interest thereon	24.10.2019 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM 22.10.2019
Borrower: Mrs. Meera Devi W/o Lav Kush Sharma, Permanent Address- C/o Gopal Singh, Vill-Jafra Bhagwanpur, Post-Tishkhora, PS-Naubatpur, Dist.-Patna, Pin-801109. Present Address- Flat No. 203, Kamalkunj Apartment, Jaiprakash Nagar, Ashiyana Nagar, Patna, Pin 800025. B/o: Bihta, Patna	Land measuring area of 3.125 Decimals (20 Dhur) situated at Mauza-Bihta, PS-Bihta, Thana No.-47, Khata No.-16 & 30, Tauli No.-2582, Survey Plot No.910,911, Sub Registry Office-Danapur, Dist.-Patna, Bihar in the name of Smt. Meera Devi W/o Sri Lav Kush Sharma, Boundary: (As per Deed) North-Smt. Sulekha Devi, South-Smt. Dharamsheela Devi, East-Sri Rameshwar Singh & Others, Presently 10' feet Wide Rasta, West-Sri Bhagwat Singh, (As per valuation report Actual): North-H/o Sulekha Devi, South-H/o Dharamsheela Devi, East-12 Kuchha Rasta, West-Lo-LO Bhagwat Singh.	₹10,69,000/- ₹1,06,900/- ₹10,000/-	₹2,38,472/- and interest thereon	24.10.2019 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM 22.10.2019

For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, Please refer to the link provided in secured creditor’s website i.e. www.ioib.in, <https://www.publishertenders.gov.in>, www.bankauctions.in.

Date : **19.09.2019** Authorized Officer
Place : Patna Indian Overseas Bank

6 GOVT & POLITICS

IN OTHER STATES

Gujarat (4 seats)

BY-ELECTIONS TO four Assembly seats will be held in Gujarat on October 21. These seats have been vacant since the MLAs nominated by the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections won their Parliamentary seats. The seats of Tharad, Kheralu, Amraiwadi and Lunavada will go to polls, even as five other Assembly seats remain vacant. Radhanpur and Bayad seats were vacated by Congress MLAs Alpesh Thakor and Dhavalsinh Zala, respectively, after they quit the party since cross-voting in Rajya Sabha polls in July. Three other seats — Morva Hadaf, Dwarka and Talala — held respectively by Independent MLA Bhupendra Khant, BJP's Pabubha Manek and Congress's Bhagabhai Barad, are vacant due to litigation. The Congress on Saturday asked why bypolls to all seven Assembly seats could not be conducted together. "It clearly shows BJP has put pressure on the EC," state Congress chief Amit Chavda said. State BJP president Jitu Vaghani said his party was confident of retaining all four seats. **ENS**



Amit Chavda

Kerala (5 seats)

The Opposition Congress-led UDF, which had dealt a big blow to the ruling LDF in the Lok Sabha polls, said on Saturday that the October 21 bypolls in five constituencies in Kerala would be a referendum on the "misrule" of the LDF government. Besides the five constituencies, bypoll results in Pala would also favour the UDF and it would hit a "sixer", the party said. CPI(M) state secretary Kodyiyeri Balakrishanan said the LDF is ready to face the bypolls. "The party has started the campaign from the grassroots," he said. **PTI**

Odisha (1 seat)

With the Election Commission announcing bypolls to Bijepur Assembly segment on October 21, the model code of conduct has come into force in Odisha's Bargarh district, said Chief Electoral Officer S Kumar. Bijepur seat was vacated by CM Naveen Patnaik as he retained Hinjili Assembly segment in Ganjam district. Patnaik won both from Hinjili and Bijepur seat in the 2019 Assembly election. All three major parties — ruling BJD and opposition BJP and Congress — have started preparations for the bypoll, but no candidate has been announced. **PTI**

All eyes on 15 seats as ousted MLAs bank on SC to contest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 21

WITH THE announcement of bypolls on October 21 for 15 Assembly seats in Karnataka, former Congress and JD(S) MLAs of these constituencies, who were disqualified from contesting elections under the anti-defection law for defecting to BJP, are relying on the Supreme Court to cancel their disqualification in order to contest the polls.

The matter is expected to come up in Supreme Court on Monday.

The bypolls were necessitated by disqualification of these legislators by then Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar in July this year. Their absence from the House during the trust vote had led to the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) alliance led by H D Kumaraswamy, and helped the BJP assume power.

Of 15 constituencies going to the bypolls, 12 were represented by the Congress and three by JD(S).

BC Patil, the disqualified MLA from Hirekerur, said: "We have approached the Supreme Court and are hopeful of a favorable order in terms of disqualification from contesting elections. The Speaker's action was not as per law."

While Ramesh had disqualified 17 MLAs under the anti-de-



Yediyurappa, Siddaramaiah

fection law, bypolls will not be held for Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Maski seats on October 21 since 2018 election-related cases are pending in court.

The disqualified MLAs are hoping that the BJP will give tickets to their family members, or



KARNATAKA

people of their choice, to contest the polls in case the Supreme Court decides against interfering with the Speaker's disqualification orders at an early date before nomination ends.

The former legislators went into a huddle soon after the election schedule was announced and reportedly met legal experts and Chief Minister B S

EXPLAINED Why bypolls are crucial for BJP govt

THE BYPOLLS are expected to be an acid test for the BJP government of Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, who currently has 106 seats in the Assembly, including an Independent. The Opposition combine of Congress and JD(S) has 101 seats in the 224-member Assembly with 17 vacancies.

After the bypolls, the strength of the House will be 222, with two seats not going to the polls now. So to get past the halfway mark of 111, the BJP needs to win at least six seats in the by-elections to retain its majority.

Yediyurappa, who is travelling to Delhi, PTI reported. They have said they will seek a stay on the election process on Monday, when their petition comes up before the top court.

"On the disqualified MLAs, the court and the EC will decide. Our party is prepared for polls," PTI quoted BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel as saying. Expressing confidence that BJP will win all 15 seats, he said, "Without challenge, it is not politics."

Sending out a note of equal confidence, former CM and JD(S) leader Kumaraswamy said, "The BJP government of B S Yediyurappa will not last long; that is quite clear. We will not topple the government but the bypolls will result in its fall."

At a rally in Hosakote, one of the 15 seats going to the bypolls, Congress leader and former CM Siddaramaiah said: "If people have self-respect and pride, they will not allow the rebels to contest and win the bypolls. The matter is in court and we do not know what will happen. The people should teach them (disqualified MLAs) a lesson and send a message to the whole country."

While Kumaraswamy said his party would contest all seats on its own, Congress leaders suggested that a decision on contesting in a coalition with the JD(S) would be taken by the party high command.

The 15 constituencies going to bypolls are Hirekerur, Yellapur, Yeshwanthpur, Krishnarajpuram, Hospet, Shivajinagar, Chikaballapur, Hosakote, Kagwad, Gokak, Athani and Rannebennur (all won by Congress in 2018) and Hunsur, KR Pet and Mahalakshmi Layout (won by JDS).

11 seats up for polls, Hamipur votes tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 21

THE ELECTION Commission of India on Saturday announced that bypolls would be held on 11 seats to the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on October 21.

The 11 seats are Gangoh seat in Saharanpur, Rampur seat, Iglas seat in Aligarh, Lucknow Cantonment in Lucknow, Govindnagar in Kanpur, Manikpur in Chitrakoot, Pratapgarh, Jaidpur in Barabanki, Jalalpur in Ambedkarnagar, Balha in Bahraich and Ghosi in Mau.

UTTAR PRADESH

While Ghosi seat was vacated after MLA Fagu Chauhan took over as Bihar Governor, the remaining seats were vacated after the MLAs contested the Lok Sabha elections this year and were elected as members of Parliament.

In a statement issued by the chief election commissioner, Uttar Pradesh, the Model Code of Conduct has been initiated in the districts where bypolls are to take place.

Meanwhile, the Hamipur Vidhan Sabha constituency is set for a four-pronged bypoll contest on September 23. The seat was vacated following the conviction of BJP MLA Ashok Kumar Chandel in a 22-year-old murder case. Hamipur will be the first electoral contest after the SP and BSP parted ways after their poor show in the Lok Sabha election.

BJP, Sena in supremacy battle as Oppn fights for survival

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE MAHARASHTRA Assembly election on October 21 is set to be a test for the uneasy alliance between the BJP and Shiv Sena. With the Opposition still in disarray after the Lok Sabha poll drubbing and desertions of several leaders in the run-up to state polls, many political analysts believe the October polls will be a battle of supremacy between the two ruling allies.

Since 2014, when the BJP emerged as the most powerful political force, tension has been simmering between the two sides. So, even as both parties have firmed up a pre-poll alliance, BJP's strategy is to get as close to the halfway mark of 144 seats on its own.

Five years ago, BJP, riding on the Narendra Modi wave, tripled its seat tally (46 seats in 2009 to 122 seats in 2014) when the two parties had snapped ties and contested independently for the first time since 1995. It has since notched up wins in local body polls and made acquisitions from Opposition ranks to enhance its own footprint in Maharashtra.

Further, the landslide victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, where the BJP-Sena alliance, under PM Modi's leadership, won 41 of the 48 seats in the state, has bolstered the BJP's hope for a bigger mandate this time.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, once the more dominant force in the saffron alliance in Maharashtra, has been forced to play second fiddle to the BJP since its upswing in 2014. Sena's strategists know that if the BJP further improves its tally in the Assembly and reaches anywhere



Even as BJP and Shiv Sena have firmed up a pre-poll alliance, BJP strategy is to get close to the halfway mark on its own. *File*

MAHARASHTRA

near the halfway mark, its own position in the alliance will be compromised further.

This, said party sources, was a key reason behind Uddhav's initial insistence of equal sharing of seats and power in the state. But seized of the importance of staying in the alliance, the Sena ceded some ground. Sena is likely to contest 126 seats, while BJP (with smaller allies) will contest the remaining 162, said sources.

To match the BJP in this power tussle, even the Sena, over the last few months, has systematically inducted Opposition turncoats, including some legislators, on seats the BJP has traditionally contested. To retain its relevance, it has also projected the party's heir apparent, Aaditya Thackeray, as a chief ministerial face — a move that has seen some resistance from the BJP camp.

Fadnavis, who is seeking a second consecutive term, has la-

belled himself as the face of the alliance and embarked on a statewide tour.

But this battle of supremacy between the saffron allies has come at the cost of the Opposition, with the two main parties, the Congress and NCP, fighting for survival in a state they once dominated.

Key desertions have hit them further. Since the Lok Sabha polls, 24 senior leaders — including 13 serving legislators and 10 former ministers — have switched to either the BJP or Sena. The BJP, in particular, has been making efforts to weaken NCP's base in western Maharashtra, where Sharad Pawar's party draws its clout. The polls will also be a test of Pawar's political acumen. With the Congress lacking a strong mass leader and battling infighting, the onus of leading the Opposition campaign has fallen on the NCP patriarch again. But Pawar's party has been hit the most by the exodus, forcing the 78-year-old to embark on a statewide tour to re-motivate his cadre.

Oppn divided, we will cross 75-seat mark, says Khattar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 21

SEEKING TO carry the momentum it gained in the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year, the ruling BJP in Haryana is confident of winning more than 75 of the total 90 seats in the Assembly polls.

Haryana will go to polls on October 21, the EC announced Saturday. The results will be declared on October 24.

BJP, for the first time, won all 10 Lok Sabha seats in the elections held in May and increased its vote share to over 58 per cent in Haryana, capping its best performance in 2014 Assembly polls when it bagged 47 seats. The party, under the leadership of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, is already working on "Mission 75".

"BJP is strong in all the 90 Assembly segments. Opposition political parties stand divided and a stampede is taking place in these parties. We will cross 75-plus seats in the Assembly," Khattar told media here.

He said the BJP has completed all preparations for the polls. "The tickets will be allocated to those who follow the party's ideology and have a clean image," he said, adding that "allocation of tickets will be finalised soon".

Soon after the pollswere announced, Khattar said the NRC is

UNEMPLOYED TO GET ALLOWANCE: HOODA

Chandigarh: Congress leader and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said on Saturday that if voted to power, the party will either give jobs to unemployed graduate and post-graduate degree holders, or give them a monthly allowance of Rs 7,000 and Rs 10,000, respectively. "Postgraduate unemployed will either get jobs or Rs 10,000 per month allowance while those holding graduate degrees to will either get job or Rs 7,000 per month allowance," Hooda said. **ENS**

HARYANA

not an election issue Haryana, but it is step towards safeguarding the nation's interest and should be implemented in all states.

While Khattar is going to the electorate citing achievements of his government, scrapping of J&K's special status besides the Modi factor; the Opposition is targeting the ruling party on the issues of unemployment, poor economy, youth and water issues.

‘Shift slaughterhouse sanctioned near temples by BJP-led civic body’

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 21

DAYS AFTER the BJP slammed him for remarks that some saffron-clad people were committing rapes and that sexual assaults are taking place even in temples, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Saturday said the BJP's decision to sanction a slaughterhouse near temples on the outskirts of Bhopal had hurt his feelings, and that of lakhs of devotees.

Singh was referring to a slaughterhouse that the BJP-ruled Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) is building at Aadampur Chhavani, near Kankali Mandir near Bhopal.

The former chief minister wrote to state Urban Development Minister



Congress leader Digvijaya Singh

Jaivardhan Singh, who is his son, and requested him to immediately stop implementation of the decision taken by the municipal body when the BJP government was in power in the state.

Singh pointed out that during Navratri thousands of pilgrims visit Kankali Mandir. Three more temples, including a Ram Mandir and an ISKCON temple, are located on the road leading to Kankali Mandir, the Rajya Sabha MP noted.

The letter stated that Congress workers had opposed the decision of the then BJP gov-

ernment led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan to shift the slaughterhouse from its existing location at Subhashnagar to Aadampur Chhavani. Singh wrote that protests had forced the Chouhan government to shelve the idea of building the slaughterhouse.

But, he wrote, Chouhan and the BJP-led municipal corporation went against people's wishes and sanctioned a detailed project report. He requested the present minister to move the slaughterhouse to another location.

Reacting to Singh's objections, BJP spokesperson Rajneesh Agrawal said the party will speak to the Mayor and decide what could be done. Singh, who lost the recent Lok Sabha election to Pragna Singh Thakur from Bhopal seat, is often targeted by BJP leaders for his remarks.

MANHANDLED AT JU, UNION MINISTER RESPONDS TO APPEAL

Won't file FIR: Supriyo to accused student's mother

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 21

UNION MINISTER Babul Supriyo on Saturday said that he will not file an FIR against the student who was caught on camera assaulting him on the Jadavpur University (JU) campus Thursday. Supriyo said he took the decision after a video surfaced in which the accused student's mother was seen appealing to the minister seeking forgiveness for his son.

Through a news report published in a Bengali newspaper, Rupali Ballabh, a cancer patient, had urged Supriyo to forgive Debanjan, who was identified by Supriyo as the one pulling his hair. In a tweet in Bengali, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change said, "Don't worry, mashima



Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar visited Jadavpur University V-C Suranjan Das at a Kolkata hospital and said he would work with students, faculty and management to provide wholesome environment for education. *PTI*

(aunt). I won't harm your son. I only want him to learn from his mistakes. Neither have I filed an FIR against anybody, nor have I allowed anyone else to do so —

Don't worry — get well soon, mashima. Accept my respects."

In the video, Ballabh is seen requesting Supriyo with folded hands not to drag his son into le-

gal matters or politics.

Debanjan, who is from Burdwan, was a student of Burdwan Municipal High School and completed his higher secondary from Burdwan Town School. At present, he is a second-year student of Sanskrit College in Kolkata.

His father is a teacher. On Thursday, Supriyo was heckled by a section of students at JU. The students gheraoed Supriyo for over five hours. When Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar rushed to JU to rescue him in the evening, his vehicle was also blocked for about an hour, before a huge police contingent reached the campus and escorted them out. Since then a war of words is under way between Dhankhar and TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee. A political slugfest also started

between BJP and TMC over the incident.

Meanwhile, on Friday night Supriyo said he would file a defamation case against CPI(M) politburo member Mohammad Salim, who had alleged that the Union minister made derogatory remarks on a woman student during the JU violence.

In a tweet, Salim said, "The Union Minister 'Babul Supriyo asks girls why they're wearing 'skimpy' clothes & what they come to university for. He went on to tell a girl to join him in his room and he will show her who he really was!"

Responding to Salim, Supriyo tweeted, "He (Salim) has to prove his charge or pay the price. I need not defend myself against filthy losers like him...it's nauseating & below my dignity.. my lawyers will deal with him."

6 GOVT & POLITICS

IN OTHER STATES

Gujarat (4 seats)

BY-ELECTIONS TO four Assembly seats will be held in Gujarat on October 21. These seats have been vacant since the MLAs nominated by the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections won their Parliamentary seats. The seats of Tharad, Kheralu, Amraiwadi and Lunavada will go to polls, even as five other Assembly seats remain vacant. Radhanpur and Bayad seats were vacated by Congress MLAs Alpesh Thakor and Dhavalsinh Zala, respectively, after they quit the party since cross-voting in Rajya Sabha polls in July. Three other seats — Morva Hadaf, Dwarka and Talala — held respectively by Independent MLA Bhupendra Khant, BJP's Pabubha Manek and Congress's Bhagabhai Barad, are vacant due to litigation. The Congress on Saturday asked why bypolls to all seven Assembly seats could not be conducted together. "It clearly shows BJP has put pressure on the EC," state Congress chief Amit Chavda said. State BJP president Jitu Vaghani said his party was confident of retaining all four seats. **ENS**



Amit Chavda

Kerala (5 seats)

The Opposition Congress-led UDF, which had dealt a big blow to the ruling LDF in the Lok Sabha polls, said on Saturday that the October 21 bypolls in five constituencies in Kerala would be a referendum on the "misrule" of the LDF government. Besides the five constituencies, bypoll results in Pala would also favour the UDF and it would hit a "sixer", the party said. CPI(M) state secretary Kodyiyeri Balakrishanan said the LDF is ready to face the bypolls. "The party has started the campaign from the grassroots," he said. **PTI**

Odisha (1 seat)

With the Election Commission announcing bypolls to Bijepur Assembly segment on October 21, the model code of conduct has come into force in Odisha's Bargarh district, said Chief Electoral Officer S Kumar. Bijepur seat was vacated by CM Naveen Patnaik as he retained Hinjili Assembly segment in Ganjam district. Patnaik won both from Hinjili and Bijepur seat in the 2019 Assembly election. All three major parties — ruling BJD and opposition BJP and Congress — have started preparations for the bypoll, but no candidate has been announced. **PTI**

Focus on 15 seats, disqualified MLAs wait for SC decision

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 21

WITH THE announcement of bypolls on October 21 for 15 Assembly seats in Karnataka, former Congress and JD(S) MLAs of these constituencies, who were disqualified from contesting elections under the anti-defection law for defecting to BJP, are relying on the Supreme Court to cancel their disqualification in order to contest the polls.

The matter is expected to come up in Supreme Court on Monday.

The bypolls were necessitated by disqualification of these legislators by then Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar in July this year. Their absence from the House during the trust vote had led to the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) alliance led by H D Kumaraswamy, and helped the BJP assume power.

Of 15 constituencies going to the bypolls, 12 were represented by the Congress and three by JD(S).

BC Patil, the disqualified MLA from Hirekerur, said: "We have approached the Supreme Court and are hopeful of a favorable order in terms of disqualification from contesting elections. The Speaker's action was not as per law."

While Ramesh had disqualified 17 MLAs under the anti-de-



Yediyurappa, Siddaramaiah

fection law, bypolls will not be held for Rajarajeshwari Nagar and Maski seats on October 21 since 2018 election-related cases are pending in court.

The disqualified MLAs are hoping that the BJP will give tickets to their family members, or



KARNATAKA

people of their choice, to contest the polls in case the Supreme Court decides against interfering with the Speaker's disqualification orders at an early date before nomination ends.

The former legislators went into a huddle soon after the election schedule was announced and reportedly met legal experts and Chief Minister B S

EXPLAINED

Why bypolls are crucial for BJP govt

THE BYPOLLS are expected to be an acid test for the BJP government of Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, who currently has 106 seats in the Assembly, including an Independent. The Opposition combine of Congress and JD(S) has 101 seats in the 224-member Assembly with 17 vacancies.

After the bypolls, the strength of the House will be 222, with two seats not going to the polls now. So to get past the halfway mark of 111, the BJP needs to win at least six seats in the by-elections to retain its majority.

Yediyurappa, who is travelling to Delhi, PTI reported. They have said they will seek a stay on the election process on Monday, when their petition comes up before the top court.

"On the disqualified MLAs, the court and the EC will decide. Our party is prepared for polls," PTI quoted BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel as saying. Expressing confidence that BJP will win all 15 seats, he said, "Without challenge, it is not politics."

Sending out a note of equal confidence, former CM and JD(S) leader Kumaraswamy said, "The BJP government of B S Yediyurappa will not last long; that is quite clear. We will not topple the government but the bypolls will result in its fall."

At a rally in Hosakote, one of the 15 seats going to the bypolls, Congress leader and former CM Siddaramaiah said: "If people have self-respect and pride, they will not allow the rebels to contest and win the bypolls. The matter is in court and we do not know what will happen. The people should teach them (disqualified MLAs) a lesson and send a message to the whole country."

While Kumaraswamy said his party would contest all seats on its own, Congress leaders suggested that a decision on contesting in a coalition with the JD(S) would be taken by the party high command.

The 15 constituencies going to bypolls are Hirekerur, Yellapur, Yeshwanthpur, Krishnarajpuram, Hospet, Shivajinagar, Chikaballapur, Hosakote, Kagwad, Gokak, Athani and Rannebennur (all won by Congress in 2018) and Hunsur, KR Pet and Mahalakshmi Layout (won by JDS).

11 seats up for polls, Hamipur votes tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 21

THE ELECTION Commission of India on Saturday announced that bypolls would be held on 11 seats to the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on October 21.

The 11 seats are Gangohi seat in Saharanpur, Rampur seat, Iglas seat in Aligarh, Lucknow Cantonment in Lucknow, Govindnagar in Kanpur, Manikpur in Chitrakoot, Pratapgarh, Jaidpur in Barabanki, Jalalpur in Ambedkarnagar, Balha in Bahraich and Ghosi in Mau.

UTTAR PRADESH

While Ghosi seat was vacated after MLA Fagu Chauhan took over as Bihar Governor, the remaining seats were vacated after the MLAs contested the Lok Sabha elections this year and were elected as members of Parliament.

In a statement issued by the chief election commissioner, Uttar Pradesh, the Model Code of Conduct has been initiated in the districts where bypolls are to take place.

Meanwhile, the Hamipur Vidhan Sabha constituency is set for a four-pronged bypoll contest on September 23. The seat was vacated following the conviction of BJP MLA Ashok Kumar Chandel in a 22-year-old murder case. Hamipur will be the first electoral contest after the SP and BSP parted ways after their poor show in the Lok Sabha election.

BJP, Sena in supremacy battle as Oppn fights for survival

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE MAHARASHTRA Assembly election on October 21 is set to be a test for the uneasy alliance between the BJP and Shiv Sena. With the Opposition still in disarray after the Lok Sabha poll drubbing and desertions of several leaders in the run-up to state polls, many political analysts believe the October polls will be a battle of supremacy between the two ruling allies.

Since 2014, when the BJP emerged as the most powerful political force, tension has been simmering between the two sides. So, even as both parties have firmed up a pre-poll alliance, BJP's strategy is to get as close to the halfway mark of 144 seats on its own.

Five years ago, BJP, riding on the Narendra Modi wave, tripled its seat tally (46 seats in 2009 to 122 seats in 2014) when the two parties had snapped ties and contested independently for the first time since 1995. It has since notched up wins in local body polls and made acquisitions from Opposition ranks to enhance its own footprint in Maharashtra.

Further, the landslide victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, where the BJP-Sena alliance, under PM Modi's leadership, won 41 of the 48 seats in the state, has bolstered the BJP's hope for a bigger mandate this time.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, once the more dominant force in the saffron alliance in Maharashtra, has been forced to play second fiddle to the BJP since its upswing in 2014. Sena's strategists know that if the BJP further improves its tally in the Assembly and reaches anywhere



Even as BJP and Shiv Sena have firmed up a pre-poll alliance, BJP strategy is to get close to the halfway mark on its own. *File*

MAHARASHTRA

near the halfway mark, its own position in the alliance will be compromised further.

This, said party sources, was a key reason behind Uddhav's initial insistence of equal sharing of seats and power in the state. But seized of the importance of staying in the alliance, the Sena ceded some ground. Sena is likely to contest 126 seats, while BJP (with smaller allies) will contest the remaining 162, said sources.

To match the BJP in this power tussle, even the Sena, over the last few months, has systematically inducted Opposition turncoats, including some legislators, on seats the BJP has traditionally contested. To retain its relevance, it has also projected the party's heir apparent, Aaditya Thackeray, as a chief ministerial face — a move that has seen some resistance from the BJP camp.

Fadnavis, who is seeking a second consecutive term, has la-

belled himself as the face of the alliance and embarked on a statewide tour.

But this battle of supremacy between the saffron allies has come at the cost of the Opposition, with the two main parties, the Congress and NCP, fighting for survival in a state they once dominated.

Key desertions have hit them further. Since the Lok Sabha polls, 24 senior leaders — including 13 serving legislators and 10 former ministers — have switched to either the BJP or Sena. The BJP, in particular, has been making efforts to weaken NCP's base in western Maharashtra, where Sharad Pawar's party draws its clout. The polls will also be a test of Pawar's political acumen. With the Congress lacking a strong mass leader and battling infighting, the onus of leading the Opposition campaign has fallen on the NCP patriarch again. But Pawar's party has been hit the most by the exodus, forcing the 78-year-old to embark on a statewide tour to re-motivate his cadre.

Oppn divided, we will cross 75-seat mark, says Khattar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 21

SEEKING TO carry the momentum it gained in the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year, the ruling BJP in Haryana is confident of winning more than 75 of the total 90 seats in the Assembly polls.

Haryana will go to polls on October 21, the EC announced Saturday. The results will be declared on October 24.

BJP, for the first time, won all 10 Lok Sabha seats in the elections held in May and increased its vote share to over 58 per cent in Haryana, capping its best performance in 2014 Assembly polls when it bagged 47 seats. The party, under the leadership of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, is already working on "Mission 75".

"BJP is strong in all the 90 Assembly segments. Opposition political parties stand divided and a stampede is taking place in these parties. We will cross 75-plus seats in the Assembly," Khattar told media here.

He said the BJP has completed all preparations for the polls. "The tickets will be allocated to those who follow the party's ideology and have a clean image," he said, adding that "allocation of tickets will be finalised soon".

Soon after the pollswere announced, Khattar said the NRC is

UNEMPLOYED TO GET ALLOWANCE: HOODA

Chandigarh: Congress leader and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said on Saturday that if voted to power, the party will either give jobs to unemployed graduate and post-graduate degree holders, or give them a monthly allowance of Rs 7,000 and Rs 10,000, respectively. "Postgraduate unemployed will either get jobs or Rs 10,000 per month allowance while those holding graduate degrees to will either get job or Rs 7,000 per month allowance," Hooda said. **ENS**

HARYANA

not an election issue Haryana, but it is step towards safeguarding the nation's interest and should be implemented in all states.

While Khattar is going to the electorate citing achievements of his government, scrapping of J&K's special status besides the Modi factor; the Opposition is targeting the ruling party on the issues of unemployment, poor economy, youth and water issues.

‘Shift slaughterhouse sanctioned near temples by BJP-led civic body’

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 21

DAYS AFTER the BJP slammed him for remarks that some saffron-clad people were committing rapes and that sexual assaults are taking place even in temples, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Saturday said the BJP's decision to sanction a slaughterhouse near temples on the outskirts of Bhopal had hurt his feelings, and that of lakhs of devotees.

Singh was referring to a slaughterhouse that the BJP-ruled Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) is building at Aadampur Chhavani, near Kankali Mandir near Bhopal.

The former chief minister wrote to state Urban Development Minister



Congress leader Digvijaya Singh

Jaivardhan Singh, who is his son, and requested him to immediately stop implementation of the decision taken by the municipal body when the BJP government was in power in the state.

Singh pointed out that during Navratri thousands of pilgrims visit Kankali Mandir. Three more temples, including a Ram Mandir and an ISKCON temple, are located on the road leading to Kankali Mandir, the Rajya Sabha MP noted.

The letter stated that Congress workers had opposed the decision of the then BJP gov-

ernment led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan to shift the slaughterhouse from its existing location at Subhashnagar to Aadampur Chhavani. Singh wrote that protests had forced the Chouhan government to shelve the idea of building the slaughterhouse.

But, he wrote, Chouhan and the BJP-led municipal corporation went against people's wishes and sanctioned a detailed project report. He requested the present minister to move the slaughterhouse to another location.

Reacting to Singh's objections, BJP spokesperson Rajneesh Agrawal said the party will speak to the Mayor and decide what could be done. Singh, who lost the recent Lok Sabha election to Pragna Singh Thakur from Bhopal seat, is often targeted by BJP leaders for his remarks.

gal matters or politics.

Debanjan, who is from Burdwan, was a student of Burdwan Municipal High School and completed his higher secondary from Burdwan Town School. At present, he is a second-year student of Sanskrit College in Kolkata.

His father is a teacher. On Thursday, Supriyo was heckled by a section of students at JU. The students gheraoed Supriyo for over five hours. When Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar rushed to JU to rescue him in the evening, his vehicle was also blocked for about an hour, before a huge police contingent reached the campus and escorted them out. Since then a war of words is under way between Dhankhar and TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee. A political slugfest also started

between BJP and TMC over the incident.

Meanwhile, on Friday night Supriyo said he would file a defamation case against CPI(M) politburo member Mohammad Salim, who had alleged that the Union minister made derogatory remarks on a woman student during the JU violence.

In a tweet, Salim said, "The Union Minister 'Babul Supriyo asks girls why they're wearing 'skimpy' clothes & what they come to university for. He went on to tell a girl to join him in his room and he will show her who he really was!"

Responding to Salim, Supriyo tweeted, "He (Salim) has to prove his charge or pay the price. I need not defend myself against filthy losers like him..it's nauseating & below my dignity.. my lawyers will deal with him."



Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar visited Jadavpur University V-C Suranjan Das at a Kolkata hospital and said he would work with students, faculty and management to provide wholesome environment for education. *PTI*

(aunt). I won't harm your son. I only want him to learn from his mistakes. Neither have I filed an FIR against anybody, nor have I allowed anyone else to do so —

Don't worry — get well soon, mashima. Accept my respects."

In the video, Ballabh is seen requesting Supriyo with folded hands not to drag his son into le-

Won't file FIR: Supriyo to accused student's mother

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 21

UNION MINISTER Babul Supriyo on Saturday said that he will not file an FIR against the student who was caught on camera assaulting him on the Jadavpur University (JU) campus Thursday. Supriyo said he took the decision after a video surfaced in which the accused student's mother was seen appealing to the minister seeking forgiveness for his son.

Through a news report published in a Bengali newspaper, Rupali Ballabh, a cancer patient, had urged Supriyo to forgive Debanjan, who was identified by Supriyo as the one pulling his hair. In a tweet in Bengali, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change said, "Don't worry, mashima

EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

Pak troops continue shelling, small arms fire along LoC

Jammu: Pakistani troops continued resorting to unprovoked mortar shelling and small arms fire along the Line of Control (LoC) damaging various houses and killing over half a dozen cattle, at various places in Rajouri and Poonch districts for the third day on Saturday. A Defence Ministry spokesperson said Pakistani

troops initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and shelling in Bakalote area of Mendhar on Saturday too. The Indian Army was retaliating befittingly, he added. In Rajouri district's Nowshera sector too, Pakistani troops had resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation Friday. **ENS**



CRPF commandos and school children clean Versova Beach on 'International Coastal Clean Up Day' in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI

EAST

Constable shot by bike-borne assailants in Muzaffarpur

Patna: A head constable was shot by two unidentified assailants while he was checking vehicles at a Muzaffarpur checkpoint. The assailants also took away his carbine. Police suspect looting of arms as the motive behind the murder. The incident took place around 2 pm on Saturday when head constable

Malleswar Ram (55) was checking vehicles at Markan Chowk of Sakra. Two boys on a motorcycle stopped near the constable and one of them fired four bullets at him and looted his carbine. Muzaffarpur senior SP Manoj Kumar said: "So far, looting of carbine looks to be motive". **ENS**

WEST

Security guard held for threatening women over phone

Mumbai: A 35-year-old security guard, a resident of Haryana, was arrested for allegedly calling women talking to them in obscene language and threatening them, Mumbai Police said on Saturday. The accused, Vijaykumar Umashankar Gupta, was nabbed by a Mumbai police team from Gurugram on Friday, said an

official. Gupta worked as a security guard at a residential complex in Gurugram. He had obtained mobile numbers of hundreds of women visitors from the complex's mobile app, police said. The app was used for recording the names and other details of visitors to the complex, the police official said. **PTI**

SOUTH

Fresh notice for removal of bungalow used by Naidu

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government Saturday served a fresh notice for 'removal' of the illegal riverfront bungalow, taken on lease by former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority served the fresh notice on owner Lingamaneni Ramesh,

directing its removal within seven days. A 'confirmation order' was pasted on the walls of the bungalow Friday and came to light on Saturday even as Naidu was away in Hyderabad. The CRDA on June 27 served a preliminary order-cum-show cause notice, asking Ramesh to remove the 'illegal structures'. **PTI**



AZAD VISITS SRINAGAR

Senior Congress leader and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad talks to transporters and houseboat owners in Srinagar on Saturday. Azad was permitted to visit four districts of J&K by the Supreme Court. On the second day of his four-day trip, he visited a hospital and asked about the welfare of patients. PTI

Hurriyat denies reports of Mirwaiz signing bond for release

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 21

SAYING IT stands by its "principled stand" on Kashmir, the Hurriyat Conference has rubished news reports that its chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has signed a bond for his release. "(Our) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq continues to be under house arrest since August 5, 2019 at his residence (and) as such his access to people and communication is extremely limited," Mirwaiz led Hurriyat said in an official handout. "The news item carried by some newspaper, quoting sources that the Hurriyat chairman has been released after signing a bond, is entirely baseless."

The handout, a first by any separatist organisation since the scrapping of special status and bifurcation of J&K, was released by an aide of Mirwaiz.

"The conglomerate stands firm by the principled stand on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and stands with the people in this unprecedented situation that all are facing," the statement said.

Mirwaiz and separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani are under house detention since August 5 while most of the separatist leadership has been arrested and lodged in jails of J&K and outside.

Pulwama police probe 'suspicious death' of teen boy

ADILAKHZER
PULWAMA, SEPTEMBER 21

THE POLICE in Pulwama, in south Kashmir, have started investigating a "suspicious death" after a 15-year-old boy allegedly committed suicide by consuming poison.

Yawar Ahmad Bhat, from Chandgam in Pulwama, died at Srinagar's SMHS Hospital on Thursday — his medical records at Pulwama hospital mention an "alleged" case of "rat poison".

On Saturday, the teen's family members alleged that he took his own life apprehending torture at an Army camp after soldiers took away his identity card on Tuesday, allegedly beat him and asked him to report at a local Army camp the following day.

Calling the allegations "baseless", an Army officer in Srinagar said, "He (Yawar) was not called by the Army. Nothing of this sort has happened."

Pulwama SSP Chandan Kohli told *The Sunday Express* that it is a "suspicious death" and the boy consumed poison. "We have started inquest proceedings," he said. About the family's allegation, Kohli said, "Yes, I have asked the Army. They denied it."

Pulwama DC Syed Abid refused to comment on the issue.

According to family members,

A Gujarati will set up first pharma unit in Kashmir, says MoS Mandaviya

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 21

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA, the Union Minister of state for shipping, chemicals and fertilizers, said that a Gujarati will set up the first pharmaceutical unit in Kashmir. He was speaking to businessmen at the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) on Saturday.

"I am confident... I also look after the pharmaceutical department, as well as chemicals and petrochemicals... the first pharmaceutical unit (in Kashmir) will

be set up by a Gujarati," said Mandaviya while speaking on "Business opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir."

Pointing out how Gujarati firms were the first to take advantage of the relaxations offered by Himachal Pradesh to pharmaceutical industries a decade ago, the minister said, "Today half of the industries (in HP) are ours."

Asking businessmen in Gujarat to keep an eye on opportunities in J&K, Mandaviya said job and business opportunities will slowly open up in Kashmir. "J&K will tread on the path of progress in the future," he said, adding that

Article 370 had given rise to "separatist tendencies" among the youths in Jammu and Kashmir and encouraged "terrorism", which Pakistan had taken advantage of.

Mandaviya also claimed that foreigners who come to India now visit Delhi's Akshardham and the Statue of Unity in Gujarat instead of the Taj Mahal. "Earlier when people used to come to Delhi, they were shown the Taj Mahal. Hindustan did not recognise it's own strength. We ourselves never recognised it... When the world comes now, they first to go see Akshardham. They do not go to see the Taj Mahal," he said.

A friend of N Chandrababu Naidu, he was brought into politics by the TDP chief when he was first made president of the TDP cultural cell. While he juggled between his acting career in Hyderabad, spending time at his wife's hospital in Tirupati and teaching at a college, Sivaprasad kept a low-profile in TDP and politics. Until Naidu asked him to contest from Satyavedu Assembly seat in Chittoor in 1999, where he won and was made Culture Minister in the Naidu government. He contested again in 2004 and lost. In 2009, Naidu asked him to contest from Chittoor Lok Sabha seat which he won in spite of a strong wave in support of late Y S Rajashekara Reddy.

"In 2014, Naidu joked that now that we are with the government, there will not be any opportunity for you to assume different avatars," he said then, but in November 2016, he got a custom-made costume with stickers of people in distress because of demonetisation. "I can't help it. In times of crisis, the artiste within me is forced to don

these attires to draw people's attention," he had said. In Parliament, he was also very courteous with the media, giving interviews in English, Hindi and Telugu, and often interspersing his sentences with "OK ma'am, please sir, thank you ma'am."

After his defeat in 2019, Sivaprasad was back as a doctor at his wife's hospital at Tirupati. He had developed a kidney ailment and was shifted to Apollo Hospitals in Chennai as his condition worsened.

TDP chief Naidu condoled the family. "I have lost a great friend today. May his soul rest in peace. The party has lost two senior leaders within a week," Naidu said, referring to Kodela Sivaprasad Rao who committed suicide last week.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed shock and grief and sent condolence messages to his family.

INAUGURATED IN 2016

As Kerala flyover goes down, politicians and bureaucrats face heat

SHAJU PHILIP
KOCHI, SEPTEMBER 21

PANCHAVADI PALAM, a 1984 Malayalam movie adapted from the story *Palam Apakadathilanu* (the bridge is in danger), was a political satire on how corruption and vested interests contributed to bringing down a bridge. Thirty-five years later, Kerala is rewinding to that classic as a flyover in Kochi is slated for demolition barely three years after it was opened to traffic. With the flyover controversy snowballing, it threatens to bring down with it senior bureaucrats, politicians and many others, including the Delhi-based contractor of the project.

The Rs 42-crore Palarivattom flyover along NH bypass was thrown open to traffic in October 2016, but had to be closed for repairs in May this year after it developed cracks. With the bridge unfit for use even after repair works, earlier this week, the government announced its decision to partially demolish the flyover and construct a new one under the supervision of DMRC consultant and 'Metro Man' E Sreedharan.

On August 30, the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB), which is probing the case, arrested retired IAS officer and former government secretary T O Sooraj; Sumit Goyal, Managing Director of the Delhi-based RDS Projects that was the contractor for the project; consulting firm KITCO's senior manager Benny Paul; and M T Thankachan, AGM Roads and Bridges Development Corporation Kerala (RBDCK), a subsidiary of the State Public

HONEYTRAP CASE

Bid to destabilise MP govt, claims minister

MILIND GHATAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 21

TWO DAYS after a syndicate that allegedly honeytrapped government officials and politicians was busted in Indore, Madhya Pradesh Law and Public Relations Minister PC Sharma on Saturday alleged that some ministers and Congress MLAs were potential targets in a bid to destabilise the Congress government.

Sharma claimed the state government had received inputs that former BJP ministers could be behind the syndicate, and described it as a conspiracy to destabilise the Kamal Nath government. He also claimed that some of the accused women belonged to the opposition BJP.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath refused to comment when asked for his reaction.

BJP spokesperson Deepak Vijayvargiya countered the minister's allegations, and accused the Congress government of politicising the matter. "Instead



The Palarivattom flyover will be partially demolished

Works Department, which was in charge of the execution of the project. All are in judicial custody until the first week of October.

The case is also threatening to lead up to the doors of Indian Union Muslim League leader V K Ibrahim Kunju, who was minister for public works when the deal for the flyover was inked, and IAS officer and Kochi Metro MD A P M Muhammed Hanish, who was then managing director of RBDCK.

After the cracks developed last year, the state government entrusted an expert team of IIT-Madras to look into the shoddily constructed bridge. The IIT team said that government agencies KITCO and RBDCK failed to monitor the work effectively.

"It is unfortunate that a flyover has to be rebuilt within three years... I have been tasked with technical supervision of the work, which will be completed in a year," said Sreedharan.

As the flyover was to be constructed along the NH bypass, the onus was on the National Highway Authority of India. But the Kerala Public Works Department, under the Congress-led UDF regime, decided to construct the flyover,

claiming the state agency would complete the project faster.

Kerala public works minister G Sudhakaran said the Delhi-based contractor, RDS Projects, would be made liable to pay the cost of rebuilding of the flyover. "The liability-defect period of the project is three years and hence the contractor will be made to pay the cost. We have already served him a notice," he said.

Kunju, the PWD minister in the earlier UDF government, who is in the dock for releasing an advance amount to the contractor, said such problems are usual in the construction sector. "The mobilisation advance was allotted using the discretionary powers of a minister. I am ready to face the probe as I have nothing to hide," he said.

The Kerala Government Contractors' Association has, however, come out against the arrest and judicial custody of Sumit Goyal, MD of RDS Projects. "The contractor had already spent Rs 3 crore on repair works. It is an injustice that he was arrested and jailed even after that..." said association president Varghese Kannampally.

Saradha case: Rajeev Kumar's anticipatory bail plea rejected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 21

THE ALIPORE court on Saturday rejected the anticipatory bail plea filed by former Kolkata police commissioner Rajeev Kumar in connection to the Saradha chit fund scam probe. The CBI strongly opposed Kumar's plea and addressed him as an "absconder".

In its submission, the CBI had said it was unable to establish any contact with Kumar, who had been accused of suppressing evidence crucial for the investigation. The court then sought a list of dates when Kumar had been summoned but failed to appear before the CBI. After CBI submitted the list, the court rejected his anticipatory bail plea.

Meanwhile, the CBI failed to track down the location of Kumar despite continued search operations for the fourth day on Saturday. A five-member team paid a surprise visit to Bhawani Bhawan, CID headquarters, where Kumar is posted as the Additional Director General.

According to sources, CBI officials spent nearly 40 minutes inside the CID office. However, a CID official said, "The CBI officials were here for some formality and nothing else."

Issue notice against Kalyan Singh: Court

Lucknow: A Special Court on Friday ordered that a notice be issued to former Governor and BJP leader Kalyan Singh for his appearance in the Babri Masjid demolition case on September 27.

The CBI on September 9 had moved an application before the court to summon Kalyan Singh to face trial in the case as he demitted office as Rajasthan Governor. The court then directed CBI to provide proof that Singh no more enjoys any constitutional post.

Singh, who was UP chief minister when the mosque was brought down in 1992, joined the BJP on September 9. **ENS**

Former TDP MP, who opposed govt's moves in unique ways in House, dies

SREENIVAS JANYALA & ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI
HYDERABAD, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

IN PARLIAMENT last year, Naramalli Sivaprasad had photographers flocking to him every day as he slipped into various roles — none of which had anything to do with his skills as an actor, director, professor or a Member of Parliament. From being draped in a sari as a Telugu woman to a schoolboy in shorts, from wearing his hair in a ponytail to play Narada, to playing the flute as Lord Krishna, and from a priest in a robe to a maulvi in a skull cap — he donned all of 21 looks in 2018 to protest the denial of special status to Andhra Pradesh.

On Saturday, the former Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MP died at a private hospital in Chennai, where he was admitted

two weeks ago. He was 68.

He was suffering from a kidney ailment and died of a renal failure. TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu had visited him at the hospital on Friday.

Sivaprasad is survived by wife and two daughters.

Witty and easy-going, he brought his thespian skills to Parliament during his two terms as MP to highlight issues concerning his state. Once, he dressed up as a fisherman with a net on his shoulder to highlight the woes of fishermen in Andhra Pradesh.

"First and foremost I am an artist, an actor. I find different ways to convey and express the concerns of Telugu people. My experience as a theatre and drama artist in my youth helps a lot," he once told *The Indian Express*. His wife, Dr Rajlakshmi, a gynaecologist, and his two daughters are both doctors in Tirupati.

His family helped with ideas



Narmalli Sivaprasad (centre) at Parliament complex. File

for his looks and makeup, he had told *The Indian Express* in March 2018, while explaining his sari look in Parliament. "My missus got me the sari and wig and helped me with the makeup. Somebody in my relation

stitched the blouse. My wife, two daughters and sons-in-law help me with all the costumes and props."

In the interview, he also went on to elaborate on his "sensational marriage". "She hailed

Will send Indian into space by 2021: ISRO chief

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 21

ISRO CHAIRPERSON K Sivan on Saturday referred to the Chandrayaan-2 mission as a “huge success”, adding that the organisation aims to send an Indian into space aboard an indigenous craft by the year 2021. Sivan, who was speaking at the IIT Bhubaneswar convocation ceremony as chief guest, said, “The Chandrayaan-2 mission comprised a very large science component and a small technology demonstration component of soft landing near South Pole region of the Moon. The bulk of instruments to carry out interplanetary science is in the orbiter. The design life of the orbiter was one year, but due to

optimal mission operations, its life has increased to seven and a half years.”

He added, “Scientists will receive 7.5 times the data they expected. It really is a huge success... This will result in mapping the entire lunar surface in great precision and detail. In the soft landing part, two mission phases were completed successfully till the altitude of 300 metres from the lunar surface.”

Speaking of its proposed manned space flight programme, Sivan said, “We are embarking on expanding the scope of India’s space programme by venturing into human space flight... Gaganyaan is extremely important for India as it will boost the science and technology capability of the country. We are working towards a new target.



ISRO chief K Sivan at the 8th convocation of IIT Bhubaneswar. PTI

“By December 2020, we are going to have the first unmanned mission of human phase flight. The second unmanned human phase flight has a target of July 2021. By Dec 2021, the first Indian will be carried out (into space) by our own rocket.

They will be lifted from Indian soil and go to space. ISRO is working on that,” he announced.

He asserted that though ISRO’s plan to soft land Chandrayaan-2’s ‘Vikram’ lander on the lunar surface did not go as per script, it will have no bearing with on the ‘Gaganyaan’ mission. Sivan’s speech had indirect references to the Chandrayaan-2 mission, such as: “if you are not failing, you are not trying anything hard”. The ISRO chairperson also advised students to make “interesting mistakes” and “break rules”.

He also asked students and graduates to direct their efforts towards solving the country’s problems, such as poverty, hunger, health, sanitation, clean drinking water. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he said, “Local

problems need local solutions.”

Later speaking about the ‘Vikram’ lander, Sivan said ISRO will take up a study to ascertain what exactly happened to it. He told reporters, “...first, we have to understand what exactly happened to the lander.”

The lander, with rover ‘Pragyan’ housed inside, lost communication with the ground station on September 7 during its final descent, just 2.1 kms above the lunar surface, minutes before the planned touch-down. A national-level committee is analysing the cause of the communication loss with ‘Vikram’, Sivan said.

“We have not been able to establish communication with the lander yet. As soon as we receive any data, necessary steps will be taken,” he said. **WITHPTIINPUTS**

Round 1 to CAPF officers in pay battle with IPS

MHA writes to D-Gs to form panels for grant of NFSG

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

IN THE long-drawn battle between IPS officers and officers of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) over better pay to the latter, the Home Ministry has issued an order to directors-general (D-Gs) of the forces and asked them to not only form internal committees for grant of non-functional selection grade (NFSG) to CAPF officers but to also frame new recruitment rules.

The IPS, who hold all senior positions in forces such as CRPF, BSF, SSB, CISF and ITBP, are locked in a battle with cadre officers of these forces for grant of non-functional financial upgradation (NFFU) and NFSG. Both ensure enhanced pay for cadre officers.

The matter has been of concern to Home Minister Amit Shah, as the government has claimed grant of NFFU to forces among its achievements in 50 days and 100 days of the government.

In a letter, dated September 17, by Police II division of Home Ministry, the D-Gs have been asked to form internal committees for implementation of NFSG as directed by the Supreme Court and according to notifications made by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) from time to time.

More importantly, the letter states, “Proposals may also be sent for amending rules for incorporating appropriate provi-

EXPLAINED Bone of contention between IPS, CAPF

WHILE THE Cabinet has cleared both NFFU and NFSG following the Supreme Court’s orders, the matter is stuck due to IPS officers’ opposition to framing of new recruitment rules, as it has the potential to impact their deputation in the forces. The CAPF cadre maintain that grant of NFFU and NFSG on old recruitment rules would deprive a large number of deserving officers the benefits that the apex court granted.

sions for grant of NFSG, which will fall due future.”

Sources said the mention of amending of rules had for the first time been mentioned in communication from the MHA to D-Gs of these forces. It indicates the MHA is open to amendments in recruitment rules for grant of NFSG, they said.

NFSG regulates enhanced pay for second-in-command officers of the forces but is granted to only 30 per cent of the total available senior positions. NFFU would be applicable to all.

The Indian Express had earlier reported that Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla had held a meeting with CAPF officers and assured them that he would look into their concerns. It also reported that the ministry was considering granting one-time exemption in recruitment rules for grant of NFFU.

Sources said the CRPF has already formed an internal commit-

tee of two IPS and two CAPF cadre officers to make proposals for officers eligible for NFSG. Their report would be sent to the screening committee headed by Bhalla, who will take the final decision.

The September 17 letter stated, “In a meeting held with Union Home Secretary, the DsG [commonly called D-Gs] of the force submitted that the cases regarding grant of NFSG to eligible officers can be considered by the Internal Committees in the CAPFs.... In light of above, the DsG of CAPFs are advised to place the case of eligible officers before the Internal Committees and send the recommendations for the approval of Appointing Authority. Further advised by DoP&T, all existing cases for grant of NFSG may be considered as per directions of Hon’ble Supreme Court in letter and spirit and as per instructions prescribed in DoP&T’s OM dated 06-06-2000.”



Blast At Etah House, 6 Killed

Six people were killed and eight injured in an explosion at a residence where firecrackers were stored in Etah district on Saturday, police said. The district magistrate has ordered a magisterial probe to ascertain whether crackers were being manufactured in the house. PTI

FALLOUT OF LAND DISPUTE

Couple hacked to death, attacker killed in retaliation in Mau: police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 21

A COUPLE was hacked to death and their teenage son injured in an attack by a relative, who was then killed by the family members of the deceased in Uttar Pradesh’s Mau district late on Friday, said police.

According to Ranipur police, the incident was the result of a property dispute between the two families, with the matter pending in court.

Police forces have been deployed in Mathia village and family members of the assailant moved from the village to avoid any backlash.

Police have registered a murder case into the killing of the couple against Tuntun Chauhan, his brother Nirmal Chauhan, and their family members Sanjeet Chauhan and Kanti Chauhan. Tuntun (50) allegedly attacked his cousin Shivchand Chauhan (50) and his wife Geeta Devi (45).

No police complaint has been filed into the killing of Tuntun.

“A dispute over a piece of land between Tuntun and Shivchand has been pending in the court. A judgment into the matter was expected soon. Sensing that his defence was weak before the court, Tuntun allegedly entered the house of Shivchand and attacked him and his wife with a sharp-edged weapon while they were asleep around 11.30 pm on Friday. The couple died on the spot. Tuntun too was found dead with injury marks caused by a sharp-edged weapon in Shivchand’s house,” said Mau SP Anurag Arya.

Pokhriyal: Committed to strengthen all 22 Indian languages

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE UNION government is committed to “strengthen” all 22 scheduled languages of the country and wants mother tongue to be the medium of instruction at the level of primary education, Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ said at a meeting called to discuss the draft National Education Policy (NEP) on Saturday.

Speaking at a meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), Pokhriyal assured representatives of 26 states in the wake of the controversy over NEP’s recommendation on the three-language formula.

CABE is the highest advisory agency on education and has representatives of all states. Saturday’s meeting was called to seek suggestions of state governments on the draft NEP released in June.

Pokhriyal said: “There is one misunderstanding that I want to clear. The three-language formula was the same in 1969, 1986 and 1992; and even today, we haven’t touched it. I feel that people have not either understood it or don’t want to understand it. We (government) are committed to strengthen all Indian languages.”

He said, “Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that we



HRD minister Pokhriyal

have to strengthen all our 22 (official/scheduled) languages. We want that education in child-hood should be in mother tongue... We are going to discuss everything in detail with you (states). Nothing will change overnight.”

While the minister welcomed suggestions from states, he also urged them to implement them on their own since education is “also a state subject”.

He said, “I would urge you to take decision at your level, too. When we talk about teacher vacancy, it’s important that the states also fill up vacancies in their educational institutions (schools and higher educational institutions).”

Pokhriyal also said that state governments should take advantage of Central schemes, a majority of which will continue even after the final NEP is implemented.

ED attaches chimpanzees, marmosets under PMLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 21

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate, Kolkata, has issued a provisional attachment order of three chimpanzees and four marmosets as part of a money laundering probe against a wildlife smuggler. The animals have been kept at Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata. Under the ED’s ownership, the zoo will keep them now, said an official.

Accused Supradip Guha has been booked under PMLA. “Accused Supradip Guha, who is an organised wildlife criminal, is absconding. The attachment was done just two days ago,” said an ED official.

The animals were earlier seized by the Customs Department and sent to the zoo. However, Guha had been claiming their possession on the basis of fake documents, which said the animals were of Indian breed and belonged to him. But he had actually smuggled them, said an official. The zoo authorities had

then approached the ED. According to ED, Guha was trying to take the animals from the zoo authorities by claiming right over them through false statements and documents. But now the attachment has enabled the zoo authorities to keep the animals with them. The three chimpanzees are a major point of attraction for visitors and thus, a source of revenue for the zoo, read the statement. The value of each chimpanzee has been assessed to be Rs 25 lakh and that of a marmoset to be Rs 1.5 lakh.

and submit the report to the state government,” it added. Another government press note stated that the enquiry report has to be submitted by September 25. In a CCTV video footage that surfaced on Friday, SP Rajen Singh, an Assam Police Service (APS) officer is seen dragging and hitting executive magistrate and assistant commissioner Sailen Das, in the lobby of a hotel in Kokrajhar. Das’s clothes looked torn.

The incident, according to government sources, happened on September 9 at a cultural function where several administrative officials and police officers were present. An argument broke out between Singh and Das.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Chinmayanand extortion case: SIT records statement of three youths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 21

AN UTTAR Pradesh special investigation team (SIT) on Saturday reached the Shahjahanpur district jail and recorded the statements of three men accused of extorting Rs 5 crore from former Union Minister and BJP leader Chinmayanand.

The BJP leader, who has been booked for alleged sexual assault on a 23-year-old law student at his ashram, and the three men – Sanjay Singh, Vikram alias Durgesh and Sachin alias Sonu Sengar – were arrested and sent to judicial custody on Friday.

The SIT has also been probing the role of the 23-year-old student in the extortion case after it came to light that she was in touch with the three men. It is yet to recover the cellphones of the woman and Sanjay Singh.

Meanwhile, on the direction of a Shahjahanpur court to the jail superintendent, a doctor carried out a medical check-up of Chinmayanand and said his condition was stable.

On recording the statements of the three youths, government counsel Lal Sahab Singh said, “An application was moved by the SIT today (Saturday), seeking permission to record the statements of all the three accused inside the jail. The court allowed the same.”

‘Gully Boy’ selected as India’s entry to Oscars

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

GULLY BOY directed by Zoya Akhtar, featuring Ranveer Singh in the lead, has been selected as India’s official entry in the International Feature Film category at the 92nd Academy Awards, the Film Federation of India announced on Saturday.

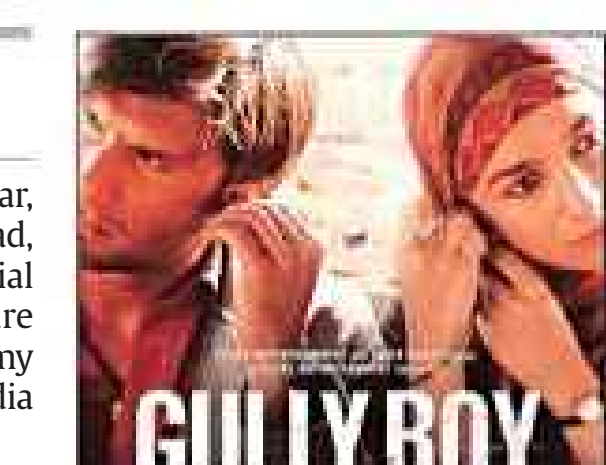
The movie, which released commercially across the country in February this year, also features Alia Bhatt, Vijay Raaz, Kalki Koechlin, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Vijay Varma and Amruta Subhash.

“India’s official entry for Oscars this year is Gully Boy. There were 71 films in the running this year but it was an unanimous decision to select Gully Boy,” FFI secretary general Supran Sen told PTI.

Celebrated actor-filmmaker Aparna Sen was the head of the jury for this year’s selection committee. Gully Boy, produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar, featuring Ranveer as an up-and-coming rapper who sets out to achieve his dream by rhyming about his life on the Mumbai streets.

Farhan took to Twitter to congratulate the team behind the film, which was one of the most critically-acclaimed Hindi movies of 2019.

“Gully Boy has been selected as India’s official entry to the 92nd Oscar Awards. #apnaimaayega. Thank you to the film federation and congratulations #Zoya@kagtireema @ritesh_sid @RanveerOfficial



Promotional poster of Gully Boy.

@aliaa08 @SiddhantChtrvD @kalkikanmani & cast, crew and hip hop crew,” he wrote.

Kalki, who played a pivotal role in the movie, also expressed her excitement on the film’s Oscar selection.

“Woweeeeeeeeee! That is just the best Saturday evening news!” she tweeted.

No Indian film has ever won an Oscar. The last Indian film that made it to the final five in the Best Foreign Film category list was Ashutosh Gowariker’s “Lagaan” in 2001.

“Mother India” (1958) and “Salaam Bombay” (1989) are the other two Indian movies to have made it to the top five.

Assamese film “Village Rockstars”, directed by Rima Das, was India’s official submission to the Oscars last year. The 92nd Academy Awards will be announced February 9, 2020.

RJD MLA’s niece, friend killed in Munger after resisting molestation bid

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 21

THE NIECE of an RJD legislator and her friend were allegedly killed in Bihar’s Munger on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday while resisting a molestation bid.

Police have arrested one accused and are on the look out for three others.

Munger MLA Vijay Kumar Vijay’s niece Riya (23) and her friend Asif (25), both residents of Munger and currently preparing for medical entrance examinations in Kota, were found murdered with bullet marks in their heads at around 12.30 am Saturday.

Riya and Asif had recently come to Munger from Kota. The police said Riya had left her home telling her mother, an auxiliary midwife nurse (ANM) in Munger, that she was going to meet Asif. When she did not return, her family started a search and found

her and Asif dead.

Munger Deputy Inspector General of Police Manu Maharaj told The Sunday Express: “Both Riya and Asif were killed by Asif’s friend Danish after Danish and three of their friends tried to molest the girl. Danish had called Asif to meet, and Asif and Riya went together. Danish and three others... passed some objectionable remarks and tried to molest the girl.”

The DIG added that after Asif resisted the molestation bid, Danish took umbrage and strangled the girl and later shot her dead. Danish later killed Asif as well, said the DIG.

Maharaj said there was no history of enmity between Asif and Danish, who had provided an illegal weapon to Asif.

The police have recovered the weapon used in the murders, a cloth used to strangle the girl and empty cartridges from the spot. The police are now looking for the other three accused.

BOOK BY RSS PRACHARAK TO BE RELEASED BY BHAGWAT

‘By 2047, Sangh would become indistinguishable from Indian society’

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

“WHAT WILL be the state of our nation in 2047 (centenary of Independence)? After deliberating with RSS functionaries, the common answer I could gather was that India... Sangh would become indistinguishable from Indian society. Sangh would become coterminous with all of Indian society and the need for it to exist as a distinct entity would be obviated.” This is what RSS pracharak Sunil Ambekar writes in his forthcoming book “The RSS Roadmap for the 21st Century”.

The book, to be released on October 1 by RSS sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat in Delhi, throws light on several issues pertaining to the RSS.

In the book, Ambekar — the Sangathan Mantri (organising secretary) of the ABVP, an RSS affiliate working among students — advocates the Ram temple in Ayodhya, uniform civil code and constitutional amendment. “Constitutions are not frozen in time; they are dynamic texts. Uniform Civil Code is not only

necessity for Ekatmata, but also a preventive against the exploitation that Muslim women have had to endure due to their religious laws,” it says. While the book was being released for printing, the government decided to scrap special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the state.

In the chapter “The History of Bharat”, Ambekar narrates the RSS’s efforts to revise history and calls renaming of cities like Faizabad to Ayodhya and Allahabad to Prayagraj as “an important part of the reclamation (of History) project”. He also demands that Aurangabad in Maharashtra “be renamed as Sambhajanagar”.

Ambekar writes that RSS backs use of terms “Hindutva” and “Hindu Rashtira” and “is working to give it greater currency”. He clarifies that “Hindu Rashtira is not anti-Muslim” and that Hindu Rashtira “is the imagination of contemporary, non-violent nation where peace and prosperity prevail, which promotes freedom of worship and equality for women”. The cause of Hindutva is the cause of Ekatmata, “Muslims and Christians can also subscribe to

Hindutva because it is a matter of national identity”. Here he quotes from RSS’s second sarsangchalak M S Golwalkar’s book Bunch of Thoughts that “It is the forefathers of the Hindu people that have set up the traditions of love and devotion for the motherland”.

He says the RSS has worked among deprived sections and hopes in the chapter “Caste and Social Justice” that “As Sangh work expands, SCs and OBCs will be seen in prominent positions in all tiers of Sangh activity”.

The book, which advocates promotion of Sanskrit and Indian languages, says that 2025 will be the Sangh centenary and “Forward planning, meticulous designing of initiatives and inspiring rich contributions from activists is a Sangh specialty, and twenty-first-century India will see a lot of it.” It asserts that “Sangh is not a political party but a social organization”.

The book shows concern about religious conversions. It says, “In the beginning, the Congress was alive to such issues but gradually developed a clear disconnect and disregard.”

IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

(2G) judgment says investigative agencies failed miserably. On that you cannot fault CAG... If I were given those documents again, I would come up with the (1.76 lakh cr) figure (again)”



SANDEEP DWIVEDI: In the early chapters of your book *Rethinking Good Governance*, you talk about vertical accountability. You say how informal institutions have played a role in fixing government institutions while the State has not really curtailed corruption in big organisations. Can you elaborate?

On the issue of vertical accountability, or the institutions that you talk about, it's not in the context of curbing corruption. What I have said is that theoretically there are two institutions of accountability — one is a formal institution, which is defined in terms of horizontal accountability, because these are institutions created by the government. There is the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) to watch over government expenditures, the Chief Election Commission to watch over elections etc. But, in the past 15 years, or in this millennium, there has been the (emergence) of institutions of vertical accountability which are informal, such as the media... The Indian media is very restrained and it is a positive. They are not looking into people's bedrooms etc. There are also NGOs, PILs, which have been very positively active. Starting from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the 2G or coal scam... it was PILs that went into it.

The third section is citizen groups. Twenty years ago (during elections) we would have sat back in our drawing rooms, watched TV... Not many of us would have gone and voted. Today the same citizen has taken centrestage, and now actually goes to vote. All these institutions have introduced vertical accountability in the system.

RITU SARIN: You had written to the Prime Minister's Office to expand government audit to include informal sectors such as NGOs etc. Did that happen?

At no point did we want to include the informal sectors. The CAG Act of 1971 says that wherever government funding finds its way, the CAG will chase the rupee. After 1971, the 73rd and 74th amendments created the panchayati raj institutions, municipalities and local self-government bodies... Now from the UPA-1 (onwards), parallel channels were established for devolving government funds on projects, and these funds were going through the panchayati raj institutions. I remember having discussions with (former Union minister) Jairam Ramesh... But unfortunately the legal audit mandate of the CAG was of 1971. These institutions were created much later. And, one-third of the money for projects was flowing through these channels. So say if we wanted to audit any municipality, they could have turned it down and said who are you, that the mandate of '71 says that you cannot audit us. At the time, we made a presentation to the finance minister and Planning Commission, and pointed out the lacunae. Then, in 2009, they issued an order and said henceforth all local bodies to which government funds are being made available will also fall under the audit mandate of the CAG.

ABANTIKA GHOSH: Your book talks about the accountability of institutions. During your term as CAG, you estimated a loss of Rs 1.76 crore in the allocation of 2G spectrum licences to private players. But now most of those people who went to jail in the aftermath of the scam are back in Parliament. Do you think there are questions that the CAG needs to answer about its report on the scam?

Let me explain to you the difference between what happened in the trial court and what we did. See, the CAG of India conducts audits and does not do investigations. As far as the CAG is concerned, the (2G) chapter is closed.

The second activity that took place was the Supreme Court examining the licences. It had nothing to do with the CAG. In fact, if you read the SC verdict, it clearly says that we are not basing our judgment on the CAG report... That's exactly the sentence they used. So the SC cut out all the extraneous information, and based its verdict entirely on the evidence that was produced before them. In their wisdom, after examining the details, they cancelled the licences.

Now, the third thing that happened was that the CBI picked up the criminality part of what happened in the issuance of those licences. The CBI conducts investigations. Their job is to pull out documents, evidences, witnesses and produce them, maybe, before the CBI court, which is a trial court. I don't know how long they took. But they also have nothing to do with the audit, because audit reports have

WHY VINOD RAI

A former civil servant who was arguably India's most famous Comptroller and Auditor General — after pegging the loss in the 2G scam at Rs 1.76 lakh crore — Vinod Rai is presently the chairman of the Committee of Administrators that is overseeing the country's cricket administration. He has recently authored *Rethinking*

Good Governance, a book on India's public institutions. Entrusted with the task of implementing the Justice RS Lodha reforms, that promise far-reaching changes in Indian cricket, Rai, has held the road map in his hands as BCCI takes a radically new path and deals with the complex issues of conflict of interest and the role of politicians in sports



“Justice Lodha gave 20 examples of conflict of interest... We abide by them a 100%... I believe it is a grey area. And the ethics officer took a very narrow, legalistic view of what that conflict is. So we sought a relook”

‘A loss isn’t just captain’s fault... To say nobody held Kohli responsible for Cup loss would be incorrect’

Ex-CAG, Committee of Administrators Chairman Vinod Rai talks about the SC-appointed body's ties with BCCI, calls row over Army insignia on Dhoni gloves oversight, defends Ravi Shastri's selection, work as coach, and explains why he called for Pakistan's 'isolation'



Committee of Administrators Chairman Vinod Rai with National Sports Editor Sandeep Dwivedi in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Gajendra Yadav

no evidentiary value in a court.

If you have read the judgment, the judge has made some very scathing remarks on the quality of evidence that was produced, and the quality of witnesses that were produced, on there being no connection between the chargesheet and the evidence that was produced. The words he used in the judgment were that the investigative agencies failed miserably. On that you cannot fault the CAG. I am making an assertion that if our audit team and me were given those documents again, I would come up with that figure (again).

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: There is a perception that as a sports administrator you have taken some populist measures. After the Pulwama attack, and before the World Cup, the BCCI wrote to the International Cricket Council to isolate Pakistan. You went on record to say that Pakistan should be treated the way South Africa was for Apartheid. 'The present dispensation feels strongly about it because we reflect the sentiment of the nation. We are not a closed cricket community, we represent the nation,' you said. But doesn't this go against the Olympic Charter, where to play a sport is a human right?

I was coming to things step by step. Were you allowing Pakistani players in the Indian Premier League? You were not. Now, India was slated to play Pakistan on June 16... There was a rhetoric built up over here that India should refuse to play with Pakistan. People were saying it, the media was reporting it. The media was not cooking it up. The media reports, picks up news from the ground... There was a headline saying that the BCCI wants to go for revenues, and that is why they want to play Pakistan. I don't want to name the television anchor... Now, faced with such a situation, what was my reaction? If we don't play Pakistan (in the World Cup), we lose one point, two points, and that doesn't matter. But suppose Pakistan comes up in the semi-final and we withdraw. Isn't that shooting yourself in the foot? We would be closing avenues for ourselves. Which, I thought, was an incorrect move. So I said, rather than shooting ourselves in the foot, let's isolate them.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: During the World Cup, why did the BCCI write to the ICC seeking permission for MS Dhoni to wear wicket-keeping gloves with the 'Balidaan Badge', the regimental dagger insignia of the Army's Special

Forces? The request was turned down and it triggered a big media debate.

That was a non-issue. What he wore was not the insignia of his regiment. But he wore something... At that point, at least I did not know that the ICC had rules about what you can put on your gloves. I was taken by surprise. I said, look, if he is wearing it, he is free to wear it, and I supported him. Then I was shown 11 pages of ICC norms which say that you can only have your team's insignia and that of the manufacturers. So we had to withdraw. It was a genuine oversight by me. Why should I name anybody else? I did not know that there are such instructions.

DAKSH PANWAR: Going back to the previous question, and just to make it clear, are you in favour of isolating Pakistan in cricket?

No. As I said I was taking a position to counter the rhetoric which had gained momentum in the public domain. That's all. On playing Pakistan, I think there is a government policy...that you can play on neutral territory, and not on each other's... We are very clear in our minds that on neutral territory we will play any country.

SUNIL JAIN: Many people are of the opinion that you are allowing the captain to decide everything... Virat Kohli didn't want Anil Kumble to be coach. Then replacing Kumble with Ravi Shastri, who many argue was not the best coach. Your comments.

We took charge on January 30, 2017. In April, when we happened to be in Hyderabad for the first match of the IPL season, Kumble's contract was produced before me. Kumble's contract, or rather selection as a coach, was for a two-year

period. The person selected then did not find favour... So Kumble was selected, but he was given only a one-year tenure. Kumble's contract did not have a clause for extension. The issue that came up was not so much about what happened in the dressing room... It was if we have to extend Kumble's tenure, how do we do it? I was in favour of an extension if it was found appropriate by a certain committee. I said please follow the process. That's all. And, what was the process? Call for applications, go through an interview process, and select the right person. You can call me ignoramus, but at the time I did not know what happened between the captain and the coach.

SUNIL JAIN: How is Ravi Shastri as a coach?

Now, again, I don't know how many coaches would have been superior to Shastri, but at least he has managed to keep the team fighting fit, battle-ready and cohesive in every respect. So I think he performed very well as a coach.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: But there seems to be a problem with the coach selection process. Earlier, applications were invited and people applied. Ravi Shastri did not apply initially when Kumble's contract was to be extended. Virat Kohli said that he doesn't want Kumble. Then the BCCI CEO asked for fresh applications. That is when Ravi Shastri applied and got the position.

The reasons (for this process) have been recorded in writing... Only the application period was extended and two people applied — it was not only Ravi Shastri. The application period was extended by four weeks, if I remember correctly.

“CAG mandate ends with the report. Public Accounts Committee then (takes over). Parliament has failed to enforce its accountability over Executive. Why? Because the committee system has to improve

SHOBHANA SUBRAMANIAN: How seriously does the government take CAG audits? The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), for example, did not set aside a mandatory half-yearly sum meant for liquidating long-term loans from its income in reserve fund, despite repeated prodding from the CAG.

I have commented on the efficacy of the committee system of Parliament. The CAG's mandate ends the moment he has plugged its report. Then the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) pulls up the NHAI chairman and says please explain. Parliament has not been successful in enforcing its accountability over the Executive. Why? Because of the committee system (such as the Public Accounts Committee). The committee system has to be improved.

NIHAL KOSHIE: The Lodha Committee reforms say that people holding public offices, especially ministers, shouldn't be in the BCCI. I'm asking this because the Union Home Minister, Mr Amit Shah, is the president of the Gujarat Cricket Association. Delhi MLA Om Prakash Sharma is a member of the executive committee of the Delhi and District Cricket Association. Don't the Lodha Committee's suggestions apply to these bodies as well?

It's a valid legal issue. We have addressed it. We went right up to the amicus also to check on this issue and we were told that their tenure is till the time the AGM (Annual General Meeting) is held. When the AGM is held, they will have to demit office... There are four-five people. They will all demit office.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: The Lodha Committee came out with certain clauses on the issue of conflict of interest. But there are several complaints about cricketers in this regard. Sourav Ganguly is president of the Cricket Association of Bengal, he is a commentator... Rahul Dravid is employed with India Cements...

In his report, Justice Lodha has given about 20 examples of conflict of interest. So the issues are very clear. We abide by them a 100 per cent. Since you took certain names... Sourav Ganguly is in conflict since he is president of the Cricket Association of Bengal. No dispute about it. Rahul Dravid was (in breach) because he was employed by India Cements. He has been made to stop that. You can check up. There is a resignation. See, we believe that a cricketer is conflicted if he is employed or engaged in com-

mentary for the BCCI. But if, say, you are doing commentary for a vernacular channel somewhere in Andhra Pradesh, and you had no dealings, you are a former player, why should you be in conflict? Now we wanted that issue to be cleared. I sincerely believe that it is a grey area. And the ethics officer, we believe, took a very narrow, legalistic view of what that conflict is. So we approached him for a reconsideration. He says, his mandate does not allow a review and you have to go back to the court.

In Sourav's case, as long as he is president of CAB, he can't be a member of the Cricket Advisory Committee.

TUSHAR BHADURI: The Committee of Administrators (CoA) was formed to implement the Lodha reforms. However, all we hear in the news is tussles within the body. Do you think you have got into details which were not your domain, like board administration and functioning?

I have read the (Supreme Court) judgment... (It says) the CoA has been nominated by the court... and that the administrators shall supervise the management of the BCCI. So you have no option but to do administration. The judgment has a few important points. First, that the administration of the BCCI will be done by the CoA. Secondly, for (implementation of) reforms, we started as a four-member body; two people left. We are now left with two people... It's not necessary to be unanimous, you must have healthy discussions and debate. The only objection I have is that it should not come out in the public domain.

SANDEEP DWIVEDI: In April, the CoA approved travel plans for its own members to watch the June-July World Cup in England? Why were CoA administrators needed there?

We took a decision for office-bearers to go. It was for seven days. What do they do (there)? When they go there, they will watch the matches. Why shouldn't a member watch the matches?... I can give you 16 different examples of why it's good to go there. I did not go... Seven days in 45 days is not a big thing.

SUMIT JHA: If a captain, and not just in cricket but any other sport, is given powers to select coaches, doesn't it take away from the game?

It's good to have checks and balances. When a team performs badly, I don't think it's only the captain's (responsibility). There are a lot of closed door discussions... To say that nobody held Virat Kohli responsible for the (World Cup) loss would be incorrect.

11 SUNDAY STORY

PLASTIC PLANET

FOR THE last few weeks, Ashish Jain has been getting four-five calls every day from plastic manufacturers across the country asking what was likely to happen on October 2. As director of the Delhi-based Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA), a research firm that works on waste management and air pollution, the 41-year-old Jain has been involved in stake-holder consultations on the impending crackdown on plastics. And though the government has clarified that it was not going to impose a blanket ban on single-use plastic from October 2, Jain says the apprehensions have remained.

"Manufacturers of general-use plastic like carry bags are complaining that they are not receiving orders, with traders anticipating the announcement of a ban on October 2. This is their peak season, ahead of festivals such as Diwali, but, apparently, even normal orders have been put on hold," says Jain.

It all started with PM Narendra Modi, who, in his Independence day speech, gave a call to get rid the country of single-use plastic products. Some subsequent statements, from Modi and his ministers, have made it clear that a crackdown on plastic would be to this government's second term what Swachh Bharat campaign was to the first.

However, Swachh Bharat — at least in its attempt to make India open-defecation free — has been a relatively straight-forward task, even if quite humongous. The move to get rid of plastic waste, on the other hand, is a vastly complicated and multi-layered problem. Plastic is so deeply entrenched in our lifestyles, and therefore in our economy, that any move to ban it wouldn't be without major disruptions. A complete ban on plastic is not just unrealistic, but almost impossible. The attempts by various states governments to ban some plastic products, like carry bags, have also remained largely ineffective.

Yet, there's no doubt that the plastic problem is a growing one. Close to 26,000 tonnes of plastic waste is generated across India every day, of which close to 10,000 tonnes stays uncollected. With most plastic products taking close to 1,000 years to decompose, these remain scattered in our surroundings. In fact, one of the main reasons for the repeated flooding in Mumbai is plastic choking up sewage networks.

Defining single-use

The problem starts with the definition itself. There is no clear definition of what is single-use plastic. It is generally understood to mean all packaging products, carry bags, bottled drinks, straws, containers, decoration plastics, cutlery — anything that you would ordinarily throw away after one use.

A committee under the Environment Ministry is working on finalising an unambiguous definition of single-use plastic. A senior government functionary told *The Sunday Express* that a notification on this could be expected by October end. The notification, he said, was also likely to spell out the red-lines for the plastics industry.

Swaminathan Sivaram, a former director of the Pune-based National Chemical Laboratory and a member of an expert panel constituted by the Department of Petrochemicals to categorise single-use plastic, says any product whose life cycle is less than a few hours should be classified as single-use. Such plastics are being targeted as these are the ones that end up in the bin in large numbers.

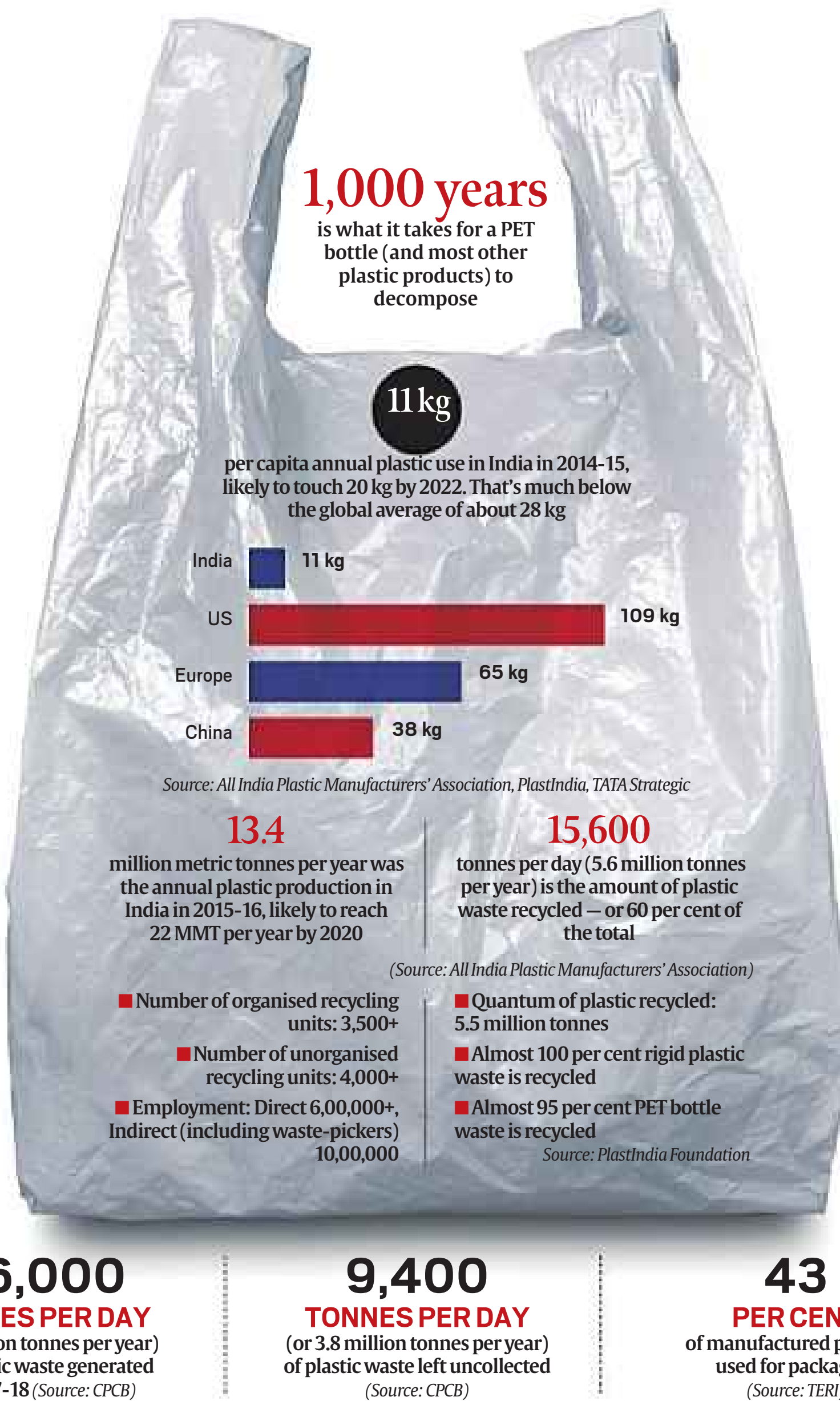
The crackdown

Experts say that in all likelihood, the government is not expected to announce the kind of general ban that many states have put in place. Instead, it seems to be preparing for a more layered approach to deal with plastic waste, one that involves a time-bound phase-out of some products, strengthening of waste management practices, incentives for creating high-quality recycling infrastructure, and mandatory blending of recycled material in plastic.

"A blanket ban on single-use plastic would be counter-productive... Plastic is essentially a waste management problem. We do not have systems in place for effective segregation, collection and recycling. Once we ensure this, a majority of the problem is taken care of," said former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh.

"This is not to suggest that nothing needs to be done on plastic waste. There are many eco-sensitive areas where the amount of plastic waste has reached saturation point. So, in places such as the Himalayas, for example, a ban could be justified. There is util-

In 5 minutes, around the time it takes to read this piece, around 5 million plastic bottles will be bought around the world, many of those in India. With PM Modi calling for an end to single-use plastic, AMITABH SINHA examines the scale of the problem. But first off, what is single-use plastic?



ity in many single-use plastics. So we need to consider these moves with caution. There are lakhs of livelihoods at stake," he said.

As of now, the government is learnt to be working on a list of products that can be categorised as single-use plastic. Out of 64 products initially suggested, 12 are learnt to have been finally included. It is expected that the government will announce a phase-out of, or even an immediate ban on, these 12 items on October 2. These items include carry bags, cutlery like spoons, glasses and plates, straw, bottles with volume less than 200l, thermocol, and plastic used in decoration. Even the white woven carry bags that look like cloth and are sometimes used as a replacement for plastic bags is learnt to be on this list. These bags are produced by blending cotton with plastic, and are thus non-recyclable.

"Unavoidable plastic use will continue. Avoidable plastic use will be discouraged,"

the government functionary said.

Reduce, reuse, recycle

The bigger challenge is to put in place an efficient waste management system, which would bring in a more sustainable way to deal with plastic waste. This would involve segregation of waste at source, collection and recycling. It would also mean nudging people towards making behavioural changes.

Almost 60 per cent of all plastic waste in the country is recycled. But most of it is done in informal, home-based industries which produce very low-quality recycled plastic.

It is possible for recycled plastic to be mixed with virgin material to then produce high-grade plastic products that are required to store food, for example, but that requires a more organised industrial scale set-up equipped with modern technology. A PET bottle, when currently recycled, most likely

ends up producing cloth-like fibres that are used to make shirts or jackets. But a PET bottle can be recycled into an equivalent grade of plastic to produce another PET bottle, thus reducing the demand for virgin plastic.

But high-quality recycling has its own requirements. The input material has to be unadulterated. Dirt or mud on the plastic can make it unsuitable for high-quality recycling. That means users would need to clean the plastic bag or packaging material before disposing it in garbage. Similarly, multi-layered plastic, the kind that is used for packaging branded chips or biscuits, for example, are difficult to recycle because of the presence of materials that are chemically different.

The economics of recycling

The recycling industry depends heavily on rag pickers and waste collectors. Right now, almost all the plastic waste they collect

EXPLAINED E.

Raising pitch

According to a UNEP report, more than 60 countries have some form of regulation — ban or taxes — on production and use of plastic. But enforcement has not been robust, and only about 30 per cent of the countries reported a drop in consumption. India's own record in implementing plastic bans has been poor. But by raising the pitch on plastic use, the government is hoping to make more manufacturers comply to regulations.

STATES THAT GENERATE THE MOST PLASTIC WASTE (2017-18)

Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka

(Source: CPCB)

WHAT'S BANNED IN STATES

HIMACHAL PRADESH: Non-biodegradable plastic bags, and disposable plastic products

UTTAR PRADESH: Ban on plastic bags, cups and glasses

PUNJAB: Single-use plastic carry bags and containers

HARYANA: Plastic carry bags

KERALA: Plastic bags with thickness of less than 50 microns

WEST BENGAL: Plastic bags with thickness of less than 40 microns

SIKKIM: Plastic wrappers, plastic bags and disposable styrofoam

DELHI: All disposable plastic

MAHARASHTRA: Carry bags, PET bottles less than 200 ml, disposable items, decoration items

has a price, ranging from Rs 3-4 a kg to Rs 30-40 a kg. PET bottles, for instance, can fetch them Rs 15-20 a kg. A high-quality bucket made of virgin plastic can fetch upwards of Rs 30 a kg. These are easier to collect and have substantial weight, so the collector gets a higher price for fewer number of items collected. Articles such as wrappers of chocolates and sweets, straws and shampoo sachets, however, are often left out. These are priced at Rs 3-4 a kg, and many more need to be collected. These small plastic items are also the ones that are littered the most.

An important element in this is what is known as Extended Producer Responsibility, or EPR, that makes it mandatory for the producing company to get their used products collected. In India, EPR guidelines for plastics were introduced for the first time in 2016, in the Plastic Waste Management Rules. Such EPR arrangements have existed for lead acid batteries since 2000 and for e-waste since 2011. So far, the implementation of EPR guidelines on plastic has remained sluggish. But that could be changing now.

"Many companies have started following EPR guidelines after the (PM's) August 15 announcement. So far, about 150 major plastic producers are complying with the guidelines, collecting nearly 30 per cent of their plastic sales," says Jain of IPCA.

But plastic cannot be recycled indefinitely. The purest of them can undergo not more than 7-8 recycles. They would need to be utilised somewhere else after that. In recent times, plastic waste has found good application in road construction. Additionally, plastic can be converted to industry level gasoline as well.

But those are end-of-life solutions. As of now, the idea seems to be to put in place systems to ensure that the unnecessary use of plastics is minimised, a task which involves the coming together of government, industry and the public.

INTERVIEW: SWAMINATHAN SIVARAM

‘Complete ban will be difficult... Not enough viable alternatives’

SWAMINATHAN SIVARAM is a member of the expert committee constituted by the government to categorise single-use plastic. He tells AMITABH SINHA that the definition of single-use plastic is still being worked out and that the problem must be dealt with at multiple levels.

Is it possible to ban plastic products?

The government may phase out certain problematic plastics... A complete ban will be difficult to implement, as many plastic products have no viable alternatives... The experiences in different states, which banned certain type of sin-

gle-use plastic, have not been very satisfactory. At the same time, there are several products that can be phased out without much pain to either the consumer or manufacturing industry....

What's the plan to deal with plastic?

The problem with single-use plastic must be dealt with at three levels. At the consumer's level, there should be a sustained campaign to educate citizens on how to responsibly handle plastic products... The second is at the regulator's level. There are millions of plastic products and it will not be possible to identify each product and take decisions individually. For this purpose, some of us have proposed a matrix, which balances the util-

ity of a given product with its adverse environment impact... By assigning a composite score to each of these two factors, we can arrive at a decision whether in a particular case, utility will outweigh the adverse environmental impact or vice versa... The third is at the level of the industry manufacturing plastic products for packaging and those using it for product sale. They have to shift to a more sustainable packaging material... and participate proactively in the Extended Producer Responsibility system that has already been notified.

What is the time period for the phasing-out process?

There are many single-use plastic items

that can be done away with quickly with little impact on either the consumer or industry. It is possible to phase these out within a year or so. In fact, in the last few months, we noticed that many of these products are already being phased out or their use reduced by voluntary action. The next set of products is those which have high utility but the potential to cause adverse environmental impact... The government and industry must jointly agree to set up a robust recycling system so that the environment impact can be minimised, failing which it should be phased out.

Our aim is to progress towards a circular economy. Therefore, it is desirable to ensure all single-use plastic, regardless of utility or impact on environment, manda-

torily include a certain quantity of recycled materials (recyclates). Many European countries have in place such regulations....

But we lack a definition of single-use plastic.

Well, it is being worked out. Meaning while, there is a definition by the UNEP, which we can use... Any definition of single-use plastic must be linked to the life cycle. If it is less than a few hours, it must be considered single-use.

Full interview on www.indianexpress.com

12 BIG PICTURE

13

THE MARGINS OF MUMBAI

5,500 families live in a housing colony in the city under conditions that the high court has said could cause them to die. TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA on a resettlement colony adjoining 17 factories and refineries, the many pollution reports it has failed, the people who have fled it, and those who can't

PHOTOGRAPHS: AMIT CHAKRAVARTY



Swati Jadhav with her children at the site of her collapsed hut in Kurar

IT WAS August 21. Swati Jadhav and her three children travelled 30 km in a tempo from Kurar village in Malad East to Mahul, bundled up like luggage, to a new home allotted by the government to them in a high rise. It was a 125 sq ft flat with a bathroom, a toilet, and a dedicated kitchen space — a far cry from the 100 sq ft hut and community toilet that the family shared in a slum settlement.

Swati was thrilled. She arranged their belongings — four utensils, two bedsheets, a mat, and a few items of clothing — and even set up a tiny temple.

But, it took all of 10 days for them to return, in another tempo, to Kurar.

"My neighbours ask me why I left a pucca flat in Mahul for this *kuchcha* house. I tell them I can't breathe there," she says.

On September 3, hearing a clutch of writ petitions filed by Mahul residents, the Bombay High Court expressed shock over the conditions in which the government had pushed people rehabilitated due to its projects to live. Pulling up the Maharashtra government and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Chief Justice Pradeep Nandragol said the State must treat all its citizens, rich or poor, with dignity. "You cannot let these thousands die. This is not correct," he said, directing the government to assess the pollution levels in Mahul.

Hugging Mumbai's eastern front, Mahul used to be a fishing village. Early this century, land was taken over near it to build a housing colony for slum-dwellers under the 'Project Affected People' scheme, with construction carried out from 2006 to 2010 by a private developer. The initial idea was to house slum-dwellers displaced by the BMC's upgradation of the storm-water disposal system. But over the next decade, 10,000-15,000 families, roughly 60,000 people, were moved to Mahul as part of rehabilitation for various projects. Now the cluster of 72 buildings, seven to eight storeys each, holds an estimated 5,500 families, all in 125 sq ft flats.

Any given day, a cloud of smoke hangs over Mahul, emitted by 15 chemical factories and two oil refineries. The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) requires a buffer zone of minimum 800 metres between an industrial unit and a residential

area; here, a narrow road stands as a nominal divider. Residents claim that not just the air, the groundwater too is contaminated from the chemicals seeping into it. MPCB Assistant Secretary Pundlik Mirashe insists: "Air quality levels in Mahul are at a par with the rest of Mumbai. We get factory readings every day."

■ ■ ■

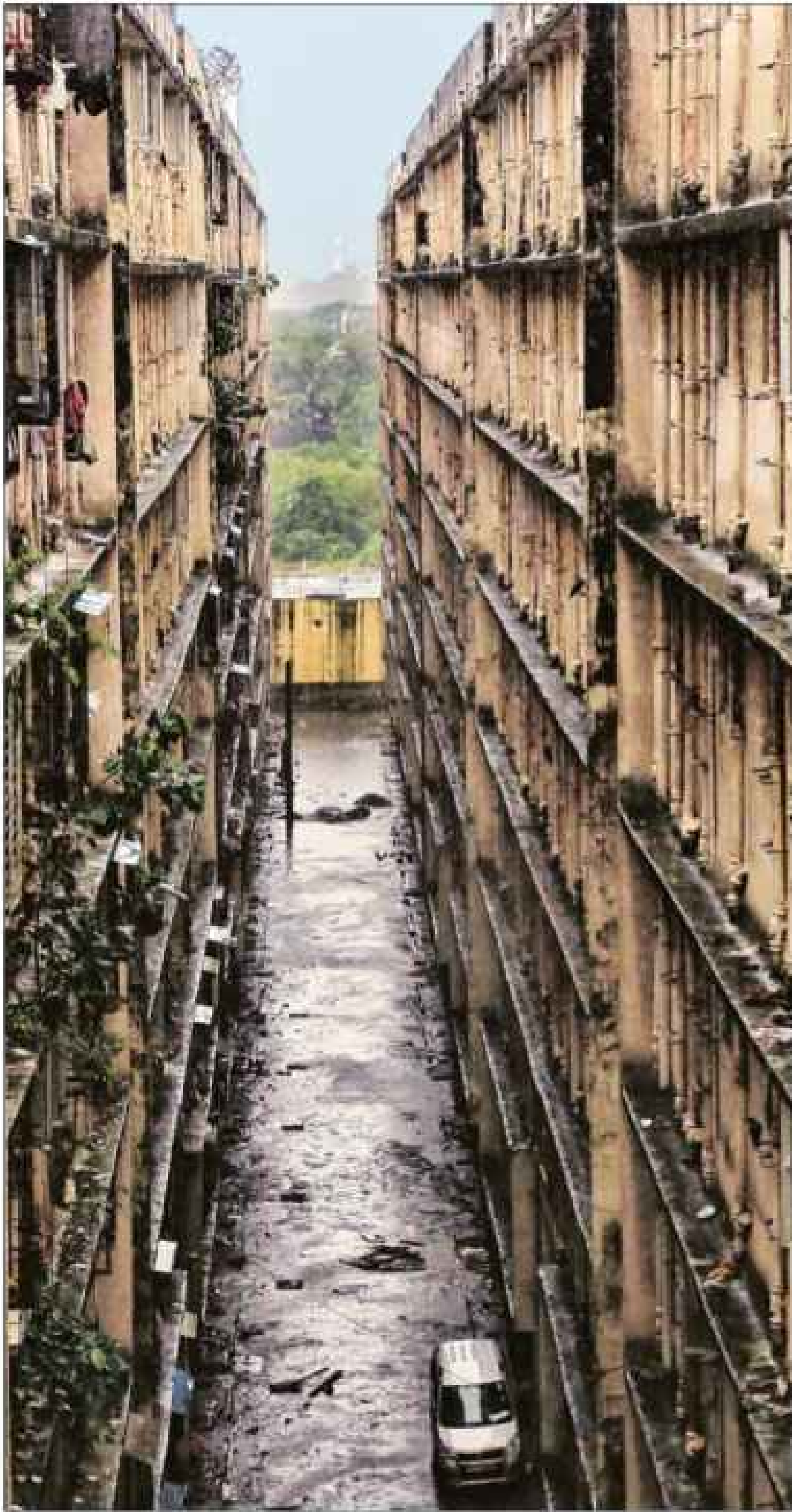
The high court based its observations on multiple environmental reports. One such report, by the MPCB in 2014, found the presence of 21 'volatile organic compounds' (VOCs) in the area, among them benzene, styrene, toluene, xylenes, diethylbenzene, trimethylbenzene and dichlorobenzenes. Mainly released by industrial units, VOCs are known to attack the central nervous system, causing irritation in the eyes, nose and throat.

The scariest levels were of toluene in air — 0.169 parts per million, much higher than the threshold of 0.021 ppm. Toluene can affect kidney and liver, and impair the immune system. Toluene, the report added, was released by the two refineries nearby, of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

The same year, a King Edward Memorial Hospital report stated that the health impact on Mahul residents was similar to *Toluene diisocyanate* exposure, that can attack the respiratory tract and cause asthma. It added that 67.1 per cent of Mahul's population suffered from breathlessness, 86.6 per cent had eye irritation, and 84.5 per cent felt a choking sensation.

A year later, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) said "there is perceptible threat to the health of residents of Village Mahul and Ambapada (adjoining village) due to prevailing air quality in the area".

Around the same time, the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) rejected a proposal to move its base camp to near the Deonar dumping ground (a few kilometres from Mahul), citing hazardous gases. The latest report is of the CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)-NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute), released in 2018, after over three years of research. It recommended that Mahul be declared 'Air



(Clockwise from left) Regulations require housing societies to have maximum 500 tenements per hectare, Mahul has 1,327; a view of the industrial units from one of the housing terraces, closer than MPCB's buffer zone; Vishwakarma family's children on a visit, they stay with a relative so as to continue schooling; families like Ashok Shinde's spend days scrubbing floors, corridors of grime

tor says it is the water," says Pandit, who moved to Mahul in 2017. Having spent Rs 5,000 on medicines, her family now buys drinking water from outside Mahul.

Rashmi claims that she hoped to become a doctor but had to quit after Class 12 as she could not afford the Rs 100-150 daily commuting cost to college. So she joined the BMC school as a teacher.

Usha and Kamlesh Vishwakarma, also displaced due to the Kurar wall collapse, moved into Mahul on August 21. But they left their children behind at a relative's house in Malad so that they could continue school there; their daughter Sudha is in Class 12.

"This rehabilitation has separated our family," Usha, 33, weeps. Kamlesh, who works at a furniture unit in Malad, says he would now have to take a bus, then a train, followed by another bus, to reach his workplace. "It will take two hours. I earn Rs 450 a day and I will spend Rs 80 on transport," the 35-year-old says.

■ ■ ■

Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) data lists 45 resettlement and rehabilitation colonies in Mumbai, with 208 more under construction. Under the regulations, a housing colony must have social infrastructure, recreation facilities and health facilities for its inhabitants.

The National Building Code of India (NBCI) further mandates 500 tenements per hectare as maximum density for a low-income colony, besides specifying minimum ventilation, space between buildings and courtyard width for high-rise buildings.

In 2018, the Collective for Spatial Alternatives — an association of urban researchers, academics, professionals and community organisers — noted that Mahul had 1,327 tenements per hectare, far in excess of the NBCI guidelines. It also said less than half were occupied.

"The scheme is very poorly planned, designed for stocking up as many tenements as possible, rather than to produce a liveable neighbourhood," the report stated, listing leaks in sewage drains contaminating drinking water, poor construction material, and lack of parking space.

Located at one end of Mumbai, Mahul is connected to the city via one bus to Chhatkopar, with poor frequency, and a few buses to Kuria. An autorickshaw ride to Chhatkopar and Kuria local train stations — the nearest — costs at least Rs 100.

For the 5,500 families of Mahul's housing colony, there is that solitary BMC school, which now has 350 students till Class 8. The next closest school is in Chembur, a Rs 100 autorickshaw ride away.

The BMC dispensary, open only during day, receives patients complaining mostly of cough. Many are enrolled for the government's free tuberculosis treatment. In the evenings, with the dispensary shut, a steady stream waits outside the multiple homeopathic clinics in Mahul, including of Dr Ashish Gaud. "This season a lot of viral patients came. But through the year, I get patients complaining of cough," he says.

For a long time, Mahul residents bore it stoically, afraid of losing free housing in Mumbai. Then, in 2017, about 3,000 families were rehabilitated to Mahul from slums razed on either side of the 100-km-long Tansa water pipeline. The high court had directed the BMC to clear the encroachments,

TIMELINE

2006-2009: Construction begins on Mahul housing colony

2007: BPCL files petition in court against the colony, citing security risk

2010 ONWARDS: Rehabilitation in Mahul begins

2015: NGT finds high pollution levels in Mahul

2016: NEERI appointed to conduct three-year study

2017: Thousands vacated from slums near Tansa pipeline and relocated to Mahul

MARCH 2018: Writ petition filed by Mahul residents against rehabilitation to the colony

AUGUST 2018: Bombay HC says govt failed proper rehabilitation in Mahul

OCT 2018: Over 800 Mahul residents begin an indefinite protest

APRIL 4, 2019: Bombay HC says clean air is a fundamental right, asks govt to pay Rs 15,000 rent to Mahul residents so that they can live elsewhere, BMC gets a stay

SEPT 2019: HC orders reassessment of pollution levels in Mahul

560 REHAB BUILDINGS

Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) website lists 45 rehabilitation and resettlement colonies in the city

Along with structures developed by the Slum Rehabilitation Authority and Maharashtra Housing And Development Authority, there are 560 buildings for resettlement available in all in the city

Just for MMRDA projects such as Mumbai Urban Transport Project, Monorail and Mithi river development, over 40,866 people have been rehabilitated across Mumbai

every time I stepped outside the building." When the itchiness gave way to persistent cough, Swati was alarmed. By then she had heard of many families falling ill to Mahul's pollution and moving out. So, she decided to go back to Kurar.

The first three days, Swati says, she kept scrubbing the floors of her flat and the corridor outside to clear stubborn grime. Her children had not gone to school for two months by then, and rather than send them to the only school nearby, a BMC-run school up to Class 8, she kept them at home. She tried looking for work as domestic help in the vast industrial sector but could not find any.

On Day 5, Swati's elder daughter Sugandha complained of an itchy throat. The next day, she says, her other two children said they could not swallow food. "I felt it too, the sore throat. There was a smell

saying these posed a threat to the British-era pipeline. It moved them to Mahul, drawing up a plan to replace their settlement near the pipeline with a jogging and cycling track, for a budget of Rs 300 crore.

In 2018, Mahul residents filed a writ petition in the high court against their living conditions. On October 28, over 800 started an indefinite protest on a footpath in Vidyavihar — one of the settlements cleared from near the Tansa pipeline. The protest crossed 330 days on Sunday.

Speaking about the Kurar families settled in Mahul, BMC Ward Officer Sanjog Kabare says they had no choice in the matter. "Only this colony was available for alternative housing for them," he says. A forest official, who doesn't want to be named, insists Mahul is a temporary arrangement. "We plan to relocate them permanently to some other colony."

Asked about the Mahul protests, BMC Deputy Municipal Commissioner Chandrashekhar Choure says, "The matter is sub-judice, we cannot comment." A BMC spokesperson told *The Sunday Express*, "Meetings are going on with protesting residents of Mahul for a solution."

Among the protesters on the Vidyavihar footpath is Kantabhai Shanti, 50, who lived in Mahul for 11 months, after being shifted from the Vidyavihar slum. Shanti claims she decided to move from Mahul after her daughter died of lung cancer and grandson was diagnosed with tuberculosis. "This is because of the air and water of Mahul." Her frail grandson, who lies on a mat on the footpath next to her, no longer goes to school.

Private physician Dr Shahid Barnare, who sees patients in Kuria, says most common ailments in Mahul are skin infections and respiratory disorders. "This indicates the presence of a high level of air and water pollutants," Barnare says.

BPCL authorities say they regularly monitor their VOC emissions and have air filters in place. While BPCL refused an official comment, its officers point out that they had themselves raised concerns when the housing colony was planned a decade ago, but were ignored.

Bilal Khan of NGO Char Bachao Char Banao Andolan, that is leading the Mahul protests, says, "We are not sure if rules are being complied with by all factories. Even if they are, the lack of a buffer zone from industrial units continues to pose a threat."

Anita Dhole, among the 800-odd protesters sitting on the Vidyavihar footpath, says, "This is a fight for our survival, not for comfort." Dhole was among those who was moved to Mahul from near the Tansa pipeline, but she shifted out within a year. "Within a few days we realised this is a hell-hole," she says, listing ailments ranging from persistent coughing fits to skin irritation.

A plastic sheet her only shelter, Dhole sits across the road from where her hut once stood and where labourers are leveling soil now. Polio-afflicted, she attends all the court hearings, has preserved all the documents, and guides whoever wants to leave Mahul.

Over at Pimpripada, Swati also keeps returning to the debris of her hut. Standing atop them, she says, "I came here every day to look for my belongings. We could not find even a needle." The Prime Minister has said he'll give a house to the homeless. Where do I apply for it?"

tor says it is the water," says Pandit, who moved to Mahul in 2017. Having spent Rs 5,000 on medicines, her family now buys drinking water from outside Mahul.

Rashmi claims that she hoped to become a doctor but had to quit after Class 12 as she could not afford the Rs 100-150 daily commuting cost to college. So she joined the BMC school as a teacher.

Usha and Kamlesh Vishwakarma, also displaced due to the Kurar wall collapse, moved into Mahul on August 21. But they left their children behind at a relative's house in Malad so that they could continue school there; their daughter Sudha is in Class 12.

"This rehabilitation has separated our family," Usha, 33, weeps. Kamlesh, who works at a furniture unit in Malad, says he would now have to take a bus, then a train, followed by another bus, to reach his workplace. "It will take two hours. I earn Rs 450 a day and I will spend Rs 80 on transport," the 35-year-old says.

■ ■ ■

Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) data lists 45 resettlement and rehabilitation colonies in Mumbai, with 208 more under construction. Under the regulations, a housing colony must have social infrastructure, recreation facilities and health facilities for its inhabitants.

The National Building Code of India (NBCI) further mandates 500 tenements per hectare as maximum density for a low-income colony, besides specifying minimum ventilation, space between buildings and courtyard width for high-rise buildings.

In 2018, the Collective for Spatial Alternatives — an association of urban researchers, academics, professionals and community organisers — noted that Mahul had 1,327 tenements per hectare, far in excess of the NBCI guidelines. It also said less than half were occupied.

"The scheme is very poorly planned, designed for stocking up as many tenements as possible, rather than to produce a liveable neighbourhood," the report stated, listing leaks in sewage drains contaminating drinking water, poor construction material, and lack of parking space.

Located at one end of Mumbai, Mahul is connected to the city via one bus to Chhatkopar, with poor frequency, and a few buses to Kuria. An autorickshaw ride to Chhatkopar and Kuria local train stations — the nearest — costs at least Rs 100.

For the 5,500 families of Mahul's housing colony, there is that solitary BMC school, which now has 350 students till Class 8. The next closest school is in Chembur, a Rs 100 autorickshaw ride away.

The BMC dispensary, open only during day, receives patients complaining mostly of cough. Many are enrolled for the government's free tuberculosis treatment. In the evenings, with the dispensary shut, a steady stream waits outside the multiple homeopathic clinics in Mahul, including of Dr Ashish Gaud. "This season a lot of viral patients came. But through the year, I get patients complaining of cough," he says.

For a long time, Mahul residents bore it stoically, afraid of losing free housing in Mumbai. Then, in 2017, about 3,000 families were rehabilitated to Mahul from slums razed on either side of the 100-km-long Tansa water pipeline. The high court had directed the BMC to clear the encroachments,

Mahul is connected to the city via one bus to Chhatkopar, with poor frequency, and a few buses to Kuria. For the 5,500 families, there is a solitary BMC school, till Class 8

Bilal Khan of NGO Char Bachao Char Banao Andolan, that is leading the Mahul protests, says, "We are not sure if rules are being complied with by all factories. Even if they are, the lack of a buffer zone from industrial units continues to pose a threat."

Anita Dhole, among the 800-odd protesters sitting on the Vidyavihar footpath, says, "This is a fight for our survival, not for comfort." Dhole was among those who was moved to Mahul from near the Tansa pipeline, but she shifted out within a year. "Within a few days we realised this is a hell-hole," she says, listing ailments ranging from persistent coughing fits to skin irritation.

A plastic sheet her only shelter, Dhole sits across the road from where her hut once stood and where labourers are leveling soil now. Polio-afflicted, she attends all the court hearings, has preserved all the documents, and guides whoever wants to leave Mahul.

Over at Pimpripada, Swati also keeps returning to the debris of her hut. Standing atop them, she says, "I came here every day to look for my belongings. We could not find even a needle." The Prime Minister has said he'll give a house to the homeless. Where do I apply for it?"



Workers clear out debris after the embankment collapse on August 28, hours after it had been inaugurated. That day was the first time there was water in the canal it lined. *Abhishek Angad*

Of mice and men

The 42-yr wait of four Jharkhand villages for water just got extended. But did rats really fell that embankment?

ABHISHEK ANGAD

HOW MANY rats does it take to fell an embankment — part of a project in planning for 42 years and costing Rs 2,200 crore — in hours? How about none, say four villages in Giridh district's Kusumraza panchayat.

Nearly a month after rat holes were cited by Jharkhand officials as the reason for the August 28 collapse of an embankment of the Konar Irrigation Project, inaugurated by Chief Minister Raghubar Das just hours earlier, villagers say the reason weren't rodents or even a big mystery. According to them, the cause was that the embankment's construction blocked an escape route for the Bagodar canal, increasing the pressure on it.

As officials prepare a report, farmers are worried about compensation for their paddy crop, that was inundated when the embankment broke.

Started in 1977 to provide irrigation to 85 villages in three districts, the Konar project has seen canals come up over the years but

with no water in them. The embankment was meant to confine the water in the Bagodar canal and safeguard the villagers against flooding. The day it collapsed was the first time there was water in the branch canal.

The farmers here all grow paddy, corn and vegetables, and right now, depend on a rain-fed pond and well for irrigation.

After inaugurating the embankment at Banasho in Hazaribagh district, CM Das had tweeted: "... 42 saal se adhoori Konar Sinchai Pariyojna ka aaj udghatan hua. Ab Hazaribagh, Giridih aur Bokaro ke 85 gaon mein sinchai ke liye paani ki killat nahi hogi" (Incomplete for 42 years, the Konar Irrigation Project was inaugurated today. Now 85 villages of Hazaribagh, Giridih and Bokaro won't have any water scarcity for irrigation.)

Hours later, with the embankment gone, Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department, Arun Kumar Singh said, "This has become clear that the left part of the 25-30 ft *kuchcha* embankment collapsed. There is a possibility that the breach was caused due to rat holes."

However, supervising work in the Bagodar block, Junior Engineer, Dumri,

Chittaranjan Kumar Mahato, backs the villagers' theory, about blocked water flow increasing pressure on the embankment. "There is an escape route to maintain adequate level (of water), gates to which have to be always kept open. It appears the gates were shut. It seems a case of neglect rather than rat hole damage," he says, adding that four of his colleagues were "suspended" after the incident.

Incidentally, exactly two years ago, Bihar Water Resources Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh had cited rats as the reason for the collapse of a portion of an irrigation canal of the Bateswar Ganga Pump Nahar Yojana. Water resources engineers had called holes left by rats and

"People had been celebrating, it was as if a long-awaited wedding had got cancelled... 80-85 farmers have lost their crops and we estimate losses of around Rs 40-45 lakh"

foxes in embankments the biggest impediment in maintaining them.

In Giridih, among those whose crops were destroyed is 38-year-old Bishun Pandit of Ghoshko village, despite the fence he had put up around his 10-decimal paddy plot. "I had spent Rs 90,000 to build the fence," he says, adding that he planned to hire labour to remove the thick layer of wet mud that now covers a portion of his land, rendering it uncultivable.

Another villager, Samshul Ansari, says most of his four-acre land was destroyed, leaving him with losses of around Rs 1.5 lakh. "The flooding also washed away the fish I had put in my pond for business."

Sadakat Ansari, the husband of Kusumraza panchayat mukhiya Javeda Khatun, says that after the water came to the canal, arrangements were to be made for transporting it to farm areas. Elaborating on their disappointment, he adds, "People had been celebrating, it was as if a long-awaited wedding had got cancelled. At least 80-85 farmers have lost their crops and we estimate total losses of around Rs 40-45 lakh."

About whether the rats had caused the

breach, Ansari isn't sure, asking if there were holes, how were the trial runs successful. While admitting that rats had sometimes caused damage to their crops, he adds, "But they are not a menace."

On September 2, Khatun sent a letter to the Executive Engineer on their losses, seeking that the canal be cemented, a water outlet be arranged from it to farm areas, and that a footover bridge be built over the canal for villagers to use.

Officials put the total cost of repairing the embankment at Rs 37.39 lakh. "Only 30 acres of total farm land with paddy and corn crops was damaged. A five-member committee has initiated the process of giving compensation. By September end, the repair work will be completed," said an official who did not wish to be identified.

At the work site though, Junior Engineer Mahato says it might be days before the breach is closed. "A *kuchcha* embankment is not a solution," he adds. "It has to be cemented to stop any further breach."

Villagers say they are willing to be patient. "We waited for water for 42 years, we will wait for more."

Ram Lalla expense: Rs 1,000 per day

Biggest hike since 1992, priests say a little more could help buy clothes for God four times a year

Vishal Srivastav



Ram Lalla's salary increased from Rs 26,200 to Rs 30,000 per month

AVANEESH MISHRA

AWAY FROM the heat and dust of the trial in Delhi, Ram Lalla and his brothers, Lakshman, Bharat and Shatrughan, enshrined at the makeshift temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi site in Ayodhya, have just got a payhike.

The idols get a daily bath, followed by *prasad*, *chandan* and garlands, with at least 16 items used in the *pooja*. There is also a cooler and blower, depending on the season, inside the temple, while on Ram Navami, each of the gods gets seven sets of new clothes. All of this takes the cost of Ram Lalla's daily maintenance to Rs 1,000. For several years, the temple staff had been seeking a hike, and last month, the Uttar Pradesh government increased it from Rs 26,200 to Rs 30,000 per month — the biggest increase since 1992.

Salary of Mahant Satyendra Das, the chief priest of the temple, has been increased by Rs 1,000, making it Rs 13,000 per month, and the salaries of around eight other staff members, who earned between Rs 7,500 to Rs 10,000 every month, have gone up by Rs 500.

"We have been demanding this for a very long time... The increase will now help us in conducting our daily chores better, including bathing the gods, arranging for *prasad*, food, water and electricity," says Das, who has been the head priest since March 1992.

Das says that the previous amount was not enough, "and on many occasions we had to spend money out of own pockets". "We didn't have enough funds to purchase all the essentials. We have to also pay the gardener, ration shops, buy sweets," he says.

At the Ram Janmabhoomi site in Ayodhya, nearly 400 tourists brave five rounds of security checks to get a glimpse of Ram Lalla — only a transparent packet of *prasad* is allowed past the metal barricades that begin around a kilometre from the actual site.

While their salary demand has been met, Das has another request: "We get new clothes for the gods only once a year. It should be done at least four times."

Vishwa Hindu Parishad's regional spokesperson Sharad Sharma supports Das's demand, but admits that "with several devotees offering clothes to Ram Lalla, things have become a little easier for the temple staff".

"With the matter in court, there are a lot of restrictions here. So far we have been taking all our demands to the 'receiver'. Last winter, we sought a blower for Ram Lalla since it was very cold. It was accepted. There's a cooler in summer too," he says.

Ayodhya Divisional Commissioner Manoj Mishra, the 'receiver' of the makeshift temple, says the recent hike "is in accordance with the rules set by the Supreme Court and does not disturb the status quo in the case".

Another priest, who did not wish to be identified, says they do nothing "extra" with the funds meant for the temple. "Like at the other Ram temples, here too we simply follow all the traditions of worship," he says.

The temple gets Rs 6 lakh in offerings every month. "The amount is deposited in a separate bank account which is owned by the government," says Sharma.

The makeshift temple opens at 7 am, and devotees are allowed to worship till 11 am, after which Ram Lalla is served *bhog*. It is then shut at noon for the deities' afternoon nap and reopens from 2 to 6 pm. There is *pooja* again, before the temple finally closes at 8 pm.

The hike, concludes Das, "is not about money but service of Bhagwan Ram". "That is what I have been doing all these years," he says.

The art of disguise

A makeup artist was held after a young man tried to pass off as old to sneak past airport authorities. Kumar, an old hand, wonders how Shamsher made an elementary mistake, missed the man's hands

AMITAVA CHAKRABORTY

"YOU WORKED on his face, added a white beard to make him look old. But what about his hands?" asks Shailendra Kumar, 49, sitting in his apartment in G D Colony in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar Phase III.

Kumar, a freelance makeup artist, was referring to the incident of September 8, when Jayesh Patel, a 32-year-old from Gujarat, was arrested from New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport for impersonating an octogenarian while boarding a New York-bound plane with a fake passport. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which guards most of the country's airports, stated in a press release, "The appearance and skin texture of the passenger seemed to be much younger than mentioned in the passport."

During the investigation, Patel reportedly confessed that a makeup artist had visited him in his hotel in Paharganj for the makeover. Following an intense search operation, police arrested Shamsher Singh, 42, a makeup artist who goes by the moniker "Billu Barber" and runs a parlour in Patel Nagar.

Police have accused Singh of working with a gang that has been helping people to illegally emigrate to other countries. According to DCP (Airport) Sanjay Bhatia, "Singh has helped at least 10 other people, including two women, change their appearance and conceal their age or gender... The officer (who arrested Patel) also realised the hands didn't look like that of an older man either. He was then taken into police custody."

Kumar says he too has on many occasions made young men look much older. "Of

course, those were for roles they were playing in various soap operas," says Kumar, handing over a photo of a client he worked on years ago. "If he (Shamsher Singh) was tricked into this, he should be released."

Kumar, who has been a makeup artist for over two decades, doesn't own a parlour and usually visits his clients, mostly television personalities and models, at the venue of the shoot. He also takes on assignments for bridal makeup. "If someone walks up to me and asks me for a makeover, I will not do it. It doesn't happen like that. I visit homes and hotels only when I have to do bridal makeup. But I am more interested in doing makeovers related to fictional characters. And today's bridal makeup is somewhat similar to that," quips Kumar, adding, "At times, we apply even three layers of makeup, changing the very colour or tone of the skin. There are situations where the groom fails to recognise the bride after the makeup is removed."

Kumar began his professional career with a two-year-long stint with Doordarshan in 1994, where he worked as a junior makeup artiste on numerous shows. He says it was his long association with a TV channel, from 2000 to 2018, that helped him not only hone his skills but also befriend many known faces in the Indian media and film fraternity.

"I was very close to Farooq Sheikh, who often asked me to shift to Mumbai. He used to tell me that I would excel there," Kumar claims, flipping through the pages of a photo album that has pictures of him with prominent Bollywood celebrities including Rani Mukerji, Jackie Shroff, Shilpa Shetty and Manna Devy.



"At times, we apply even three layers of makeup, changing the very colour or tone of the skin. There are situations where the groom fails to recognise the bride after the makeup is removed"

SHAILENDRA KUMAR
FREELANCE MAKEUP ARTIST

"I never had the courage to leave my family in Delhi and shift to Mumbai. And I don't regret it. However, last month, I travelled to Mumbai to learn about prosthetic makeup. It was an enriching experience," he says, stroking his moustache, styled in the now-famous 'Abhinandan Cut'.

Kumar says that every year, ahead of the Ramleela season, he sports the gunslinger moustache look, made popular by Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan

Varthaman. "I play the role of Raavan at the Ramleela and I grow my moustache this way to fit into my role. But it's a wonderful feeling when people tell you, 'Abhinandan jaise lag rahe ho (You look like Abhinandan)'," Kumar says.

During the Ramleela season, Kumar adds, he usually takes a break from regular makeup assignments. "This year, the Ramleela assignments start from September 29. Besides playing my role, I need to do over 150 makeups daily. My 23-year-old daughter Chandni and wife Sapna help me," he says.

Chandni usually plays Sita, while Sapna, 41, is Sunaina, Sita's mother, in the Ramleela, he says.

Kumar says makeup is a skill that has passed down generations of his family. "My grandfather, who gave makeovers to others as a hobby, owned a jewellery shop in Lahore, which was frequented by legendary actors and singers such as Om Prakash and K L Saigal. He shifted to Delhi following Partition in 1947. He passed on



(Left) Kumar, who once worked with DD, will next be busy with Ramleela; (above) his 'transformation' of a young man. *Amitava Chakraborty*

the skill to my father Rajen Kumar Verma, who worked for Doordarshan as a news producer. However, for my father, makeup was never more than a hobby and he didn't want me to become a makeup artist either since the profession lacks good money. But maybe I was destined to become one," Kumar says.

He now hopes to start an institute where he can train makeup artists. "The art form is dying. It has to be revived. Those interested should have access to quality training programmes," he says.

However, Kumar admits, the returns from his job are unpredictable. "Some months, especially during the marriage season, the earnings are high — a bridal makeup for a Christian wedding costs about Rs 30,000 and it takes only a few hours. I am also called by various production houses as well as studios, including news media houses. I get work about 15 to 20 days a month," he says, adding, "In all these years, I have learnt that life is peaceful if you don't have EMLs to pay and I don't have any."



‘She ceased to be a woman... was a Goddess’

18-year-old Roop Kanwar remains India’s last known case of sati, her death stunning a nation and forcing a rewrite of its laws. 32 years later, as the last of the cases associated with her death winds its way through a Jaipur court, two Rajasthan villages keep her alive, in photos, and as a “devi” who will be worshipped

HAMZA KHAN

“I AM PROUD of what my sister did,” says a bespectacled Gopal Singh Rathore, 60, sitting in his modest office, from where he runs a transport business, in Jaipur’s Transport Nagar. Over three decades ago, in better days, a grand *baraat* had arrived in Transport Nagar from Divrala in next-door Sikar district.

His 18-year old-sister, Roop Kanwar, the youngest of six siblings, had married Divrala’s Maal Singh in January 1987. However, the marriage was short-lived as he passed away from an “ordinary illness” in a Sikar hospital eight months later.

What she did afterwards left a nation shocked and forced a rewrite of its laws: On September 4, 1987, Roop Kanwar is said to have sat on her husband’s funeral pyre and committed sati.

“We learnt about the sati the next day, through *Rajasthan Patrika* journalist Bishan Singh Shekhawat (younger brother of former Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat),” says Rathore who, like many in Roop Kanwar’s family and her Divrala village, claims he didn’t attend the funeral and hence wasn’t witness to the sati. “We later came to know that she had asked someone to inform us, but the information somehow never reached us.”

After a much publicised trial, several people, including Roop Kanwar’s in-laws, were accused of murder. On January 31, 2004, a special court in Jaipur acquitted all of them for want of evidence.

Thirty-two years after Roop Kanwar’s death, just one of the nearly two-dozen cases filed in the wake of the sati remains, and is in its last stages at a special court in Jaipur. This case pertains to 1988 when, around the

first anniversary of her death, 45 people allegedly held an event glorifying sati. This violated Section 5 (punishment for glorification of sati) of The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, a law that was enacted after Roop Kanwar’s death. Of the 45, 25 were acquitted in 2004 for lack of evidence, six have died, and five are absconding, while the case is being heard against the remaining nine. As many as 19 people, all police officials, were made witnesses in the case. The maximum punishment for glorification of sati is imprisonment up to seven years and fine of up to Rs 30,000.

Roop Kanwar’s would become the last recorded case of sati in the country. It would also be cited as one of the reasons for the ouster of then Rajasthan chief minister Hari Dev Joshi of the Congress. Divrala also assumed a special place in Rajput pride, with some of those hailing from the village, such as Shri Rajput Karni Sena leader Narayan Singh ‘Divrala’, adding the name of the village to their own.

Over 150 persons were accused in the nearly two dozen sati cases, including the first case related to her death. Except for nearly 20 people who either died or are absconding, the others have been acquitted over the past three decades.

While the sati prompted questions about whether Roop Kanwar was coerced into the act or if she willingly sat on her husband’s pyre, and pitted modernity against what many called “tradition”, in Divrala, even after all these years, there is no doubt in anybody’s mind that Roop Kanwar’s was a “selfless act” driven by “*agad prem* (unparalleled love)”.

In these parts, the Roop Kanwar story is told without any of the contradictions that time and modernity throw up; if anything, the legend has only been bumished with time.



(Top) The spot where Roop Kanwar is said to have killed herself; brother Gopal Rathore says “unparalleled love” for husband was behind her act. Hamza Khan

Villagers say that on September 4, 1987, after her husband’s death, Roop Kanwar recited the Gayatri Mantra, dressed up in *so-lah shringaar* (16 adornments) while thousands of villagers from Divrala and neighbouring villages took out her *shobha yatra* throughout the village, and then did sati. The folklore goes that her hair or clothes didn’t burn at first, and that she didn’t let out a single scream.

“Thousands stood guard with swords as she approached the pyre,” says Anand Singh, a relative, who lives in Divrala. “She sat on the pyre with her husband’s head in her lap.

And she recited the Gayatri Mantra with one of her hands raised, blessing those who had gathered there,” he says, while adding that he was not in Divrala that day.

In Divrala, Roop Kanwar is likened to Chittorgarh’s Padmavati, the one who is said to have jumped into a pyre to escape Alauddin Khilji’s advancing army. “As per Rajput traditions, it is *agad prem* towards one’s partner that makes one take such a step,” says Rathore, adding that it is this love for which his sister Roop Kanwar, “a devi”, is worshipped.

The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act,

1987, prohibits the construction of temples in the memory of someone who has committed sati, and empowers District Magistrates to remove them. Yet, in home after home in Divrala are photographs of Roop Kanwar that often share space with other gods and goddesses.

Asked about the shrines in people’s homes, Sikar District Collector C R Meena says, “I don’t have any such information yet but if it is so, then I will get it surveyed and serve them a notice.”

At the tiny shrine in his home, Anand Singh too has two photographs of Roop Kanwar, one of her with her husband after marriage and another, evidently edited, of her sitting on his funeral pyre and surrounded by flames.

At her in-laws’ home in Divrala, what was once Roop Kanwar’s room is now a shrine. One recent afternoon, just as her father-in-law Sumer Singh sits up on his cot to recall the events of that day 32 years ago, he is interrupted by his son Bhupendra Singh, who forbids him from talking to journalists anymore. Bhupendra then proceeds to padlock the room. Sumer Singh spent three months in Neem ka Thana jail, accused of aiding, abetting and glorifying sati.

Residents say that like every year, on September 9 this year, when the Hindu calendar marked Shukla Ekadashi, hundreds gathered outside Roop Kanwar’s residence to worship her. “There were people from Gujarat too. Their *mannar* (prayer) gets fulfilled, why else would busloads of people come all the way?” says Prem Kanwar, a 65-year-old in Divrala, adding that she feels proud of what “*sati mata*” did. It was on a Shukla Ekadashi all those years ago that Roop Kanwar had allegedly immolated herself.

“Elders asked her not to go ahead with

the sati but she would not listen to them. When they persisted, she went to her husband’s body, whispered something in his ear as elders looked on, and he opened his eyes thrice. That is what changed the hearts of the village elders,” she claims.

At the site of the sati are two *trishul* (tridents) signifying Roop Kanwar’s *shakti*, with the larger one swathed in layers of red *chunri* and adorned with a fresh garland. Next to it, within a small block of bricks, are two wedding photographs of Roop Kanwar and her husband, yellow stalks of burnt incense sticks, two coconuts, and a pile of grains. A smaller *trishul* behind this block of bricks signifies the spot where Roop Kanwar’s statue will be established, if at all the site becomes a temple, which now mostly depends on the political traction the villagers hope to get.

Roop Kanwar devotees and her family object to the usage of “*pratha* (tradition)” while talking of the sati. “We had about 40-50 widows in our village around that time (when Roop Kanwar immolated herself). Had it been a *pratha*, others would have committed sati too. But in this region, there were only three cases of sati before hers: Mitthu Kanwar, Kunan Kanwar and Jhumma Kanwar,” argues Jawan Singh, 74, a resident of Divrala.

With almost every retelling of the Roop story adding to the “*devi*” legend, there are as many versions of the “exact moment” when Roop Kanwar became a goddess.

Anand Singh has his own. “As she walked up to the pyre on her way to committing sati, she was in a *ghoongat* (veil), and thousands wanted to catch her glimpse. That’s when her father-in-law asked her to remove her veil and give *darshan* to locals. Because at that moment, she had ceased to be a woman. She had become a goddess.”

ZEESHAN SHAIKH

AMIDST THE wood smoke that fills her thatched kitchen on the outskirts of Ajanta village in Maharashtra’s Aurangabad district, Ayesha Shaikh’s smile shines brightly. On September 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed the 30-year-old an Ujjwala certificate, making her ‘Beneficiary No. 8 crore’ of the country-wide scheme to provide LPG connections to BPL women.

Besieged by reporters on the occasion, Ayesha enthusiastically announced that the first thing she would cook on her new stove would be biryani. It didn’t exactly work out as planned — and cost was just a part of it.

The shiny-red LPG cylinder, standing in one corner of Ayesha’s 100 sq ft *pucca* room (the kitchen adjoins it), was delivered on September 10. But the stove that came with it under the Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojana turned out to be defective, and was taken back for replacement. So, on a Wednesday afternoon, the first thing Ajanta ends up making using the cylinder is tea.

She borrows the stove from acquaintance Mohsin Shaikh, and gets barely a sip after sharing the brew with neighbours who have gathered to congratulate her. Most of them already have a gas connection.

Born into a poor family in Aurangabad, Ayesha got married at an early age and has been living in Ajanta, around 400 km from Mumbai, for the past decade. Her husband Rafiq Shaikh makes around Rs 200 a day collecting charity for a local religious institution, for which he gets a commission. They have five children, between the ages of 5 and 12, and pay Rs 800 as rent for the room.

To fire her wood stove, Ayesha had to walk to a nearby forested area once a week

Ayesha’s stove

‘Beneficiary No. 8 crore’ of the Ujjwala scheme wanted biryani to be the first dish she made using her LPG connection. Some problems later, it’s tea



Ayesha at her thatched kitchen in Ajanta, Aurangabad. Her defective stove has been collected by the gas agency, and it will provide a replacement. Zeeshan Shaikh

to collect firewood — a distance of 5 km going and coming. On every trip she tried to get back enough to see her through the week, hauling it on her head, spending up to

seven hours each time.

When she cooked, Ayesha says, smoke would fill the room. “We all suffered. The smoke made me dizzy... imagine the plight

of my children.” The three bring the mid-day meal they get at school back home for lunch.

Given their financial condition, Ayesha never thought she could afford LPG. Then, last month, during a casual conversation, a relative told her about the Ujjwala scheme. “I applied soon after. In the first week of September I was told that I would receive the gas connection. On September 6 I received a call that I needed to leave for Aurangabad as I would be meeting the PM,” Ayesha says.

The meeting itself is a blur for the 30-year-old. “I was a bit overwhelmed being on the stage and amidst so many people. All I remember is feeling happy,” she says, adding that she wished her husband and children could have come along. “They watched the footage of the programme later on a neighbour’s phone.”

On the anti-climax after receiving the cylinder, Ayesha says, “People from the gas agency came and installed the connection. Later, we realised there was a hissing sound coming from the stove. I got scared that the cylinder would explode. I called them and they took away the stove saying they would provide a replacement.”

The day being Muharram, Ayesha didn’t do much cooking. On Wednesday, restless to use her LPG, she went to Mohsin’s home next door to ask him to lend her a gas stove.

Ayesha says she has considered what she would do after the first LPG cylinder ran out: she would borrow money “but never let go of the connection”.

As for the biryani, Ayesha says it will have to wait. Meat is a luxury for the family of seven, restricted to once a fortnight. “I had no idea there were so many schemes for the poor,” Ayesha adds. “I will throw a biryani feast once I get my own home under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.”

TAKE 5

FACES ON THE FRINGES OF NEWS

ANAND CHOUBEY, OPERATOR, CHICKEN AND EGG KIOSK IN BHOPAL

‘After row, sales have shot up... of chicken, doubled’

In an attempt to boost earnings of tribal women, Congress government in Madhya Pradesh recently set up a kiosk selling chicken and milk side by side from two counters. Protests by BJP have now forced it to junk the pilot project

1 What is the controversy all about? I am confused. Even now, chicken and cow milk are being sold from a kiosk that has two separate entries, vendors. There are many milk parlours in Bhopal that sell eggs... Those who are raising objections have not seen the shop.

2 When was this kiosk opened? More than four months back. Customers buy what they want without fuss. Since it’s located off the main road, not many people know about it. Animal Husbandry Minister Lakhman Singh Yadav recently wanted to showcase the facility to TV reporters when people came to know about it.

3 Where do you get the chicken and milk from? The chicken (Kadaknath breed) comes



‘Will separate parlours now... but by how much, 2 ft, 4 ft?... I’m clueless’

from tribal women’s cooperatives in Jhabua and Alirajpur. It is then marinated in Mandideep (an industrial estate near Bhopal). I keep it in the deep freezer and it’s not put on display. The milk comes from the Bull Mother Farm (under the Madhya Pradesh State Livestock and Poultry Development Corporation).

4 Has the controversy affected sales? The flow of customers has risen. Earlier, we sold 2-3 kg of chicken every day. Now, the volume has doubled. The sale of milk has also increased.

5 Will you now be selling the two commodities separately? I will, but I don’t know how to go about it. Should the distance between the two parlours be 2 ft, 4 feet... I am clueless.

MILIND GHATWAI

DALITALITY



SURAJ YENGDE

THIS IS our time. I want us to believe in the fate of history and its important effort in shaping our lives. The uncompromising work of the great people that remained steadfast in the midst of callous atrocities and unrelenting attacks on their dignity and stature has much to offer to our burnt souls. The times that we are bearing witness to is an assault on that hope. I want us to look at the most vulnerable bodies living in these pessimist times.

Lend an ear and pay attention to the musical whispers of those people who are warned not to cross the lines and remain in one's place like a permanently fixed graveyard. Involve your sweat in appreciating the sweet lives as these men and women, children and older people motion.

It is not a call to charitable everybody. It is an invocation rooted in provocation of the masses that are most causal and yet deliberately manhandled by the feared oppressor — the privileged.

The child who is unaware about the totems of society yearns for the impossible and holds on to the curiosity deeply held within her bloodstream, inherited from her heroic ancestors. As soon as reason enters the infant's brain, a heavy brick of caste is slapped on her fragile head, jetting the blood all over the innocent child's face. Divya, a nine-month old infant, and

Putting Dalit life, culture, world at centre

her elder brother of two, Vaibhav, were burnt to ashes by the cowardly hyenas of the Rajput community in Ballabgharh (<https://www.deccanherald.com/content/507466/2-dalit-kids-burnt-alive.html>) of Haryana state.

We will take on these issues and many others, that is hoped will set alight the fire of humanitarianism fazed in the oppression of everyone.

Through this fortnightly column we aim to achieve what our ancestors so honestly bequeathed — to be brutally honest in truth-telling. We will simply tell the truth and nourish the altruistic character of pensive Dalitness.

Taking a stab at his first ever journalistic piece, Babasaheb Ambedkar lamented the recklessness of newspapers in manhandling Dalit issues. In his editorial written for the *Bahishkrut Bharat* on January 31, 1920, Ambedkar called out newspapers for holding their caste interests closer, thereby limiting the space for Dalit issues. Reflecting today, after 100 years, it appears no different. Ambedkar continued that it was important to create an independent space for Dalits in the national discourse.

We would like to sit in the same tradition and contribute excellence to demonstrate the gifted abilities we hold together as a proud community.

Since caste relies on pollution, we would like to walk into hackneyed spaces dominated by mono-castes and exhale a breath of fresh air, eliminating the odour of casteism. We will purify the unwelcoming spaces with the antidote of love and tenderness.

The Dalits are ready and, armed with sophistication, they will grant life to the

dying art of journalism.

Everyone coming under this shield will be granted life-long worth of work commitment towards emancipation from our despicable selves. For our despicable selves are trapped in the notions of prejudice and uncare. We will subvert and bring a common humanity to parlance. We believe in the humanity of all to the core. We refuse to give hatred and anger the last word. For the last word always will be of radical love — unbended and unfiltered, raw and fleshy.

This column hopes to be the voice of the unheard, unfused to the candour of appropriation. It will use this space to critically look at the grammars of the oppressive caste world.

In the times when media has crossed the morals of ethical businessmanship — if there exists such — we aim to create a launching pad to direct the attack at the same institutions which thrive on mediocre *savarna* merit. The gilded age of Indian media is being written in our presence for the wrong reasons. Rather than being critical of power, the media has chosen to sleep with the powers, performing all the *asanas* mentioned in the Kamasutra. Plutocracy is the lingua franca of current India when 24X7 cacophony is hitting a new low. Journalists are difficult to find these days. Ramp-walking, lime-light-seeking desperate hordes of insatiate souls are overpowering the journalist fraternity without deterrence.

Either way, the conservative and progressive individuals in the media empire find Dalits an issue of mild concern, tossing Dalits into a limited enigma of Dalit death reports. As if the media thrives on

Dalit assassination.

DALIT FREEDOM MOVEMENT

The Dalit Freedom Movement is to materialise emotions of freedom into concrete action. We need to acknowledge the quality and temerity of the Dalit freedom fighters who are fighting a battle against casteism, capitalism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, and all forms of structural inequalities, to establish an organic society deeply tied to uplifting the free voice of everybody.

In the Dalit Freedom Movement, Dalit art and Dalit culture sit at the foundation of dismantling hierarchy. Art provides a space to challenge and nurture humanity valued through one's existence, and not performance in the already unjust society.

We will put Dalit life, Dalit culture and Dalit world right at the centre, as all the *savarna* minorities flaunt it with pride. Based on the principle of equality and fairness, the readers will get equal opportunity to dive into the lives of Dalits and get educated.

This column is a modest start, yet unbridled by its audacity to hope more. We want to be ruthless in our criticisms of a system that should have gone by now. We want to be militant in our thoughts and in moral action, that warrants an immediate fixture of the problems that are heaped on our generations. It hopes to be a rallying cry for the new masses, galvanising the struggle of its identities in a society heavily policed by one's non-belonging.

The conversation began a year and a half ago. We discussed about the various

possibilities to make it work. After a series of discussions, I asked for a page in the newspaper that would account for Dalit and Adivasi stories (a quarter of the Indian population). I was told in a mild tone, "Let's begin with a column first and then expand".

I accepted with a determination to make it grow.

Let this space be a cultural outpost for bringing high-brow interactions and unrecognised but equally powerful metaphors of a rich culture. Arts, education, literature, academic, and modern forms of nu-genres that Dalits are inventing, in the urban shanties of overcrowded smoky cities to rural segregated huts. Creation and innovation sit at the crux of Dalits' secret to survival. The fortnightly column will have an experimental outlook. It will invite new voices to help us think collectively about issues of rational concern.

This space is aimed at philosophising the ontological and epistemological concerns of the Dalit stream. The origin of one's cry is to inject the warranted claims of human dignity. I want to create a new generation of writers and encourage the existing ones to risk breaking the barriers and to take a leap of faith in their own qualities.

Suraj Yengde, author of bestseller Caste Matters, is a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Kennedy School and a recipient of the 'Rohith Vemula Memorial Scholar Award'

Yengde will curate the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column, starting today. He is available on @surajyengde

FIFTH COLUMN



Sanitation is a human right

LAST WEEK I was reminded of the reason why I endorsed Narendra Modi in this column when he first became prime minister in 2014. I believed then that he had been unjustly maligned in the mainstream (read liberal, Leftist) media as the 'Butcher of Gujarat' for something that has happened under other chief ministers who have totally escaped censure. The only pogrom by the Indian State against a community was against the Sikhs. Rajiv Gandhi was prime minister. The 'liberals' who ensured that Modi was denied a visa to enter the United States, until he became prime minister, never held Rajiv to account.

Now they are at it again. Next week Modi is due to be honoured in New York by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with the Goalkeepers Global Goals Award. In an interview to *The Hindustan Times* recently, Gates explained that it was because of the Swachh Bharat campaign's success in building the infrastructure of sanitation across rural India that Modi was receiving the award. He said, "The quality of life and the number of diseases caused by poor sanitation are terrible and yet a lot of governments are unwilling to talk about it because it isn't easy to fix and it takes time. It's a topic people just don't want to talk about."

It is because we in India did not want to talk about it that until the Swachh Bharat campaign Indians continued to 'defecate everywhere'. When Vidia Naipaul pointed this out in *An Area of Darkness*, he was reviled for being 'anti-India'. But, when Modi said in his first speech from the Red Fort that it was time for this ancient Indian practice to stop, we had to take notice. Had he not lent his personal support to the movement to stop open defecation, it would not have been possible for the Government of India to declare on Gandhi Jayanti this year that every district in India is now ODF or open defecation free. Of course, there are those who continue to defecate in the open, but as someone who has tracked Swachh Bharat carefully, I believe that the successes of the programme are more to be celebrated than whining about its inevitable, small failures.

The 'liberals' campaigning to get the Gates Foundation to cancel Modi's award could not care less. A group that calls itself 'Stop Genocide' delivered a petition with more than 100,000 signatures at the headquarters of the Gates Foundation in Seattle some days ago demanding that the award be 'rescinded'. They said Modi's human rights record was reason enough for this. The charges now go beyond what happened in Gujarat in 2002. Modi is accused of violating human rights in Kashmir and of allowing his supporters to abuse the human rights of Muslims through vigilante violence. The National Register of Citizens is also listed as something designed to harass Muslims.

Let me clarify here that I disapprove of petty officials deciding who is a citizen and who is not. It is not as if millions of people are flocking to India's penurious shores in search of a better life. Those who come are only the most wretched and desperate people on the planet, and if they find hope in India, we should be happy. Let me also clarify that I believe there are now distinct signs that the Modi government is beginning to lose the peace in Kashmir. I cannot understand at all why political leaders who have risked their lives and political careers to support India's case in Kashmir should be detained under repressive and ugly laws.

Let me also say that my support for Modi in this column has never been blind. I have been so critical of him on so many issues that when I last ran into him at the Independence Day party in Rashtrapati Bhawan, he gave me an icy stare and was warm and friendly to the other journalists who greeted him. Coomi Kapoor (Contributing Editor, *The Indian Express*) can bear witness because she was there and he chatted happily to her in Gujarati while giving me the icy stare. So I am no blind *bhakt* as some of my Leftist colleagues like to think I am. But, I cannot for the life of me understand what Modi's so-called crimes in the human rights department have to do with sanitation.

It is my view that sanitation should be considered a fundamental human right. And, if the Swachh Bharat movement wants to prove that it deserves this award then it should immediately start a campaign to end manual scavenging and send to jail municipal contractors who exploit destitute, desperate people to clean city sewers by hand. The Supreme Court described these sewers as garbage chambers recently. Swachh Bharat must as its next step declare that it will end the truly shameful practice of manual scavenging in all forms by October 2, 2020.

Follow Tavleen Singh on Twitter @tavleen_singh

Annihilation of nature

GAINED IN TRANSLATION



G MADHUSOODANAN
ജി മധുസൂദനൻ

THE KERALA Sahitya Akademi published its first ever, comprehensive, environmental history in October 2017, that I wrote on the Akademi's request. A month later, the first cyclone in the history of modern Kerala was reported. As per weather records, cyclones generally originated in the Bay of Bengal and made landfall on India's eastern coast — the west was safe from cyclones. Though Cyclone Ockhi rose in the Bay of Bengal, it wreaked havoc on the west.

It shook my belief that Kerala was safe from natural tragedies. For days, I investigated if anything unusual was being reported from the Arabian Sea. Some research revealed that surface temperature of the Arabian Sea had been rising since 1997 due to carbon emissions, turning the sea restive.

An extremely severe cyclonic storm, Nilofar, had prevailed in the Arabian Sea between October 25 and 31 in 2014. In 2015, two more extremely severe cyclonic storms were reported. In October 2018, Cyclone Luban originated in the Arabian Sea and Cyclone Titli in the Bay of Bengal. It was the second time in history that cyclones formed in both the seas at the same time. Luban made landfall at Salala in Oman and Titli on the Odisha-Andhra coast. According to scientists, cyclones that originate from the Arabian Sea do not change route and make landfall on the eastern coast.

The increase in sea surface temperature in the Arabian Sea would spell trouble for India's western coast. Not to mention that high-intensity rains cause floods. In 2018, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and IIT Gandhinagar published research studies substantiating the claim that the increase of temperature in the Arabian Sea has been causing high-intensity rains in different parts of India.

The impact of climate change started making minor appearances in the country around 2005 and majorly around 2017. When we get ready to take on these changes, we would know how nature took a beating during the previous two centuries

and consider corrective steps.

India's natural wealth didn't suffer much till the advent of colonisation. Richard Grove has argued that the age of colonialism was also the period of Green Imperialism. Starting the beginning of the 19th century, the British cleared forests in areas that today come under states such as Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal, for commercial plantations. The forests of the Western Ghats were mostly climax ecosystems, with no human intervention. Such forests gave birth to perennial rivers by absorbing rainwater and maintaining streams and rivulets. The Forest Survey of India defines dense forests as forests with more than 70 per cent tree cover, which is just 8 per cent in Kerala, accounting for just 4 per cent of the land area. The deluge of 2018 was not the first in Kerala. Two other floods were recorded in the state in 1341 and in 1924. Several corroborative evidences link the floods of 2018 and 2019 to climate change.

According to a 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), world nations have time till 2030 to hold global warming level to 1.5 degrees Centigrade. If carbon emission continues at the current level, warming may exceed 1.5 degrees. To hold it at 1.5 degree C, greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced from 5,200 tonnes to 2,500 tonnes — a decline of nearly 45 per cent.

According to IPCC findings, high-intensity rainfall is the key result of climate change in India. It says that India's annual temperature may rise (compared to 1970) by 1.7 to 2.2 degrees C by 2030. It will lead to drastic increase in high-intensity rainfall during monsoons as well as cyclones, floods and drought. However, the IPCC did not foresee the rise of surface sea temperature of the Arabian Sea, that we mentioned.

Between 2003 and 2017, India witnessed 22 cyclones that claimed over 700 lives. However, the country witnessed the severe impact of climate change in 2018 when between April and June, over 50 cyclones hit 16 states, killing over 1,000 people and destroying crops.

We cannot do much to avoid recurrence of such incidents but we can focus on climate adaptation or climate proofing activities. In the building of new India, we should try and restore the lost peculiarities of nature. Environmental restoration should be a key factor in future development.

Madhusoodanan (G M Pillai) is an IAS officer and director general, World Institute of Sustainable Energy

Translated from Malayalam by Yamini Nair

SHE SAID

Many moons, much maths ago



SHALINI LANGER

A COUPLE of days is all it took for us to move on from talking about trajectory, deceleration, orbits and Moon terrain, to tying ourselves up in knots asking, by way of gravity, what's maths got to do with economics.

However, who are we kidding? That Friday/Saturday at ISRO, where women acted as mission directors, men cried in public, and prime ministers were both broad-chested and large-hearted, was a blip. In the days preceding and that followed, our higher education institutes fell further down global rankings; the CBSE put in place a system to have two kinds of maths at school so as to check depressing failure rates; a TV anchor passed off a vinyl night-suit, a scooter helmet and socks for gloves as clothes one would need "in case of a colony on Moon"; more than one of them equated India's Moon mission with stripping "*chaand*" ("Islam's *noon*" off Pakistan's flag; one anchor threatened that India's next launch would be to Lahore; and a minister drew a much-too-pat equation to explain declining car sales.

And yet, ISRO, blocking all the noise, did almost get the job done. Vikram and Pragyan may be lost, frozen in what must be an awkward tilted position for eternity, but that part of the Moon will indeed forever remain Indian.

To us of a certain vintage, what can be more fitting? Whether nights slept on terrace, hide-and-seek games during power cuts, shimmer on the water on rare ocean-side vacations, the promise of a flirtation, or the declaration of a love — the Moon frames so many of our growing-up memories.

To most of us, Moon was also our window into space — the most magical thing in the sky that hinted at the mystery of that expanse, without any of the terrors of it. It also seemed almost at hand, not just because Neil Armstrong had been there, but also because of the many stories and lullabies of childhood, and songs of Bollywood, in which it figured.

Then one day father got a glossy picture book on astronomy, a rare acquisition in those times, made possible by



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

erstwhile Soviet Union's largesse of subsidised literature. Space became even more magical, about and beyond both Newton's discovery of gravity (yes, we couldn't have gone to Moon without doing this maths) and Einstein's expansion on it (or hoped to land without working out this equation). So many stars, planets, moons, asteroids, comets, debris, artificial satellites, held together as well as kept apart by gravity — which had found its perfect balance at just the required moment to sustain life on Earth. Chaos or intelligent design, science or God, who could deny that was a miracle?

I decided then that I would be an astronomer, a dream that lasted well into learning about Kepler's Law (more maths). For a while the favourite game of my sister and me was sitting atop a pile of quilts, and imagining it to be our spaceship which required us to do everything from cooking to sleeping to bathing in that small square. Visiting friends joined us, and it required every bit of ingenuity to fit us all in (for, $a = f/m$, or increasing acceleration so as to lift off our "rocket" meant either increasing force or decreasing mass — maths again).

Still, it was an interest difficult to sustain through the tedium and amount of science at school. The spark lit by India's first man in space in 1984, an event generating as much national pride as now, even on TV with grainy black and white images (point to be noted), had got snuffed much, much earlier. Over the years, Hollywood turned space into mostly aliens, alien attacks, and *Interstellar*'s mind-bending, time-altering, joy-killing physics.

Then came Chandrayaan-2, India's

first venture to Moon's surface. As the excitement built up, I tried to join in. However, it was not just the passing years or the blinding lights on Earth now that dimmed Moon's shimmer. Nor was it the disillusionment wrought by the media spectacle. It was also what that Moon's shimmer hid. In a touching book I had read, *Maggot Moon*, a regime fakes a Moon expedition to hide its excesses. In another, *The Book Thief*, a second regime's victim sneaks up from his hiding place on lucky nights to catch a brief slice of the sky. As the country gazed in (quite valid) admiration at its screens that Friday night, I couldn't shake off those two stories from my mind, and wonder: does the Moon shine as brightly for us all? That is the cost of growing up, I guess.

But growing up also helps one spot the hope in the hype, and on two aspects, the ISRO mission did shine a light: in showcasing the power of will and that of forgiveness. On that mission floor, we saw that superwomen come in all forms — most often in *saris* and *salwar-kameez*. And 'supermen'? They may have learnt that, in these muscular times, tears, hugs and forgiveness could be superpowers too.

As for Pragyan and Vikram, so long. Slip into that lunar night with the thought that we will remember, maybe even serenade you with that song *Moon River*, about wanderlust, about "Two drifters off to see the world... There's such a lot of world to see..."

National Editor Shalini Langer will curate the fortnightly 'She Said' column, starting today shalini.langer@expressindia.com

No winners in the NRC exercise

or five times the excluded numbers. Alas, once you start counting, guesswork stops.

Let us look at the numbers at stake. In any such statistical exercise, it is routine to say plus, minus 5 per cent. The number excluded is 5 per cent of the total. Statisticians would dismiss these numbers as random measurement errors. The easy (and statistically sound) way would be to say no one will be excluded whatever their papers.

The reason for saying this is not political but simple understanding of the difficulty of measuring a large population accurately. Remember the debate about unemployment rates.

In the NRC there are special reasons for expecting large errors. The Indian government, since the British colonial times, has

always begun with distrust of the population it governs. Independence changed the colour of the Ruler, not the attitude of those in charge towards their subjects (they get treated as citizens only on polling days). One requirement of the NRC is that you produce written evidence of your residency in Assam. These papers have to predate 1971. Forty-eight-year-old pieces of (government-quality, inferior) paper would be in tatters even if you had preserved them.

Whichever way the game ends, there are no winners. Those who want no exclusion would be unhappy and internationally India's reputation will suffer as an inhumane polity. The Assamese who began this agitation way back in the Rajiv Gandhi days will also never believe the

numbers unless they discover that these are huge. For them only 'born and bred' in Assam will qualify, but if I am from a tribe living in Assam but not Assamese speaker, do I have to produce paper evidence? Why did Rajiv Gandhi sign the pact (Assam Accord) in the first place?

The BJP would also like a crore or more 'infiltrators'. But in their search for Bangladeshi Muslims, they should be careful whether their dream of One Nation is not under threat.

What about people from other parts of India who have moved to Assam and have no papers before 1971 proving Assamese residence? Especially if they are Indian Muslims. Are they infiltrators? If the NRC is repeated in each state, are out of state persons infiltrators? There were

agitations against South Indians in Mumbai by the Shiv Sena in the 1960s. If the NRC is done in Maharashtra, will only those born and bred in Maharashtra or only Marathi-speaking people count as genuine?

For 70 years, Indian economy has never grown fast enough to create sufficient jobs. So there are demands for local jobs for local people, defined as local-language speakers. The NRC will give support to such demands. We will have 29 citizenships for 29 states (Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh will become Union Territories on October 31) with 'outsiders' being hounded. Do we want to break up India in search for Bangladeshi Muslims who may have arrived 48 years ago?

TOP OF THE WORLD



Justin Trudeau

ASIA

Trudeau pledges assault rifle ban amid scandal

Toronto: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, embroiled in a blackface picture scandal, on Friday pledged to ban military-style assault rifles in a bid to get his campaign back on issue. The move comes two days after at least two images of him in blackface emerged, as well as a video showing him with blacked-up face and body. "Thoughts and prayers aren't going to cut it," Trudeau said. "We know you do not need a military-grade assault weapon, one designed to kill the largest number of people in the shortest amount of time, to take down a deer."

ALBANIA

Ship rescues 111 migrants in Aegean Sea

Tirana: Albania's Defense Ministry says one of its ships in the Aegean Sea has rescued 111 migrants trying to cross into Greece, and has handed them over to Turkish authorities. Defense Minister Olta Xhaka on Saturday wrote on her Facebook page that the Syrian, Iraqi and Palestinian migrants were "rescued in three different operations within a few hours in the waters between Turkey and Greece." She added the migrants were found late Friday evening in two speedboats and a small boat.

PAKISTAN

One detained in Iraq blast that killed 12

Baghdad: Iraq's prime minister says security forces have detained a man suspected of detonating a bomb on a minibus packed with passengers outside the Shiite holy city of Karbala. The Friday night blast killed 12 people and wounded five others. Adel Abdul-Mahdi in a statement released by his office Saturday gave no further details about the suspect. The blast was one of the biggest attacks targeting civilians since the extremist Islamic State group was declared defeated inside Iraq in 2017. On Saturday security was tight on the roads leading to Karbala.

People take to streets across Egypt in rare protests, chant: 'Down with Sisi'

Rallies held even as Egypt's leader flew to New York for UN Assembly

DECLAN WALSH
SEPTEMBER 21

RARE PROTESTS against President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi erupted in central Cairo and several smaller Egyptian cities Friday night as hundreds of young people, responding to online calls for demonstrations against government corruption, chanted "Down with Sisi" and "Leave now."

The protests occurred as el-Sisi flew to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly next week. On Friday, police fired tear gas to disperse some groups, but others continued to clash with police into the early hours of Saturday.

At least four people were arrested near Tahrir Square, where Egyptians gathered to oust President Hosni Mubarak during the Arab Spring in 2011, said the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, which monitors the status of detainees.

Human rights groups regularly denounce el-Sisi as one of the harshest leaders in the Middle East. Packed prisons are filled with political detainees,



Groups of protesters gather in central Cairo and shout anti-government slogans. Reuters

hundreds of websites have been blocked, and the country's press has been largely suborned by the security services.

Still, el-Sisi has met with little resistance from Western allies, including President Donald Trump, who last week referred to him as "my favorite dictator."

The protests were prompted by a call from Mohamed Ali, a building contractor who had worked with the military and has been appearing in Facebook videos alleging widespread squandering of public funds un-

der el-Sisi and his close aides.

Hundreds of young Cairo residents heeded that call, flooding the streets Friday evening after a soccer match between two popular Egyptian teams. Witnesses and video recordings suggested the protests were not centrally organised, appearing instead to come from spontaneous gatherings of angry young people, many from working-class backgrounds, chanting anti-Sisi slogans.

In one place, protesters denounced el-Sisi as "the thief."

Pro-government television stations tried to play down the turbulence. Broadcasting from Tahrir Square, one anchor said that a small group had gathered to take selfies before leaving the scene. Other channels insisted the situation was calm.

But videos posted online showed that limited protests also erupted in Egypt's second city, Alexandria, in Suez on the Red Sea, and in Mahalla el-Kubra, a town of textile factories 70 miles north of Cairo that is known for its labor activism. **NYT**

'ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE OR BE VOTED OUT'



Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg (centre) speaks to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (left) during the Youth Climate Summit on Saturday. AP

■ Young climate change activists delivered a strong message to United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Saturday: If elected officials do not take strong actions to combat climate change, they will be voted out of office.

■ "We showed that we are united and that we, young people, are unstoppable," said Greta Thunberg.

■ Fijian climate change activist Komal Karishma Kumar complained that world leaders have been negotiating climate change treaties since 1992. "We will hold you accountable," she said. "And if you do not remember we will mobilise to vote you out."

China's Pacific influence grows as it signs agreement with Solomon Islands

BEN BLANCHARD
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 21

CHINA AND the Solomon Islands signed an agreement on Saturday to establish diplomatic ties after the Pacific island nation ditched relations with Taiwan, which Beijing claims as a Chinese province and seeks to cut off from the international community.

The Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councillor Wang Yi, signed the agreement with Solomon Islands' Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele at a government guest house in Beijing in front of reporters.

China this week won over two former Taiwanese allies, Solomon Islands and Kiribati, in a setback for the self-ruled island that finds itself further isolated amid continued pressure from Beijing.

"Right now there are only very few countries that have not established diplomatic relations with China," Wang told reporters after the signing as Manele stood by his side.

"We believe that in those countries there will be more and more people with vision who will step forward and their voice for justice and in line with the trend of history will be heard." **REUTERS**

Turkey prepared for Syria border operation: Erdogan

REUTERS
ISTANBUL, SEPTEMBER 21

Turkey is ready to act on its southern border with Syria, President Tayyip Erdogan said, after warning that it could take unilateral steps if the US does not establish a "safe zone" in northeast Syria this month.

"Our preparations along our borders are complete," Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul on Saturday before departing to attend a UN General Assembly meeting.

Turkey has been angered by US support for Kurdish-led forces which fought Islamic State in Syria. It considers the Kurdish YPG



Erdogan in Istanbul. AP

fighters a terrorist organisation.

Erdogan reiterated complaints over US support for the Kurdish fighters. "We have no wish to come face to face with the US" he said. "However, we cannot afford to overlook the support that the US is giving to a terrorist organisation."

PARIS

OVER 100 'YELLOW VEST' PROTESTERS HELD

Over 100 demonstrators were arrested at yellow vest protests in Paris Saturday as about 7,500 police were deployed to quell any violence by the movement and its radical, anarchist "black blocs". "What are we doing? We are assembling just to say we can't make ends meet. (The protest) is not only against the president, it's against the system," said a protestor who did not give her name.

AFTER OIL FACILITIES HIT

US to dispatch troops, defence systems to Saudi Arabia

MICHAEL CROWLEY & HELENE COOPER
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 21

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump is sending a deployment of US troops to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, along with air and missile defense systems, in response to the attacks on Saudi oil facilities, which the administration blames on Iran.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper called the decision, which came Friday during a White House meeting with top national security officials, "defensive in nature." Defense Department officials said the Pentagon would deploy additional anti-missile batteries to Saudi Arabia and might also deploy additional warplanes. Aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln may extend its stay in the region as well, officials said.

General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the precise number of US troops headed to the region had not been determined, but that it would be a "moderate deployment" in the hundreds, not thousands.

Trump had been weighing whether to take direct military action against Iran in response to the attacks on Saudi Arabia.

At the White House on Friday, Trump boasted that he could order a retaliatory strike "in one minute," and boasted equally that his current restraint should be seen as a sign of strength and toughness. **NYT**

Trump 'pressed' Ukraine's leader to launch probe into Biden's son

NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 21

PRESIDENT TRUMP pressed the Ukrainian president in a July call to investigate former Vice President Joseph R Biden Jr's son, according to a person familiar with the conversation, an apparently blatant mixture of foreign policy with his 2020 re-election campaign.

Trump also repeatedly told the Ukrainian leader, Volodymyr Zelensky, to talk with his personal lawyer Rudolph W Giuliani, who had been urging the government in Kiev to investigate Biden and his family, according to two other people briefed on the call.

Trump's request is part of the secret whistle-blower complaint that is said to be about Trump and at least in part about his dealings with Ukraine, according to two sources. Trump opened a direct counterattack on Friday against the whistle-blower, whose identity is unknown, as are many details about the complaint. "It's a ridiculous story. It's a partisan whistle-blower," Trump said.

On Friday, Biden accused Mr. Trump in a statement of using the power of the United States to extract "a political favor."



Joe Biden

Trump says no trade deal before 2020 polls: 'China threat to world'

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 21

PRESIDENT TRUMP said on Friday that China was a "threat to the world" and suggested Beijing was eager to make a trade deal because his tariffs were hurting the Chinese economy, coarsening his tone as the two countries prepared to resume negotiations.

The Trump administration has closely tied economic policy and national security and, in remarks at the White House, Trump said that China was using money pilfered from the US through unfair trade practices to build up its military. The comments come as midlevel officials from both countries have been holding talks in Washington this week ahead of a planned meeting between senior trade negotiators next month.

"Obviously, China is a threat to the world in a sense, because they're building a military faster than anybody," Trump said. "I view China in many different ways. But right now, I'm thinking about trade. But, you know, trade equals military."

Trump has said he does not

Obviously, China is a threat to the world in a sense, because they're building a military faster than anybody... But right now, I'm thinking about trade. But, you know, trade equals military"

— DONALD TRUMP
US PRESIDENT

need feel the need to strike a trade agreement with China before the next year's presidential elections, emphasizing that he is looking for a complete and not a "partial deal" with Beijing. "No, I don't think I need it before the election," Trump told reporters on Friday at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison when asked if he feels the need for a trade deal with China before the 2020 presidential elections.

Trump insisted that he was looking for a complete trade deal. "We are looking for a complete deal. I am not looking for a partial deal," he said

IMMIGRANTS 'COLONISING' FRANCE BY GIVING BIRTH TO MORE CHILDREN, MAKING CITIES, TOWNS UNLIVABLE, HE SAYS

'Le grand remplacement': The man behind toxic slogan aiding white supremacy

NORIMITSU ONISHI
PLIEUX, SEPTEMBER 21

THOUGH THE writer had already lived in his castle for a quarter of a century, it was only three years ago that he finally restored it to its original purpose as a fortress.

The writer, Renaud Camus, rebuilt the top 10 feet of the 14th-century tower, giving him an even more commanding view of his surroundings: the village of 40 souls below; the Pyrenees, faintly visible some 100 miles south despite the midsummer haze; and, in every direction, the peaceful, rolling hills of the "eter-

nal France" that he describes as under assault from what he calls hordes of immigrants.

But up in his castle, the France that Camus imagines has made him one of the most influential thinkers on the far right in his own country and elsewhere. In his writings, he describes an ongoing "invasion" of France by immigrants bent on "conquest" of its white, European population. To him, the immigrants are "colonising" France by giving birth to more children and making its cities, towns — and even villages — unlivable.

Others have espoused similar ideas. But Camus' portrayal of

demographic change — le "grand remplacement," or the supposed "great replacement" of France's original population by newer arrivals, mostly from Africa — has become an extremist talking point, cited by mass killers in distant parts of the world.

The men held in two recent mass shootings — at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, and at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand — both referred to the "great replacement" and the need to defend white populations against invading outsiders.

While decrying the killings, Camus said he had no regrets about coming up with the term.



Renaud Camus at his castle in the south of France. AP

"The great replacement has become a household word," he

said. "I take responsibility for it. I believe in its relevance."

Until a few years ago, Camus was known, mainly by other French writers, as a novelist and a pioneering writer of gay literature. An early book about his sexual experiences, called "Tricks," remains his most translated work.

He says he sees no contradiction between his earlier life as a gay writer on the left and his current role as an ideological beacon for the right, including violent extremists. He contends he has always told "the hard truths."

According to government data, immigrants now make up about 10% of France's population, many of them nonwhite, up from about 7% in the 1970s, or 5%

in 1946, the year of Camus' birth — a steady rise, though far from the overwhelming one described by Camus.

Even as Camus became toxic, his phrase gained traction, first on French far-right websites, like "Observatoire de Grand Remplacement." Politicians on the right and far right, including Le Pen, used the term.

Isolated in his castle, Camus grew even more removed from the actual France he purported to describe — one filled, he believes, with people of Arab and African descent burning with hatred for France and plotting its conquest. In fact, he acknowl-

edged that his understanding of such people was based mainly on Twitter and Facebook. He said he hardly ever read newspapers or watched television.

"Distance is very, very necessary for observation," he said.

Like many other fortified castles, its military capability — including the top 10 feet of the tower — was eliminated following a government edit in the 17th century. Back then, the fear was an uprising by the nobility, the castle owners.

By rebuilding the tower, Camus had restored its defenses. But on this day, in this corner of France, there was no hint of a threat on the horizon. **NYT**

acknowledgments of auxiliaries of turbine and associated auxiliaries Unit -7 CTPS, HTPS, Kasimpur as and when required basis date of tender are as below:-
Estimated Cost Rs. 1,67,256.00, Earnest Money Rs. 3350.00 Cost of Tender document Rs. 300.00 + 54.00 (GST) = Rs. 354.00 Due date of Submission of E-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 16.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs. Due date of depositing Tender Cost & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS account): 16.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs. Due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned: 18.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs., Tender Opening Date: Part-I: 18.10.2019 at 16:00 Hrs Note: (1) The details for submission of bids are available w.e.f. 20.09.2019 at 09:00 Hrs, in the bid document uploaded on the e-procurement website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 8. Tender No. ET-03/BMD-II/DTPS/Q&MCL/19-20, Name of Work: "Deputation of supervisory Services personnel (EX-BHEL) for the supervision of overhauling work of Bowl Mills (XRP-903), Qty. 06 Nos., Gravimetric Raw Coal Feeders, Qty.: 06 Nos. and ID/FD /PA/Seal Air Fans, Qty.: 02 Nos. each, of U# 8, D TPS, HTPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh" for a period of one year Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,88,940.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 3,780.00, Tender Cost: Rs. 590.00 Extended date of tender opening are as below:-Due date of Submission of E-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 09.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs. Due date of depositing Tender Cost & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS account): 09.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned: 11.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs., Tender Opening Date: Part-I: 11.10.2019 at 16:00 Hrs. NOTE: (1) The details for submission of bids will be available on e-procurement website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> w.e.f. 17:00 Hrs. dated: 01.07.2019. (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the E-Tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 9. E-Tender Notice No. ET-04/BMD-IDTSP/O&MCL/19-20, "Insulation of Pipe Valve & Equipment in various area of Boiler & ESP of Unit # 8 & 9, 2x250 MW. HTPS "for a period of one year under BMD-I "DTPS, Harduaganj Thermal Power Station, Estimated Cost Rs. 54,98,000.00, Earnest Money Rs. 1,000.00, Cost of Tender document Rs. 1,000.00 + 180.00 (GST) = Rs. 1,180.00 Extended date of tender are as below:- Due date of Submission of E-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 09.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs. Due date of depositing Tender Cost through RTGS (in the HTPS account) & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS account)/B.G.: 09.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned: 11.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs., Tender Opening Date: Part-I: 11.10.2019 at 16:00 Hrs. Note: (1) The details for submission of bids are available w.e.f. 20.07.2019 at 17:00 Hrs. in the bid document uploaded on the e-procurement website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. 10. Tender No. ET-08/BMD-II/DTPS/Q&MCL/19-20, Name of Work: "Deputation of supervisory Services personnel (EX-BHEL) for the supervision of overhauling work of Bowl Mills (XRP-903), Qty. 06 Nos. Gravimetric Raw Coal Feeders, Qty.: 06 Nos. and ID/FD /PA/Seal Air Fans, Qty.: 02 Nos. each, of U# 8, D TPS, HTPS, Kasimpur, Aligarh" for a period of one year Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,88,940.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 3,780.00, Tender Cost: Rs. 590.00 Extended date of tender are as below:- Due date of Submission of E-Bid (Technical & Financial) at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>: 09.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs. Due date of depositing Tender Cost & Earnest Money through RTGS (in the HTPS account): 09.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs., Due date of submission of hard copy of all the requisite documents in the office of undersigned: 11.10.2019 up to 14:00 Hrs., Tender Opening Date: Part-I: 11.10.2019 at 16:00 Hrs. Note: (1) The details for submission of bids are available w.e.f. 20.07.2019 at 17:00 Hrs. in the bid document uploaded on the e-procurement website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> (2) The bidders are required to be registered with U.P. Electronics Corporation, Ashok Marg, Lucknow by depositing requisite fees for participation in the e-tendering. The bidder must also be registered with their Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) in the e-bidding system, after that the bidder can participate in bid submission activity. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (HQ), HTPS, Kasimpur 11. E-Tender No. 06/SE/HQ/S&ETD/HTPS/2019-20, Name of work: Outsourcing of Para Medical staff to Provide the medical facility for employees of Harduaganj Thermal Power Station, Kasimpur, Aligarh. Estimated cost Rs. 21.20 Lac. Earnest money Rs. 42,400.00. Tender cost Rs. 1180.00 (including 18%

GST). Time of Start date and 20.09.2019 up to date and time 23.10.2019 upto time for submission site documents 14:00 Hours. (Part-I) 24.10.2019 ONLY DOWNLOAD FROM <http://etender.up.nic.in> Superintendent, Kasimpur (Aligarh)
Name of the project/MMC/EPD/CTP/Supply: supply of & Heat Resistant OH#8&9 HTPS Rs 464000.00 9500.00, Tender (GST)=Rs. 590.00
Date of submission of Tender shall be 07.10.2019.(Part II) Eligibility Criteria: Their authorized officers supplied Tender ID: 2019 E-Tender 79/MMC/EPD/Supply: Supply of Disposal Pump Ash Handling Estimated costs money: Rs. 85000+90.00 mission extension Tender shall be 16.10.2019 (Part Eligibility Criteria Manufacturers or Dealer/experience to participate in this tender 80/MMC/EPD/Supply: Supply of Sam turbo Induction Pump for O/H Kasimpur. 16,86,000.00 34000.00, Tender 180.00 (GST), extended end shall be open 16.10.2019 (Part Eligibility Criteria Manufacturers can participate No.: ET-84/MMC/Supply: Supply of O&M and Over HTPS, Kasimpur 654459.00, Earned Tender cost: Rs. Bid online submission : 01.10.2019 Tender extended date 09.10.2019 (Part Only reputed Authorized Dealer tender. 16. MMC/EPD/DTPS Supply of Ultrasonic meter) for 08 Estimated costs money: Rs. 10500+90.00 mission extension Tender shall be 19.10.2019 (Part Eligibility Criteria Manufacturers or Dealer/experience to participate in this tender 91/MMC/EPD/Supply: Supply of Overhauling of Kasimpur. Estimated Earnest money Rs. 500.00 + submission 14.10.2019 Tender extended date 18.10.2019 (Part Only reputed Authorized Dealer can participate No.: ET-92/MMC/Supply: Supply of Overhauling of Kasimpur. Estimated Earnest money cost: Rs. 500.00 online submission 14.10.2019 Tender extended date 18.10.2019 (Part Only reputed Authorized Dealer can participate No.: ET-106/MMC/Supply: Supply of Distance Placement Pumps and Fans for overhauls HTPS, Kasimpur 108000.00, Earned Tender cost: Rs. Bid online submission 10.10.2019 Tender extended date 14.10.2019 (Part Only reputed Authorized Dealer can participate No.: ET-10 Name of Supply of overhauling of Kasimpur. 14,16,275.00 28000.00, Tender 180.00 (GST), extended end shall be open (Part-I) & 18 Conditions: On their Authorized tender. SE NEER, OPERA CIRCLE-IV, TENDER NOTICE IV/DTPS/EMD- & Erection of big testing of El Ash Water Rect

Super Speciality Cancer Institute & Hospital
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
 Website: <https://cancerinstitute.edu.in> Email: jdmr_saci@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited through e-tendering for (1) Supply, installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of 24x7365 Lab Diagnostic & (2) Supply, installation and Maintenance of 100 Mbps leased line Internet services, at the SSC&H. Detail information will be available on 23-09-2019. Please see our tender portal: <https://etender.up.nic.in> and <https://cancerinstitute.edu.in> for reference.

Advt No. SSC/PRO-19/2019-20 **DIRECTOR**

अभिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, रायपुर (उ.प्र.)

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur (C.G.)

Tailbanda, G.E. Road, Raipur-492 099 (C.G.) www.aiimsraipur.edu.in

No. AIIMS-RPR/Rect. & Advt. Cell/2019/1918, Date: 18-09-2019

E-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur
 Chhattisgarh, Govt. invites e-tender for following:

Tender Title	EMD Cost	Published on CPPP/ Website	Pre-bid Meeting date at	Closing date
Supply of Laparoscopy Hand Instrument and Accessories for Urology Department	₹ 2,08,800.00	17-09-2019	23-09-2019 at 03:30 PM	14-10-2019 06:00 PM

The details terms & conditions are available on the website-
www.aiimsraipur.edu.in and CPP Portal www.eprocure.gov.in
Stores Officer, AIIMS Raipur

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, GANGA POLLUTION CONTROL UNIT, U.P. JAL NIGAM, PRAYAGRAJ N.I.T. No. 3595/610/292 Date : 13.09.2019

Short Term E-Tender Notice
U.P. Jal Nigam, e-tenders are invited for Balance Sewer House Connection works in Sewerage District-D of Prayagraj City under AMRUT Programme. The complete details about e-bid of above items/works will be available in the tender document on the U.P. Govt's e-procurement website - <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 25.09.2019 to 12.10.2019. The cost of the tender document is mentioned in the detailed notice. The e-bids will be opened on 12.10.2019 at 14:00 Hrs in the office of the undersigned.

 **SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
Followed by "SCRR" in all communications.
Bidding office: The Senior Nodes of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website - www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

T.N.No.21/19 cl.20.09.19
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
e-Procurement Tender Notice

The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the web-site www.irps.gov.in and submit their offers. The Tender Description, Qty, Cost of Tender document and EMD may be seen in web-site. It may be noted that offers submitted manually or on paper will not be accepted. Offers sent by post are not entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 Hrs of the Due date of the Tender. For all indigenous offers, the Tender cost ,EMD &SV will be accepted only via online system as available on IREPS. No payments will be accepted through Manual mode henceforth."

Tender No	Short Description
62190029-A	A do - Frastezumab Emulsion
16191001	Lamp Life Lube
38161900-B	Flag Door
56191004	UG Rly. Sig Cable 2 Core x2.5 Sq.m
56195093	Electric Point operating machine 143 throw
81191082	Cleaning Solvent
77191065	Paint En. Syn. Golden Yellow
56191005	UG Rly. Sig Cable 24 Core x1.5 Sq.m
7719145-A	Paint Ready Mix Red Oxide
75191209	DTBP Blocks
56195193	UG Power cable 2 Core x25 Sq.m
33191010	Set of 42 items of FIAT Bogies
29191028	Set of cylinder roller Brg for 3Ph. Traction Motor

Note: Due dates of T. Opening:
S.No.01 on 11.10.19, S.No.02 to 03 on 14.10.19, S.No.04 on 15.10.19, S.No.05 to 07 on 16.10.19, S.No.08 to 10 on 22.10.19, S.No.11 on 23.10.19, S.No.12 on 24.10.19, S.No.13 on 01.11.19.

GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE

29151395-D	Set of imported dampers WAP 7
07.11.2019	locomotive

Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs. 25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway e-procurement website www.irps.gov.in
Full details may be seen in IREPS Website.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad

A1550

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents,
Please visit website at <https://www.irps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in



UJVN LIMITED

(An Uzbekistan Govt. Enterprise)

H.O. "GOLNAR" MAHALLASI, 10/10A, YUL'NARUJ, - 100000, CIVIL, UZBEKISTAN 100000
 Tels: 9133-723265, Fax: 8133-713350, MOBILE: www.ujvn.com

TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Yamuna Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, Invites online bids from interested firms. Brief summary of tender is given below :

Tender No. 13/ EE(C-M)/DDN/2019-20

Name of work: Construction of Additional Class Room under UJVN Limited CSR head for Gov. Primary School Dowaala, Dehradun.

1. Estimated cost	: ₹ 10,28,000.00
2. Earnest money deposit	: ₹ 25,700.00
3. Tender Fee	: ₹ 1,180.00 (inclusive of all Taxes)
4. Date of availability of bid document on website	: From 17:00 hrs of 21 st Sept, 2019
5. Last date for submission of bids on website	: Upto 17:00 hrs of 14 th Oct. 2019
6. Date of opening of bids on website	: at 11.30 hrs of 15 th Oct.

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

Executive Engineer
(Civil-Maintenance)

पत्रांक सं० 552 / दिनांक 21.09.2019

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

 **KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.2 Varahi Reservoir
Project Division, Siddapura-576229, Udupi District. Karnataka. Ph: 08259-284644
No.EE/KNNL/RVPD-2/PB/Tender/06/2019-20/738 Dtd: 19.09.2019

PRE-QUALIFICATION CUM SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, VRP Division-2, Siddapura, Udupi District in Karnataka invites tenders on LUMP SUM TURN KEY basis on e-procurement portal for the following work from KNNL category-I enrolled contractors, for the work "Construction of Lift Irrigation Scheme from Varahi river on upstream of Balkur salt water exclusion dam near Sowkur village to provide irrigation facility to 1350ha in surrounding villages of Kundapura Taluk, Udupi District for Sowkur Lift Irrigation Scheme.

(i) The tender documents can be obtained from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. (ii) The approximate amount put to tender for the work is Rs. 7223.00 lakhs. (iii) EMD amount of the work is Rs.73.00 lakhs. (iv) Contractors can have access to e-tender documents from dt:**21.09.2019** onwards. (v) The queries if any should be sent not later than a **01.10.2019** in advance by the intending bidders before 5.00 P.M. through e-mail to the Executive Engineer (e-mail to eevrpd@gmail.com) (vi) Pre-meeting held on dt:**01.10.2019** at the office of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore. (vii) Last date for submission of e-tender documents: **09.10.2019 till 4.00pm**. (viii) Technical Bid (cover-I) will be opened on dt:**10.10.2019 at 4.30pm**. (ix) Date of opening of Cover II (Financial Bid) of qualified bidder will be intimated. (x) For Further details such as Name of work, EMD, time limit, cost of tender forms, terms & conditions of tender etc., visit <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> , www.knnlindia.com & also can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours: Phone No. 08259-284644. (xi) Corrigendum will be published only in the website <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> for all modifications/corrections if any.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL,
No.2 Varahi Reservoir Project Division, Siddapura, Udupi District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas M/s MRC InfraBuild Pvt. Ltd. is in the process of undertaking a development of Affordable Group Housing Colony in Village/Haryana, Sector-88, Gurgaon; **"The Member"** over an email are receiving 5:51975 orders in accordance with the provisions of Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 of Government of Haryana issued vide notification no. PF-27/48921 dated 19 August, 2013 and subsequent amendment/modification therein, if any; **Whereas** No. 23 of 2014 dated 22.11.2014 granted to Vijay Ramesh S/o Chanderjit Singh, Deepak Gupta S/o Ram Narayan Gupta, Rajesh Kumar, Haseeb Kumar S/o Suresh Lal Singh, Ramphal S/o Lata, Raveesh Manoj S/o Channopal, Himesh Rathi, Shri Gopal Go. Manwani Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. by Director General, Town and Country Planning, Haryana; Chandigarh and DICP granted permission to charge of developer vide Memo No. LC-2081-Adt. (AC/2019/14423) dated 18.05.2019 and HRERA Registration No. 1187 of 2017 dated 20.05.2017 granted by HRERA, Panchkula, Haryana and issued HRERA Registration No. 2451 of 2017 dated 03.05.2017 granted by HRERA, Gurgaon, Haryana. And whereas, several individuals have already been made aware in the said Affordable Group Housing Colony (hereinafter referred to as 'dwg') according to the procedure as prescribed under the above said policy and executed Builder Buyer Agreement. And whereas, Building Plans earlier approved vide memo no. 2P-1134-SB/BS(2017/1644) dated 20.05.2017 at the time of grant of license for the said affordable colony is now proposed to be revised. And whereas, the office of Director General, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of Building Plans as a precondition for allowing such revision in the Building Plan. Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of alloted in the said colony. A copy of the Original Building Plans bearing Memo No. 2P-1134-SB/BS(2017/10640) dated 20.05.2017 and the proposed revised building plans bearing Memo No. 2P-1134W/DH/2017/15268 dated 23.06.2019 are approved are available for perusal on website www.mrgroup.com the said plans being approved, can also be perused at our office No. 131, First Floor, Vasant Tower-A, Sector-54, Gurgaon-122003 and also office of The Member, Village/Haryana, Sector-88, Gurgaon, Haryana as well as at the office of Senior Town Planner, HUDA Complex, Sector-14, Gurgaon, Haryana. Any of alloted Haryana Any of alloted having any objections/unsatisfied building plans being approved, may file the objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, HUDA Complex, Sector-14, Gurgaon within 30 days of the publication of this notice knowing that it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the revised building plans being approved.

Authorized Signatory
M/s MRC InfraBuild Pvt. Ltd.,
Gurgaon

Office of the Principal, MLB Medical College, Jhansi

Tender Number no-4952/E-tender/house keeping 2019 **Date - 20-09-2019**

Phone no - (0510-2321446, 2320858)

Website - www.principalmcjhjhs@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice

The online E-Tender is invited from reputed agencies for selection of service provider agency to provide house keeping and sanitation service on outsource basis at 'Mahararani Laximi Bai Medical college and attached hospital. The tender can be downloaded from the UP Govt. E-Procurement portal <https://e-tender.up.nic.in> between the date 24.09.2019 to 15.10.2019 and technical bid will be opened at the office of DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW on 16-10-2019. The Tender fee can be submitted in shape of bank draft (Rs. 1000+18% GST extra) in favour of Principal MLB Medical College, Jhansi. All the condition, terms and requirement is mentioned in the tender document, will be considered the integral part of the notice. The Principal as aforesaid has sole discretion of accepting/rejecting any tender and reserves his right to cancel party or wholly. In case of legal dispute the legal jurisdiction shall be court of law at Jhansi.

UPID-144047 DATE- 20.09.2019
WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

Sd/-
Dr. Sadhna Kaushik
Principal

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद पीथमपुर, पीथमपुर (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/3736/2019

पीथमपुर, दिनांक: 12.09.2019

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

नगर पालिका परिषद पीथमपुर द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उपरोक्त कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। निविदा में खसमकुशल कुशल / अर्द्धकुशल, अनुपालन शर्तिका प्रदाय करने वाली सविश प्रोक्वाइर फर्म / कैंडिडेट / एजेंसी / निजी संस्थान प्राण ले सकते हैं। कर्मों का विवरण निम्नानुसार है।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन टेंडर नं.	कार्य का नाम एवं कार्यस्थल	अनु.	लागत	अमानत राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य
1	2019 UAD 51187_1	नगर पालिका परिषद पीथमपुर में समय-समय पर विभिन्न कार्यों के लिये निविदा प्रपत्र में उल्लेखित दायित्व हेतु प्रतिष्ठित कंपनी/फर्म/एजेंसियों को सुचीबद्ध करने के लिए खसम कुशल, कुशल, अर्द्धकुशल, अनुपालन, वाहन चालक, सफाई श्रमिक प्रदाय करने का कार्य (स्वच्छता विभाग)	2.00 करोड़	1.00 लाख		12,500/-

Sl.No	Description	Date & Time
1	Online Tender purchase start date	14.09.2019
2	Online Tender purchase end date	14.10.2019
3	Online Bid Submission End date:	14.10.2019
4	Physical Submission End date	15.10.2019
5	Online Tender Opening	16.10.2019

अग्र्यांश
नगर पालिका परिषद पीथमपुर

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद पीथमपुर

19 ECONOMY

PROBE INTO ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN RIGHTS SIGNED BY GOVT IN 2008-09

CBI seeks information on bilateral flying rights from Civil Aviation Ministry, DGCA

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has approached the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) seeking information about the set guidelines and procedures followed while negotiating for bilateral flying rights with other countries, senior government officials told *The Indian Express*.

The information sought is in connection with the investigation over alleged irregularities in signing of bilateral flying rights by the Indian government to West Asian countries in 2008-09.

One Civil Aviation Ministry official said that prior to 2012, there were no set guidelines and rules for the Ministry about negotiations of air service agreements (ASAs) with other countries. In 2012, the proce-

NO SET GUIDELINES AND RULES BEFORE 2012

■ One Civil Aviation Ministry official said that prior to 2012, there were no set guidelines and rules for the Ministry about negotiations of air service agreements (ASAs) with other countries

■ In 2012, the procedures were established, the official said, adding that they have been adhered to while preparing ASAs

■ Last month, the CBI had questioned former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel in connection with alleged corruption in giving profitable routes of Air India to airlines based in West Asia

■ The bilateral flying rights have their origin in the Chicago Convention 1944, and India has signed ASAs with 109 countries

dures were established, the official said, adding that they have been adhered to while preparing ASAs.

The official further indicated that while India did not have set procedures prior to 2012 for negotiating capacity entitlements for two countries, the same may be referred to by the investiga-

tion agency in order to establish lapses in procedures.

Last month, the CBI had questioned former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel in connection with alleged corruption in giving profitable routes of Air India to airlines based in West Asia.

It was also alleged that acts

of commission were made on extraneous considerations causing immense losses to Air India and pecuniary benefit to private domestic and foreign airlines, which were given unrestricted entry into India and major routes were given to them without reciprocal benefits to Air India.

These developments date back to 2008-09, during Patel's tenure as the Civil Aviation Minister. The CBI has also arrested corporate lobbyist Deepak Talwar on the basis of allegations that he received Rs 272 crore in bribes while acting as a middleman to illegally secure favourable flying rights.

In addition to seeking information from Civil Aviation Ministry, the investigation agency has also sought records of communications from DGCA, which has set the requirements for grant of operating authorisation to foreign airlines under bilateral ASAs. The sought

records, another official said, pertained to foreign airlines meeting the requirements prescribed by the DGCA to be able to fly to Indian airports.

The bilateral flying rights have their origin in the Chicago Convention 1944, and India has signed ASAs with 109 countries covering aspects relating to the number of flights, seats, landing points and code-share agreements. Utilisation of bilateral rights at any point of time differs from country to country and is subject to periodic renegotiation. India's new civil aviation policy, which was announced in 2016, called for liberalising the regime of bilateral rights leading to greater ease of doing business. As per the policy, whenever designated carriers of India have utilised 80 per cent of their capacity entitlements and seek additional capacity entitlements, the capacity entitlements are renegotiated.

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 14

THE CITY of London Corporation, the financial district of London, has proposed to collaborate with Indian companies to support the growth of the growing fintech and insurance sectors in India through innovation, technology and investments.

Peter Estlin, the 691st Lord Mayor of the City of London, who was in India last week to explore possible areas of co-operation, said, "We have the people, the talent and the capital to help create opportunities for Indian fintechs to grow and test their fintech products."

According to Estlin, financial technology, or fintech, is already a thriving sector in India.

"You already host over 3,000 in fintechs. Companies like PayTM have more than two million users. And according to Ernst & Young, India is a world leader in fintech adoption because of the support from both the government and regulators. But the UK can also support this thriving sector," he told *The Indian Express* in an interview.

"Our fintech sector employs more than 75,000 people nationwide and it continues to attract record investment. We have the people, the talent and the capital to help create opportunities for Indian fintechs to grow and test their fintech products," he added.

A team of City of London Corporation, which houses some of the leading global financial giants, held discussions with India insurance and banking sector players and regulators last week. While the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has invited applications for its Sandbox experiment to test and develop innovative products, the Reserve Bank of India is set to come out with its own Sandbox system shortly.

"We also have some of the friendliest regulation for fintechs globally. And since 2014, the Financial Conduct Authority has operated 'Project Innovate', with a regulation sandbox which has



"We have the people, the talent and the capital to help create opportunities for Indian fintechs to grow and test their fintech products"

PETER ESTLIN
LORD MAYOR, CITY OF LONDON

helped hundreds of firms from across the world get access to the market," Estlin said. "In fact, 90 per cent of the firms from their first round of applications have gone on to market, many of them finding it easier to get funding as a result of participating in the Sandbox, a safe and secure place to test their products," he said.

Over the years, the City of London has become the capital of capital, he said. "It is home to institutions like the Bank of England, Lloyds of London and the London Stock Exchange. And for over a century, India has been an important partner and friend. In fact, some of our most long-standing businesses in the city are Indian — with the State Bank of India having offices here since the turn of the century," Estlin said, adding, "Today, the London Stock Exchange is the leading centre for the issuance of Masala bonds."

The City of London Corporation — also known as the Square Mile and the world's most international financial centre — has also proposed to collaborate in the insurance sector, especially in agriculture, healthcare and cyber security. "India is a huge market... there is huge potential here," Estlin said.

The City of London Corporation has developed the largest cyber market in Europe, valued at four billion pounds and employing over 100,000 people across 8,000 companies.

"At present, one-third of all cyber insurance passes through London. And we are working closely with industry to ensure they can take advantage of this expertise. We work with a number of cyber accelerators to di-

rectly match 'need' with 'resource'," Estlin said.

"The City of London has the infrastructure, the talent and the market lead on cyber security and I would encourage you to see how we can help you become more secure," he added.

Cybercrime is estimated to cost around \$ 445 billion each year and financial institutions, which are becoming increasingly digitised, are particularly vulnerable. "That's why, in the City of London, we are working with the police the government and the private sector to increase cyber security. City of London Police, UK's national policing lead for fraud and cyber crime reporting, recently launched a new training programme called Cyber Griffin to ensure that a company's IT system is secure and the people who operate it are sufficiently skilled to spot signs of cyber-attacks," Estlin added.

The UK government is investing nearly two billion pounds as part of its National Cyber Security Strategy, to make the United Kingdom the safest place in the world to live and do business.

"We are partnering with them on the National Cyber Security Centre which creates a partnership between government and industry to increase the UK's cyber security," Estlin said.

UK's exports to India increased at the fastest rate among its top trading partners outside the European Union, with an almost 20 per cent hike in goods and services trade in 2018. "And I believe that the most innovative and dynamic part of this trading relationship is in our financial and professional services," Estlin said.

BRIEFLY

Central Bank of India to raise ₹1K cr via bonds

New Delhi: Central Bank of India has said it will raise up to Rs 1,000 crore through Basel-III complaint bonds, a BSE filing said. "The capital raising committee of the bank at their meeting held today approved the proposal to raise ... Basel III tier bonds without call option for an amount up to Rs 500 crore," the filing said. **PTI**

Merger of HCL's four arms with itself okayed

New Delhi: HCL Technologies on Saturday said its shareholders have approved the scheme for merger of four of its subsidiaries, including HCL Comnet, with itself. According to a statement, HCL Eagle Limited, HCL Comnet Limited, HCL Technologies Solutions Limited, Concept2Silicon Systems Private Limited and HCL Technologies Limited will be amalgamated. **PTI**

Production to resume soon: Aramco CEO

Riyadh: State-owned Saudi Aramco has emerged from attacks on its oil facilities "stronger than ever", CEO Amin Nasser told employees, adding full oil production would resume by the end of this month. The September 14 attacks on the Abqaiq and Khurais plants halved the crude output of the world's top oil exporter. **REUTERS**

‘Corporate tax cut positive but growth faces headwinds’

The cut in corporate tax raises the government's fiscal risks while headwinds from cyclical factors pose threat to near-term growth, Moody's Investors Service said

\$35 billion

Total pre-tax net income reported by rated non-financial companies in India for fiscal ended March 2019

\$3 billion

Expected savings for aforementioned companies, assuming their earnings remain unchanged for FY20

22%: Corporate tax rate announced by government, which was cut from 30 per cent, as part of stimulus measures to revive slowing economic growth

Revenue loss compensation unlikely: Moody's does not expect the corporate tax rate cut to revive growth to the extent that stronger tax buoyancy

compensates for the loss of revenue

Advantages of lower corporate tax rate:

■ Brings India closer to Asian peers
■ Support to business environment and competitiveness
■ Enables firms to generate higher post-tax incomes

Challenges posed due to lower corporate tax rate:

■ Financial stress
■ Weak corporate sentiment
■ Slow flow of credit in financial sector
■ Aggravates risks for government to meet fiscal deficit target

Commodity and IT services companies to benefit most from tax rate cut

‘Corporate tax cut to have minor impact on fiscal deficit’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 21

THE RS 1.45-lakh crore tax giveaway is unlikely to widen fiscal deficit much as the shortfall will be met through increased tax collections due to higher growth which the massive tax cuts are expected to achieve, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Saturday.

On Friday, the government had announced tax cuts for corporates by 10-12 percentage points, bringing down the effective corporate tax to 25.17 per cent inclusive of all cess and surcharges for domestic companies. The new tax rate will be applicable from April 1, involving a revenue loss of Rs 1.45 lakh crore this fiscal year.

"I don't think tax cuts will leave a gaping hole in the fiscal numbers. There will be some, which will be minor," Kumar

said at an 'India Today' event.

The Budget had estimated fiscal deficit at 3.3 per cent of the GDP for the current fiscal but many analysts have pegged it overshooting by at least 70 bps to 4.1 per cent as the quantum of the giveaways is worth 0.7 per cent of the GDP. Significantly, it can be noted that neither the finance minister or her senior cabinet colleagues who talked to the media after the announcement took questions on the shape of fiscal deficit numbers post the tax cuts.

Even, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das had lapped it up as growth boosting just a day before warning the government that it has no leeway to undertake any fiscally expansionary measures.

Kumar said direct and indirect tax revenues are expected to go up with growth picking up after these tax cuts.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

WITH THE government declining to cut Goods and Services Tax (GST) on automobiles, experts believe that the industry will have to take measures by itself to clear inventory as well as to boost demand, which has fallen to a multi-decade low in the country.

"The industry has to find its own balance to enhance demand," said Rajan Wadhwa, president, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), reacting to the GST Council's decision on Friday to not reduce the rate on vehicles from 28 per cent to 18 per cent — a long-standing demand of the industry.

As sales of automobiles across various segments witnessed their worst-ever fall in August, the industry has been demanding a cut in taxes, which

EXPLAINED Puts the onus on industry to turn around slowdown

THE GST Council, which met in Goa on Friday, did not cut tax rates on automobiles. The industry has been demanding a GST rate cut from the current 28 per cent to 18 per cent in order to revive sales.

SIAM president Rajan Wadhwa hopes that the festive season will help in ushering in positive consumer sentiments. His statement puts the onus on the industry to find a solution to the current slowdown. Domestic sales of passenger vehicles fell 31.6 per cent year-on-year to 1,96,524 units in August, according to the data released by SIAM.

would have brought down the net price of vehicles.

However, the GST Council, which met in Panaji, Goa on Friday, reduced the GST compensation cess only for passenger vehicles of sub-segment 10-13 seaters with length less than

four metres, which, according to industry estimates, accounts for less than 10 per cent of the total sales.

Even as discounts offered by dealers and manufacturers are at an all-time high, the absence of any relief from the govern-

ment also increases the possibility of customers getting higher discounts going forward, as companies need to liquidate the excess Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) astocks before April 1 next year.

From April 2020, the industry will move to BS-VI emission norms, which means selling vehicles fitted with BS-IV engines will not be allowed and, therefore, will become scrap.

Discounts by manufacturers, including Maruti Suzuki India, Honda Cars and Bajaj Auto, have been ranging from 5-15 per cent — a desperate move adopted by manufacturers who are looking to liquidate stocks that have piled up to above normal levels owing to poor demand.

Prayesh Jain, lead analyst-institutional equities, Yes Securities, said there is room for additional discounts by automobile manufacturers. "Current discounts are already at an all-

time high, which can possibly drive volumes in the ensuing festive season," Jain noted.

As the reduction in GST seemed difficult, the industry asked for temporary relief so that the demand in the festive season improves and inventory gets cleared.

Moreover, CEOs of many automakers stressed that more than the GST cut, it was important that the government clarifies its stand, as customers have been postponing purchases in anticipation of a better deal.

Guenter Butschek, chief executive officer and managing director, Tata Motors Worldwide, last month said, "If it is possible let us know, because the customer expectation this time is high and booking cancellations have been happening."

He further said that showrooms are empty because the customer is expecting a better deal post the GST cut. **FE**

‘Must work together to see how we can showcase India for attracting investment’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

UNION MINISTER Piyush Goyal on Saturday said the target of making India \$5-trillion economy is achievable and that all the stakeholders need to work together to meet this objective.

The Commerce and Industry Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman have expressed India's determination of achieving high growth by announcing the tax measures this week, which will boost India's competitiveness and bring India into the comparative league of countries that are competing for investments, according to a statement by FICCI.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of making India a \$5

While unveiling the India Pavilion design of the WORLD EXPO 2020 in Dubai, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said this was the time for the country to engage with every nation and grasp the opportunity that has come its way to become a superpower

trillion economy is completely doable if all the stakeholders come and work together," the minister said. Goyal, who on Saturday unveiled the India Pavilion design of the WORLD EXPO 2020 in Dubai, expressed optimism that India going ahead will have even lower taxes.

"We all must work together to see how we can showcase India for attracting investments," Goyal said, adding that the WORLD EXPO 2020 begin-

ning October next year is a big opportunity to achieve this objective.

He said this was the time for the country to engage with every nation and grasp the opportunity that has come its way to become a superpower.

The minister also thanked the Indian diaspora in the UAE for the excellent work they had done to support Modi develop a strong bonding between the two countries.

BRIDGE

Leading the [from a KJ9 (or AJ9) combination when the dummy to the right has the ten is called a "surrounding play". It can't lose a trick but it can gain when partner has the ace (or king) and declarer the queen.

DLr: East; Vul: Both

NORTH (Dummy)		EAST (You)	
♠ A Q 10 8 5	♥ 8	♠ 4 2	♥ A J 10 9 7 5 2
♦ 10 7 5	♣ A K J 4	♦ K J 9	♣ 2

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	dBL
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

OPENING LEAD: H3 You win the ace and then...?
THE WEST HAND: ♠ 7 6 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ A 8 6 2 ♣ 7 6 5 3
DECLARER'S HAND: ♠ K J 9 3 ♥ K 4 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ Q 10 9 8

Better stick that D on the table... right now! Given this dummy, you really need three diamond tricks to defeat the contract and if partner has the ace, and if you lead specifically the jack you will get them. What can declarer do? If declarer plays low you can continue with the king and a diamond. If declarer plays the queen, partner wins and returns a diamond through dummy's ten which you are hovering over with the K 9. Curtains for declarer. Notice that if you don't shift to a diamond, one of dummy's diamonds goes off on declarer's HK.

DLr: South; Vul: Neither

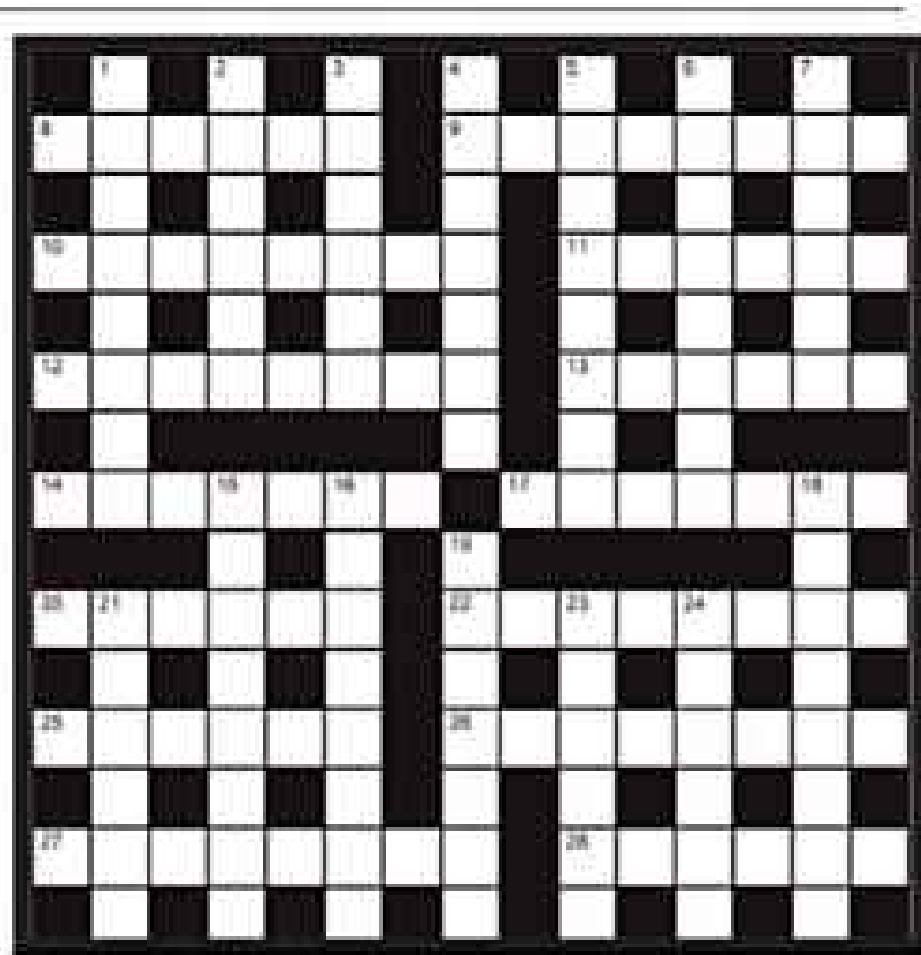
NORTH (dummy)		EAST (you)	
♠ A 7 4 3	♥ K Q 6 2	♠ 6 5	♥ J 8
♦ Q 7	♣ 9 8 7	♦ J 9 4 3	♣ K Q J 10 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	Pass	2 ♣	dBL
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

OPENING LEAD: CA
You signal with the king to show solidity and partner continues with the C3 to your ten. When you play the CQ, declarer follows and partner discards the two of diamonds. What now?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2235

- QUICK CLUES ACROSS**
- Adjust or harmonize (6)
 - Inn (8)
 - Stress (8)
 - Elicited, evinced or extracted (6)
 - Large quantity, a lot (4,4)
 - Sounds of bells (6)
 - Fatness; state of being overweight or fat (7)
 - Look thus to regard with distrust (7)
 - Looking glass (6)
 - Achieved, did or consummated (8)
 - Humane or benevolent (6)
 - Control; administer (8)
 - Passions or opinions (8)
 - Motivation (6)



- DOWN:**
- Nuclear weapon (4,4)
 - Persuaded, pressed or urged (6)
 - Renter - "Sees El" anagram? (6)
 - High-pitched sound (7)
 - Flavoured fluids (8)
 - Young maiden or miss in Spanish (8)
 - European country (6)
 - Have support on each side (8)
 - Being slow in acting or doing (8)
 - Construction, erection or establishing (8)
 - Recuperation through sleep (3-4)
 - Purple flowers (as by Van Gogh) (6)
 - ___ out : calculate or deduce? (6)
 - Wine store (6)

- Not one of the favourites, is not given a little gift (8)
- Retreat from the fray in advance on the edge of town (6)
- Non-treat participants keep chattering (6,2)
- Canvass for a slice of bread (8)
- Catch ten out with a quick blow (6)
- Swarm endlessly over all that's dry (8)
- Folds over the furrow and pinches the vegetables (7)
- Puts up with soldiers being lethargic (6)
- Headgear fitter for recycling (6)
- Fairly attractive (6)

- CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS**
- Come back quickly after making an impact (6)
 - Young creature having had twelve months on the heather (8)
 - A good line in stock? (8)
 - Pretext for offering pardon (6)
 - Carelessly ruins Neg, while making positive (8)
 - A Scot is back with publicity for nymphs legendary girl making Ian sad (6)
 - Talks on loudly though the taxi is outside (7)
 - Gives one's word in difficult situations (7)
 - Is there nothing at the counter to equalise pressure? (6)

- DOWN**
- May inherit firm myself was I not crooked (4,4)
 - Chains it up, hiding at the original place (2,4)
 - NY heir requiring change for a sovereign, but which one? (5,1)
 - Combined action initiating some young nincompoops, even really greedy yahoos (7)
 - Change cooking utensil to become fatherly (8)
 - Not working very hard when there's a quarter missing (8)
 - Not accustomed to seeing us in the nude possibly (6)
 - It's extended, every leap-year (8)
 - Garden construction not necessarily for dippers and divers? (8)

Solutions to 2234

QUICK CLUES Across: 8 Jaunty, 9 End early, 10 Not a soul, 11 Lodges, 12 Racoon, 13 Haircuts, 15 Variety, 17 Reflect, 20 Speedway, 22 Essence, 23 Prefer, 25 Turnover, 26 Tone-deaf, 27 Retoss. **Down:** 1 Panorama, 2 Antagonize, 3 Tycoon, 4 Healthy, 5 Adelaide, 6 Band, 7 Eldest, 14 Calls forth, 16 Thwarted, 18 Converse, 19 Mystify, 21 Pardon, 22 Errors, 24 Flee. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 8 Scales, 9 Examines, 10 Dumb-bell, 11 Twelve, 12 Fluent, 13 Waltzing, 15 Aspired, 17 Meaning, 20 Redgrave, 22 Claims, 23 Chichi, 25 Property, 26 Almoners, 27 Untidy, 28 Scruples, 2 Blubbering, 3 Ascent, 4 Bellows, 5 Bastille, 6 Fine, 7 Heaven, 14 Zend Avesta, 16 Examiner, 18 Nematode, 19 Bedpost, 21 Exhale, 22 Chorus, 24 Cook.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday September 22
The positive development seems to be your will to take decisions that once seemed beyond you. The most important factor is the need for dialogue.

Monday September 23
Life-changing invitations are around the corner. Rather than looking at what is about to happen, it makes more sense to point out that you can take your emotions and relationships in a new direction.

Tuesday September 24
There's a massive dose of determination in the air. That's excellent if life is hassle-free. But if you have various challenges to overcome then you may pick up the wrong end of the stick.

Wednesday September 25
The Moon's motions are imaginative and you're with a chance of making a dream come true. But you'll learn that when wishes come to pass, there are surprises.

Thursday September 26
You're on the up. Discipline and hard work, that's what today's about. But, before you despair, remember, you can be disciplined about achieving your pleasurable goals.

Friday September 27
A restricted planetary pattern gives way to something slightly looser, just a little more flexible. And that should give you the leeway to break out of a tight spot.

Saturday September 28
You should have a great start to your new astrological cycle. You may be able to get loved ones to do things your way. Make sure there's something in it for them, though.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.
If you can __ it, you can __ it. - Walt Disney (5,...2)

HTTAE	ELIIDD
<div></div>	<div></div>
PAROL	LOSTYM
<div></div>	<div></div>

Answer: If you can dream it, you can do it. - Walt Disney
SOLUTION: THETA, POLAR, IODIDE, MOSTLY

SUDOKU 3977

Difficulty Level 2s
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 3976

7	6		2		3	5		
9	7	4	2					
5	7	4	2	8	1			
	4			7				
1	6	9	8	2	5			
8	5	6	7					
4	7		1		9	2		

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, NAGPUR

e-Tender Notice
(e-Tender No. AIIMS-NAG/Admin/Security Services/2019-20/04 Dt. 21/09/19)

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Nagpur, Maharashtra, an apex healthcare Institute being established by Act of Parliament of India under aegis of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, invites online bids in two bid system for hiring of security services at AIIMS Nagpur. The prospective / likely suppliers may submit their bid online at CPPP website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Tender documents may be downloaded for reference from Institute's web site [www.aiimsnagpur.edu.in](http://aiimsnagpur.edu.in) and CPPP site <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. **Director AIIMS, Nagpur**

ASSAM SKILL DEVELOPMENT MISSION
5th Floor, Katabari, DPS Road, NH-37
Garchuk, Guwahati - 781035

TENDER NOTICE
Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed agencies having adequate experience in implementing Technical Intern Training Program at North East Skill Centre (NESC), Assam Skill Development Mission, Garchuk, Guwahati.
Submission of bid shall be through e-procurement portal www.assamtenders.gov.in.
Earnest Money Deposit: ₹5,00,000/- Bid Document Fees: ₹5000/-
For details please visit www.assamtenders.gov.in / www.asdm.assam.gov.in or contact ASDM office at 5th Floor, Katabari, DPS Road, Garchuk, Guwahati. E-mail: missiondirector.asdm@gmail.com.
The last date for submission of bids is 14th October 2019 till 02:00 pm.
Sd/- Mission Director, ASDM

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (SC) QUALITY CONTROL DIVISION, DAM SITE, DHURWA, RANCHI, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Letter No:- 470 Dated:- 20-09-2019
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE- 01

All Bidders are hereby announced that Corrigendum for the tender Invited for e-Procurement e-tender Notice No WRD/QCD,RANCHI/02/2019-20 dated 03-09-2019, (PR 216078 Irrigation) (9-20) D, for Construction of 5th and 6th floor of Jal Bhawan, Doranda, Dist:- Ranchi is as under.

- For Item No 17.1, 17.2, 17.3 and 17.4 of the B.O.Q, the Unit should be read as "M.T." (Metric tone) in place of "CUM" (cubic meter)
- For Item No 18.1 and 18.02 of the B.O.Q, the Unit should be read as "M.T." (Metric tone) in place of "CUM" (cubic meter)
- Serial No 149 and 188 are missing in the B.O.Q as Serial No 148 jumped to 150 and Serial No 187 jumped to 189. Actually Serial No 149 and 188 do not exist.
- The Language for item No 62 should be read as following instead of Language up loaded in the B.O.Q.
" Providing and fixing thermal insulation with resin bonded fibre glass wool conforming to IS: 8183 density 16kg/m³, 50mm thick wrapped in 200G virgin Polythene bags placed over existing false ceiling and held in position by criss crossing G.I wire."
- All the other material of tender document and B.O.Q will remain unchanged.

Dy Director (sc) Quality Control division, Dam Site, Dhurwa, Ranchi.
PR 217665 (Water Resource)19-20WD
निविदा संख्या का संशोधन की कृपया ध्यान दें :- उक्त संशोधन मात्र बाकी बाकी न करें

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR (NEAR MAHIPALPUR) DELHI CANTT-10
TELE NO - 011- 26153559

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
EOI is solicited from professional companies of Architects interested in providing their consultancy services for designing, preparation of estimates and supervision of the construction of classroom may apply to Army Public School, Shankar Vihar as per EOI form available at school counter against draft/cash of ₹ 1000/-. Last date for submission of form is 07 Oct 2019.
Chairman

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रॉकी

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- RDD/SD/RANCHI/04/2019-20 पीठांतर संख्या 216415 (Rural Development 2019-20) में एकमात्र की खराबों को कलस्वरूप निम्नांकित संशोधन किया जाता है:-

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि- दिनांक 25.09.19
- ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया की तिथि एवं समय- दिनांक 28.09.19 से दिनांक 01.10.19 के अंतराल 5:00 बजे तक।
- ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रॉकी / शुद्ध अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, एडवोकेट पीठ बनारस, मुंबई, रॉकी में निविदा शुल्क, अर्पण की तारीख एवं Bank Credit Certificate जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक 04.10.2019 अंतराल 05:00 बजे तक।
- एकमात्र की खराबों की तिथि एवं समय- दिनांक 02.10.19 अंतराल 2:00 बजे।
- योजना का प्रावधानित बट्टी ₹ 2,35,35,100.00 से बढ़ाया जाए ₹ 3,37,04,350.00 बनाया जायेगा।
- निविदा की सेवा रॉकी प्रमाणित होगी। ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रॉकी

PR217654 (Rural Development)19-20*DI (निविदा शुल्क नहीं बदलें की शर्त को ध्यान दें)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTANCY SERVICES)
HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (INDIA)

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services for preparation of Urban Roads Improvement Plan for all District Head Quarters of Himachal Pradesh except Kinnaur and Lahaul- Spiti.
For above cited assignment, the H.P Public Works Department invites Expression of Interest from the Consultant on the terms and condition set forth in the REOI.
Consultant will be selected on the basis of QCBS method. The detailed Request for Expression of Interest for the proposed assignment along with scope of work shall be made available on the HPRIDC website at the following link w.e.f. 25.09.2019 <http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/>
All future corrigendums / addendums will also be made available on the departmental website on the above link.
Expressions of interest must be submitted during office hours on or before (in person, or by post) 25.10.2019, 1500 hours (IST) to the address below.

Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director State Road Project, HPRIDC Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002(H.P)
Tel:-91-177-2627602
Fax:- +91-177-2620663
E-mail: pdsrp-hp@nic.in

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTANCY SERVICES)
HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (INDIA)

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services for preparation of Urban Roads Improvement Plan for all District Head Quarters of Himachal Pradesh except Kinnaur and Lahaul- Spiti.
For above cited assignment, the H.P Public Works Department invites Expression of Interest from the Consultant on the terms and condition set forth in the REOI.
Consultant will be selected on the basis of QCBS method. The detailed Request for Expression of Interest for the proposed assignment along with scope of work shall be made available on the HPRIDC website at the following link w.e.f. 25.09.2019 <http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/>
All future corrigendums / addendums will also be made available on the departmental website on the above link.
Expressions of interest must be submitted during office hours on or before (in person, or by post) 25.10.2019, 1500 hours (IST) to the address below.

Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director State Road Project, HPRIDC Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002(H.P)
Tel:-91-177-2627602
Fax:- +91-177-2620663, E-mail: pdsrp-hp@nic.in

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
3rd floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No:- +91-651-2225878
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail jd-udco@nic.in

NTT No: JUDCO/PMAY/Vertical-HQ/2019/312 Dated:- 21.09.2019 e-procurement Tender Notice

1.	Name of the work:	(Construction (including structural design) of 644 dwelling units (or 2 number of C-8 blocks of 322 DUs each) at Birsagar, Jamshedpur under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) under Package IX-B.)
2.	Scope of Work	Scope of work include Architectural Planning & Design, Engineering, Procurement, preparation of detailed structural design & drawing, project execution & construction, after obtaining all approvals from municipal/statutory bodies including internal water supply and sanitation, electrification work & civil water harvesting at Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban Birsagar, Jamshedpur Package IX-B on EPC basis).
3.	Mode of Bid Submission	E-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
4.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 44,00,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Four Crores Only)
5.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	For Item No 17.1, 17.2, 17.3 and 17.4 of the B.O.Q, the Unit should be read as "M.T." (Metric tone) in place of "CUM" (cubic meter)
6.	Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website	21.09.2019 17:00 Hrs
7.	Last Date / Time of submission of pre-bid queries	25.09.2019 11:00 Hrs
8.	Date of Pre-bid meeting	28.09.2019 11:00 Hrs
9.	Last Date / Time of Bid Submission	01.10.2019 17:00 Hrs
10.	Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	01.10.2019 17:00 Hrs
11.	Date of Bid Opening	01.10.2019 17:30 Hrs
12.	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, 3rd floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi - 834001
13.	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 651 222 5878

Note: Only e-Tenders shall be accepted.
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website and can be seen on the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Sd/- Project Director (Technical) JUDCO Limited, Ranchi
PR 217664 (Urban Development and Housing)19-20HD

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (DEMS)-ODF
14th Floor, DR. SPM Civic Centre, Minto Road, New Delhi-110002
NTT No: EE(DEMS)-ODF/2019-20RFP-01 Dated: 19.09.2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Last Date of issue/download of RFP documents : 09.10.2019 upto 2:00 PM, Submission of queries by the prospective Bidders : 11.10.2019 upto 3:00 PM, Pre-Bid meeting : 14.10.2019, at 3:00 PM, Last Date of Submission/ receiving the RFP document : 16.10.2019 upto 3:00 PM, Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 16.10.2019 at 3:30 PM

FOR DOWNLOAD MANUAL AND INFORMATION OF THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PLEASE REFER www.mcndelhi.gov.in & <http://mcdetenders.com>

Executive Engineer (DEMS)-ODF North DMC, on behalf of the Commissioner, North DMC invites tenders on Double Bid system viz. (i) Technical Bid and (ii) Financial Bid, from the experienced agencies/organizations in the form of a registered NGOs, proprietorship/partnership firms, companies registered under Companies Act, Joint Venture, who essentially fulfill requisite "Eligibility Criteria", for the under mentioned work.

Name of work : OPERATION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE (FREE USER CHARGE BASIS SCHEME) OF COMMUNITY TOILET COMPLEX(S) (13 Groups) IN ALL SIX ZONES UNDER JURISDICTION OF NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Group No.	Estimate Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)
01 [City-SP Zone]	6088517.00	121400.00
02 [City-SP Zone]	6849130.00	137000.00
03 [City-SP Zone]	6426255.00	128600.00
04 [Karol Bagh Zone]	5765242.00	114200.00
05 [Karol Bagh Zone]	5448704.00	109000.00
06 [Civil Line Zone]	7695143.00	154000.00
07 [Civil Line Zone]	7357668.00	147200.00
08 [Narela Zone]	7849943.00	157000.00
09 [Narela Zone]	9789047.00	196000.00
10 [Narela Zone]	9568309.00	191400.00
11 [Narela Zone]	10491261.00	209800.00
12 [Narela Zone]	8003633.00	160100.00
13 [Kirti Puram & Rohini Zone]	8852033.00	179100.00

Cost of Tender document : Rs.500/- (Non-refundable)
The amendments/clarifications, if any, to the document will also be available on the above website only. The last date of submission of the bid document is 18.10.2019 till 15:00 Hrs (IST). The technical bids should be opened on 18.10.2019 at 15:30 Hrs (IST) in the office of Superintending Engineer (QC), 14th floor, E-1 Block, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, New Delhi-110002 in the presence of the representatives of the bidders, if any.
RQ No. 91/DP/NorthDMC/2019-20 Executive Engineer (DEMS)-ODF

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR
Tel- 0663-2548268, E-mail [id serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com](mailto:serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com)

Bid Identification No. Road tender Online- RWCSBP- 09 No: 1702 Dated: 20.09.2019

The Superintending Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for 01 (one) no of Road work under State Plan Improvement to existing R.D. Road.

Sl No	Name of work	Approximate estimated cost put to tender excluding of GST in lakhs (Figure appearing in DTGN is final)	Concerned E.E. with Headquarters	Security Amount (in lakhs.) (On-line) (Figure appearing in DTGN is final)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.) (On-line)	Class of bidder	Period of Completion (including rainy, summer & festival)
1	Improvement of Ganihapati to Sealbahati road under State Plan improvement to Existing RD road for the year 2019-20 in the district of Bargarh/ Mode of submission of tender	108.00	Executive Engineer Rural, Works Division Padampur	1.08	10,000/- (On-line)	B & A	06(Six) calendar months

Tender should be submitted only online in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>)

Summary of key dates are provided below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last date & time for seeking clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender		
		From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer Rural, Works Circle, Sambalpur	Road Tender Online- RWCSBP-09	30.09.2019 From 11:00 A.M.	21.10.2019 Up to 4:00 P.M.	19.10.2019 Up to 4:00 P.M.	22.10.2019 At 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

* Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>)
* Subsequent modification/corrigendum/Addendum if required shall appear in website only.
* The amount put to bid is exclusive of GST.

Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur

250911/11/0005/1920

Godfather without a cigar

Unsmiling, mean and measured, Andy Roberts is gruff as he always has been. Except when he talks of pure fast bowlers and sees them crank up hostile pace — men like Bumrah and Archer, the latest entrants to the hallowed brethren. SANDIP G gets the legendary pacer talking and smiling

If you draw a family chart of the greatest West Indies fast bowlers, Andy Roberts will be right at the top of it. The patriarch. The unsmiling Godfather, Vito Corleone without a cigar. There are several crumpled black and white photographs of Roberts standing expressionless, with stiff eyes offset by a menacing beard in his follow-through, the batsmen grimacing and wincing in pain on the ground. It built the myth of Roberts being a callous bowler, the bouncer he dispenses a facial-feature-disfiguring, jaw-splintering weapon, not a wicket-taking tool. "It's rubbish," he says, dismissively.

"Photographs do lie," he says. "They miss the frame before. It would show you I was looking at the batsman, seeing if he was okay. If he was fine, I would walk back. Why should you keep looking at him? I was out there to take wickets, not make friends. That I would after the match is over."

But he rarely smiled, and if so reluctantly, hardly spoke, and if so out of necessity. He was seemingly gruff, unlike the archetypal Caribbean cricketer of the era, gamely as ever for a good joke or a drink. "Why should I? Am I watching a circus or a comedy show? Fast bowling is a serious business and I am very serious when I am bowling," he quips. He, though, is more generous with smiles these days. That's often when he sees young fast bowlers in action. "It fills me with joy, seeing genuine fast bowlers go about their business these days. They're rare, but there are some exciting ones. Like Jasprit Bumrah. He thrills me like few other bowlers these days," he says.

It's not just Bumrah's unnerving pace or his deceptive variations that excites Roberts. But his bouncer, hurled with pinpoint vertical accuracy—varying somewhere between throat and lower rib—demonstrating it is still possible to intimidate without transgressing this addition to the law.

"The bouncer," he utters as if he is uttering a magic word. "Lovely bouncer, not too short, not too high, not too far from the body, not too much into his body either. That's how a bouncer should be," he notices, his hawkish eyes glowing with a fraternal pride.

The bouncer, of course, is part of the Roberts' myth. He's a bouncer connoisseur of sorts—a bowler with a good bouncer gets his stamp of approval.

"I love watching good bouncers. The other day I saw Jofra (Archer) bowl one at Steve Smith (in the second Ashes Test). He knocked him over. That was a brute. The perfect bouncer, I would say. I am looking forward to watching him for real," he says, winking.

He, though, bounces out another perception of his bowling, that his bouncers' intention was to harm batsmen. "Never in my life. I am a fast bowler and my only intention was to get a wicket somehow. If the batsmen got hit, it was his fault. The fault of his technique. Not mine. I have bowled bouncers to Sunny and Vishy, but they'd never got hit. They never wore helmets either. Why? They had good technique. Franky, I got no thrill from seeing blood and bruises. Besides I didn't want to expend all those energies just trying to hit a batsman," he points out.

The bouncer, though, was an insignia of West Indies fast bowling supremacy at their intimidating peak.

The bouncer myth and its deconstruction recurs. It's widely-storied that he had two types of bouncers. The first could be pulled or hooked if the batsman was skilful but the second, which usually trails it, was faster and straighter, delivered cross-seam,

and thus skidding on that much quicker. One of the latter variety felled Colin Cowdrey and knocked out Ian Botham's tooth.

"I remember those right in front of my eyes, but it wasn't a double bluff, as some would say. It was a case of me experimenting with different speeds, trajectories, release points, wrist and seam positions. Only experiments I believe will bring evolution," he says.

There's another existential reason, he admits. "I never liked batsmen hooking me. It made me angry," he says, staring into the vast, empty expanse of the stadium.

Roberts, thus, was the closest to a bowling alchemist, a pure fast-bowling intelligentsia. No wonder then that his close friend and bowling partner Michael Holding once called him the deepest thinker of the game. "Andy was always a good thinker. We used to room together almost always and he helped me a lot when I first came into the team. He was always a very serious cricketer. Always looking and probing for weaknesses," Holding had said.

It was a bond that took off when ferrying drinks for their respective teams in a Shell Shield match in Sabina Park. "We always talked about bowling and nothing else back then. It doesn't mean that we didn't talk anything else, but fast bowling was our favourite topic of discussion. Some cricketers say they don't talk cricket out of the stadium. But we were always talking and thinking about the game. It was the bond that made us friends for life."

They shared a room on tours, and it was in those rooms that they planned and plotted wickets, "because we didn't have the luxury of video replays and had to rely on just memory."

Endearingly, Holding still credits Roberts for his first Test wicket. Max Walker c Richards b Holding. "He was a bit down because he had bowled really fast in Brisbane and didn't get a wicket," Roberts says. "A few catches were dropped and he was feeling restless. So I told him to put every bit of energy into one ball, preferably a short ball on Max Walker's off stump. He would look to defend away from the body and would get caught at gully."

It panned out exactly as Roberts had planned, and Holding had executed. Beyond the obvious camaraderie, it showed the visualisation that went into his bowling. "I would always be studying the batsman and made notes of them. I don't know if I would have done the same in this era of technology. But back then it was all in the mind," he says.

But unlike Holding, Roberts didn't have a huge friend circle. Holding was articulate, Roberts was reticent, and reticence was often misinterpreted and portrayed as an aloof man. A story goes that he and Gordon Greenidge shared a flat in London but hardly spoke.

"We were good friends, but I was not someone who always went out or built a social circle. I always preserved my private space," he says.

Roberts was a teetotaler too—but it was not because he always drank fruit juice but because before playing first-class cricket, he worked as a sales manager for a local fruit beverage company. "You need money man, and those days you hardly got anything playing club cricket. And I was not too keen on academics. So I did a part-time job with a company in Antigua," he says.

He returns to the bouncer topic. "The slower bouncer wasn't bowled as what people call these days a slower ball. It was still around 85 mph. But the quicker one



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

If the batsmen got hit, it was his fault. The fault of his technique. Not mine. I have bowled bouncers to Sunny and Vishy, but they'd never got hit. They never wore helmets either. Why? They had good technique."

"I love watching good bouncers. The other day I saw Jofra (Archer) bowl one at Steve Smith (in the second Ashes Test). He knocked him over. That was a brute. The perfect bouncer, I would say. I am looking forward to watching him for real."

used to be around 90 miles or more. I would rather call the second ball as quicker than (devalue) the first as the slower ball. Yes, I used to bowl at different speeds. But never a slower ball," he firmly clarifies. The myth about Roberts just keeps getting larger.



A village fast bowler like his grandfather. It's all Roberts wanted to be while growing up in the idyllic countryside of Urlings, a fishing harbour with a population of a few thousands. His aspiration was coloured by stories of his grandfather, a terrorising fast bowler who broke a few stumps every day. His uncle, he says, was a good bowler him-

self, before he shifted to the UK, as was common those days. His mother didn't want him to play the game — she wanted him to study — but the harder she tried to pull him away from the game, the more attached to the game he became.

There was no escaping the lurking shadow of his grandfather. "I saw people respecting him, narrating stories of his bowling. So hearing all that, I thought I wanted to be like him. Also, in the village, it was a proud thing to be a good fast bowler. People respect you if you are a good man. But they respected you even more if you were a fast bowler. So right from my childhood, my ambition was to be the best fast bowler in the village," Roberts recollects.

His ambition was limited not only because he was still a child then but also because there didn't exist the concept of a nation. Antigua was still under British rule and the Leeward and Windward Islands hadn't formed a team. Competitive cricket was only played between parishes and was predominantly a white man's game. But the allure of the game throbbed, filling up lazy countryside evenings. Sometimes wind-ball cricket. Sometimes with shaven tennis balls. With whatever we got to bowl with. But it was big, a daily carnival and competitive. The quality was high and several of them had the ability to play international cricket," he says.

It's where Roberts learned the essence of fast bowling—for there were no coaches,

other than some of the old-timers who still hung around, who gave a tip or two. Most of his art, thus, was self-learned, even after he became an international bowler.

"I had just six months of coaching when I and Viv went to the Alf Gover School (in Wandsworth, south London). I didn't learn much about technique there. But I learned that you never really stop learning about fast bowling. I realised I need to work on a few basics. He also taught me more about control and the theory of bowling more side-on. I was very open-chested in those days."

Later, during his stint with Hampshire, when the idea of a fearsome pace quartet had not even germinated, he read in a newspaper about Fred Trueman's observation that if he could keep the arm higher during release, he could develop an out-swinger, the one weapon that was not in his armoury.

"I had never thought about it until I read it. I thought I had enough in my bag. But the out-swinger not only made me a better bowler but kept me in the game even after I had to reduce my pace towards the end of my career. There are several such instances in my career when I kept my eyes and ears open to pick little things about my bowling. It has been my way since I first touched the leather ball," Roberts says.

The first time he touched a leather ball was when he was around 15. "It was heavy. But I liked the feel of it. Nothing looks as

beautiful as a shining new ball under the sun. You touch it and you feel you are someone special. You get a kind of swagger. It must be the same feeling when a policeman gets a gun," he says.

It took Roberts several years to master the little devil, as he calls it. But having played with different balls turned out to be beneficial in hindsight. "If you become adaptive at a young age, you remain adaptive throughout your life, to different situations and circumstances. Several things I did with the cricket ball went back to the wind-ball and tennis-ball games. Like my pace — with the tennis ball, you have to put every ounce of energy into the ball. With the wind-ball, which never bounced much, you had to really hit the ground hard to make it bounce. And in tennis-ball cricket, you don't look to bowl every ball quick. A lot of deliveries of average speed and then a quick one. It surprised batsmen. I have used a lot of that in Test cricket," he says.

When he was not playing cricket, Roberts was with his father and uncles harbour-fishing. He still does on Sundays. After retiring, he bought two fishing boats catching snapper in the cobalt blue waters between Antigua and Barbuda. "Who told you this story? Yeah fishing, like cricket, was a passion. I still do," he says. "For the good part of my cricketering career, I couldn't go fishing. So this was it, my time to go to the roots." The batsmen once fled from him, now it's the turn of the fish.

Godfather, minus the cigar

Unsmiling, mean and measured, Andy Roberts is gruff as he always has been. Except when he talks of pure fast bowlers and sees them crank up hostile pace — men like Bumrah and Archer, the latest entrants to the hallowed brethren. SANDIP G gets the legendary pacer talking and smiling

If you draw a family chart of the greatest West Indies fast bowlers, Andy Roberts will be right at the top of it. The patriarch. The unsmiling Godfather, Vito Corleone without a cigar. There are several crumpled black and white photographs of Roberts standing expressionless, with stiff eyes offset by a menacing beard in his follow-through, the batsmen grimacing and wincing in pain on the ground. It built the myth of Roberts being a callous bowler, the bouncer he dispenses a facial-feature-disfiguring, jaw-splintering weapon, not a wicket-taking tool. "It's rubbish," he says, dismissively.

"Photographs do lie," he says. "They miss the frame before. It would show you I was looking at the batsman, seeing if he was okay. If he was fine, I would walk back. Why should you keep looking at him? I was out there to take wickets, not make friends. That I would after the match is over."

But he rarely smiled, and if so reluctantly, hardly spoke, and if so out of necessity. He was seemingly gruff, unlike the archetypal Caribbean cricketer of the era, gamely as ever for a good joke or a drink. "Why should I? Am I watching a circus or a comedy show? Fast bowling is a serious business and I am very serious when I am bowling," he quips. He, though, is more generous with smiles these days. That's often when he sees young fast bowlers in action. "It fills me with joy, seeing genuine fast bowlers go about their business these days. They're rare, but there are some exciting ones. Like Jasprit Bumrah. He thrills me like few other bowlers these days," he says.

It's not just Bumrah's unnerving pace or his deceptive variations that excites Roberts. But his bouncer, hurled with pinpoint vertical accuracy—varying somewhere between throat and lower rib—demonstrating it is still possible to intimidate without transgressing this addition to the law.

"The bouncer," he utters as if he is uttering a magic word. "Lovely bouncer, not too short, not too high, not too far from the body, not too much into his body either. That's how a bouncer should be," he notices, his hawkish eyes glowing with a fraternal pride.

The bouncer, of course, is part of the Roberts' myth. He's a bouncer connoisseur of sorts—a bowler with a good bouncer gets his stamp of approval.

"I love watching good bouncers. The other day I saw Jofra (Archer) bowl one at Steve Smith (in the second Ashes Test). He knocked him over. That was a brute. The perfect bouncer, I would say. I am looking forward to watching him for real," he says, winking.

He, though, bounces out another perception of his bowling, that his bouncers' intention was to harm batsmen. "Never in my life. I am a fast bowler and my only intention was to get a wicket somehow. If the batsmen got hit, it was his fault. The fault of his technique. Not mine. I have bowled bouncers to Sunny and Vishy, but they'd never got hit. They never wore helmets either. Why? They had good technique. Franky, I got no thrill from seeing blood and bruises. Besides I didn't want to expend all those energies just trying to hit a batsman," he points out.

The bouncer, though, was an insignia of West Indies fast bowling supremacy at their intimidating peak.

The bouncer myth and its deconstruction recurs. It's widely-storied that he had two types of bouncers. The first could be pulled or hooked if the batsman was skilful but the second, which usually trails it, was faster and straighter, delivered cross-seam,

and thus skidding on that much quicker. One of the latter variety felled Colin Cowdrey and knocked out Ian Botham's tooth.

"I remember those right in front of my eyes, but it wasn't a double bluff, as some would say. It was a case of me experimenting with different speeds, trajectories, release points, wrist and seam positions. Only experiments I believe will bring evolution," he says.

There's another existential reason, he admits. "I never liked batsmen hooking me. It made me angry," he says, staring into the vast, empty expanse of the stadium.

Roberts, thus, was the closest to a bowling alchemist, a pure fast-bowling intelligentsia. No wonder then that his close friend and bowling partner Michael Holding once called him the deepest thinker of the game. "Andy was always a good thinker. We used to room together almost always and he helped me a lot when I first came into the team. He was always a very serious cricketer. Always looking and probing for weaknesses," Holding had said.

It was a bond that took off when ferrying drinks for their respective teams in a Shell Shield match in Sabina Park. "We always talked about bowling and nothing else back then. It doesn't mean that we didn't talk anything else, but fast bowling was our favourite topic of discussion. Some cricketers say they don't talk cricket out of the stadium. But we were always talking and thinking about the game. It was the bond that made us friends for life."

They shared a room on tours, and it was in those rooms that they planned and plotted wickets, "because we didn't have the luxury of video replays and had to rely on just memory."

Endearingly, Holding still credits Roberts for his first Test wicket. Max Walker c Richards b Holding. "He was a bit down because he had bowled really fast in Brisbane and didn't get a wicket," Roberts says. "A few catches were dropped and he was feeling restless. So I told him to put every bit of energy into one ball, preferably a short ball on Max Walker's off stump. He would look to defend away from the body and would get caught at gully."

It panned out exactly as Roberts had planned, and Holding had executed. Beyond the obvious camaraderie, it showed the visualisation that went into his bowling. "I would always be studying the batsman and made notes of them. I don't know if I would have done the same in this era of technology. But back then it was all in the mind," he says.

But unlike Holding, Roberts didn't have a huge friend circle. Holding was articulate, Roberts was reticent, and reticence was often misinterpreted and portrayed as an aloof man. A story goes that he and Gordon Greenidge shared a flat in London but hardly spoke.

"We were good friends, but I was not someone who always went out or built a social circle. I always preserved my private space," he says.

Roberts was a teetotaler too—but it was not because he always drank fruit juice but because before playing first-class cricket, he worked as a sales manager for a local fruit beverage company. "You need money man, and those days you hardly got anything playing club cricket. And I was not too keen on academics. So I did a part-time job with a company in Antigua," he says.

He returns to the bouncer topic. "The slower bouncer wasn't bowled as what people call these days a slower ball. It was still around 85 mph. But the quicker one



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

If the batsmen got hit, it was his fault. The fault of his technique. Not mine. I have bowled bouncers to Sunny and Vishy, but they'd never got hit. They never wore helmets either. Why? They had good technique."

"I love watching good bouncers. The other day I saw Jofra (Archer) bowl one at Steve Smith (in the second Ashes Test). He knocked him over. That was a brute. The perfect bouncer, I would say. I am looking forward to watching him for real."

used to be around 90 miles or more. I would rather call the second ball as quicker than (devalue) the first as the slower ball. Yes, I used to bowl at different speeds. But never a slower ball," he firmly clarifies. The myth about Roberts just keeps getting larger.



A village fast bowler like his grandfather. It's all Roberts wanted to be while growing up in the idyllic countryside of Urlings, a fishing harbour with a population of a few thousands. His aspiration was coloured by stories of his grandfather, a terrorising fast bowler who broke a few stumps every day. His uncle, he says, was a good bowler him-

self, before he shifted to the UK, as was common those days. His mother didn't want him to play the game — she wanted him to study — but the harder she tried to pull him away from the game, the more attached to the game he became.

There was no escaping the lurking shadow of his grandfather. "I saw people respecting him, narrating stories of his bowling. So hearing all that, I thought I wanted to be like him. Also, in the village, it was a proud thing to be a good fast bowler. People respect you if you are a good man. But they respected you even more if you were a fast bowler. So right from my childhood, my ambition was to be the best fast bowler in the village," Roberts recollects.

His ambition was limited not only because he was still a child then but also because there didn't exist the concept of a nation. Antigua was still under British rule and the Leeward and Windward Islands hadn't formed a team. Competitive cricket was only played between parishes and was predominantly a white man's game. But the allure of the game throbbed, filling up lazy countryside evenings. Sometimes wind-ball cricket. Sometimes with shaven tennis balls. With whatever we got to bowl with. But it was big, a daily carnival and competitive. The quality was high and several of them had the ability to play international cricket," he says.

It's where Roberts learned the essence of fast bowling—for there were no coaches,

other than some of the old-timers who still hung around, who gave a tip or two. Most of his art, thus, was self-learned, even after he became an international bowler.

"I had just six months of coaching when I and Viv went to the Alf Gover School (in Wandsworth, south London). I didn't learn much about technique there. But I learned that you never really stop learning about fast bowling. I realised I need to work on a few basics. He also taught me more about control and the theory of bowling more side-on. I was very open-chested in those days."

Later, during his stint with Hampshire, when the idea of a fearsome pace quartet had not even germinated, he read in a newspaper about Fred Trueman's observation that if he could keep the arm higher during release, he could develop an out-swinger, the one weapon that was not in his armoury.

"I had never thought about it until I read it. I thought I had enough in my bag. But the out-swinger not only made me a better bowler but kept me in the game even after I had to reduce my pace towards the end of my career. There are several such instances in my career when I kept my eyes and ears open to pick little things about my bowling. It has been my way since I first touched the leather ball," Roberts says.

The first time he touched a leather ball was when he was around 15. "It was heavy. But I liked the feel of it. Nothing looks as

beautiful as a shining new ball under the sun. You touch it and you feel you are someone special. You get a kind of swagger. It must be the same feeling when a policeman gets a gun," he says.

It took Roberts several years to master the little devil, as he calls it. But having played with different balls turned out to be beneficial in hindsight. "If you become adaptive at a young age, you remain adaptive throughout your life, to different situations and circumstances. Several things I did with the cricket ball went back to the wind-ball and tennis-ball games. Like my pace — with the tennis ball, you have to put every ounce of energy into the ball. With the wind-ball, which never bounced much, you had to really hit the ground hard to make it bounce. And in tennis-ball cricket, you don't look to bowl every ball quick. A lot of deliveries of average speed and then a quick one. It surprised batsmen. I have used a lot of that in Test cricket," he says.

When he was not playing cricket, Roberts was with his father and uncles harbour-fishing. He still does on Sundays. After retiring, he bought two fishing boats catching snapper in the cobalt blue waters between Antigua and Barbuda. "Who told you this story? Yeah fishing, like cricket, was a passion. I still do," he says. "For the good part of my cricketering career, I couldn't go fishing. So this was it, my time to go to the roots." The batsmen once fled from him, now it's the turn of the fish.

World jr gold to senior final in one month, Deepak comes of age

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

IN THE rustic humour that is typical to the region, the kids at Chhara village in Jhajar, Haryana, teasingly called Deepak Punia *ketli*. A tea pot. “Deepak was plump. You know how children are at that age... they were all 7, 8 years old,” the wrestler’s childhood coach Virender Dalal says. “They started calling him *ketli*... *woh chai waali*.” The nickname has stayed ever since.

On Saturday, the 20-year-old who was once mocked for being overweight ended India’s dubious record in heavyweight categories at the World Championships, becoming the first wrestler to reach the final in these classes. His remarkable show at the World Championships in Astana also earned him an 86-kg quota for next year’s Olympics.

Deepak, in fact, is only the fifth Indian wrestler to enter the final of a World Championship (others being Bishambar Singh in 57kg, 1967; Sushil Kumar in 66 kg, 2010; Amit Dahiya in 55 kg, 2013; and Bajrang Punia in 65kg, 2018). The wrestler, who last month became India’s first junior world champion in 18 years, now has a chance to end the country’s 9-year wait for a senior gold.

But for that, Deepak will have to beat Iran’s Hassan Yazdani, who is one of the best wrestlers of this generation. Yazdani won the Olympic gold in the 74 kg category in

Rio 2016 and followed it with a top-place finish in the 86 kg category at the 2017 Worlds in Paris.

It will, in a way, be fitting if Deepak pulls off an upset to be crowned the world champion. For, he comes from the same akhara as the last wrestler to achieve that feat, Sushil Kumar, who is also one of his mentors.

Before he arrived at the Chhatrasal Stadium in 2015, though, Deepak was just a happy-go-lucky teen who spent his time grappling — be it with fellow trainees at the local academy in Chhara, or the rotis at home. “His two favourite things are wrestling and eating,” Dalal, 47, says. “He would even finish all the food that would be left over by other trainees at the academy.”

Since 1995, Dalal has been running an academy in the middle of farmlands in Chhara, teaching techniques and passing on the knowledge he inherited from his guru Uday Chand, independent India’s first World Wrestling Championship medalist (1961, bronze in 67kg). Bajrang, who won bronze on Friday, spent his formative years at this akhara, Dalal says (from 2003 to 2008). “Irrespective of the career they choose, *yahan har aadmi ek baar langot zaroor bandhta hai*,” Dalal says.

Not all of them do. And certainly not Deepak’s father Subhash, a prosperous farmer with a booming dairy business. From dawn to noon, Punia Sr would be at the family’s farm, a 10-acre land where they cultivate multiple crops. Post lunch, till late night,



Deepak Punia will face Iran’s Hassan Yazdani in the 86 kg final on Sunday.

he would travel almost 50km to deliver milk to residential areas in the outskirts of Delhi. “Everyday, I used to deliver 300 litres of milk. At first, I used to ride a bicycle for 30 minutes to reach a railway station and then take a train to Delhi. Later, I got myself a motorbike,” Subhash, 49, says.

The long working hours gave Subhash very little time to pursue his passion: wrestling. “So, I decided to make my son a wrestler,” he says. The Punia family farms are

adjacent to Dalal’s academy. Deepak walked through the academy’s gates when he was five and since then, he has barely gone home. “Even though his house was not very far away, Deepak stayed at the academy. He surrounded himself with wrestling — all his friends were wrestlers, spoke endlessly about the sport and later on, watched videos on loop,” Dalal says.

Bigger than other children of his age, Deepak was made to train with the elder

wrestlers who were heavier than him. Like most wrestlers in this category, Deepak wasn’t quick. But his strength and counterattacks stood out even back then. Given the dearth of quality heavyweight wrestlers, coupled with the promise he showed, Deepak progressed rapidly and in 2015, he joined Chhatrasal — an academy that is considered a stepping stone to national and international tournaments.

“I have never interfered with his wrestling; that has been left to the coaches — Virender, Mahabali Satpal Singh and Sushil *pehelwan*. My only responsibility was to ensure he continues to get nutritious food,” Subhash says.

So, Subhash stopped his dairy business. His daily trips to Delhi continued, but these would be to deliver food to his son. The heavyweight wrestler’s everyday staple, according to his father, includes 3 litre cow milk, 250 grams ghee, 250 grams white butter and approximately 2kg curd. “Did you see his bouts on Saturday? How do you think he gets such strength?” Subhash asks. “It’s because of the quality of food he eats and the right training he has been getting since he was 5.”

The luck of the draw favoured Deepak; he just had to overcome a tricky opening bout against home favourite Adilet Davlymbayen to get a relatively easy route to the medal rounds. The Kazakh tried multiple tricks to unsettle the Indian — including poking him once, for which he was warned. It worked, too, as Davlymbayen raced to a 5-0 lead.

But Deepak showed composure that belied his years as he levelled the score with

two quick takedowns. Ultimately, the tie was decided after Kazakhstan challenged a call that went against them when scores were 7-7. The challenge was unsuccessful, which meant Davlymbayen was penalised a point, which helped Deepak clinch the bout.

He defeated Tajikistan’s Bakhodur Kodirov rather easily, 6-0, and then staged another spectacular comeback against Colombia’s Carlos Arturo Mendez in the quarterfinal. With a minute remaining in the bout, Deepak was trailing 6-3. But two quick counterattacking moves in the dying moments helped him score four points and win the thrilling encounter 7-6.

With that win, a quota was sealed for the Tokyo Olympics. But Deepak wasn’t content with that. “When I last spoke to him, two days ago, he had said he would win the quota with a medal,” Subhash says. And his prophesy proved right.

He outclassed Switzerland’s Stefan Reichmuth 8-2 in the semifinal to set up a final showdown with Yazdani, who has won all titles there are to win.

Dalal, though, is cautiously optimistic. “One of the ways we test young wrestlers at our academy is by taking them to dangals to see if they get afraid because of the ruthlessness of it,” Dalal says. “Deepak was one of the few who did not flinch. Size or reputation has never bothered him. His nickname as a kid was *ketli*. Today, I would call him fearless.”

Incidentally, that’s what Yazdani is called too. Fearless.

Second best

Amit Panghal settles for silver, India’s first in men’s world boxing c’ships, after he goes down fighting in the flyweight final

GAURAV BHATT
SEPTEMBER 21

GOOD THINGS come in small packages. But all good things must come to an end.

Amit Panghal’s almost fable-like, giant-killing run came to an end against reigning 52kg Olympic champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in the World Championship final on Saturday. There are reasons to hearten India’s only male World silver-medallist, not least of which is the fact that he has seemingly vanquished Hasanboy Dumatov, the other Uzbeki reigning Olympic champion (albeit in 49kg) and long the boogeyman for Indian boxers. That Uzbekistan had to call upon Zoirov, who had already moved on to the greener pastures of pro-boxing, is a moral victory for Panghal and a testament to the competition in the 52kg category.

There are talks of the bout being too close to be judged unanimously for the Uzbek. Two judges giving the close second round to Zoirov could be questioned, if we are splitting hairs. How is one judge scoring it for Zoirov any different from five independently adjudging him to be the winner?

There are lessons to be learnt from Panghal’s run to the final.

Firstly, Panghal would always start as an underdog. At 5’3”, he is small for the division. But it’s to his credit that Panghal is constantly devising plan to even the odds against taller opponents. If the Asian Championships was about cutting in for quick combos and lunging out, the Worlds campaign displayed his shrewdness in controlling the distance and sharpened tools such as the overhand left and step jabs.

Barring an abnormally late growth spurt, Panghal can’t change his size. He can however work on the style. Studying your opponent and making plans on the fly is commendable. But every Sherlock has his Moriarty. In leaving it till too late, there’s always the risk of a tight second or third round going against you.

“My plan was that I would play counter in the first round, but I lost that one,” Panghal said after the bout. “In the second and third round I thought I was attacking well and landing clear shots.”

While his corner prompted him to move ahead, Panghal stayed back fishing for counters. The play didn’t work on the day, against a boxer willing to take his time too. In the second, when he attacked with combinations, he looked the better boxer. High performance director Santiago Nievea, at his most animated, tried to fire Panghal up in the second break. “You have to go close, put pressure. Don’t go crazy to the head from the distance. Body, head, head, body. Amit you’re so much stronger. He has no chance, you’re faster. If you exchange with him, he has no chance,” Nievea bellowed.

Panghal reciprocated, initiating feisty (and at times, sloppy) exchanges with Zoirov in what was eventually a tight third round. Perhaps the verdict could’ve been closer had Panghal come out blasting in the first round.

Southpaw vs southpaw

Panghal was also squaring up against a fellow southpaw for the second bout in a row, after the tight 3-2 win over Kazakhstan’s Saken Bibossinov in the semi-final. Panghal had troubled orthodox boxers with his sharp angles. But the unfamiliarity a southpaw faces against a fellow lefty is understated. In both bouts, especially on Saturday, Panghal overextended with his jab to the head and straight left and was countered by left and right hooks coming over his punches.

All in all, it’s been a crazy 18 months for Panghal, who has gone from an exciting light-flyweight to almost a world-beater flyweight. With experience, Panghal could only get better. And that’s a scary thought. He is, after all, still only 23.

Childhood coach Anil Dhankar says: “I made this prediction to another boxer when I laid my eyes on Amit. He had that spunk that I knew he would do something. World



Amit Panghal got into his groove in the second round, but a poor start and a not-so-strong finish cost him the 52-kg final against Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan.



Panghal poses with his silver medal.

silver is a big deal. But Mary had won five World Championships. India only woke up to her after her Olympics medal. That’s the target for Amit too now.”

On a somewhat related note, it would be fascinating to see how Mary Kom does at next month’s women’s world championships. Mary has collected six world gold medals, but all have come at 48kg or less. (She did win the Olympic bronze at 51kg). In Russia, the 36-year-old will deal with bonafide 51kg contenders. They’d be taller, younger and will have better reach advantage. Perhaps there’s something to be learnt for everyone by watching Mary deal with the ordeal.

As for Amit Panghal, he has already boldly gone where no Indian man had gone before. Some calibrations and a strong performance at the Olympic qualifiers, and he could do it all over again in Tokyo.

Worlds not enough, Panghal eyes Olympics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 21

HE IS the first to a historic milestone in Indian boxing but there was a time when Amit Panghal would come in last. The last to knock on the training halls, the last to report back from camp leaves. The pint-sized dynamo from Rohtak became the first Indian male boxer to claim a silver medal at the World Championships, which concluded in Ekaterinburg, Russia on Saturday.

Panghal (52kg), an Asian Games and Asian Championships gold-medallist, recalled with hearty laughter the times he “frustrated” coaches with his approach, which meant carefree to him but reckless to them.

“It’s true, I used to leave the camp on weekends (off days). I just didn’t have the patience. The coaches used to be furious at me but then that was me at that time. We just didn’t have enough chhutti (holidays) and I was always tempted to make the most of whatever I could manage,” the 23-year-old Indian Armyman said.

“Oh, we used to be so frustrated with him. He wouldn’t come back from leave on time, wouldn’t show up for training on time. But then he had this amazing eye-catching game, we just couldn’t have given up on him despite the indiscipline,” recalled national coach C A Kuttappa.

The time they speak of was 2016, and a year later Panghal made quite a statement with a bronze medal on debut in the Asian Championships.

“I am so grateful to the coaches who didn’t give up on me. Because of their patience, I began taking my game more seriously and there came a time when I went home just once a month, that too after the coaches would tell me to take a break,” Panghal said.

But old habits die hard and Kuttappa, who fondly calls Panghal bacchu (child), revealed that even at the just-concluded world championship Panghal showed up late once for a training session.

“I told him to pay 1000 bucks and only then we would let him in,” he said with a chuckle.

Panghal couldn’t help laughing about it either but he also pointed out a major change in his approach.

“Now I am the last to leave the training hall. Everyone leaves but I keep at it, I force them (the coaches) to be with me even on off days for training. They tell me ‘bas kar yaar, hum jaa rahe hain ab’. My attitude to training has changed quite a lot but even now I am harassing coaches,” he quipped.

“Earlier, I would leave (the training hall) without even cooling off but I am more patient now. I wait for my body to adapt before signing off. I adhere to the procedure with sincerity now,” he added.

Speaking of adapting, Panghal has had to make major adjustments to excel in the 52kg category after a stellar run in the 49kg division. During the transition, he candidly confessed that he was unsure about how the change would pan out for him.

“It hasn’t been as difficult as I first thought. But it has taken time for me to fit in,” he said. “Abhi bhi kahaan itna adjustment huwa hai (I haven’t adjusted completely). I am only 65 to 70 per cent there in realising my full potential. I have managed to add power in my punches to negate the height disadvantage. It’s crucial because I am mostly up against taller guys. But I am still a work in progress,” he added.

Panghal prefers to be humble about his achievements, including unprecedented consecutive gold medals at the Strandja Memorial — one of Europe’s oldest and most fiercely competitive tournaments. He prefers to describe his phenomenal rise since 2017 a combination of some luck and loads of hard work.

But Kuttappa said there is more than just luck and hard work working in the diminutive pugilist’s favour. “He is incredibly clever. He improvises without being told to,” the Dronacharya awardee said. “In his mind, he always has a plan B,” he added.

The worlds high behind him, Panghal has already shifted his gaze to the next target. “I am looking forward to securing my place in the Olympics next, it will be another first for me.”

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BARMER, SEPTEMBER 21

Three people, including a minor, were killed after Arjun awardee rally driver Gaurav Gill’s car hit a motorcycle during a National Rally Championship race here on Saturday.

Gill, who became the first motorsport driver to be conferred the Arjuna award earlier this year, has sustained injuries in his ribs and is also facing respiratory problems due to the crash during the Maxperience Rally, Round Three of the FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship (INRC).

He has been kept under observation but is learnt to be out of danger.

The deceased Narendra, his wife Pushpa and their young son Jitendra were killed on the spot. The Rally has been called off due to the incident.

‘Gaurav’s was the first car on Stage 1. He was driving at a speed of 145kmph while taking a sharp left turn and within 5m-10m, collided with the motorcycle,’ Vamsi Merla, promoter of INRC, said. Narendra, his wife Pushpa and their young son Jitendra were killed on the spot.

“Gaurav’s was the first car on Stage 1. He was driving at a speed of 145kmph while taking a sharp left turn and within 5m-10m, collided with the motorcycle, which was right on the middle of the road,” Vamsi Merla, promoter of INRC, said on Saturday. “Gaurav tried his best to pull the brakes but because of the speed, but he was unable to do anything,” he added.

The INRC promoter alleged that despite repeated warnings highlighting the closure of the road during competition, the villagers broke the barricades put in place.

“We had been giving warning about the road closure to the villagers for the past 15 days. There were field marshals but one of the deceased (Narendra) argued with them and when the marshals were looking away, the man broke the barricade and entered the track,” he said.

“It was an unfortunate incident that took place despite all the safety measures being in place,” J Prithiviraj, president of FMSCI said.

“We extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family. The entire motorsports fraternity stands with them in their grief,” he added.



Gaurav Gill became the first motorsport driver to be conferred the Arjuna award earlier this year.

Jaydev, veteran administrator Niranjan's son, is SCA Prez

DEVENDRAPANDEY
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 21

A DYNASTIC reign will be in place at the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) as Jaydev Shah, son of veteran administrator Niranjan Shah, was elected unopposed as its new president on Saturday. Niranjan, a former secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has been an officer-bearer of the SCA for four decades.

Jaydev, a former Saurashtra captain, retired from all forms of the game in December 2018. He played 120 first-class games, of which he led the team in 110. Niranjan cannot contest for the post of an office bearer as he is over 70 years, the age limit, and his long stint as an administrator means he falls foul of the tenure-related cap. Jaydev, 36, pointed to the fact that he won unopposed as a testament to the good work his father has done over the years.

“You tell me one thing which my father has done wrong. Is there any allegation on financial fraud during his tenure?, Jaydev said.

He also added that his experience as a former cricketer will help him understand the needs of the players. “Being a former player myself, it will help me when it comes to matters related to cricket and players. My father too was a Ranji Trophy cricketer and it helped him too when he was an administrator,” Jaydev said.

Former media manager Himanshu Shah has been elected as the secretary. Niranjan became the SCA secretary in 1972 and held on to the post for over four decades till the Lodha reforms, accepted by the Supreme Court, rendered him ineligible. Shah is disqualified on all counts – he had been an office-bearer at the SCA for over nine years and he is also above 70 years of age.

The BCCI constitution, as approved by the apex court, says a person “shall be disqualified from being an office-bearer/member of the Governing Council/any Committee” if he/she “has attained the age of 70 years; has been an office-bearer of the BCCI for a cumulative period of 9 years or of a State Association for a cumulative period of 9 years”.

The apex court has clarified that the combined tenure of an office-bearer could be “9+9” – nine years in the BCCI and nine years in the state association, with the required cooling-off period in between. Blood relatives taking over the reins of a state unit is likely to happen in another association too as the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association is going to have N Srinivasan's daughter Rupa Gurunath as the next state association president. Her candidature would be made official after the TNCA's executive committee meeting on Monday, a top TNCA official confirmed.

Ganguly files nomination

Sourav Ganguly is set to be re-elected unopposed as the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president at the state association's forthcoming annual general meeting on September 28. Ganguly, along with his five-member panel, filed his nomination on Saturday, but as per the existing BCCI and CAB constitution, he can hold office till July 2020, when he will complete six years at a stretch as an office-bearer, before going through a mandatory three-year cooling-off period. Ganguly became the CAB president in 2015.

Goal rush

City's Silva scores his first top-flight hat-trick as Pep's men demolish Watford 8-0; Leicester pip Tottenham



Manchester City's Sergio Agüero (centre) celebrates with teammates Bernardo Silva and David Silva after scoring the side's second goal. Reuters

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEPTEMBER 21

WITH HIS team leading 5-0 after 18 minutes and threatening Premier League scoring records, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola sat with his arms folded in his dugout and might even have looked a little guilty. Whether it's in the FA Cup final or just a run-of-the mill league game, Watford just does not know how to handle the most free-scoring team in England.

City ended up romping to an 8-0 win on Saturday, falling just short of the heaviest margin of victory in the Premier League era (since 1992), Manchester United's 9-0 win over Ipswich in 1995.

It came four months after City beat Watford 6-0 in the FA Cup final at Wembley Stadium to complete an unprecedented domestic treble last season. The previous season, Guardiola's team won 6-0 at Watford's Vicarage Road.

"If you let five in in 20 minutes, you fear the worst. You think cricket scores," Watford goalkeeper Ben Foster said after the club's heaviest league loss in its 138-year history. "They are without doubt the best team I have ever played against. We were poor, didn't lay a glove on them but at times it was breathtaking watching them."

Bernardo Silva scored his first professional hat trick and there were also goals for David Silva, Sergio Agüero, Riyad Mahrez, Nicolas Otamendi and Kevin De Bruyne at Etihad Stadium. Disappointingly for City's fans or those hoping to see records tumble, City only scored once in the final half-hour of an embarrassingly one-sided match. It was the best goal of the match,

though—a powerful drive from De Bruyne into the roof of the net. In the final minutes, City's fans urged their team forward, even roaring "Shoot!" when goalkeeper Ederson had the ball.

"What I like the most is normally when it's 5-0 at halftime, the second half is not serious, it's boring," Guardiola said. "But we did the opposite and we were more aggressive and made a very good second half."

It was the perfect reaction from the champions to last weekend's surprising 3-2 loss at Norwich, the first defeat of their title defense which had left them five points behind Liverpool. Consider this a warning to Liverpool, which visits Chelsea on Sunday.

Marginal calls

Tottenham was on the good side of a tight VAR call in a 2-2 draw at Man City this season. Mauricio Pochettino's team was on the receiving end of one in a 2-1 loss against Leicester on Saturday. Tottenham was ahead courtesy of a first-half strike by Harry Kane when Serge Aurier drove a deflected shot into the bottom corner, seemingly giving the visitors a 2-0 lead at King Power stadium.

However, after a lengthy stoppage as the video assistant referee took a forensic look at whether Son Heung-min was off-side by millimeters in the buildup, the goal was ruled out. In Leicester's next attack, Ricardo Pereira scored with a deflected finish to make it 1-1 in the 69th minute and James Maddison completed Leicester's comeback by scoring from outside the area in the 85th.

"It's what happens with VAR—you have to get your head round it," Leicester man-

KEY RESULTS	
CITY 8 (Silva (1'), Agüero (7' pen), Mahrez (12'), Bernardo Silva (15', 48', 60'), Otamendi (18'), De Bruyne (85'))	WATFORD 0
LEICESTER 2 Ricardo Pereira (69' minutes), Maddison (85' minutes)	TOTTENHAM 1 Kane (29' minutes)

ager Brendan Rodgers said. Leicester moved up to third place, two points behind Man City.

Norwich slump

While Man City was bouncing back from a shock loss, the team that inflicted it slumped to a miserable defeat of its own a week on. Norwich conceded two goals in the first half to striker Chris Wood and lost 2-0 at Burnley "We always knew this would be tougher than Manchester City," Norwich defender Ben Godfrey said. "Burnley are tough to play against."

One shot on target. Two goals. Three points for Sheffield United. They were the galling statistics Everton was staring at following a 2-0 loss at Goodison Park to a promoted club which hasn't lost away since mid-January. "It was just a ridiculous game," Sheffield United manager Chris Wilder said. "That's possibly the worst

we've played all season." Everton had a supposedly benign run of fixtures to start the season but has only come away with seven points from six games, with City visiting next week. Sheffield United has one point more.

Zidane unfazed

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane says he is paying no attention to heavy criticism aimed at him after the 3-0 defeat by Paris St Germain in the Champions League and is not bothered that Spanish media continue to link Jose Mourinho with his job.

Real were up against an under-strength PSG side on Wednesday missing Neymar, Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappe but produced a pitiful display, failing to register a shot on target in a Champions League game for the first time in 16 years.

"I'm not interested in what is said outside the club, the day I pay attention to what's in the press is the day I leave," Zidane told a news conference on Saturday ahead of Real's visit to early La Liga leaders Sevilla on Sunday. "I feel in a strong position and I never give up. I will keep trying until the last minute and as long as the club will give me the chance to continue. I don't feel questioned at all."

Spanish media have reported that Real president Florentino Perez would be keen to recruit former coach Mourinho, currently without a club, should Zidane be relieved of his duties.

"I'm not bothered by the Mourinho speculation," added the French coach, who led Real to three consecutive Champions League titles before resigning in 2018 but has only won seven out of 16 games since returning to the club in March.

India eye clean slate ahead of Test series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 21

VIRAT KOHLI'S familiar exuberance and pep talks drowned the chatter around Rishabh Pant as India prepared to play South Africa in the third T20 International here on Sunday, seeking a 2-0 series verdict.

The comprehensive seven-wicket victory in the second game, which was built on the back of a fine comeback by the bowlers and a Kohli masterclass, is history now and the team is looking for another commanding performance before the Test series gets underway. The opener in Dharamsala was a washout. Against a fairly new-look South Africa side that seems to lack the resources required to counter the home team's firepower, India will surely fancy their chances of an encore, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Embattled wicketkeeper-batsman Pant could not deliver in the last match and as he continues to struggle with the bat, he remains under scrutiny. Pant has divided opinions—many questioned his temperament, shot-selection and the resultant slump in form—while others refused to be harsh on him considering the talent that he possesses.

The 21-year-old could be boosted by words of encouragement from legends such as Sunil Gavaskar, who has also stated that the time has come for India to look beyond Mahendra Singh Dhoni, with little more than a year left for the T20 World Cup in Australia.

But the Pant sub-plot is unlikely to significantly impact the Indians' prospects in the final game of what effectively became a two-match affair after the washout in the hill town. The South Africans had no answer to Kohli's batting at Mohali's IS Bindra Stadium in the second T20I, and with the next game being hosted at a ground where he is too familiar with, the Indian captain will be eyeing another good outing.

But before Kohli, his deputy Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan will be standing up to the Kagiso Rabada-led pace attack with optimism, the size of the ground only aiding stroke-makers like the two openers.

The terrific Indian trio could again be a thorn in the Proteas' flesh, with Rohit especially looking to make up after failing to translate his start into a big knock in Mohali.



India skipper Virat Kohli at the training session at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI

Experience saves the day for France against Argentina

REUTERS
SEPTEMBER 21

FRANCE'S YOUNG guns gave 'les Bleus' a robust first-half lead in their Rugby World Cup opener against Argentina on Saturday but, when the going got tough, it was cool-headed experience that saved the day.

The French, sparked by the likes of 20-year-old Romain Ntamack at flyhalf, 22-year-olds Damian Penaud on the wing and Antoine Dupont at scrumhalf, had pushed the score-line to 20-3 at the break and the match looked safely in their hands. But after the Pumas staged a furious fightback to take a 21-20 lead, late French replacement Camille Lopez coolly sent a drop-kick just over the crossbar to seal the match and save French blushes.

"We know that every game of a Rugby World Cup is tough. We had the experience to finish the game and they did really, really well," Ntamack said of the team's substitutions. "It was a really, really tough game. We knew we'd face a really strong Argentina team and after a stressful game we're happy to have won here."

The French went into their Pool C opening match against the Pumas knowing the loser would likely have to beat group favourites England to have a chance at advancing to the quarter-finals.

But head coach Jacques Brunel opted to start Ntamack, with just eight caps to his name, over the 30-year-old Lopez. Ntamack remained on the pitch and switched to centre when Lopez came in as flyhalf, showing Brunel's faith in the young Toulouse player.

Ntamack, whose father Emile was part of

the French side that reached the World Cup final in 1999, made an instant impact with two conversions and two penalties in the first half, though he missed a late penalty that would have given his side more breathing room.

Of the 10 tier-one nations in the 2019 Rugby World Cup, France have the youngest squad, followed by Argentina, suggesting the future is bright for both sides, regardless of how the rest of Japan 2019 plays out.

'Excellent leader'

Scotland's Stuart McInally has the leadership qualities and backing within the team to remain as skipper over the long term, vice-captain Greig Laidlaw said on Saturday.

Scotland coach Gregor Townsend named McInally as his captain when announcing his 31-man squad for the Rugby World Cup in Japan, arguing the 29-year-old Edinburgh hooker had a calming influence which brought the best out of his teammates.

"He has been an excellent leader. He does his leadership on the field, he has the full backing of the team and we respect him," Laidlaw, who has led the national team a record 39 times, told reporters ahead of Sunday's Pool A encounter against Ireland.

"It is good to have a fresher voice, someone newer to the role. He is going to do a fantastic job, both now and for years to come."

"It is up to the leaders around him—myself included -- to give him the support he needs." Turning his attention to top-ranked Ireland, Laidlaw said Scotland could ill afford to lose focus in the teams' opener at Yokohama, pointing to their 13-22 Six Nations defeat by Joe Schmidt's side in February.

Tackling physicality with precision: How All Blacks tamed Boks

In a battle of the heavyweights, two rookie wingers released New Zealand from South Africa's defence and helped them fly. Here's what worked for the two-time defending champions, and what didn't for their challengers, in the first big clash of the Rugby World Cup

Rookies rule

Speed, skill and sizzling creativity in flashes of brilliance helped the All Blacks negate the hustle and muscle and relentless physicality around the ruck of the Springboks according to *stuff.co.nz*. Going for their third straight world title (15th successive WC win, having last lost in 2007), NZ beat close contenders South Africa 23-13, though the Boks coach raised his brow high up the spectacles, frowning upon a bunch of penalties awarded to the ABs. *Stuff.co.nz*, however, reckoned it was the unheralded ABs rookie wings Sevu Reece and George Bridge who have just 10 tests between them who broke the shackles of South Africa's rush defence and crushed the life out of the big, bad Boks who had been building ominously in the second quarter. Bridge scored the first try, and the Barrett brothers followed. Describing the opener, the website said, "The contributions to Bridge's first try were many and splendid, from Smith's superb long pass to create the space, Mo'unga's pinpoint kick-pass to Reece, the young wing's goose-stepping acceleration to create the opening, Smith's wonderful support line, Savea's tremendous workrate to get up and carry it on and, finally, Beauden Barrett's devastating dab and offload for the Bridge crossing. Wow, just wow." The wings released the ABs from Boks' stifling defence, and then they regally flew.

Turbocharged Kolbe

UK's *Telegraph* summed up the resilient All Black defense by writing, "The back-to-back world champion All Blacks fended off



New Zealand's George Bridge scores their first try. Reuters

everything a turbocharged Cheslin Kolbe and the Springboks could throw at them." The beauty of an action lies in its finishing, but *Telegraph* couldn't help but gush (before the splash of reality), saying, "Toulouse speed merchant Kolbe stormed, stalked and danced his way through, round and over the All Blacks defence—but crucially could not quite provide a finish." The sensational wing might even have sustained a possible leg injury to compound Bok woes. But there was no denying that Kolbe lit up the Yokohama

RUGGER THAT

■ **Talismanic Irish playmaker Jonny Sexton, World Rugby Player of the Year in 2018, is who the Irish game will revolve around especially with the Scots seeing targets on him front and back of his shirt.**

■ **Winger Jacob Stockdale has had a blistering start to his international career running a staggering 16 tries from only 21 caps. He forms the Irish back three with Jordan Larmour and Andrew Conway for the Celts.**

■ **Scotland have Stuart Hogg and Stuart McInally and Greig Laidlaw as inspirational players. A World Cup hero's turn is awaited.**

paddock from the moment he first latched onto the ball. Kolbe would sizzle past the black shirts like a spark moving around an electric circuit, maybe hog possession a tad too long but it was difficult to figure if his teammates struggled to keep pace to receive the offloads or Kolbe believed he could do it all on his own. Richie Mo'unga did more than just kick this afternoon. "Kolbe bobbed, weaved and sneaked round defenders time and again at the death, but to no avail," the paper said while adding the fast-rising star

has the potential to be the most destructive player in this competition.

Ireland take on Scotland

Ireland are ranked No 1 in the world in the slipstream of a tremendous 2018 when they beat the All Blacks, won a test series against the Wallabies and lit up the Six Nations. Then came the hammering at Twickenham—their biggest margin loss to England, and suddenly Joe Schmidt's team seemed to have peaked a year early and thoroughly figured out. After the 57-15 drubbing, captain Rory Best had stated, "That's not the standard we hold ourselves to. Quite frankly it's hard to describe it without using a lot of profanity." On Sunday, the Irish start out against Scotland (themselves semifinalists in 1991 with Gavin Hastings kicking but not much thereafter), hoping to better their 6-quarterfinal stammer. Scotland, rich on experience with a combined 630 caps, do like to make life difficult for Ireland with their chop tackling, but can be bulldozed with physicality and worn down with waves and waves of fanning attacks. Ireland potentially face Group B smackers All Blacks or Springboks in quarters. But there's Scotland and a nightmarish last six months to put to rest, before they even start thinking ahead. Scotland play high tempo attacking, while Schmidt whose brutal preseason training and hawk like hold over players, has beaten the Irish into shape, will hope to play a give-nothing-away game, to start their coach's send-off tourney.



MY MOM ALWAYS TOLD ME TO THINK BIG. TODAY,

I MADE IT BIG



Make your Big Move with the assurance of Honda Amaze

5 YEAR | 3 YEAR | CVT
Unlimited Kilometers Warranty* | Maintenance Package* | The Unlimited Automate*

ONE LAKH
2nd Generation Amaze Sold

Exchange Bonus ₹ 30,000*

Price Starts at
₹ 5,93,000/-*
AMAZE / THE BIG MOVE

Special offers for Government employees, pensioners, CSD & CPC customers, loyal customers, select corporates and self employed professionals (Doctors, CAs, Lawyers & Teachers). T&C apply.

Available in Petrol and Diesel

i-VTEC • i-DTEC • CVT

For more information, SMS <Amaze> to 53030 or visit www.hondacarindia.com or hondacarindia@hondacarindia.com

Offers are model, fuel type and variant specific. Offers are valid for limited period or till stock lasts. For Corporate Sales enquiries, write to corporate@hondacarindia.com. Features are grade specific, images used are computer generated and not for customer representation purpose and may vary from actual product images. Warranty of 3 years/unlimited kilometers is standard and additional 2 years/unlimited kilometers (whichever is part of the scheme) is the exciting benefit only, as part of standard purchase. Please check and experience the actual product at the dealership for more details. Amaze evaluation price is standardised across India. Ex-showroom price is of base priced variant (MT). T&C apply.

Honda
Auto-Terrace
ProCARE
CUSTOMER SERVICE

Honda
LOYALTY BONUS
for Honda car owners

Attractive offers also available on other Honda Cars*

EAST DELHI		WEST DELHI		CENTRAL DELHI		NORTH DELHI		SOUTH DELHI	
Prime Honda	Samara Honda	Ring Road Honda	Ring Road Honda	Cherish Honda	Courtesy Honda	Courtesy Honda	Courtesy Honda	Courtesy Honda	Samara Honda
Patparganj 7290055380	Mayapuri 45656565 9717556161	Peeragarhi 45520000 45540000	Moti Nagar 42597000 41990000	Connaught Place 43080000	Wazirpur 43200000 8800933381, 9899080293	Okhla 40710000 7878787480	Bhikaji Cama Place 49777888 9717093302	Lajpat Nagar 46555111 8826143300	
Prime Honda	Axon Honda	Infinity Honda	Ring Road Honda	Cherish Honda	Crown Honda	Ace Honda	Classic Honda	Ring Road Honda	Malwa Honda
Vaishali 7290055379	Ghaziabad 0120-2784002 9599293870	Gurgaon 7290023171 - 75 9643307170	Gurgaon, MG Road 0124-4688000 9711887375	Gurgaon 7557323232	Noida 0120-4700000 8527995500	Noida 0120-4000400 9999673820/50	Faridabad 0129-4037007 7428390952	Bahadurgarh 9891474100	Sonapat 0130-2380800/0102 9467800902