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PANCHS, SARPANCHS TO ELECT BLOCK DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL CHIEF Amid lockdown and detentions, J&K announces local council polls Oct 24

If candidates approach, will ensure level playing field: CEO

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 29

AT a time when most senior leaders of mainstream political parties in the Valley are under detention — 250 under the J&K Public Safety Act and hundreds under various sections of the Ranbir Penal Code — the Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commission Sunday announced that Block Development Council (BDC) elections would be held on "party lines" on October 24.



J&K Chief Electoral Officer Shailendra Kumar. PTI

"The counting of votes will be held the same day," said J&K Chief Electoral Officer Shailendra

Kumar.

In the BDC elections, panchs and sarpanchs will elect a chairman, after which District Development Boards (DDBs) will be constituted. Each DDB will comprise elected BDC chairpersons, besides MLAs and MPs from the district. These boards will play an important role in executing development work under the Panchayat Raj Act 1989 and rules framed in 1996.

Of the 310 blocks that will go to polls, 172 seats are reserved
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Restrictions only in the mind, not in J&K: Shah

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

TARGETING THE Opposition for raising human rights concerns in the wake of the Centre's move to scrap Article 370 and launch an unprecedented communications clampdown in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Sunday that 41,800 people have died in the



'41,800 people died in militancy, none raised human rights of jawans'

decades-old militancy in the state, but no one has raised the issue of human rights violation of jawans, their widows or the
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Two key state polls looming, Centre bans onion export

Stocks capped: Only 100 quintals for retailers, 500 quintals for wholesalers

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 29

IN AN unusual move with less than a month to go for state elections in Maharashtra and Haryana, the central government Sunday decided to ban the export of onions in a bid to control the retail price hike across the country. This is the fourth decision taken by the central government this year to control the price hike in onions. Assembly elections in the BJP-ruled states of Maharashtra and Haryana are scheduled to be held on October 21.

An order issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Commerce Ministry said that the "export policy of onion... is amended from free to prohibited till further orders". It said that "export of all varieties of onions... is prohibited with immediate effect".

Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Ram Vilas Paswan also announced a stock limit for onions. Posting in Hindi on his official Twitter account, Paswan said that the government has



Push for sellers to shed stocks

THE EXPORT ban is the latest in a series of measures aimed at increasing the availability of onions in retail markets. Policy makers are hoping that farmers will now accelerate stock liquidation, thereby bringing down the prices.

prescribed a limit of 500 quintals for wholesale and 100 quintals for retail traders.

The Minister also asked state governments to take action against traders found to violate this limit.

The current price hike is mainly due to a shortage in crop amid the drought in Maharashtra and Karnataka. A central team that visited Maharashtra this month pointed
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PATNA GOES UNDER

Heavy rainfall has hit Patna and 12 other districts of Bihar over the last 48 hours. IMD officials said Patna received 227 mm of rainfall till Sunday evening. At least 13 people are feared dead in rain-related incidents across the state. PTI REPORT, PAGE 10

THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

How Maharashtra's Farmer Field Schools are teaching prosperity

RAJASTHAN COPS REWARD TRAFFIC DISCIPLINE WITH 'I AM SAFE' CERTIFICATES

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EC relief for Sikkim CM: Period of disqualification cut by 5 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

SIKKIM CHIEF Minister Prem Singh Tamang, in all likelihood, will retain his post as the Election Commission (EC) ruled in his favour on Sunday, reducing the period of his disqualification by almost five years. As first reported by *The Indian*



Was found guilty in corruption case

Express on July 29, Tamang had requested the EC to waive the remaining period of his disqualification under Section 11 of the

Representation of the People Act, 1951. The last time the EC reduced a person's disqualification period was in 1977.

Tamang was appointed Chief Minister on May 27, after his Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) defeated the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) in the Assembly elections in April. SKM is part of the ruling NDA at the Centre.
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Rlys plan to fight cash crunch: Get sponsors to clean stations, cut low-demand trains

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

WITH THE Indian Railways facing a shortfall of nearly Rs 30,000 crore by year-end, amid a slowdown in earnings and mounting expenditure, the Railway Board has suggested a slew of measures — from getting sponsors to clean trains and stations, to cutting down trains with less than 50% occupancy.

"With a view to reducing expenditure and increasing earnings, Railway Board considered several immediate and short-term measures, which need to be acted upon," the board said in a letter, dated September 6, to its 17 zonal units.

The August-end figures indicate that Railways has already overshot its spending. Its



Rlys staring at shortfall of Rs 30,000 cr by year-end. File

earnings have grown by about 3.4% while its expenses have grown by about 9% this fiscal.

"Till July, our earnings and expenditure numbers were fine. It was in August that the earnings dropped because coal loading took a hit, thanks to unprecedented floods. Anyway, we are

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KV admissions: 20-fold surge under HRD Minister quota

From 450 in 2014-15, admissions up to 9,402 in 2018-19

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SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 29

ADMISSIONS TO Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) across the country under the discretionary quota of the Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) in 2018-19 have surged more than 20-fold compared to 2014. And admissions to KVs under the Minister's discretionary quota since 2016 account for more than the total admissions secured through all 790 members from both Houses of Parliament. This is according to data obtained from the Kendriya

SPIKE IN KV ADMISSIONS UNDER QUOTAS				
Year	New admissions*	Minister's quota	MP's quota	% Quota
2014-15	1,51,308	450	3,895	2.87
2015-16	1,68,587	3,587	4,555	4.83
2016-17	1,85,365	9,184	7,984	9.26
2017-18	1,84,854	9,294	7,646	9.16
2018-19	NA**	9,402	8,164	-

Source: Information obtained under RTI Act from KVS
*From KVS annual reports. **Not compiled

Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), which oversees all KVs in the country, by *The Indian Express* under the Right to Information Act (RTI).

Members of Parliament currently are allowed a maximum of 10 admissions per academic session from their constituency (or state in case of a Rajya Sabha MP), while admissions on the recommendation of the HRD

Minister are granted without any limit.

The data also show that during the last academic session of 2018-19, a total of 8,164 admissions were granted through the quota meant for MPs. Compared to this, the number of admissions granted on the recommendation of the HRD Minister was 9,402.

Incidentally, admissions
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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

GOVT SHOULD LET THE FARMER EARN
BY HARISH DAMODARAN
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CITY



SNATCHING CASES, MOSTLY TARGETING WOMEN, PUT THE CAPITAL ON EDGE
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'Deranged joke': UK firm used names of Shah Rukh, Salman's family for its records

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

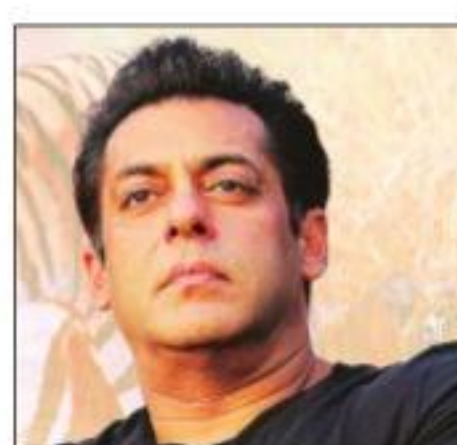
KHUSHBOO NARAYAN
HAMBURG, SEPTEMBER 29

IF YOU thought the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Fan* was an extreme example of fan behaviour, sample this: a purported Bollywood fan registered a company nearly three years ago in the UK with Shah Rukh Khan and the family members of Salman Khan listed as directors.

According to Companies House, the UK government agency that maintains a record of



One listed director of the firm was Anjali Sharma, which is also the name of a character in *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*



Rukh Khan, Salman Khan's father Salim Khan, his brothers Arbaaz Khan and Sohail Khan, and his Being Human foundation.

According to records, Bros Brothers was engaged in the "activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies", and dissolved in February 2019.

The address of Shah Rukh on the company profile was of his residence, Mannat, in Mumbai's Bandra. Salim Khan's address is of his residence at Galaxy Apartments near Bandstand in Mumbai. The registered address of Bros Brothers International was a mail box at Knightsbridge in London.

The company had also listed another director, identified as Anjali Sharma. The address of Sharma was of a mail box service provider in London. Incidentally,
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